Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English

**Creative Assignment: *Huck* Haikus**

**History of the Haiku**

Examples of [haiku](http://www.yourdictionary.com/../haiku) [poems](http://www.yourdictionary.com/library/for-students-and-parents/what-are-simple-poems-to-memorize.html) date from 9th century Japan to the present day. [Haiku](http://www.yourdictionary.com/library/for-students-and-parents/what-are-simple-poems-to-memorize.html) is more than a type of poem; it is a way of looking at the physical world and seeing something deeper, like the very nature of existence.

A haiku poem consists of three lines, with the first and last line having 5 moras, and the middle line having 7. A **mora** is a sound unit, much like a **syllable**, but is not identical to it. Since the moras do not translate well into English, it has been adapted and syllables are used as moras.

Haiku started out as a popular activity during the 9th to 12th centuries in Japan called “tanka”. It was a progressive poem, where one person would write the first three lines with a 5-7-5 syllable structure, and the next person would add to it a section with a 7-7 structure. The chain would continue in this fashion. So if you wanted some old examples of [haiku poems](http://answers.yourdictionary.com/answers/language/haiku-poems-about-birthdays.html), you could read the first verse of a “tanka” from the 9th century.

The first verse was called a “hokku” and set the mood for the rest of the verses.  Sometimes there were hundreds of verses and authors of the “hokku” were often admired for their skill. In the 19th century, the “hokku” took on a life of its own and began to be written and read as an individual poem. The word “haiku” is derived from “hokku”.

***An example of a haiku:***

An old silent pond...

A frog jumps into the pond,

splash! Silence again.

**Assignment:**

Write four different Haiku poems based on your reading of *Huck Finn.* These poems should reflect what you see as some of the important characters, events, or comments in this novel. Here is an example:

Huck learns Jim’s secret,

But promises to keep mum.

-Abolitionist!

One of your haikus should be a **tanka**, or a haiku in which you switch with a partner and he or she adds two seven syllable lines to the poem.

**Brainstorm some possible topics for your haikus below:**

**Haiku #1: Original Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Line 1 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Line 2 (7 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Line 3 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Haiku #2: Original Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Line 1 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Line 2 (7 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Line 3 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Haiku #3: Original Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Line 1 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Line 2 (7 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Line 3 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Haiku #4 (Tanka): Original Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Line 1 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Line 2 (7 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Line 3 (5 syllables)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Line 4 (7 syllables written by a partner)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Line 5 (7 syllables written by a partner)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English

**Creative Assignment: *Huck* Haikus Final Essay Assignment**

Now that you have crafted four haikus reflecting some of the important characters, events, or comments in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,* your task is to complete the following:

1. Evaluate your haikus and choose the three strongest poems to submit as a creative writing assignment.
2. For each poem, write a reflection about what you were attempting to accomplish with the poem. In other words, think about why you chose the topic, what you were trying to say about it, and why you chose the words you did.

**Use the following template for each reflection paragraph:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Introduce haiku and how it connects to the novel.**  *What is the topic of your haiku? Summarize key plot information pertaining to the topic.* |  |
| **Analyze the word choice that you use in your haiku.**  *Explain why you chose the words or phrases that you did. What is their connotation? How do they connect to the text?* |  |
| **Provide insight into the overall theme of your haiku.**  *What is the message of the poem?* |  |

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English

***Huck* Haikus Self Editing Sheet**

Apply the following checklist to your rough draft.

1. **MLA and Formatting**
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Is your essay in Times New Roman font, size 12?
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Is your name, my name, the class name and the date (day month year) written in the top left-hand corner?
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a header in the top right-hand corner that includes your last name and the page number?
5. Write the titles of your haikus here:

#1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Titles should not be bolded, italicized, or underlined! Titles of poems should be in quotations.

1. **Haikus**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Count the syllables in each line of the haiku. Put a √ mark above each syllable.
3. \_\_\_\_\_Does the first line of each haiku have five syllables?
4. \_\_\_\_\_Does the second line of each haiku have seven syllables?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Does the third line of each haiku have five syllables?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ If you used your tanka, do the last two lines have 7 syllables?
7. **Reflection Paragraphs: Grammar/Punctuation/Style/Diction**
8. Varying the first word of a sentence
   1. \_\_\_\_\_ Underline the first word of every sentence.
   2. \_\_\_\_\_ If you use the same word to start a sentence more than once per paragraph, circle them and draw lines to connect them. (Rule: you should only use a word once per paragraph at the beginning of a sentence)
   3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Fix the sentences in your draft**
9. Vary sentence structure
   1. \_\_\_\_\_ Check the sentences. Make sure that there are not more than two sentences in a row that have the same sentence structure.
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ If you find more than two with the same sentence structure, **fix the sentences in your raft** to vary sentence structure.
10. Repetition
    1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Circle the words that are used more than once. (Rule: try to use “important” words only once per page)
    2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ **Replace the words / fix the sentences in your draft**.
11. Commas
    1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Circle every comma. Does it need to be there?

* 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Add commas that are missing.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Huck* HaikusCreative Essay Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Thematic Focus** | All components of the haikus directly reflect a distinct theme. | Most components of the haikus directly reflect a distinct theme. | Some components of the haikus directly reflect a distinct theme. | No attempt has been made to maintain a thematic focus. |
| **Clarity of Tone** | The poem is extremely effective in communicating a clear tone that is reflective of the speaker’s attitude. | The poem is effective in communicating a clear tone that is reflective of the speaker’s attitude. | The poem has elements of inconsistency in communicating a clear tone that is reflective of the speaker’s attitude | The poem does not reflect a clear tone. |
| **Requirements** | Haikus meet all requirements and possess original titles that have a strong thematic connection. | Haikus meet all but one requirement such as syllables, titles, etc. | Haikus do not meet 2-3 requirements such as syllables, titles, etc. | Haikus do not meet 4 or more requirements such as syllables, titles, etc. |
| **Reflections** | The reflections are excellent because they are well organized, provide context to the haiku, and insightfully analyze theme and word choice. | The reflections are effective because they are organized, provide context to the haiku, and analyze theme and word choice. | The reflections are adequate but may need more effective organization and analysis. | The reflections are underdeveloped and lacking in organization and analysis. |
| **Spelling, Grammar, and Mechanics** | There are no mistakes in spelling, grammar and mechanics. | There are 1-2 mistakes in spelling, grammar, and mechanics. | There are 3-4 mistakes in spelling, grammar, and mechanics. | There are numerous mistakes in spelling, grammar, and mechanics. |
| **MLA Format and Required Components of the Writing Process** | Essay is in proper MLA format and all components of the writing process are included. | 1-2 errors in MLA format, some elements of the writing process may be missing. | 3-4 mistakes in MLA format, many elements of the writing process are missing. | Numerous mistakes in MLA format. Elements of the writing process are not included. |

**SUMMATIVE FEEDBACK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **STRENGTHS** | **AREAS TO IMPROVE** |
| \_\_\_\_\_ Excellent topic selections.  \_\_\_\_\_ Clear tone and theme.  \_\_\_\_\_ Meaningful content in reflection paragraphs.  \_\_\_\_\_ Precise attention to haiku structure.  \_\_\_\_\_ Precise attention to MLA and the writing process. | \_\_\_\_\_ Make sure the tone and theme of your haikus are clear.  \_\_\_\_\_ Develop your reflection paragraphs by citing more specific details.  \_\_\_\_\_ Pay attention to haiku structure.  \_\_\_\_\_ Be consistent with MLA and formatting rules.  \_\_\_\_\_ Proofread to be aware of issues with spelling, grammar and mechanics. |