

Haikuquest — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Haikuquest.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. Syllable Basics

Circle the correct answer

1. What is a syllable?
(A) A word that rhymes (B) A single beat or sound-chunk in a word (C) The first letter of a word (D) A sentence with five words
2. How many syllables are in the word 'garden'?
(A) 1 (B) 4 (C) 3 (D) 2
3. How many syllables are in the word 'butterfly'?
(A) 2 (B) 4 (C) 3 (D) 1
4. Which word has exactly ONE syllable?
(A) yellow (B) under (C) bright (D) water
5. A quick way to count syllables is to notice each —
(A) comma (B) capital letter (C) silent letter (D) vowel sound you hear
6. How many syllables are in 'elephant'?
(A) 1 (B) 4 (C) 2 (D) 3

Write the answer

7. How many syllables are in 'rain'?
Answer: _____
8. How many syllables are in 'happily'?
Answer: _____
9. Which word has TWO syllables?
Answer: _____
10. The word 'chocolate' is often said with how many syllables in everyday speech?
Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How many syllables are in 'quiet'? →
 2. How many syllables are in 'fire' when spoken slowly? →
 3. Why does syllable counting matter for a haiku? →
 4. Which strategy does NOT help you count syllables? →
 5. How many syllables are in 'orange'? →
- (A) Because a haiku is built on a set number of syllables per line
(B) 2
(C) 2
(D) Counting the number of letters
(E) Can be 1 or 2 depending on how you say it
-

2. Tricky Syllables

Circle the correct answer

11. How many syllables are in 'every'?
(A) 2 (ev-ry) or 3 depending on speech; usually 2 (B) Always 4 (C) Always 1 (D) Always 5
12. How many syllables are in 'different' in everyday speech?
(A) 2 (dif-frent) (B) 4 (C) 1 (D) 5
13. How many syllables are in 'ocean'?
(A) 4 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 1
14. How many syllables are in 'beautiful'?
(A) 2 (B) 5 (C) 3 (D) 4
15. How many syllables are in 'poem'?
(A) 1 (B) 4 (C) 3 (D) 2
16. How many syllables are in 'flower'?
(A) 2 (B) 4 (C) 3 (D) 1

Write the answer

17. How many syllables are in 'hour'?
Answer: _____

18. How many syllables are in 'science'?

Answer: _____

19. How many syllables are in 'people'?

Answer: _____

20. How many syllables are in 'animal'?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How many syllables are in 'idea'? →

2. How many syllables are in 'camera' in everyday speech? →

3. How many syllables are in 'lion'? →

4. How many syllables are in 'through'? →

5. How many syllables are in 'giant'? →

(A) 3

(B) 2

(C) 2

(D) 1

(E) 2 (cam-ra) or 3; usually 2

3. What Is a Haiku

Circle the correct answer

21. The traditional English haiku has how many syllables per line?

(A) 5, 7, 5 (B) 7, 5, 7 (C) 5, 5, 5 (D) 3, 4, 3

22. How many lines does a haiku have?

(A) 5 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4

23. How many syllables are in a traditional haiku in total?

(A) 17 (B) 15 (C) 10 (D) 20

24. Which line of a haiku is the longest?

(A) The last line (B) The first line (C) The middle (second) line (D) They are all equal

25. Must a haiku rhyme?

(A) Yes, all three lines must rhyme (B) No — haiku usually do not rhyme (C) Yes, the middle line must rhyme with itself (D) Yes, lines 1 and 3 must rhyme

26. Haiku most traditionally capture —

(A) a list of instructions (B) a single moment or image, often in nature (C) a persuasive argument (D) a long adventure story

Write the answer

27. Which of these is closest to the SPIRIT of a haiku?

Answer: _____

28. A haiku line with the count 5-7-5 refers to —

Answer: _____

29. Which is a correctly counted haiku first line (5 syllables)?

Answer: _____

30. If a haiku's middle line has 8 syllables, the poet should —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Which best describes a haiku's usual subject? →

2. The shape of a haiku (short-long-short) helps create a feeling of — →

3. Which is NOT a rule of the traditional English haiku? →

4. A haiku is a kind of — →

5. Which opening keeps a haiku's quiet, image-first spirit best? →

(A) Morning frost on grass

(B) Nature and the seasons, or a small everyday moment

(C) short-form poem

(D) It must tell a complete story with a beginning, middle, and end

(E) a pause and a small surprise

4. Imagery & the Senses

Circle the correct answer

31. What is imagery in poetry?

(A) Language that appeals to the senses and paints a picture (B) The title of a poem
(C) Words that rhyme (D) A list of hard words

32. Which line uses the strongest visual imagery?

(A) Autumn is a season (B) Red maple leaves spin down (C) The tree was there (D)
It was a nice day

33. The five senses used in imagery are sight, sound, smell, taste, and —
(A) touch (B) grammar (C) opinion (D) memory
34. 'The kettle hissed and rattled' appeals mostly to which sense?
(A) Smell (B) Sight only (C) Taste (D) Sound (hearing)
35. 'The lemon's sharp, sour tang' appeals mostly to which sense?
(A) Hearing (B) Sight (C) Touch (D) Taste
36. Which phrase shows rather than tells?
(A) It was a scary moment (B) She was nervous (C) Her hands trembled on the cup
(D) She felt bad

Write the answer

37. 'The wet grass cooled her bare feet' appeals mostly to which sense?
Answer: _____
38. Why is imagery so important in a haiku?
Answer: _____
39. Which is the most concrete (specific) image?
Answer: _____
40. 'The bread smelled warm and yeasty' appeals mostly to which sense?
Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

- Replacing 'a pretty flower' with 'a white plum blossom' makes the image more — →
 - Which line uses TWO senses at once? →
 - The opposite of vivid imagery is — →
 - Which verb creates the strongest image? →
 - 'Snow blankets the still field' uses the word 'blankets' to suggest — →
 - a soft, covering layer (touch + sight)
 - specific and vivid
 - shattered
 - cold rain drums the roof
 - vague, general wording
-

5. Kigo: Season Words

Circle the correct answer

41. What is a kigo?

(A) The title of a haiku (B) A counting rule (C) A season word that signals the time of year in a haiku (D) A rhyme at the end of a line

42. Which word works as a spring kigo?

(A) snowman (B) falling leaves (C) cherry blossom (D) harvest moon

43. Which word works as a winter kigo?

(A) frost (B) firefly (C) cherry blossom (D) cicada

44. Which word works as a summer kigo?

(A) cicada (B) frost (C) bare branches (D) snow

45. Which word works as an autumn kigo?

(A) melting snow (B) red maple leaves (C) spring rain (D) cherry blossom

46. Why do haiku traditionally include a kigo?

(A) It gives the poem a title (B) It fills out the syllable count (C) It roots the moment in a specific season, adding depth (D) It makes the poem rhyme

Write the answer

47. The kigo tradition reflects haiku's deep connection to —

Answer: _____

48. Which line contains a clear kigo?

Answer: _____

49. A haiku about 'fresh green shoots' most likely signals —

Answer: _____

50. If a poem uses 'harvest moon', the season is —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A kigo works best when it is — →

2. 'Fireflies blink at dusk' most likely signals — →

3. Which pair shows the SAME season? →

4. A haiku with NO season word — →

5. The word 'ki' in kigo relates to — →

- (A) frost / bare branches (winter)
 - (B) season
 - (C) summer
 - (D) is still a poem, but breaks the traditional kigo custom
 - (E) woven naturally into the image
-

6. Kireji: The Cut

Circle the correct answer

51. What is a kireji (the 'cut') in a haiku?

- (A) A pause or break that divides the poem into two contrasting parts (B) A rhyme at the end (C) The season word (D) The title

52. In English haiku, the cut is often shown with —

- (A) a question mark only (B) a capital letter (C) a dash or a line break (D) a rhyme

53. The cut usually creates a feeling of —

- (A) a numbered order (B) contrast or a small surprise between two images (C) a long list (D) a rhyme scheme

54. In 'old pond — / a frog jumps in / the sound of water', the cut comes after —

- (A) 'old pond' (B) there is no cut (C) 'water' (D) 'frog'

55. A haiku with NO cut at all often feels —

- (A) perfectly balanced (B) like it rhymes (C) too exciting (D) flat, like a single run-on thought

56. The two parts on either side of the cut should —

- (A) have nothing to do with each other (B) speak to each other, often by contrast (C) be exactly the same (D) both rhyme

Write the answer

57. Which shows a clear cut?

Answer: _____

58. The cut invites the reader to —

Answer: _____

59. Placing the cut in the MIDDLE of the second line, instead of at a line end, is —

Answer: _____

60. A dash at the cut mainly signals —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Which pairing across a cut creates the strongest contrast? →
2. The cut is sometimes called the haiku's — →
3. A haiku where all three lines are one smooth sentence usually — →
4. Good punctuation for a cut includes a dash, an ellipsis, or — →
5. The cut helps a short poem feel — →

- (A) a colon
 - (B) lacks a cut and feels less like a haiku
 - (C) still winter field — / one red berry
 - (D) turning point
 - (E) bigger than its few words, by leaving space to imagine
-

7. Writing Your Haiku

Circle the correct answer

61. A good first step in writing a haiku is to —

(A) write a five-paragraph plan (B) pick a rhyme scheme (C) notice one real, small moment (D) choose a moral lesson

62. When drafting, it is smart to write the image FIRST and then —

(A) make it longer (B) add rhymes (C) ignore the syllables (D) adjust wording to fit the 5-7-5 counts

63. Which draft best fits haiku form AND spirit?

(A) I saw a pond and a bug and it was cool and I liked it a lot today (B) quiet morning pond — / a dragonfly skims the glass / ripples fade to still (C) pond bug ripple (D) Ponds are nice. Bugs fly. Water moves.

64. If your middle line is only 5 syllables, you can —

(A) add a rhyme (B) delete the line (C) add a small sensory detail to reach 7 (D) leave it and ignore the form

65. Strong haiku usually AVOID —

(A) a season word (B) a cut (C) clear images (D) explaining the feeling directly

66. A haiku about a snowy morning is stronger with the verb —
(A) 'blankets' than 'covers' (B) 'was' than 'blankets' (C) 'is' than 'blankets' (D) 'covers' than 'blankets'

Write the answer

67. To keep the form, a poet chooses words partly by their —
Answer: _____
68. The ending line of a haiku works best when it —
Answer: _____
69. Which is the best revision of 'the pretty flowers are very nice today' toward a haiku line?
Answer: _____
70. Before finishing, a poet should read the haiku aloud to check —
Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A haiku draft that is 5-7-5 but has two unrelated images and no cut needs — →
2. Choosing a specific noun like 'sparrow' over 'bird' helps a haiku by — →
3. If a line has 6 syllables but needs 5, a poet might — →
4. A haiku's power often comes from — →
5. Which revision improves the cut in 'the garden is calm and the birds are singing softly there'? →
- (A) cut a small filler word
(B) a clearer connection or a real cut between the images
(C) what it leaves unsaid
(D) the garden — / soft birdsong at dawn
(E) sharpening the image within few words
-

8. Tanka

Circle the correct answer

71. A traditional tanka has how many lines?
(A) 4 (B) 3 (C) 5 (D) 7
72. The syllable pattern of a traditional tanka is —
(A) 5-5-5-5-5 (B) 5-7-5 (C) 5-7-5-7-7 (D) 7-7-7-7-7

73. How many total syllables are in a traditional tanka?
(A) 25 (B) 31 (C) 17 (D) 35
74. Compared with a haiku, a tanka gives a poet more room for —
(A) rhyme schemes (B) feeling and reflection (C) a chorus (D) a moral list
75. Tanka, like haiku, come from the poetic tradition of —
(A) Norway (B) Japan (C) France (D) Greece
76. Often a tanka has a turn (like a cut) around —
(A) the rhyme (B) the first letter (C) the third line (D) the title

Write the answer

77. The last two lines (7-7) of a tanka often carry —
Answer: _____
78. Which opening line fits a tanka (5 syllables)?
Answer: _____
79. Which line fits a tanka's 7-syllable slot?
Answer: _____
80. A tanka differs from a haiku mainly by adding —
Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Because it is longer, a tanka can move from — →
 2. Tanka are traditionally about — →
 3. A poet who wants more space to reflect than a haiku allows might choose a — →
 4. Do tanka have to rhyme? →
 5. A tanka's middle line (line 3) can act as a — →
- (A) an outer image to an inner feeling
(B) hinge between the two halves of the poem
(C) No — like haiku, they rely on image and rhythm, not rhyme
(D) tanka
(E) nature, love, memory, and the passing of time
-

9. Cinquain

Circle the correct answer

81. A cinquain has how many lines?

(A) 3 (B) 6 (C) 4 (D) 5

82. The common syllable cinquain pattern is —

(A) 2-2-2-2-2 (B) 8-6-4-2-8 (C) 5-7-5 (D) 2-4-6-8-2

83. A word cinquain's line 1 is usually —

(A) a title page (B) a full sentence (C) one word naming the subject (D) a rhyme

84. In a word cinquain, line 2 usually has —

(A) two describing words (B) a question (C) eight syllables (D) a rhyme

85. In a word cinquain, line 3 usually has —

(A) three action words (often -ing) (B) a moral (C) a rhyme (D) one word

86. In a word cinquain, line 4 usually is —

(A) a rhyme pair (B) a short phrase showing feeling (C) a single letter (D) a number

Write the answer

87. In a word cinquain, line 5 is usually —

Answer: _____

88. The cinquain form was shaped by American poet —

Answer: _____

89. Like haiku, cinquains are usually —

Answer: _____

90. Which is a valid cinquain line 1 (2 syllables)?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A cinquain line 4 with 8 syllables that only has 6 needs — →

2. The cinquain's shape (2-4-6-8-2) creates a feeling of — →

3. A word cinquain and a syllable cinquain differ in that — →

4. Which final line best sums up a cinquain about a storm? →

5. A cinquain about winter is stronger if its describing words are — →

(A) one counts words per line, the other counts syllables

(B) building up, then a sudden close

(C) Fury

(D) two more syllables of meaningful detail

(E) specific and sensory (icy, silent)

10. Limerick

Circle the correct answer

91. A limerick has how many lines?
(A) 3 (B) 6 (C) 5 (D) 4
92. The rhyme scheme of a limerick is —
(A) ABAB (B) AABBA (C) ABCDE (D) AAAA
93. In a limerick, which lines rhyme together?
(A) Lines 2 and 4 only (B) Lines 1 and 3 (C) All five lines (D) Lines 1, 2, and 5
94. In a limerick, lines 3 and 4 are usually —
(A) the longest lines (B) unrhymed (C) identical to line 1 (D) shorter and rhyme with each other
95. Unlike haiku, a limerick is built on —
(A) a season word (B) no rhyme at all (C) rhyme and a bouncy rhythm (D) a cut
96. Limericks are usually —
(A) about the seasons (B) funny or silly (C) very long (D) sad and serious

Write the answer

97. The bouncy rhythm of a limerick comes from its pattern of —
Answer: _____
98. Which line pair could END a limerick's lines 1 and 2 (same rhyme)?
Answer: _____
99. A classic limerick often opens with —
Answer: _____
100. Lines 3 and 4 of a limerick are usually shorter than —
Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. The final line of a limerick usually delivers — →
2. Which rhyme scheme is WRONG for a limerick? →
3. Compared to a haiku, a limerick shows that poems can be — →
4. A limerick's humor often comes from — →
5. Which word rhymes with 'night' for a limerick A-line? →

- (A) playful and rhyming, not just quiet and spare
 - (B) the punchline or funny twist
 - (C) kite
 - (D) ABAB A
 - (E) an unexpected or exaggerated final twist
-

11. Figurative Language

Circle the correct answer

- 101.** A simile compares two things using —
(A) a season word (B) no comparison words (C) a rhyme (D) 'like' or 'as'
- 102.** A metaphor compares two things by —
(A) saying one thing IS another (B) counting syllables (C) using 'like' or 'as' (D) adding a rhyme
- 103.** 'The wind whispered through the reeds' is an example of —
(A) personification (B) a season word (C) a rhyme (D) a simile
- 104.** Which is a simile?
(A) the sky sighed (B) clouds like torn cotton (C) gray autumn sky (D) clouds are pillows
- 105.** Which is a metaphor?
(A) the lake is a mirror (B) the lake is like a mirror (C) the lake sparkled softly (D) the still blue lake
- 106.** Figurative language is powerful in short poems because it —
(A) packs a big comparison into few words (B) removes all images (C) adds many extra lines (D) requires rhyme

Write the answer

- 107.** 'The old house groaned in the storm' gives the house a —
Answer: _____
- 108.** A fresh, surprising comparison is usually stronger than —
Answer: _____
- 109.** Which is the freshest simile?
Answer: _____

110. Overusing figurative language in a short poem can —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. 'Time is a thief' is a — →
2. 'Leaves danced across the road' is — →
3. A metaphor works best when the two things compared — →
4. Which turns 'the river was fast' into a simile? →
5. The main risk of a mixed metaphor (two clashing comparisons) is that it — →

- (A) creates a confusing or funny image by accident
 - (B) the river ran like a racing train
 - (C) share a real, meaningful quality
 - (D) metaphor
 - (E) personification
-

12. Word Choice & Concision

Circle the correct answer

111. In short-form poetry, concision means —

- (A) using the fewest, strongest words needed
- (B) using as many words as possible
- (C) always rhyming
- (D) writing long lines

112. Which word is a filler that could often be cut?

- (A) very
- (B) crumble
- (C) dusk
- (D) silver

113. 'Very big' is usually weaker than —

- (A) 'big big'
- (B) 'somewhat large'
- (C) 'huge'
- (D) 'kind of big'

114. A precise noun helps a poem by —

- (A) hiding the meaning
- (B) using more syllables
- (C) creating a clear image in fewer words
- (D) adding rhyme

115. Which line is most concise without losing its image?

- (A) there is frost and it is silver on the field
- (B) the frost has covered the whole field with silver color
- (C) the field, which is now frosty, looks silver
- (D) frost silvers the field

116. Choosing a strong VERB often lets a poet —

- (A) ignore the form
- (B) avoid images
- (C) add more filler
- (D) drop extra adverbs and adjectives

Write the answer

117. 'She walked quickly and in a hurry' can be tightened to —

Answer: _____

118. In a haiku, wasted words are especially costly because —

Answer: _____

119. Which pair are near-synonyms with DIFFERENT syllable counts a poet might swap between?

Answer: _____

120. Cutting the word 'the' from a line can help a poet —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. The danger of cutting TOO much is that a poem can become — →

2. Which is the strongest, most specific word for a big rain? →

3. A thesaurus is most useful to a poet for — →

4. Replacing 'said loudly' with 'shouted' is an example of — →

5. Which line wastes the fewest words? →

(A) downpour

(B) finding a word with the right meaning AND syllable count

(C) unclear or choppy

(D) gulls wheel over gray waves

(E) concision through a stronger verb

13. Sound Devices

Circle the correct answer

121. Alliteration is the repetition of —

(A) the same ending sound (B) the same vowel in the middle (C) the same beginning sound in nearby words (D) the same number of syllables

122. Assonance is the repetition of —

(A) the same vowel sound in nearby words (B) the same beginning sound (C) the same word (D) the same ending consonant

123. 'Silent silver stream' is an example of —

(A) alliteration (B) assonance (C) a season word (D) a metaphor

124. 'The light bright kite' repeats which vowel sound (assonance)?

(A) short 'u' (B) long 'o' (C) short 'a' (D) long 'i'

125. Consonance is the repetition of —

(A) vowel sounds (B) whole words (C) consonant sounds, often at the ends of words (D) only beginning sounds

126. Sound devices matter in poetry because they —

(A) add extra syllables only (B) replace images (C) create music and mood the ear can feel (D) require rhyme

Write the answer

127. Onomatopoeia is a word that —

Answer: _____

128. Which line uses onomatopoeia?

Answer: _____

129. Gentle, soft sounds (like 'm', 'l', 's') can create a mood of —

Answer: _____

130. Hard, sharp sounds (like 'k', 't', 'ck') can create a mood of —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Which is alliteration AND fits a winter haiku? →

2. Overusing a sound device can make a poem feel — →

3. Assonance differs from rhyme because assonance repeats — →

4. A poet uses sound devices mainly to — →

5. 'Whispering winds wind west' is heavy with — →

(A) a vowel sound anywhere, not a full end-rhyme

(B) gimmicky or sing-songy

(C) cold crows cross the field

(D) reinforce the poem's meaning and mood

(E) alliteration (the 'w' sound)

14. Cultural Context & History

Circle the correct answer

131. Haiku developed as a distinct form in —
(A) Mexico (B) Japan (C) England (D) Italy
132. One of the most famous haiku masters was —
(A) Matsuo Bashō (B) Emily Dickinson (C) Homer (D) William Wordsworth
133. Haiku grew out of an earlier collaborative linked-verse form called —
(A) sonnet (B) renga (C) ballad (D) epic
134. Besides Bashō, another celebrated haiku poet was —
(A) Isaac Newton (B) Julius Caesar (C) Leonardo da Vinci (D) Kobayashi Issa
135. Writing haiku respectfully means —
(A) learning about their tradition, not just copying the syllable count (B) avoiding nature (C) ignoring where they come from (D) changing all the rules
136. The Japanese concept behind kigo (season words) reflects a culture that deeply values —
(A) the changing seasons in nature (B) machines (C) competition (D) fast city life

Write the answer

137. When English writers adopt haiku, they should remember that English and Japanese —
Answer: _____
138. Learning the history of haiku helps a writer —
Answer: _____
139. A respectful way to learn from another culture's art form is to —
Answer: _____
140. The famous Bashō haiku about a frog is often praised for its —
Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Modern haiku around the world sometimes — →
2. Translating a haiku from Japanese to English is hard because — →
3. A season word carries cultural meaning, so a kigo may feel different in — →
4. The spirit of haiku values — →
5. Issa's haiku are especially known for their — →

- (A) attention to small, real moments
 - (B) warmth and compassion toward small creatures
 - (C) sounds, word order, and season words don't map exactly
 - (D) bend the strict counts while keeping the spirit
 - (E) a different climate or country
-

15. Revising Short Poems

Circle the correct answer

141. The main goal of revising a poem is to —

- (A) make it clearer, tighter, and truer to the moment (B) change the topic (C) make it longer (D) add rhymes everywhere

142. A smart first revision step is to —

- (A) add a title (B) read the draft aloud (C) delete the whole thing (D) count the letters

143. If a haiku line is a syllable over, a good fix is to —

- (A) swap in a shorter synonym or cut a filler (B) ignore it (C) add a whole new line (D) add a rhyme

144. A vague image like 'a nice tree' should be revised to —

- (A) 'a really nice tree' (B) 'a tree, nice' (C) something specific like 'a bare oak' (D) 'nice nice tree'

145. During revision, a weak verb like 'was' can often be replaced with —

- (A) a season word only (B) a strong action verb (C) a rhyme (D) another 'was'

146. If a haiku has no cut, a revision might —

- (A) add three rhymes (B) make every line the same (C) delete the images (D) split the images so a turn appears

Write the answer

147. A good reviser asks of each word: —

Answer: _____

148. Taking a break before revising helps because —

Answer: _____

149. Which revision improves 'the sky is very very blue today'?

Answer: _____

150. Revising for sound might mean —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. If two lines say the same thing, a reviser should — →
2. A strong revision keeps — →
3. Getting feedback from a reader can help a poet see — →
4. A revision that changes the poem's true moment or feeling should be — →
5. Which is the best final-polish checklist for a haiku? →

- (A) reconsidered — revision should serve the poem's heart
 - (B) where the image is unclear or the count is off
 - (C) what serves the moment and cuts what doesn't
 - (D) counts, clear image, a cut, and reads well aloud
 - (E) cut or combine them
-

16. Capstone: The Poet's Craft

Circle the correct answer

- 151.** A complete haiku brings together form, image, and —
(A) a meaningful cut between two parts (B) a moral lesson (C) a long title (D) a rhyme scheme
- 152.** Choosing the RIGHT short form for a moment depends on —
(A) the alphabet (B) which form is longest (C) how much space the feeling needs (D) which form rhymes
- 153.** Which moment best suits a HAIKU?
(A) a five-part argument (B) a single still image in nature (C) a long funny story with a twist (D) a list of chores
- 154.** Which moment best suits a LIMERICK?
(A) a still pond (B) a quiet snowfall (C) a serious reflection on time (D) a silly character and a funny twist
- 155.** A poet applying concision AND imagery will —
(A) choose one specific sensory word over several vague ones (B) remove all senses (C) add filler (D) use many vague adjectives
- 156.** A haiku that nails 5-7-5 but has a flat image needs work on —
(A) the rhyme (B) the syllable count (C) the title (D) imagery and word choice

Write the answer

157. The clearest sign of a skilled short-form poet is —

Answer: _____

158. Across all these forms, the one thing that matters most is —

Answer: _____

159. A poet who has learned form, imagery, kigo, cut, figures, sound, and revision now has —

Answer: _____

160. When form and feeling seem to conflict, a wise poet —

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A capstone haiku should be checked against — →

2. The difference between a beginner and a skilled poet is often — →

3. A poem that follows every rule but feels lifeless is missing — →

4. Writing across forms (haiku, tanka, cinquain, limerick) teaches a poet that form —
→

5. The best way to keep growing as a poet is to — →

(A) shapes how a feeling comes across

(B) counts, image, cut, sound, and read aloud

(C) how carefully they revise

(D) genuine feeling or a real moment

(E) keep noticing moments and keep writing

Riddle & Joke Break

Guess the answer, then check the key!

161. A traditional haiku has three lines with a fixed syllable pattern. What is it?

162. How many syllables are in the word "butterfly"?

163. How many lines does a limerick have?

164. A tanka is like a haiku plus two extra lines. What is its full syllable pattern?

165. A haiku often includes a word that hints at the time of year. What is this called?

166. How many syllables total are in a full haiku?

167. A poem says "the fog is a gray blanket over the town." What figure of speech is that?

168. A poem says "the wind whispered like a secret." Is that a simile or a metaphor?

169. Why did the haiku feel so balanced?

170. Why did the poet clap while writing?

171. Why did the limerick throw a party?

172. Why did the haiku love nature?

173. Why did the cinquain grow line by line?

174. Why did the tanka feel like a longer cousin of the haiku?

Fun Facts

- Did you know? The haiku comes from Japan and is one of the shortest poetry forms in the world -- just 17 syllables in three lines (5-7-5), yet it can capture an entire moment!
 - Did you know? Traditional Japanese haiku usually include a "kigo" -- a seasonal word like "snow" or "cherry blossom" -- to root the poem in a specific time of year!
 - Did you know? The most famous haiku poet, Matsuo Basho, wrote in Japan over 300 years ago. His frog-and-pond haiku is still read and loved around the world today!
 - Did you know? A limerick's rhyme scheme is AABBA -- lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme, and the two short middle lines rhyme with each other. The funny surprise almost always lands in line 5!
 - Did you know? A tanka is even older than the haiku! This five-line Japanese form (5-7-5-7-7) has been written for over 1,300 years, making it one of poetry's oldest surviving shapes!
 - Did you know? Great poems "show, don't tell." Instead of "the night was scary," a poet writes "shadows crept along the wall" -- letting you FEEL the fear through an image!
 - Did you know? A metaphor says one thing IS another ("the classroom was a zoo"), while a simile uses "like" or "as" ("busy as a bee"). Both help readers see something in a fresh way!
 - Did you know? Reading a poem OUT LOUD reveals its rhythm and any bumpy spots. Poets have always meant poems to be heard -- the sound is half the meaning!
-

Answer Key

1. B — A single beat or sound-chunk in a word
2. D — 2
3. C — 3
4. C — bright
5. D — vowel sound you hear
6. D — 3
7. 1
8. 3
9. mountain
10. 3 (choc-o-late)
Matching (Syllable Basics): 1→B, 2→E, 3→A, 4→D, 5→B
11. A — 2 (ev-ry) or 3 depending on speech; usually 2
12. A — 2 (dif-frent)
13. B — 2
14. C — 3
15. D — 2
16. A — 2
17. 1
18. 2
19. 2
20. 3
Matching (Tricky Syllables): 1→A, 2→E, 3→B, 4→D, 5→B
21. A — 5, 7, 5
22. C — 3
23. A — 17
24. C — The middle (second) line

25. B — No — haiku usually do not rhyme
26. B — a single moment or image, often in nature
27. A quiet snapshot of one moment
28. syllables per line
29. An old silent pond
30. trim or reword it to 7
Matching (What Is a Haiku): 1→B, 2→E, 3→D, 4→C, 5→A
31. A — Language that appeals to the senses and paints a picture
32. B — Red maple leaves spin down
33. A — touch
34. D — Sound (hearing)
35. D — Taste
36. C — Her hands trembled on the cup
37. Touch
38. Because a haiku has few words, so each image must do a lot
39. a cracked blue teacup
40. Smell
Matching (Imagery & the Senses): 1→B, 2→D, 3→E, 4→C, 5→A
41. C — A season word that signals the time of year in a haiku
42. C — cherry blossom
43. A — frost
44. A — cicada
45. B — red maple leaves
46. C — It roots the moment in a specific season, adding depth
47. nature and the changing seasons
48. first snow on the pines
49. spring
50. autumn

Matching (Kigo: Season Words): 1→E, 2→C, 3→A, 4→D, 5→B

- 51. A — A pause or break that divides the poem into two contrasting parts
- 52. C — a dash or a line break
- 53. B — contrast or a small surprise between two images
- 54. A — 'old pond'
- 55. D — flat, like a single run-on thought
- 56. B — speak to each other, often by contrast
- 57. cold morning air — / a single crow calls
- 58. fill the gap between the two images with feeling
- 59. allowed, and can create a fresh rhythm
- 60. a pause and a shift to a new image

Matching (Kireji: The Cut): 1→C, 2→D, 3→B, 4→A, 5→E

- 61. C — notice one real, small moment
- 62. D — adjust wording to fit the 5-7-5 counts
- 63. B — quiet morning pond — / a dragonfly skims the glass / ripples fade to still
- 64. C — add a small sensory detail to reach 7
- 65. D — explaining the feeling directly
- 66. A — 'blankets' than 'covers'
- 67. syllable count
- 68. lands a clear final image
- 69. white plum blossoms open
- 70. the syllable counts and the sound

Matching (Writing Your Haiku): 1→B, 2→E, 3→A, 4→C, 5→D

- 71. C — 5
- 72. C — 5-7-5-7-7
- 73. B — 31
- 74. B — feeling and reflection
- 75. B — Japan

- 76. C — the third line
- 77. the poet's feeling or response to the image
- 78. distant mountain snow
- 79. the river holds the gray sky
- 80. two extra 7-syllable lines
Matching (Tanka): 1→A, 2→E, 3→D, 4→C, 5→B
- 81. D — 5
- 82. D — 2-4-6-8-2
- 83. C — one word naming the subject
- 84. A — two describing words
- 85. A — three action words (often -ing)
- 86. B — a short phrase showing feeling
- 87. one word that renames or sums up the subject
- 88. Adelaide Crapsey
- 89. unrhymed and built on a set structure
- 90. Ocean
Matching (Cinquain): 1→D, 2→B, 3→A, 4→C, 5→E
- 91. C — 5
- 92. B — AABBA
- 93. D — Lines 1, 2, and 5
- 94. D — shorter and rhyme with each other
- 95. C — rhyme and a bouncy rhythm
- 96. B — funny or silly
- 97. stressed and unstressed beats
- 98. 'Kate' / 'plate'
- 99. 'There once was...'
- 100. lines 1, 2, and 5
Matching (Limerick): 1→B, 2→D, 3→A, 4→E, 5→C

101. D — 'like' or 'as'
102. A — saying one thing IS another
103. A — personification
104. B — clouds like torn cotton
105. A — the lake is a mirror
106. A — packs a big comparison into few words
107. human ability (personification)
108. a tired cliché
109. the moon thin as a fingernail
110. clutter the image and confuse the reader
Matching (Figurative Language): 1→D, 2→E, 3→C, 4→B, 5→A
111. A — using the fewest, strongest words needed
112. A — very
113. C — 'huge'
114. C — creating a clear image in fewer words
115. D — frost silvers the field
116. D — drop extra adverbs and adjectives
117. she hurried
118. there are so few syllables to begin with
119. 'happy' (2) and 'glad' (1)
120. save a syllable while keeping the meaning
Matching (Word Choice & Concision): 1→C, 2→A, 3→B, 4→E, 5→D
121. C — the same beginning sound in nearby words
122. A — the same vowel sound in nearby words
123. A — alliteration
124. D — long 'i'
125. C — consonant sounds, often at the ends of words
126. C — create music and mood the ear can feel

127. imitates the sound it names

128. rain patters on the tin roof

129. calm or quiet

130. sharpness or energy

Matching (Sound Devices): 1→C, 2→B, 3→A, 4→D, 5→E

131. B — Japan

132. A — Matsuo Bashō

133. B — renga

134. D — Kobayashi Issa

135. A — learning about their tradition, not just copying the syllable count

136. A — the changing seasons in nature

137. count sound units differently, so counts are an approximation

138. appreciate the form's depth and write with more care

139. study it, credit it, and avoid stereotypes

140. simple image and quiet surprise

Matching (Cultural Context & History): 1→D, 2→C, 3→E, 4→A, 5→B

141. A — make it clearer, tighter, and truer to the moment

142. B — read the draft aloud

143. A — swap in a shorter synonym or cut a filler

144. C — something specific like 'a bare oak'

145. B — a strong action verb

146. D — split the images so a turn appears

147. 'Does this word earn its place?'

148. fresh eyes catch problems you missed

149. the noon sky, deep blue

150. choosing a word that adds gentle alliteration or assonance

Matching (Revising Short Poems): 1→E, 2→C, 3→B, 4→A, 5→D

151. A — a meaningful cut between two parts

- 152. C — how much space the feeling needs
- 153. B — a single still image in nature
- 154. D — a silly character and a funny twist
- 155. A — choose one specific sensory word over several vague ones
- 156. D — imagery and word choice
- 157. making a tiny poem feel large and complete
- 158. genuine attention to a real moment
- 159. a full toolkit to shape any short poem
- 160. adjusts wording to honor both as much as possible
Matching (Capstone: The Poet's Craft): 1→B, 2→C, 3→D, 4→A, 5→E
- 161. 5, 7, 5! Five syllables, then seven, then five again.
- 162. 3! But-ter-fly. Counting syllables is the heart of writing a haiku.
- 163. 5! And its rhyme pattern is AABBA -- lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme, and lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other.
- 164. 5, 7, 5, 7, 7! It adds two seven-syllable lines to the haiku's three lines.
- 165. A "kigo," or seasonal word! Words like "snow," "cherry blossom," or "cicada" root the poem in a season.
- 166. 17! Because $5 + 7 + 5 = 17$ syllables across the three lines.
- 167. A metaphor! It says the fog IS a blanket, painting an image without using "like" or "as."
- 168. A simile! It uses the word "like" to compare the wind to a secret.
- 169. Because it always counts to five, seven, five!
- 170. To count the syllables in each line!
- 171. Because it loves a good bouncy rhythm and a funny ending!
- 172. Because it almost always paints a tiny picture of the season!
- 173. Because it builds from one word up to five and back down!
- 174. Because it adds two more lines of seven syllables!