

HaikuQuest — Concept Poster

Print this and pin it up — an at-a-glance map of the HaikuQuest cast and the ideas each one carries. Come back to it whenever you want to remember who teaches what.

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Meet the cast — and what each one teaches

Character	What they carry
Count	Syllable count / count-discipline — magpie-tween whose beak-tap enacts the rhythmic underpinning of every counted form
Pause	Kireji / cut / productive break — snowy-egret-tween whose perpetually-mid-step body IS the kireji in physical form
Lantern	Season-word / anchoring image — chipmunk-tween whose wooden lantern visibly shifts color with the season
Trim	Brevity / saying-less — red-squirrel-tween with brass scissors who snips redundant words to find the smaller-stronger version
Flint	Juxtaposition — flinty badger-creature who strikes two smooth stones to make a spark; two images set side by side make a third meaning leap up in the gap
Gallop	Meter / the stressed beat — long-legged pony-creature whose hooves fall da-da-DUM; not how MANY beats (that's Count) but which ones to stomp (esp. the limerick)
Bell	Rhyme — silver creature with tuned tail-bells that chime the same note when end-sounds match; a forced rhyme jammed in just to chime is worse than none
Hinge	The line break — folding-door creature who holds a small pause at the end of each line; the end of a line is a little stage, so end on a word that earns it
Mold	Shape on the page — clay-colored creature who builds a poem's silhouette (a cinquain's 2-4-6-8-2 diamond); shape is meaning you can see from across the room
Braid	Sound texture — nimble creature who weaves repeated sounds through a line (alliteration + assonance); enough echo makes music, too much makes a tongue-twister knot

Key ideas at a glance

The big concepts this cast helps you master:

- Syllable Basics
 - Tricky Syllables
 - What Is a Haiku
 - Imagery & the Senses
 - Kigo: Season Words
 - Kireji: The Cut
 - Writing Your Haiku
 - Tanka
 - Cinquain
 - Limerick
 - Figurative Language
 - Word Choice & Concision
 - Sound Devices
 - Cultural Context & History
 - Revising Short Poems
 - Capstone: The Poet's Craft
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