



Short Activity
Ages 9–12
20–30 minutes

On an Island Poetry

Description

Participants will create their own haiku, limericks or free-form poetry with the theme of “on an island.” Templates for haiku and limerick poetry will be provided for those who wish to use them.

These poetry templates can be used for passive programming and can also be shared with ages 6–8.

Number of participants

For any number of participants

Space considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated at tables to do an activity

Competencies

- Creative expression
- Emotional expression
- Literacy
- Pattern recognition
- Rhythm and music appreciation

Materials

- Haiku handout
- Limerick handout
- Pencils, fine-point markers or pencil crayons
- Poetry books for display

Preparation

- Print out templates

- Display poetry books

Implementation

1. Distribute materials
2. Read poetry template(s) aloud
3. Read examples out loud
4. Show participants how to clap syllables

Accessibility considerations

- Project the templates on a screen
- Provide various writing tools
- Participants can work together
- Poetry doesn't have to be written down and can be recited orally

Book suggestions

Deep, Deep Down: The Secret Underwater Poetry of the Mariana Trench by Lydia Lukidis and Juan Calle

Turtle Moon by Hannah Gold and Levi Pinfold

Joe and the Wreck of the Tribune by Jacqueline Halsey

Download links

[Haiku Handout](#)

[Limerick Handout](#)

Images

ON AN ISLAND POETRY

Haiku Handout

Originating in Japan, haiku (hai-ku) is a Japanese form of short poetry. Haiku is comprised of three lines with a 5, 7, 5 pattern of syllables and often (but not always) has a seasonal reference. One of the most famous Japanese haiku is Matsuo Bashō's "old pond."

Original in Japanese:

fu-ru-i-ke ya (5)
ka-wa-zu to-bi-ko-mu (7)
mi-zu-no-o-to (5)

Translated:

old pond
frog leaps in
water's sound

Here are other examples:

water reaches land (5)
crashing against sand castles (7)
a kingdom destroyed (5)

the summer breeze blows (5)
rain water drips from a leaf (7)
onto the fawn's head (5)

Create your own haiku below using the 5, 7, 5 syllable pattern, with the theme of "on an island." It could be what you see on an island, what/who lives there, what happens there, etc.

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Limerick Handout

Originating in County Limerick, Ireland, and made popular by Edward Lear, a limerick is a five-line verse of three long and two short lines rhyming AABBA. Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme with each other, while 3 and 4 rhyme.

Here are some examples:

There was an Old Man with a Beard by Edward Lear

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!"

There once was a kitty named Smelly
Who used to steal soup from the deli
He'd eat it while hot
Right out of the pot
Then we'd find him asleep on his belly

Crabby the crab went to town
He really likes joking around
Wore the polka-dot shorts
He wears when playing sports
And can turn any frown upside down

Tomi loves when it snows
The coldness tickles his nose
But sometimes the tickle
Puts him in a pickle
The itch to sneeze only grows

Create your own limerick below using the AABBA syllable pattern, with the theme of "on an island." It could be what you see on an island, what/who lives there, what happens there, etc.

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