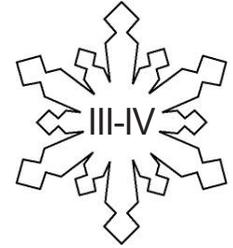


Cloud Haiku

Levels



Grades 5-8

Overview:

During this activity, students will write, edit and revise a haiku (a Japanese, three-line poem) about the weather.

Objectives:

The student will:

- write a haiku about the weather or clouds;
- peer review the haiku of a partner; and
- edit and revise writing.

GLEs Addressed:

Science

- [6] W2.2.3 The student writes for a variety of purposes and audiences by using expressive language when responding to literature or producing text (e.g., writer's notebook memoirs, poetry, plays or lyrics)* (L).

Whole Picture:

The poetry form of Haiku is generally focused on nature and seasons, along with the feelings and experiences that accompany those themes. Clouds provide a perfect study for such poetry, producing conditions varying from immensely beautiful formations to grey, dreary drizzle, to volatile thunder and lightning.

Cirrus clouds, characterized by thin, wispy strands appearing high in the sky, can be compared to the strokes of an artist's brush or the flicker of a horse's tail.

Puffy, billowing cumulus clouds can evoke images of ice cream sundaes or a fluffy, down comforter; as storm clouds they might evoke images and feelings of a more volatile nature.

Dreary, grey stratus clouds that block the sun might inspire thoughts of a warm cup of cocoa in front of a roaring fire.

Clouds are mostly remembered as white or grey in color, though a sunset or sunrise can bring a palette of reflected light. Reminding students about cloud formation and color may fuel creative thought about the cloud they see or remember.

Materials:

- Computers with word processing capabilities
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Cloud Haiku"

Activity Procedure:

1. Introduce this activity by reading the haiku on the STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Cloud Haiku." Explain that a haiku is a Japanese poem with a prescribed pattern of syllables. The first line of a haiku has 5 syllables, the second has 7 and the third has 5. A traditional haiku always contains a word or phrase to indicate the season. Ask students if they can tell what season this haiku refers to (winter). Ask how they know.

2. Explain that during this activity, students will write a haiku about clouds or weather. Create a haiku as a class to demonstrate the process and spark ideas. Distribute the STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Cloud Haiku” and ask students to begin writing their haiku poems.
3. After all students have drafted a haiku, ask them to find a partner with whom they can exchange poems to review and edit. Encourage students to use descriptive words so that a feeling or image is clearly portrayed in the haiku.
4. Ask students to revise their haiku then type and print their final draft.

Answers to Student Questions:

Answers will vary but should follow the haiku format:

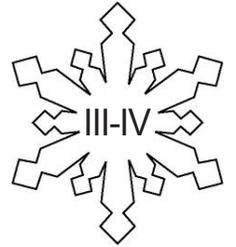
- First line--5 syllables
- Second line--7 syllables
- Third line--5 syllables

Name: _____

Cloud Haiku

Student Worksheet

Levels



A haiku is a Japanese three-line poem. The first line is 5 syllables, the second line is 7 syllables and the third line is 5 syllables. Below is an example haiku:

**The gray clouds roll in
Darkening the village sky
I pull up my hood**

Write a haiku about clouds or the weather on the lines below.
