

## Yarra Ranges Still Life Project

### Haiku worksheet:

an accompaniment to the video

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Given the theme of Still Life, haiku is the perfect form of poetry. It captures moments in time – moments of stillness – and fleeting observations. Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry made up of three lines. Traditionally, each of those lines had a specific number of syllables: five in the first line, seven in the second line, and five in the third line. Today, most haiku writers tend to focus on the three lines, rather than the number of syllables.

The following are three techniques you can use when writing haiku. They are only a guide. You can find more details and examples on the accompanying video.

### The three techniques

#### **Technique 1: what-when-where**

With this technique, one line talks about **what**, one line talks about **when**, and one line talks about **where**. It's up to you in which order you put them.

after the shops have closed

back of the cupboard

our last toilet roll!

#### **Technique 2: zoom-in and zoom out**

With this technique, it's like the moment in a movie when the camera zooms in closer and closer to the thing that is the focus of the shot, or zooms out from it into a broader landscape. You will need to decide what is the focus of your haiku. By focusing on it, you're saying it is important. This can be particularly interesting when it's something we usually ignore.

**zoom-in**

at the supermarket

I wait on a cross

my shoelace undone

**zoom-out**

a child's blue sock

lying on a bench

Sherbrooke Forest

**Technique 3: opposites and parallels**

With this technique you put two images side-by-side, but still keep to the three lines. By putting two images together, you are asking the reader, or the listener, what are the similarities and differences between these two things. These images might be close to each other, even occurring in the same place. Or they might seem almost completely unrelated at first.

masked nurses dance

on TV news

our lounge room fills with light

**Submission details**

You can submit your haiku via the Yarra Ranges Council website: [yrc.vic.gov.au/haiku](http://yrc.vic.gov.au/haiku).

Visit the website for further details and updates on where the haiku will be displayed.