**Haiku Poetry**

**History**

Haikus are

* An ancient Japanese form of poetry
* Originated with the poet Basho in the 17th century

**Structure**

* 3 short lines
* 17 total syllables:

5 syllables (first line)

7 syllables (second line)

5 syllables (third line)

**Content/Style**

* Haiku present visual images, often images involving nature
* Usually conveys a mood or atmosphere
* Usually presents some kind of contrast - black vs. white, life vs. death etc.
* The last line usually is a twist and alters the perspective from the first two lines

**Examples**

Sunrise

Sunrise comes like paint

Pink and blues-watery hues

Smudging out the night

Chimneys

Chimneys reaching high

Standing like birds on one leg

Belching with no aim

Mothers

They gave birth to us

They feed us and shelter us

Overprotective

Feet

We use feet to walk

They get us from A to B

Some have an odour

The Sun

It shines down on us

Giving us the warmth we need

Too hot to be touched