

Haikus and Tankas

Day 1 - identify poetic conventions of a haiku

Day 2 - use poetic conventions of a haiku

Day 3 - identify poetic conventions of a tanka

Day 4 - use poetic conventions of a tanka

WALT: identify poetic conventions of a tanka

Today, we shall look at how to write a tanka (you say it tan-ka!)



Like haikus, tankas originate (come from) Japan.

They are a very old kind of poem; people started writing in the 13th Century (1200s)

Tankas are 5 lines long.

They often tell of deep feelings about nature or love.

WALT: identify poetic conventions of a tanka

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
This cold winter night
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
the snow clings to the tree boughs
in the pale moonlight
the kisses of your soft lips
warm this aching heart of mine

LINE 1	5 SYLLABLES
LINE 2	7 SYLLABLES
LINE 3	5 SYLLABLES
LINE 4	7 SYLLABLES
LINE 5	7 SYLLABLES

+

5 lines

31 SYLLABLES

WALT: identify poetic conventions of a tanka

Tanka can use similes, metaphor and personification

Similes

Uses 'as' or 'like', compares two things - she was as graceful as a swan, he was like a towering tree

Metaphor

States that one thing IS another, when it isn't – he was a remorseless eating machine.

Personification

Pretends something has human characteristics – the tree sighed longingly.

WALT: identify poetic conventions of a tanka

1. Read through the tankas.
2. Find your favourite.
3. Write it out in your book
4. Annotate it - how many lines?

LINE 1	5 SYLLABLES
LINE 2	7 SYLLABLES
LINE 3	5 SYLLABLES
LINE 4	7 SYLLABLES
LINE 5	7 SYLLABLES

5 lines

how many syllables?

31 SYLLABLES

can you find an example of
a simile? metaphor? and/or personification?

5. What's your
favourite word
in the poem?

Seashells on the ground White sand is so beautiful I look at the sea It is so very endless And blue, sparkly, and gorgeous	<i>This cold winter night the snow clings to the tree boughs in the pale moonlight the kisses of your soft lips warm this aching heart of mine</i>
A party for you A perfect celebration After the big storm Huge, scary, and powerful It was unlike anything	Crash at two A.M. I opened my bedroom door A white car ran by Startled by the clanging fall Of the treat jar's metal lid
I love my chicken He is so fluffy and white He has a big beak And he is very polite He loves when I pat his back	Snow-covered pine trees Line the frozen pathway home But we turn away The world is a lake of ice And we have one warm hand each
A pool of sunlight Bathes the stormy evening bay A lonely heron Stands still, a cunning statue Waiting for unwary fish	The light filling the air Is so mild this spring day Only the cherry blossoms Keep falling in haste - Why is that so?

Tanka can use similes, metaphor and personification

Similes

Uses 'as' or 'like', compares two things - she was as graceful as a swan, he was like a towering tree

Metaphor

States that one thing IS another, when it isn't - he was a remorseless eating machine.

Personification

Pretends something has human characteristics - the tree sighed longingly.

Purpose: traditionally about nature or love

The weeping willow 5 syllables
Is like an old man asleep 7 syllables
Weak Autumn branches 5 syllables
Reach outward like stretching arms 7 syllables
When will you awaken sir? 7 syllables

Structure:
5 lines

No rhyme
necessary

We must make sure that our poems makes sense, especially because we have a limited amount of words that we can use!

WALT: identify poetic conventions of a tanka

Help me complete these tankas.

Fill in the blanks - be aware of the syllables!

Hot my toes squish
Sun did shine upon me
Red, my skin did get
My day at the is done
, another one

Answers on the
following page.

The is blowing
blowing winds with and dust
 through the air
once the wind will start to stop
and life will again

WALT: identify poetic conventions of a tanka

Help me complete these tankas.

Fill in the blanks - be aware of the syllables!

Hot sand my toes squish
Sun did shine down upon me
Red, my skin did get
My day at the beach is done
Tomorrow, another one

The wind is blowing
blowing winds with leaves and dust
flying through the air
once the wind will start to stop
and life will blossom again