

# Winning Poems from the Nicholas A. Virgilio Memorial Haiku Competition

a haiku competition for Grades 7–12, co-sponsored by the Haiku Society of America

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winter night  
cracks in the floorboards  
widen

*Mary Rice, age 16*  
2009

silent graveyard  
one tombstone  
with a crow

*Alexa Navarez, age 12*  
2008

harvest moon  
the homeless man's cup  
filled with silver

*Kate Bosek-Sills, Age 15*  
2005

saying goodbye  
the river flowing  
one way

*Cindy Truong, 13*  
2009

the wind  
taking  
her secret

*Jordan Krueger, Grade 12*  
2007

shifting shadows  
deep in the hills  
a dog barks

*Allison McCrossen, Age 13*  
2004

winter stars  
my father paints over  
the old white walls

*Asha Bishi, age 18*  
2008

empty house  
echoes of laughter  
in the rotting wood

*Emily Onyan, grade 8*  
2007

summer breeze  
the flutter of clothes  
thrown over a chair

*Laura Santiago, Age 15*  
2003

autumn night  
one brick  
darker than the rest

*Gracie Elliot, age 12*  
2008

the coarse wool  
of my blanket  
a cricket's rasp

*Giulia Perucchio, age 15*  
2006

metallic taste  
the cold stream spills  
from my hand

*Jenny Zhang, age 16*  
2004

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**For more information on haiku, sample poems, contests and publications, please visit  
the Haiku Society of America online at [www.hsa-haiku.org](http://www.hsa-haiku.org).**

# Haiku for Beginners

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The writing of haiku began in Japan several centuries ago. Today poets all over the world write haiku.

Here are a few poems written by famous Japanese haiku masters:

a crow  
has settled on a bare branch—  
autumn evening

Matsuo Basho (1644-1694)

the toad! It looks like  
it could belch  
a cloud

Kobayashi Issa (1763-1827)

butterfly  
sleeping  
on the temple bell

Yosa Buson (1716 – 1783)

lost in the woods—  
only the sound of a leaf  
falling on my hat

Tagami Kikusha ((1753 – 1826)

Here are a few poems written by Bay Area poets over the past few years:

opening day  
a ticket to the ballgame  
tucked in his math book

Jerry Ball

a hole in my sweater  
I ask him one more time  
what he meant

Fay Aoyagi

Old retriever;  
he opens one eye  
at the tossed stick

Garry Gay

twilight  
the poultry truck returns  
with empty cages

Carolyn Hall