

Workshop: Haiku and Imagery

By Tom Painting

Haiku is an imagistic poetic form, often relying on an observation through one of the five senses. (One may also wish to add the sense of heat and cold as distinct from the common five: touch, smell, taste, sound and sight)

It is the artful juxtaposition of concrete images that make a good haiku; one that is able to delight and surprise.

While there may be some debate about from where the poet may get an image to compose a haiku, the following chart offers three possibilities: memory, imagination and the here-and-now.

Complete the chart below and use as a resource for composing haiku. It may be useful to complete a chart for each of the four seasons and the New Year, recognized as a fifth season in haiku.

Season _____

	Memory	Imagination	Here-and-Now
Touch			
Smell			
Taste			
Sound			
Sight			
Heat and/or cold			