
HAIKU EXPO

Arizona inspired Japanese Poetry



ARIZONA MATSURI - A FESTIVAL OF JAPAN

Selection of 2017 Haiku

HAIKU EXPO



In the spirit of raising awareness of the arts and culture of Japan to the people of Arizona, we challenged residents of Arizona to write their own Arizona-inspired haiku poem for the 33rd annual Arizona Matsuri festival held in downtown Phoenix on February 25th and 26th, 2017.

Haiku is an ancient unrhymed Japanese verse form. Generally written in three short lines containing a total of 10 to 17 syllables to convey a vivid message, Haiku typically contain a reference to nature.

Haiku uses simple concrete images of things we can see, smell, taste, touch, or feel. The best haiku poems reveal the essence of a thing so clearly that the

reader can experience the momentary scene or insight that inspired the author.

One of the greatest Haiku poets was the Samurai, Basho (1644-94). Basho's father was also a Samurai from the Iga province. To become a Samurai, Basho served a local lord who was fond of writing. Basho learned the style of writing Haiku and wrote under

the name, Sobo. During those years, Basho traveled throughout Japan writing and further developing the Haiku style. A few samples of Basho's haiku style are listed in the example section below.

Your poem should contain a sentence fragment (one line) and a phrase (two lines that complete a thought). The fragment can be either the first line or the third line. To keep your poem simple and direct, write in the present tense. Haiku typically do not make use of capitalization, punctuation, or titles.

Each traditional Haiku should contain a reference to a season, which indicates what season of the year the Haiku is set. For example, blossoms would indicate spring, snow would give the idea of winter and mosquitos would imply summertime. The seasonal word is not always that obvious, you might need to consider the theme of the poem to find it.

Structural Rules for traditional Haiku:

- Use exactly 17 syllables
- Syllables are arranged in three lines of 5-7-5
- Avoid similes and metaphors
- Refers to a season of the year

Clouds appear and bring
to men a chance to rest from
looking at the moon

The seasonal word in this Haiku is clouds, indicating the rainy season. Haiku poems are valued for their simplicity, openness, depth and lightness.

English-language haiku have generally followed the form of five syllables used in the first line, followed by seven syllables for the middle line and five syllables for the third. However, English-language haiku no longer adhere to this syllable count, and are therefore as brief as the poem needs to be while keeping to the fragment-phrase structure. In English language haiku, the middle line is typically longer than the first or third lines.

The Arizona Matsuri and its Haiku Expo committee initiated this event in late 2014 by inviting participants from the general public, Statewide universities, community colleges, high schools, culture and language clubs and public libraries. The theme for this event was for participants to submit up to three of their own original Arizona inspired haiku. This booklet is the collection of selected haiku poems which we feel deserve Honorable mention and Outstanding recognition which we would like to share with the general public. Thank you to all participants, organizations and individuals who helped support this event. Thank you very much and we hope you enjoy this wonderful collection.

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2017 OUTSTANDING & HONORABLE MENTION

Grades K-3 Haiku



*birds flying sky high
soaring up through the thin air
sunlight next to them*

Outstanding Haiku

Jillian G

Wilson K-8, Tucson



EARLY MORNING MIST

Encanto Park in Phoenix is centrally located in the city and its ponds have many ducks who call this place home. This haiku gives one the sense of early morning light shimmering on the water in winter whereas the rise in temperature is creating a slight mist on the water as the ducks flock together and enjoy the warmth of a new day.



*I have my own horse
my horse is very cool too
his name is Elvis*

Outstanding Haiku

Brennan P

Kyrene Del Norte, Tempe



*sun blazes through day
drinking to cool down would do
sunlight is fading*

Honorable Mention Haiku

Morgan B

Wilson K-8, Tucson

*I love her so much
she sleeps in my room and snores
she is annoying*

Honorable Mention Haiku

Hayslie W

Kyrene Del Norte

2017 OUTSTANDING & HONORABLE MENTION

Grades 4-8 Haiku



*as the sun sinks down
silhouettes of waving palms
line the horizon*

Outstanding Haiku

Jocelyn J

Kyrene Middle School, Tempe



MIRAGE ON THE HIGHWAY

Driving on a dry desert Arizona highway in mid summer it is not unusual to see a mirage or a naturally occurring optical phenomenon in which light rays are bent to produce a displaced image of distant objects such as a pool of water.



*the frosty, dry night
coyotes prayed to the moon
wind whispered in trees*

Outstanding Haiku

Kyla W

Kyrene Middle School, Tempe



*cactus in moonlight
highlighted with moon aura
spines dance in shadow*

Outstanding Haiku

Jason L

Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix



*leaves fall to the ground
bare branches against the sky
fleetly blossoms shine*

Outstanding Haiku

Tess M

Phoenix



*I sulk in the heat
small dust clouds with every step
my sandy footprints*

Outstanding Haiku

Shea Z

Tempe



*pretty sand below
owls stare deep into your soul
cactus all around*

Outstanding Haiku

Cooper W

Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix



*gleaming sun above
cool chill on the desert sand
beauty lines the sky*

*Outstanding Haiku
Cooper W
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*dark clouds overhead
water falling on the ground
smells like desert rain*

*Outstanding Haiku
Charlie P
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*fire raging far
smoke is soaring through the air
watch the fire roar*

*Outstanding Haiku
Ruby D
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*dusty canyon cliffs
desert floods with tumbling rocks
the valley heats up*

*Outstanding Haiku
Sephir B
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*roars of loud thunder
scattered lighting in the sky
and cries of gray clouds*

*Outstanding Haiku
Kaeya B
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*the desert breeze comes
the sky whispers it's time for
dust storms and monsoons*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jaeden M
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*quiet wind whispers
lightning smashes earth's deserts
the sky cries with rain*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jose F
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*jackets, scarves, and gloves
building snowmen just for fun
snowflakes falling down*

*Outstanding Haiku
Abbey R
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*sunlit morning sky
aroma of last night's rain
glistening pine trees*

*Outstanding Haiku
Kaylahni J
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*a whiff of crisp air
in the timber, creatures dash
refreshing Four Peaks*

*Outstanding Haiku
Tatum S
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*winds of frustration
crack,boom,lightning in the night
battles of nature*

*Outstanding Haiku
Larissa A
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*shady trees stand tall
watching the land scorch and burn
from the desert sun*

*Outstanding Haiku
Grantham M
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*the devils of dust
tiny, harmless tornadoes
over dry, cracked fields*

*Outstanding Haiku
Angela C
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*



*cactus arms outstretched
waiting for a prickly hug
a hawk calls somewhere, lonely*

*Outstanding Haiku
Abigail L
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*



*alone in the woods
vast green trees
a boom in the distance*

*Outstanding Haiku
Tyler J
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*



*long bushy grass
a faint breeze of wind
whoosh, and silence again*

*Outstanding Haiku
Tyler J
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*



*bobcat prowling close
his roar echoes through the frost
in the winter freeze*

*Outstanding Haiku
Sally F
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*a lone cactus stands
no friends, no foes, just cactus
standing all alone*

*Outstanding Haiku
Olivia C
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*



*a lone cactus stands
no friends, no foes, just cactus
standing all alone*

*Outstanding Haiku
Olivia C
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*



*fire in the night
burning brightly for it's life
down the house did fall*

*Outstanding Haiku
Marc S
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*oh tall saguaro
standing proud in the dry heat
giving homes to all*

*Outstanding Haiku
Morgan H
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*



*windy snow falling
covers winter habitat
morning leaves scatter*

*Outstanding Haiku
Sedona S
New River Elementary, New River*



*filled with lights, your eyes
guide me like stars guide sailors
both guide to find hope*

*Outstanding Haiku
Naomi M
BASIS Phoenix, Phoenix*



*the gorgeous sunsets
the blistering AZ heat
simple and so sweet*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jose
Sunset Ridge, Phoenix*



*cacti flowers bloom
the wind blows; the tumbleweeds
drift by in the breeze*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jaci
Sunset Ridge, Phoenix*



*the sun sets among
the clouds and rests with colors
bluish-red and pink*

*Outstanding Haiku
Haley
Sunset Ridge, Phoenix*



*the mountains are tall
in the sunlight they glimmer
I have to climb them*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Jason L
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

*as the breeze comes in
the grand clouds cry and bellow
powerful nature*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Isabella T
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*raindrops fall from clouds
glistening in the sunlight
rainbows soon appear*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Isabelle K
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

*Havasupi falls
turquoise waters and wild dogs
orange and white cliffs*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Maddy W
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*prickly, pointy, ouch
cactus flowers fool you all
pretty but painful*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Natalie C
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*dusty rain drops fall
bulging clouds fill the dark sky
a cactus refills*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Cameron D
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*a wall of dust comes
animals run for cover
dust blankets the land*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Charlotte N
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*the summers are long
the earth crackles beneath us
as the heat waves rise*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Dominic P
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*Arizona sky
collage of colors when the
sun glides gently down*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Brian S
Kyrene Middle School Tempe*

*hidden behind shrubs
the coyote waits for its prey
on the desert road*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Elliot C
Kyrene Middle School Tempe*

*sun waking up slow
cacti shadows hugging earth
waiting for slumber*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Larissa A
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe*

*late summer afternoon
flowers blooming, sweet smell
beautiful river, running*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Luke I
Phoenix*

*dwelling in the mountains
hidden in the red-brown rocks
above the red trees*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Joshua G
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*

*pretty snowflakes fall
they all look so beautiful
catch them with our mouths*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Isis S
New River Elementary, New River*

*in the dark we listen
in the silence we hear a howl
what a peaceful winter night*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Montserrat G
Madison Traditional Academy, Phoenix*

*snow up on the top
dark it gets each day and night
cold moon shines brightly*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Tess M
Phoenix*

*buzzards glide above
a mountain towering high
looking for dinner*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Sally F
Madison No. 1 REACH, Phoenix*

*rain, rain falling down
making the trees wet with dew
winter turns to spring*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Bobby M
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

*plants in the desert
thrive under the baking sun
feed the wildlife*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Marcus G
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

*the elegant sky
blossoms with many colors
pink, blue, and purple*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Katelyn
Sunset Ridge
Phoenix*

*powder in the trees
falling down and spreading cold
winter has arrived*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Charlie P
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

*the winding river
flows through the arid desert
for eternity*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Preston
Sunset Ridge, Phoenix*

*the spiky cactus
has magnificent flowers
blooming from its arms*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Katelyn
Sunset Ridge
Phoenix*

2017 OUTSTANDING & HONORABLE MENTION

Grade 9-12 Haiku



*the sky is so blue
the meadow full of flowers
all I feel is peace*

*Outstanding Haiku
Maria P
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



FLASH FLOODS

Late in the summer months the Arroyo or empty creeks seasonally fills and flows after heavy downpours of rain. These flash floods are common in arroyos during thunderstorms bringing these dry creeks to life and crossing roads commonly become impassible.



*peaks and valleys deep
sun rays burn and guide me home
earth's star does not rest*

Outstanding Haiku

Emily Z

Trevor G. Browne, Avondale



*thunderous downpour
somehow the bright sun still shines
while rain cascades down*

Outstanding Haiku

Jack H

Dobson High School, Mesa



*sun calmly rises
exhaling a breath of love
warming bodies and hearts*

*Outstanding Haiku
Aarthi R
Hamilton High School, Chandler*



*over the mountains
a fiery symphony
valley of the sun*

*Outstanding Haiku
John Z
Paradise Honors High School, Waddell*



*a painted desert
the blue downfall commences
electricity*

*Outstanding Haiku
John S
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*a tranquil river
leaves great canyons in its wake
carving through the earth*

*Outstanding Haiku
Gryphon M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*moves like a ninja
quietly waiting for prey
ferociously strikes*

*Outstanding Haiku
Gregory G
Paradise Honors High School, Waddell*



*along barren sands
specks of green break the ground below
sun shines upon thee*

*Outstanding Haiku
Stephen A
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*a vast, dry desert
undisturbed by human life
cactus flowers bloom*

*Outstanding Haiku
Kasey B
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*the end of day near
pure blue sky turned shades of pink
a balloon floats by*

*Outstanding Haiku
Kasey B
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*moonlight floods the sky
the desert creatures will rest
awaiting dawns return*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jennifer M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*a single blossom
faces the hot desert sky
and pleads for the rain*

*Outstanding Haiku
Desiree M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*as thunders crashes
lightning follows silently
in the darkened sky*

*Outstanding Haiku
Desiree M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*soft touch of warmth
bright bold colors touch the eye
Arizona love*

*Outstanding Haiku
Ana P
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*a winter moon glow
cactus wear a silver glow
lovely winter scene*

*Outstanding Haiku
Griselda E
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*amazing art work
bright sun reflects everywhere
downtown Phoenix view*

*Outstanding Haiku
Bryan T
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*watch the rising sun
in a field of saguaro
nature all as one*

*Outstanding Haiku
Nicole D
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*oh lost baby deer
in need of a mother's love
longing to be found*

*Outstanding Haiku
Elysia V
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*spring is a candle
full of warmth and happiness
smell of buds blooming*

*Outstanding Haiku
Alyssa B
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*the warm Phoenix breeze
graceful, scented desert plants
will always be home*

*Outstanding Haiku
Erick A
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*sunrise like rainbows
angels of color dancing
heaven's masterpiece*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jordan Nikole D
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*



*canyon walls blaze red
desert awash in warm light
summer sun rises*

*Outstanding Haiku
Gina S
Desert Ridge High School, Apache Junction*



*bats chirp; winds whistle
wise toads chant a tuneful hymn
nighttime melody*

*Outstanding Haiku
Gina S
Desert Ridge High School, Apache Junction*



*standing tall and proud
regal kings of the low desert
old arms stretch towards the sky*

Outstanding Haiku

Kaitlin B

Franklin Police and Fire High School, Phoenix



*colors play and dance
Eos awakens, sprinkling dew
a prelude to heat*

Outstanding Haiku

Kaitlin B

Franklin Police and Fire High School, Phoenix



*fall falls more than leaves
bipolar sky, you will see
cacti get to breathe*

Outstanding Haiku

Gregory J

Paradise Honors High School, Surprise



*a gust of warm wind
a grain of sand swiftly pushes by
a desert wonder*

*Outstanding Haiku
Ashley D
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*a crack in the earth
many miles long and deep
started by the stream*

*Outstanding Haiku
Jack P
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*



*scorching summer heat
flesh literally burning
melting off your bones*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Jack H
Dobson High School, Mesa*

*blindness fills the air
harmonic dancing of dust
a breathtaking sight*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
John Z
Paradise Honors High School, Waddell*

*towering pillars
rainbows of red and orange
mirrored in the sand*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Jack P
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*the vast barren land
the echoing thunder storms
the sound in the night*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Morgan M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*winters lacking snow
cotton clouds release raindrops
warm glazed sun awaits*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Christine M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*incredible flash
blue streaks scar the evening sky
kids hide in covers*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Jacob G
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*the skies open up
quietly a desert blooms
rejoicing in rain*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Grypion M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*the sun paints the sky
sand runs across the desert
as the canyon howls*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Roxanne R
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*water is spread thin
summer days bring waves of heat
my desert my home*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Alexis L
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*they are said to jump
they are said to make you bleed
this one just stands tall*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Seyna A
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*a sweet silent breeze
lures birds out of their homes
as the sun rises*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Roxanne R
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*dark clouds form above
flashing lighting strikes the ground
a monsoon is here*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Alexis L
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*everything is still
then as the day turns to night
stillness is no more*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Caitlyn R, Surprise*

*heavy rain pours down
thunder cracks the sky
the silent moon still shines*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Jennifer M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*howling through the night
surviving the harsh desert
trying to find food*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Jordan B
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*as the moon rises
the coyotes start to howl
darkness fills the night*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Alexis L
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*desert storm; lightning
a crash on the open land
colors are dancing*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Kyle M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*a coyote howls
lonesome and full of sorrow
at the bright full moon*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Desiree M
Paradise Honors High School, Surprise*

*evening sun setting
rays of gold touch all in sight
eternal beauty*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Ana P
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*rolling clouds of gray
crushing sounds of thunder heard
drops of dew consume*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Ana P
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*oh magestic bird
a city born in your name
the eye of the state*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Lesly B
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*stunning cactus wren
who stands at its saguaro
peaceful by itself*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Ismael E
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*valley of the sun
home of the stunning Phoenix
beauty eveywhere*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Michelle D
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*the phoenix rising
from ashes into the sky
with its gorgeous wings*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Raquel Q
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*through dusty mountains
tangy butterflies arise
green comes back to life*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Destiny M
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*by the afternoon
tumble weeds roll down the streets
with the fresh cool breeze*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Silveria G
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*lots of dry mountains
the beautiful burning heat
awakening sun*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Irene G
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*the wind is blowing
the leaves rustle in the rhythm
to nature's heart beat*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Giovani G
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

*a southwestern state
sonoran desert landscape
means silver-bearing*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Angela P
South Mountain High School, Phoenix*

2017 OUTSTANDING & HONORABLE MENTION

University & Adult Haiku



violet fading light
sunsets of orange hue, skies
spectrum, desert night

Outstanding Haiku

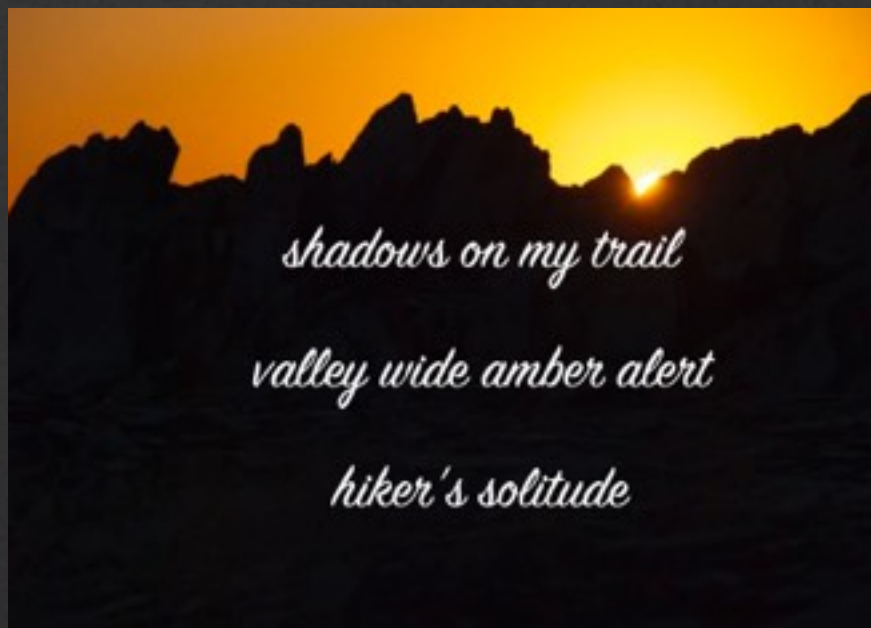
Fhrancel V

Phoenix



HIKER'S SOLITUDE

A late afternoon hiker may be treated to
spectacular valley wide sunsets as the sky
lights up out west and the eastern side of the
mountains quickly falls into darkness,
providing a desert solitude for the hiker.



winter without snow
starving coyotes stalk streets
cats sleep on roof tops

Outstanding Haiku
Nadine L
Phoenix



swept in by the rain
we meet and laugh and just know
we old souls just know

Outstanding Haiku
Sarah S
Phoenix



*the night is silent
no air conditioner hum
Arizona winter*

*Outstanding Haiku
Mike M
Tempe*



*the saguaro stands
bouquet of flowers in hand
welcoming the day*

*Outstanding Haiku
Michael M
Mesa*



*watchful egret poised
above croaking cormorants
silence w
ithin sound*

*Outstanding Haiku
Steven D
Phoenix*



*blue heron stands firm
peaceful beside the still lake
his reflection clear*

Outstanding Haiku

Steven D

Phoenix



*in the morning sun
leaves still piled in heaps below
the first plum blossom*

Outstanding Haiku

Brad M

Phoenix



*coyote's eerie howl
cactus wren trill and quail call
songs of the desert*

Outstanding Haiku

Rhonda B

Mesa



*gray-green saguaro
sentinel of the desert
keeping steadfast watch*

*Outstanding Haiku
Rhonda B, Mesa*



*geese in formation
hear their honking hymn of praise
not a cloud overhead*

*Outstanding Haiku
Gloria S, Surprise*



*the hug of warm air
sunshine rains down over me
welcoming me home*

*Outstanding Haiku
Katherine S
Arizona State University, Tempe*



*saguaro families wave
under endless blue skies
basking in the sun
Outstanding Haiku*

*Sharon D
Eastern Arizona College, Thatcher*



*a bright winter moon
rises above the mountains
then hides in the clouds*

*Outstanding Haiku
Louis H, Oro Valley*



*on a golden bell
iridescent hummingbird
whirrs its sunlit wings*

*Outstanding Haiku
Emma S, Chandler*



*a lonesome shadow
moves across the desert floor
stray cloud floating by*

*Outstanding Haiku
Robert E, Glendale*



*dancing on the breeze
autumn leaves begin to fall
twirling slowly down*

*Outstanding Haiku
Robert E, Glendale*



*golden coyote
prancing down the gravel path
boldly self-assured*

*Outstanding Haiku
Donna M, Prescott*



*pink flames peek through clouds
an Arizona sunset
love note from above*

*Outstanding Haiku
Holly S, Rio Verde*



*desert dweller's coils
unwind down the blacktop
curves following curves*

*Outstanding Haiku
Paul S, Rio Verde*



*quail family struts
atop narrow garden wall
smallest ones behind*

*Outstanding Haiku
Paul S, Rio Verde*



*snowy peaks glisten
above a saguaro sea
winter sharing spring*

*Outstanding Haiku
Paul S, Rio Verde*



*yellow leaves on white
reach above the mountain snow
toward the pale sun*

*Outstanding Haiku
PatB, Chandler*



*saguaros whisper
their song to the shifting sands
cowboy poetry*

*Outstanding Haiku
Kasey C, Sierra Vista*



*turquoise sky trembles
above Catalina peaks
peach sun floats west*

*Outstanding Haiku
Maggie W, Tucson*



*night begins to fall
the sky has a calm presence
the day has arrived*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Matthew G, Wickenburg*

*from fire and heat
this great city rose from the ash
the great firebird*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Matthew G, Wickenburg*

*earth's floor blanketed
desert sand heated all day
sultry night moon cools*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Lisa M, Phoenix*

*stirring night spirits
the desert slowly rises
while we close our eyes*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Rosemary B, Tucson*

*tumbleweed races
before the hot desert wind
once-rooted wand'rer*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Rhonda B, Mesa*

*thunderstorm passes
scent of creosote rises
on misty dampness*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Martha K, Cave Creek*

*faith hope and trust
rising sun on the horizon
beacons journey on*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Gloria S, Surprise*

*sherbet-colored sky
streams of gold radiant light
sunset of my dreams*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Eva W, Phoenix*

*snow in the pines
goodness of light shimmering
peace on earth*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Gloria S, Surprise*

*stars dance in the sky
chimes sing in tune with night winds
the moon laughs at both*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Roger F, Spring Valley*

*a hot storm breathes in
warm sand tickles tips of tongues
Arizona dust*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Desirae S, Mesa*

*moonlight cast shadows
over somber midnight sky
bathing drear earth*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Roger F, Spring Valley*

*small young tree gleeful
sways and dances with the wind
laughs when he tickles her knee*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Joyce S, Phoenix*

*cactus flower blooms
sends scent to night flying bat
sets seed in moonlight*

*Honorable Mention Haiku
Maggie W, Tucson*

2017 OUTSTANDING & HONORABLE MENTION

Japanese Language Haiku



二百年生きた証の骨さぼてん

Ni hyaku-nen ikita akashi no hone sabo ten
the cactus bones, evidence of its existence
two hundred years ago

Outstanding Haiku

Miki, Tucson



DESERT SUNSETS

The dry air filled with specs of dust and particles light up those thin feather clouds which catch light and filter it back to our eyes to make some of the most awesome sunsets in the world.



春の雲旅人集うオアシスに

*Haru no kumo
tabibito tsudou oashisu ni
springs clouds,
an oasis provided for travellers to gather*

*Outstanding Haiku
Yukihiro I, Tucson*



萩の風妻の文には薫りあり

*Haginokaze tsuma no bun ni wa
kaori ari
the bush clover breeze, a reminiscing
scent of my wife*

*Outstanding Haiku
Yukihiro I, Tucson*



啓蟄や砂漠の地下は楽屋かな

*Keichitsu ya sabaku no chika wa
gakuya ka na*

*The backstage of the desert floor is my
earth science playground*

*Outstanding Haiku
Yukihiro I, Tucson*



海の声私に歌う旅の歌

*Umi no koe watashi ni utau tabi no uta
the ocean's voice sings to me
a song of adventure*

*Outstanding Haiku
Joshua S, Chandler*



赤夜空向こうから見える不死鳥天后

*Aka yozora mukō kara mieru
fushichō tengō
beyond the red night sky I see
the phoenix bird, heaven and earth*

*Outstanding Haiku
Caitlyn K, Peoria*



太陽の熱風の声砂のフライ

*Taiyō no neppū no koe suna no furai
the voice of the sun's breath of warm air, sand
flies listen*

Honorable Mention Haiku

Alex W, Surprise

季節川雪解け水に人だかり

*Kisetsu kawa yukidoke mizu ni hitodakari
the seasonal snow melt bringing
water to the masses*

Honorable Mention Haiku

Miki P, Tucson

山肌のさぼてん不動雪が舞う

*Yamahada no sabo ten fudō yuki ga mau
abundant snow dancing among cactus
on the mountain's surface*

Honorable Mention Haiku

Miki P, Tucson

サワロ花の鼻婿が蝙蝠でしょ？

*Sawaro hana no hana muko ga koumoridesho?
a gangster on the saguaro's flower, is it a bat?*

Honorable Mention Haiku

Jon R, Tucson

Haiku Expo Statistics



HAIKU EXPO 2017 ENTRY STATISTIC

- Total haiku submissions received: 903
- Total haiku submissions accepted: 888
- Total unique Arizona zip code locations from across Arizona: 88
- Total unique Arizona cities of participants: 31
- Total number of participating schools: 23
- Age of participants: Youngest 8, Oldest 91
- Total number of Outstanding Haiku selections: 93
- Total number of Honorable Mention Haiku: 78

MONSOON SEASON

The late Summer months when the heat is relentless is a sign the monsoons will soon arrive and bring us a chance to have an increased chance of showers and escape from the heat.



Arizona participant cities

Apache Junction	Peoria
Avondale	Phoenix
Bisbee	Prescott
Cave Creek	Rio Verde
Chandler	Scottsdale
Duarte	Sierra Vista
El Mirage	Spring Valley
Flagstaff	Surprise
Fort Thomas	Tempe
Glendale	Thatcher
Globe	Tolleson
Guadalupe	Tucson
Laveen	Waddell
Mesa	Wickenburg
New River	Yuma
Oro Valley	

Arizona participant schools, clubs

- Arizona State University
- BASIS Phoenix
- Coyote Ridge
- Desert Ridge High School
- Dobson High School
- Eastern Arizona College
- Franklin Police and Fire High School
- Hamilton High School
- Kyrene Del Norte
- Kyrene Middle School
- Madison No. 1 Middle School
- Madison No. 1 Middle School
- Madison No. 1 REACH
- Madison Traditional Academy
- New River Elementary
- Paradise Honors High School
- Rancho Viejo
- South Mountain Community College
- South Mountain High School
- Sunset Ridge
- Trevor G. Browne
- Wilson K-8



The Arizona Matsuri is an annual festival which celebrate Japanese culture and heritage, traditional and modern. The two-day event held at Heritage & Science Park in downtown Phoenix features the sights and sounds of Japan, art, crafts, music, dance and much more. The family friendly Matsuri is free to all. Japanese food and goods from over 60 vendors are available for purchase and the beer and sake garden is a great place to relax. The Arizona Matsuri was first held in 1984 and is celebrating its 33rd anniversary in 2017.

The Haiku Expo celebrated its 3rd year in 2017 following its inaugural event in 2015 where we had over 600 entries and 800 in 2016 and this year it continues to grow. The e-Book collections from 2015, 2016 and 2017 winners is available as a free download from the Arizona Matsuri website. The Haiku Expo festival display will feature a selection of all Outstanding Haiku from the current and previous years for participants to read and experience the winner's haiku.

Thank you to all participants in this 3rd year of the Arizona Matsuri Haiku Expo. We are very pleased with the growing number of participants this year and can only hope to grow this event in the future. Please help us by spreading the word about our event among faculty members, colleagues, friends, clubs and poet enthusiasts.

In subsequent years we aim to get more educators involved so that lesson plans can be prepared in a timely manner for wider participation in the classroom at all class levels. Our aim is to introduce the arts and culture of Japan through haiku poetry and we encourage people of all ages to continuously create, develop and share their own original haiku poetry.

The details for the next Haiku Expo will be posted on the Arizona Matsuri website. Updates and notices will be posted on the Arizona Matsuri Facebook page so be sure to check back with us from time to time. The growing collection of Arizona-inspired haiku from across the State can be freely downloaded from the Arizona Matsuri website. Collect all three years (2015, 2016, 2017 editions) of the Haiku Expo Collection e-Book and be inspired to write your own haiku poetry.

Thank you,
John Sachen, Haiku Committee Chairman
Arizona Matsuri Steering Committee
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