HAIKO EXPO
Arizona inspired Japanese Poetry

ARIZONA MATSURI – A FESTIVAL OF JAPAN

Selection of 2020 Haiku
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 36th annual Arizona Matsuri festival held in downtown Phoenix on February 22nd and 23rd, 2020.

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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Grades K-3 Haiku

Hot air balloons fly
Colorful rising blimps
When you land, it’s rough!

Outstanding Haiku

Emma H.

St. Louis the King Catholic School, Glendale
Outstanding Haiku
Mateo N.
St Louis the King Catholic School, Glendale

Flies through tree branches
Has really good night vision
Lives in saguaros

Outstanding Haiku
Katelin L.
St Louis the King Catholic School, Glendale

Enormous crunch
Pampas grass with green hair
It looks like a broom

Outstanding Haiku
Ben T.
Madison Heights Elementary School, Phoenix
What a splendid sight
Teeny amazing petals
Bees buzz all around

Outstanding Haiku
Isabella H.
Madison Heights Elementary School, Phoenix

The moon glows at night
The leaveless trees are dead black
Oh how it twinkles

Honorable Mention Haiku
Colt L.
Phoenix

It's scary and smooth
People slide down on the rocks
Oak Creek's Slide Rock Park

Honorable Mention Haiku
Daisy G.
St Louis the King Catholic School, Glendale
Extensive blue sky
Not a cloud and not a flaw
Circling my world

Outstanding Haiku

Finn V.
Phoenix
Outstanding Haiku

Hawk H.
Phoenix

Peyote meeting
In the Hogan with shaman
Yei bi chei dancing

Outstanding Haiku
Daniel John
Holbrook Junior High School, Holbrook

Beautiful Artwork
Slowly Masterfully carved
By running water

Outstanding Haiku
Micah Tucker
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix
Desert and forests
Waterfalls and mountains too
All in this state

Honorable Mention Haiku
Jashua Cook
Holbrook Junior High School, Holbrook

In the hot place too
The fried bread was delicious
I ate the fried bread

Honorable Mention Haiku
Everett Pack
Holbrook Junior High School, Holbrook

Just before sunrise
I enjoy a morning walk
Arizona dawn

Honorable Mention Haiku
Bryant Keyonnie
Holbrook Junior High School, Holbrook

Oleander is
Purple, Pink, and White it is
Poison to swallow

Honorable Mention Haiku
Penelope M.
Holbrook Junior High School, Holbrook
A desert secret
In superstitious shadows
The lost dutchman's gold

Outstanding Haiku
Sally Fiedler
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix
Yesterday I found a scorpion in your room
I might have left it

**Outstanding Haiku**
*Hillary McHugh*
*Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

**Gleaming eyes at dark**
You can hear their gleeful howls
Every single night

**Outstanding Haiku**
*Alix Senya*
*Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*

**Smog on the Skyline**
Harder and harder to breathe
Cars poison the air

**Outstanding Haiku**
*Mia Vargas*
*Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix*
I hear rattlesnakes
They are too close to the path
I have been bitten

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

The wrath of summer
Backing and scorching the land
Glazing velvet rocks

**Outstanding Haiku**
Aaryan K.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe

As the Sun descends
Colors crowd the horizon
Dimming the desert

**Outstanding Haiku**
Aaryan K.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe
Cowboys and ghost towns
Boots click-clacking and hats tipped
Standoff in tombstone

Outstanding Haiku
Connor M.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe

Dust roars and showers
The scent of rain fills the air
Fear floods the valley

Outstanding Haiku
Ciara B.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe

Mountain silhouettes
Standing in the fading light
Crowned with orange flames

Outstanding Haiku
Catalina C.
St. Louis the King Catholic School, Glendale
The sun rounds the bend
Immersing us in darkness
Until tomorrow

Honorable Mention Haiku
Abby Alcock
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix

Roadrunners running
On the side of the highway
I am scared of them

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

Jumping cacti suck!
Release me from this prison
Grab those yummy knees

Honorable Mention Haiku
Lilian D.
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix

No water in sight
Wildcat attempts to survive
He succumbs to thirst

Honorable Mention Haiku
Abraham J.
Madison No. 1 Middle School, Phoenix

Stormy clouds conjure
Drops of rain in the desert
Nurturing new life

Honorable Mention Haiku
Isabelle Karapelou
Phoenix

Standing proud and tall
Guardian of the desert
Majestic arms proud

Honorable Mention Haiku
Isabelle Karapelou
Phoenix

The vibrant nopal
Thriving in the desert heat
Tough prickly prideful

Honorable Mention Haiku
Chimal G.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe

The coyote sits
On a rock in the moonlight
Showing dominance

Honorable Mention Haiku
Dominic T.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe
The grandest canyon
With even grander sunsets
Undulating heat

Honorable Mention Haiku
Colman VB.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe

Side-winding rattler
Slithering through bumpy rocks
Eating the night's prey

Honorable Mention Haiku
Jordan T
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe

Sun rays peeking through
Limbs of palo verde trees
Birds cooling in shade

Honorable Mention Haiku
Elena V.
Kyrene Middle School, Tempe
Rays of light above
Cracked terrain and burning sand
She still stand blooming

Outstanding Haiku
Marissa Cardenas
Greenway High School, Phoenix
The jackrabbit stares
into the moon's dim shadows,
longing for his friend

Outstanding Haiku
Meredith Fedyna
Chaparral High School, Scottsdale

Where aged ruins lay
Old Pueblo songs can be heard
Throughout silent nights

Outstanding Haiku
Grace S.
Tempe

Painted desert lands
Teeming with breathtaking sights
Earth, sculpted by time

Outstanding Haiku
Quincy C.
Hamilton High School, Chandler
Falling desert snow
A fleeting gift from winter
Granted once a year

Outstanding Haiku
Raquelle Wuollet
BASIS Oro Valley, Tuscon

Wind swings throughout the leaves
Of a Palo Verde tree:
Music to my ears

Outstanding Haiku
Penelope Zarate
Hamilton High School, Chandler

From the sand and ground
We built lives upon cities
We are a Phoenix

Outstanding Haiku
Christian Moreno
Maryvale High School, Phoenix
Lightning and thunder,  
   A formidable duo,  
Strick the desert grounds.

In the grand skyline  
Mountains and skyscrapers blend  
Into one picture

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Heidi Rubio  
Metro Tech High School, Phoenix

Rocky mountains high  
Framed by the sun's burning rays  
Pose unseen dangers

As dark skies turn warm  
The birds sing on saguaro  
Light rises again

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Kelsey High  
Greenway High School, Phoenix

Flash! Storm clouds unleash  
Tumble weeds flowing down stream  
Dull colors of brown

Roadrunner runs fast  
Roadrunner climbs cactus high  
Roadrunner... can fly?

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Olivia Lostoro  
Chandler

Upon the cactus  
Sits the cactus wren sadly  
As the cactus falls

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Dominic C.  
Maryvale High School, Phoenix

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Aiden Byington  
Greenway High School, Phoenix

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Marely Ramirez  
Dobson High School, Mesa

Honorable Mention Haiku  
Gabriel Hayes  
Dobson High School, Mesa
Numbers are rising
People on top of People
They think: where to go

Honorable Mention Haiku
Tyanna Situmbeko
Greenway High School, Phoenix

Chimes calmly clinking
Floorboards creaking quietly
Living ambiance

Honorable Mention Haiku
Hanna Madril
Greenway High School, Phoenix

The sunset's fair glow
Paints a medley of warm hues
Over the mountains

Honorable Mention Haiku
Meredith Fedyna
Chaparral High School, Scottsdale
Midsummer monsoon
Saturates parched arroyos
Perfumed air thickens

Outstanding Haiku
Scott Shields
Mesa
At six-lane crossroad
One jay-walking coyote
Controlling traffic

Outstanding Haiku
Barbara Buck
Apache Junction

Strong Issei people
Jailed in camps in the desert
Shikata ga nai

Outstanding Haiku
Carolyn Classen
Tucson

What are you doing
I heard the desert moon ask
I shoveled faster

Outstanding Haiku
Carl Welsh
Phoenix
Petroglyph drawings
Stories told high on the cliffs
Winds whisper their words

Outstanding Haiku
Dennis Blanton
Phoenix

When the stars blossom
The flowers of the desert
Bloom in reflection

Outstanding Haiku
Lauren Brust
Phoenix

A winter influx
Avocets, stilts, yellowlegs
And snow birds who golf

Outstanding Haiku
Jean Luce
Tempe
Colorado came
To visit our state, and left
A grand depression

Outstanding Haiku
John Houston Jr.
Glendale

Heat clings to red rock
The sun descends beyond view
In polychrome light

Outstanding Haiku
Trinity Morgan
Glendale

Roaming coyotes
Scurry through the parking lot.
Where could they have parked?

Outstanding Haiku
Michael Marcanti
Mesa
Zen in the desert
Staring into emptiness
Of cracked cattle skull

Honorable Mention Haiku
John Fedyna
Phoenix

Eggs, bacon, pancakes
Unrelenting desert heat
Breakfast on asphalt

Honorable Mention Haiku
Sonya Okamoto
Chandler

A pine bough breaking
Shatters the crystal stillness
Of last night’s storm

Honorable Mention Haiku
Robin Wayland
Mesa

Torrential darkness
Drowns the Saguaro cacti
Ocean of shadow

Honorable Mention Haiku
Katherine M.
Mesa

A slow driven car
Even great weather has flaws
Ugh Snowbird season

Honorable Mention Haiku
Nephi Steele
ASU, Gilbert

Navajo Nation
Gave us the brave code talkers
Heroes to us all

Honorable Mention Haiku
Dennis Pinon
Phoenix

Riding the light rail
Little ones on a class trip
Twenty birds chirping

Honorable Mention Haiku
Carol Powell
Cave Creek

Deluge floods dry creek
Pocket mouse is washed downstream
Monsoon waterslide

Honorable Mention Haiku
Carolyn Jones
Prescott
Dewdrop caught in web
Diamond stud in labyrinth
Spruces up the place

Honorable Mention Haiku
Carolyn Jones
Prescott

Over the brick wall
Red bougainvillea cascades
Masking its small swords

Honorable Mention Haiku
Liz Hufford
Phoenix
2020 OUTSTANDING & HONORABLE MENTION

Japanese Language Haiku

It is calm Beautiful fall colors It is wabisabi

落ち着いた 紅葉きれい わびさびね
Ochitsuia Kouyou kirei Wabisabi ne

Outstanding Haiku
Cara Curran
Desert Mountain High School
Samui kami shimofuri no jīmo hakaiteki
Cold spirit Formation of frost Destructive

Outstanding Haiku
Amethyst Stevens
Chaparral High School, Scottsdale

Kurai sora Yuki ga shinshin Neko nemui
Dark gloomy sky Silent, piercing cold snow Sleepy cat

Outstanding Haiku
Orion Bonnett
Desert Mountain High School, Scottsdale

Ureshii ne Omatsuri hanabi Taiyaki to
Joyful Festival fireworks and taiyaki

Outstanding Haiku
Lexy K.
Scottsdale
Which rain? Warm sky Summer rain

Outstanding Haiku
Braden Houston
Chaparral High School, Scottsdale

Fragrant flowers Javalina evening Feast

Outstanding Haiku
Miki Pimienta
Tucson

Full moon Always Golden Fall evening

Outstanding Haiku
Melody Silva
Desert Mountain High School, Scottsdale
Hana kirei Atatakai ame Nemuku naru
Beautiful flowers Warm rain Becoming sleepy

Honorable Mention Haiku
Lia W.
Chaparral High School, Scottsdale

Hana ga saku Saboten no mi wa Amai mitsu
Flowers bloom Cactus blossoms' sweet nectar

Honorable Mention Haiku
Katherine M.
Mesa

Haru no hana Ame de suzushii Tori no uta
Spring flowers Refreshing rain Bird's song

Honorable Mention Haiku
Victoria Sanders
Chaparral High School, Scottsdale

Mezurashii Hayaku ikou yo Natsu no ame
Unusual It goes quickly Summer rain

Honorable Mention Haiku
Scarlet S.
Chandler

Utsukushii Yama sobietatsu Hi ga shizumu
Beautiful flowers Mountain towering above the surroundings The sun sets

Honorable Mention Haiku
Devon Ingram
Desert Mountain High School, Scottsdale

Samukunai Arizona no fuyu Hen desu yo
It's not cold Arizona winter It is strange

Honorable Mention Haiku
Jon Brandenburg
Mesa Community College, Mesa

-described not visible in the text-
Total submissions received: 1095

HAIKU EXPO 2020 ENTRY STATISTICS

Anthem: 3
Apache Junction: 2
Avondale: 3
Cave Creek: 7
Chandler: 69
Desert Hills: 3
Dobson: 1
Flagstaff: 2
Gila Bend: 4
Gilbert: 11
Glendale: 43
Globe: 3
Goodyear: 7
Guadalupe: 2
Holbrook: 55
Maricopa: 4
Mesa: 154
Oro Valley: 5
Peoria: 5
Phoenix: 489
Prescott: 10
Queen Creek: 2
Sahuarita: 3
Scottsdale: 46
Sun City: 1
Surprise: 4
Tempe: 80
Tucson: 68
Yuma: 3
Participating Schools:
Arcadia High School
Arizona State University
ASU Polytechnic Campus
BASIS Oro Valley
Chaparral High School
Desert Mountain High School
Desert View Learning Center
Dobson High School
Eduprize
Gila Bend High School
Greenway High School
Hamilton High School
Holbrook Junior High School
Kyrene Middle School
Madison #1 Middle School
Madison Heights Elementary
Maryvale High School
Mesa Community College
Metro Tech High School
Northern Arizona University
Saint Augustine Catholic High School
St. Louis the King Catholic School
Tucson Japanese Language School
Verrado High School
Participant Ages:
Youngest: 7
Oldest: 94

Total number of Outstanding Haiku selected: 43
Total number of Honorable Mention Haiku: 45

A special thank you to all those who participated and to teachers who encouraged participation among their students. This marked the 6th year of the Arizona Matsuri Haiku Expo. There are so many wonderful entries each year and we can only hope that this event continues to grow. We highly encourage you to spread the word to your peers, colleagues, and friends to help spread the joy of haiku.

Details for next year’s Haiku Expo will be posted on the website and the Arizona Matsuri Facebook page. Please check back for updates next year. You are welcome to download this e-book, and the five previous years’ editions to read to help garner inspiration.

Thank you,
Lyndsey Hoffman
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