

# Holiday Season HAIKU!

Writing is a fun and relaxing activity for everyone – and a reflective HAIKU is a great, short, and simple poem form that all ages can enjoy.

The **haiku** is a Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines:

- FIVE syllables in the first line
- SEVEN in the second
- FIVE in the third

The haiku developed from the hokku, the opening three lines of a longer poem known as a tanka. The haiku became a separate form of poetry in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The haiku is usually about nature and experiencing something seen or remembered through words.

For our Holiday Season HAIKU, think about your favorite things to do outside in the winter or around the holidays. Maybe it is a bird you like to see or how the trees have no leaves or even the sight of the first snow. Make sure to use a lot of descriptive words like adjectives and adverbs to describe feelings, sounds, and emotions. Here are two examples from our staff:

*Sleeping roots dive deep*  
*Golden tallgrass waves through snow*  
*Prairie in winter*

Bright red against white  
Cardinal seeks seeds in snow  
Feathered ornament

Now YOU write one . . . or many! And then pick a favorite, cut it out, and turn it into a decoration for your home, room, or a gift. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!