Grand Avenue

TODAY WE’LL BE READING DIFFERENT FORMS OF POETRY SUCH AS SONNETS AND HAIKU.

BLESS YOU!

NO, NO, POETRY LIKE COUPLETS AND PROSE POETRY!

WELL, I WOULD HOPE IT’S WRITTEN BY PROFESSIONALS.
William Wordsworth once defined poetry as “emotion recollected in tranquility.”

Anyone who has ever observed anything with a sense of wonder can write haiku.
Haiku – what do you remember?

Three lines with 17 syllables – 5/7/5
No rhymes - subject – nature

First line – conveys setting
Second line – conveys action
Third line – completes the thought

A seasonal reference
Provides a scene and an insight
Find the “Haiku” Moment

Like a photograph, a haiku captures a moment in time.

Leaves the reader to generate his/her own emotional response, e.g. don’t say that the scene is beautiful – show it.

Do not repeat words – there’s only 17 syllables.
Some Helpful Associations

Spring – dawn – birth – beginnings

Summer – noon – maturity - fullness

Autumn – sunset – aging – decline

Winter – night – death – ending
After Writing

Reread, revise, edit, rewrite

Look for stronger verbs, adjectives, adverbs

Look for more specific nouns e.g. pine tree, not just tree; oak leaf, not brown leaf
The impact of a haiku is like that of a pebble tossed into a stream. As you read the poem, it ripples in your imagination.

The image is designed to create a tension – using contrast – to force the reader to make connections between seemingly disjointed parts of the image.
Understanding
A warm smile from you
Gleamed on me as a new moon –
It straightened things out.
Don Raye

Within plum orchard,
Sturdy oak takes no notice
Of flowering blooms.
Basho

The crow flew so fast
That he left his lonely caw
Behind in the field
Basho

Inevitability
Homing geese, still winged,
Sliding down shafts of sunset
To join their shadows.
Don Raye

The moon glows the same:
It is the drifting cloud forms
Make it seem to change
Basho

Yellow rose petals
Drop one-by-one in silence:
Roar of waterfall.
Basho
Your Turn …

Imagine a particular moment in time

List all the things you can think/remember about it

Think about the big moment, tension

Shape these thoughts into a haiku
Imagist poets placed stress on the precise, brittle beauty of the word or phrase.

The goal was to say/express as much as possible in as the least number of words.
Imagist – what do you know?

Clear, stripped down images
Didn’t worry about meter or traditional poetic forms

Employed strong literary devices – assonance, alliteration, metaphor, onomatopoeia

Gave exactly and briefly the writer’s response to a visual object or scene
Key Tenets of Imagist Poetry

Employ the exact word. Appeal to the senses.

Use the language of common speech – free verse.

Make the poem brief, without unnecessary words.

Present the topic in images – colourful, vivid, not vague.
A good imagist poem will seem like an Impressionist painting – everything broken into its essentials.

In a Station of a Metro

The apparitions of these faces in the crowd:
Petals on a wet, black bough.

Ezra Pound

*Originally a 30 line poem*
Some Helpful Hints

Focus on the object you want to describe

List some things that remind you of the object – creating metaphors

Avoid description that is too pastoral or emotional

Write the poem – be mindful of how long it is
After Writing

Reread, revise, edit, rewrite

Look for stronger verbs, adjectives, adverbs

Look for more specific nouns e.g. pine tree, not just tree; oak leaf, not brown leaf
The Red Wheelbarrow

So much depends upon

a red wheel barrow

glazed with rain water

beside the white chickens

William Carlos Williams

“This Just to Say ...”

I have eaten the plums that were in the icebox and which you were probably saving for breakfast

forgive me they were delicious so sweet and so cold

William Carlos Williams
At the British Museum

I turn the page and read:
“I dream of silent verses where the rhyme
Glides noiseless as an oar.”
The heavy musty air, the black desks,
The bed heads and the rustling noises
In the great dome
Vanish …
And
The sun hangs in the colbalt-blue sky,
The boat drifts over the lake shallows,
The fishes skim like umber shades through the undulating weeds,
The oleanders drop their rosy petals on the lawns,
About the cleft battlements of Can Grande’s castle…

Richard Aldington
Your Turn …

Imagine a particular moment in time

List all the things you can think/remember about it

Think about the exact image/experience you want to convey

Shape these thoughts into an imagist
Bibliography


http://www.ehow.com/how_2143092_write-imagist-poem.html

Haiku and Imagist poetry handouts from various teachers (J. Issacs, K. Riddel, unknown)