

Basho

A MINI-BIOGRAPHY

Basho--Life

- Born: 1644 in Japan
- Came from a samurai family, but chose to live in poverty
- Pseudonym comes from his time spent in a hut made of plaintain leaves (basho-an)
- Turned haiku into a major genre of Japanese poetry
- Died: 1694



Basho—Selected Works

- Books
 - *The Seashell Game*
 - *Winter Days*
- Poems
 - “A Caterpillar”
 - “First Snow”

Haiku by Basho

tabi ni yande / yume wa karen o /
kakemeguru

Fallen sick on a trip
Dreams run wildly
Through my head.

Ill on a journey
All about the dreary fields
Fly my broken dreams

A lovely spring night
suddenly vanished while we
viewed cherry blossoms

Chilling autumn rains
curtain Mount Fuji, then make it
more beautiful to see