

Styles of Poetry Notes
Haiku and Tanka

Creative Writing

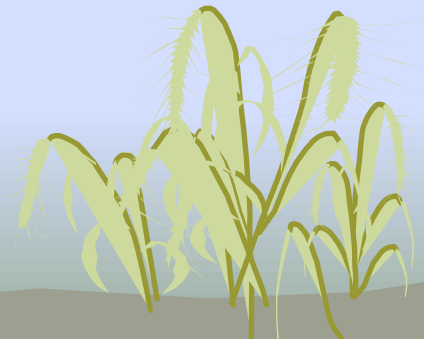
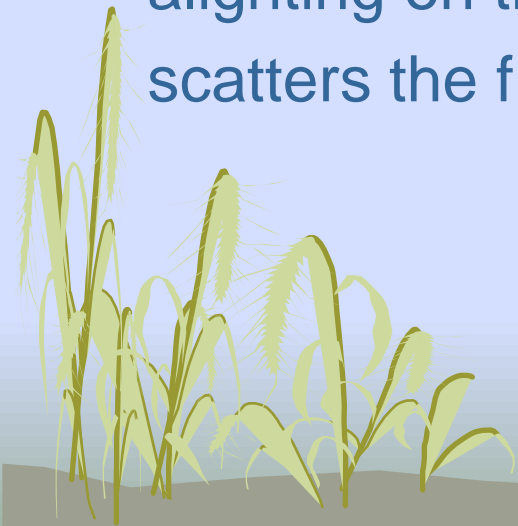


Haiku

- **Haiku:** a short poetic form from Japan, which consists of three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, and must invoke nature in some way. Haiku do not rhyme.

Example:

The fifth small sparrow
alighting on the plum branch
scatters the first four.



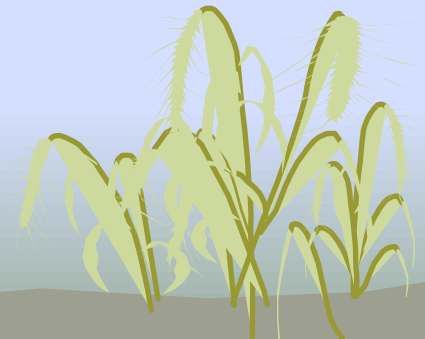
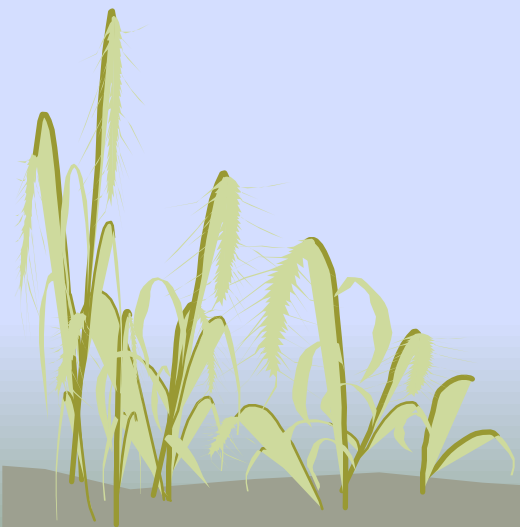
Haiku

Note: Syllable count gets lost in translation:

Example:

How pleasant –
just once *not* to see
Fuji through mist.

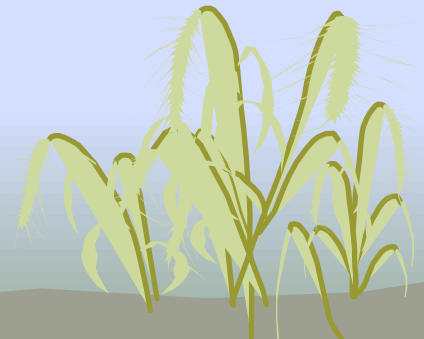
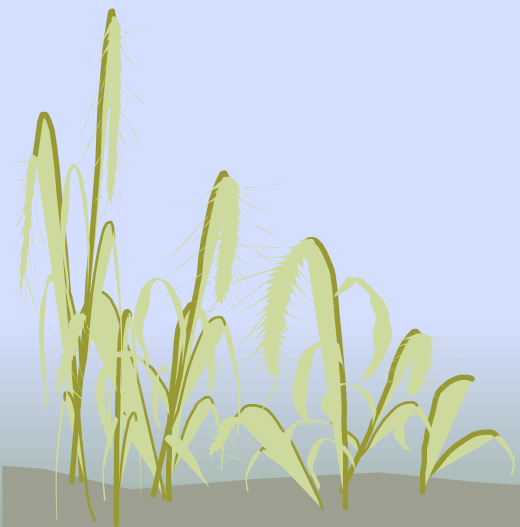
--Basho



Tanka

Tanka: a Japanese poetic form, which consists of five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables. Unlike haiku, tanka often display personal feelings and use figurative language (metaphor, symbol, etc.). As with haiku, tanka do not rhyme.

Example: The fifth small sparrow
alighting on the plum branch
scatters the first four,
focused on the seed I left,
heedless of hawks overhead.



Tanka

Example: The fifth small sparrow
alighting on the plum branch
scatters the first four,
focused on the seed I left,
heedless of hawks overhead.

Question: Can you find a father worrying about his only daughter's betrothal in this tanka?

