

Haiku

Saying a lot with a little

東海道
五拾三次
之内
蒲原

横重勇



VOCABULARY TIME!



SYLLABLE

A single unbroken sound in a word. You can also think of them as beats.

ba na na

wa ter mel on

helicopter

alligator

caterpillar

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Haiku

Haiku is a simple kind of poetry.
It has 17 syllables, 5/7/5.
Read the example. Count the syllables.

1 2 3 4 5
In the wide garden,


1 2 3 4 5 6 7
I am dizzy with flowers.

1 2 3 4 5
I choose a small vase.

Haiku Poetry

*Warm soup in a bowl
letters of the alphabet
hang on the teaspoon*

Haikus usually are about nature and the way the writer feels about things, as well.



Over the wintry
Forest, winds howl in rage
With no leaves to blow.

Haikus are very distinct. In only 17 syllables they create entire scenes with feeling that the reader can easily understand.

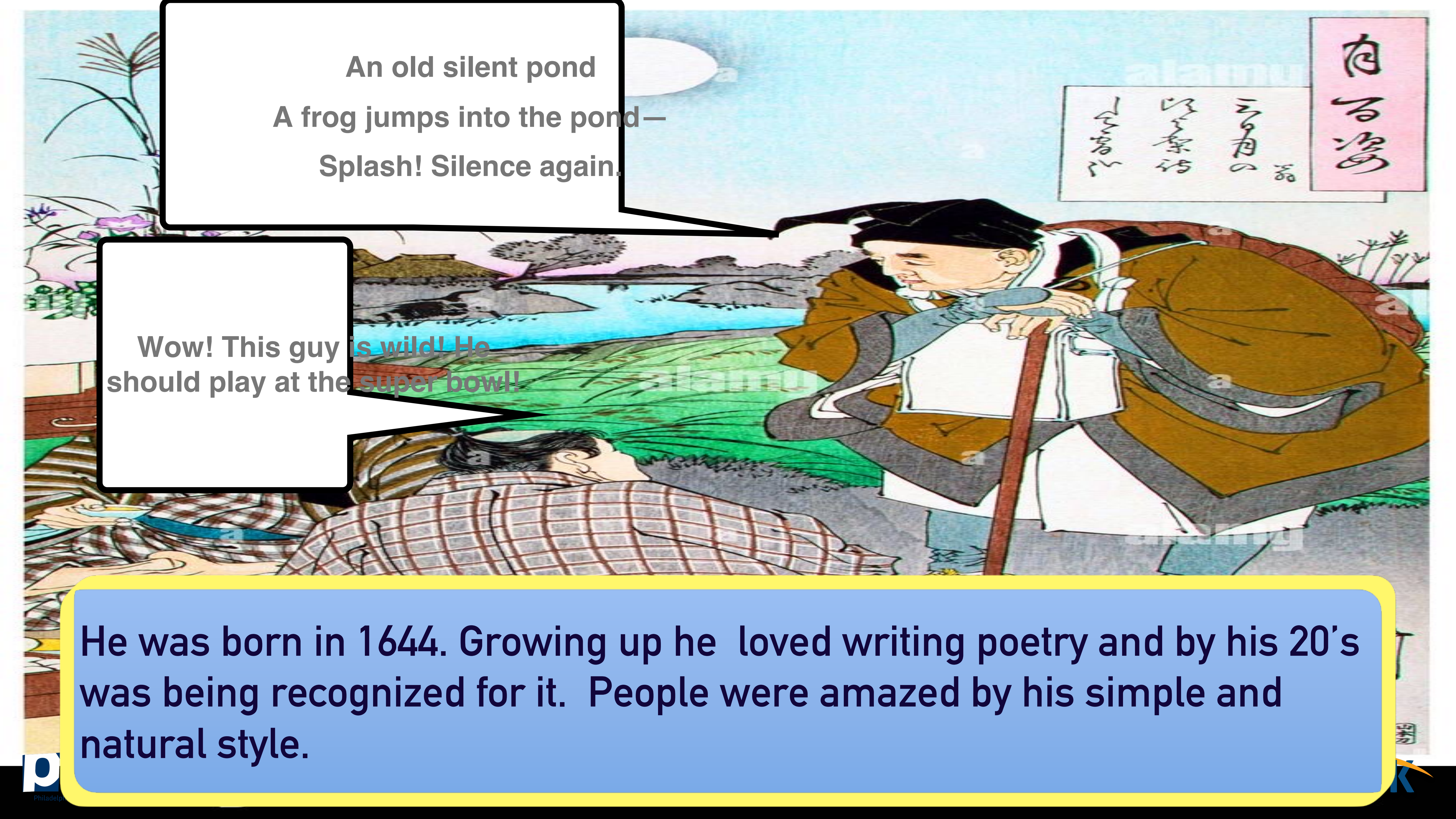


Haikus come from Japan. They were invented several hundred years ago. But there was one person who became a master at them. He's the all time grand champion of this form! He's the one, the only, the legendary ...

MATSUO BASHŌ

松尾芭蕉



An illustration of a man in a plaid shirt looking at a man in traditional Chinese attire by a pond. The man in traditional attire is holding a scroll and a walking stick. In the background, there is a pond, a tree, and a building with calligraphy. A speech bubble is overlaid on the scene.

An old silent pond
A frog jumps into the pond—
Splash! Silence again.

Wow! This guy is wild! He should play at the super bowl!

He was born in 1644. Growing up he loved writing poetry and by his 20's was being recognized for it. People were amazed by his simple and natural style.

Even though he was famous for his poetry he felt lonely. Then to add to it his house burned down. The year after that his mother passed away. It was after this that he began the first of his four wanderings.



I am a tired horse
How much longer do we have
I wish I was home

Something happened on that first journey, though. He became comfortable with traveling. He met new friends along the way. He also discovered the beauty of nature around him in the changing of the seasons. His poetry began to reflect the world around him.



On a withered branch
A crow has alighted:
Nightfall in autumn.

You need to have
your own YouTube
channel!

When he returned to Edo
his attitude had
changed. He was happy
and began teaching
students of poetry. He
published all his haiku
he wrote on his journey
and he became famous
for them.

Basho's name lives on. Haiku has continued to be a popular form of poetry over the centuries even outside of Japan. Basho may not have invented haiku but he certainly mastered the art form.

