



[Home Page](#)

[Online Store](#)

[Shopping Cart](#)

[Sales Policies](#)

[Art Gallery](#)

[Lesson Plans](#)

[Décor Kits:](#)

[Horse Barn](#)

[Viking Longhouse](#)

[Japanese Home](#)

[About Us](#)



## Haiku Poetry and Japanese Culture

Storyboard Toys is absolutely delighted to display haiku poems and artwork from Linda Walters' class (Madison, WI). As this project shows, ArtHouse provides a lovely place to display short poems in an interesting and thematically appropriate context. Linda's students envisioned a Japanese garden in winter, and imagined themselves viewing its weathered trees from the perspective of the original haiku poet, Matsuo Basho.

Haiku are three-line non-rhyming poems, usually based on a strict 5-7-5 syllable count. Traditional haiku poems are about nature, hint at the season in their first line, and end with a humorous or profound third line.

ArtHouse is a great teaching aid for Language Arts because it helps kids develop, coordinate and present creative writing projects, plus it makes lessons more memorable.

Oh! The full moon's  
light!  
Round and round my  
pond I strolled  
All the moon-bright  
night.

The wintry wind blows  
The blueness of its  
sharp breath  
Chilling the Earth's  
bones.

- Basho (1644-94)

The word "basho", meaning "banana tree", was given as a nickname to young Matsuo Munefusa because a banana tree stood next to his humble hut. Born into a very noble family, Basho rejected the life they chose for him because he wanted to study philosophy, write poetry, and teach. He taught: "Do not follow in the footsteps of old masters; seek what they sought." Basho is considered by many to be the first and greatest poet in Japan's long tradition of haiku poetry.

Want to See More  
Lesson Ideas As We  
Publish Them?

Sign Up for Our Free E-  
mail Newsletter!

Your name: (optional)

E-mail address:

Comments:

Every picture tells a story.

Click on the images below to enlarge and learn more!



Between the two trees,  
Looking up at their branches  
Which one should we climb? - **Tyrone**



In Japan they say,  
Cherry blossoms mean it's spring.  
But it's not spring here. - **Shellie**



By the pagoda,  
Crippled gray and leaning now,  
My old friend the tree. - **Shawn**



Sky is cold blue-gray  
Clinging white against tree bark  
Kimonos of snow - **Gopika**



Bonsai! Yelled the boy  
I don't like poetry, but  
Haiku's different. - **Joey**



enter



See this big old tree.  
All around it little trees.  
Looking up to it. - **Staci**



I saw two seagulls  
And a red bird in the tree  
Waiting there for spring - **Jennifer**



I blew a tree shape,  
From a little drop of paint.  
Looks like a dancer. - **Kim**



Winter by the pond  
Ice hangs from a craggy tree  
Where did the frogs go? - **Dean**



Pear tree in garden  
Seen in window's frosty fog  
Shivers in the wind - **Kathleen**

Every picture tells a story.

Click on the images above to enlarge and learn more!

**Spice up your lesson!**

[Click Here to learn about our Traditional Japanese Home ArtHouse educational decor kit.](#)

[Click Here to learn about Tina's authentic Japanese miniatures.](#)

**Want to make your own wind-blown Japanese tree paintings?**

Several people have asked for instructions for blowing "Japanese" trees with the drinking-straw technique. We've done a little testing and come up with suggestions: Diluted poster paint or tempera works great and is easier to clean up than traditional India ink. Put just a few drops of paint in a cup, and dilute with water to the consistency of whole milk. Black is elegant, but brown is nice too. Special paper isn't required, but tape down whatever paper is used so both hands can hold the straw. You don't actually have to use a drinking straw. We prefer the tubes from cheap ball-point pens because they're shorter and heavier.

When all supplies are ready, put paint on a brush and make a line about two inches long from the base of the tree upward. When the paint drops are blown, they'll move along this pre-wetted line and continue from it. The line helps start and direct the flow. Put more paint on the brush, and deliver it as a big droplet at the base of the trunk. It's important not to blow too hard! Just blow slowly and "push" the paint along. The straw should be held at a low angle, back an inch or two from the flowing paint. If you like, add more paint at the base and repeat. This simple technique's surprising results build confidence and prepare students for more ambitious projects. For example, consider how Linda linked tree paintings to her creative writing lesson with fun little added decorations. Leave time to display the art in ArtHouse, and to have kids present one storyboard at a time.

[Download a printer-optimized version of this page](#) (pdf 184KB)

You're invited to submit your artwork to the ArtHouse Art Gallery!

[Kids' Art Gallery Submission Instructions](#)

[Return To The ArtHouse Children's Art Gallery](#)

© 2003, 2004, 2005 Storyboard Toys! LLC - All Rights Reserved.

[Home](#) - [Online Store](#) - [Children's Art Gallery](#) - [News](#) - [Privacy Policy](#) - [Site Map](#)