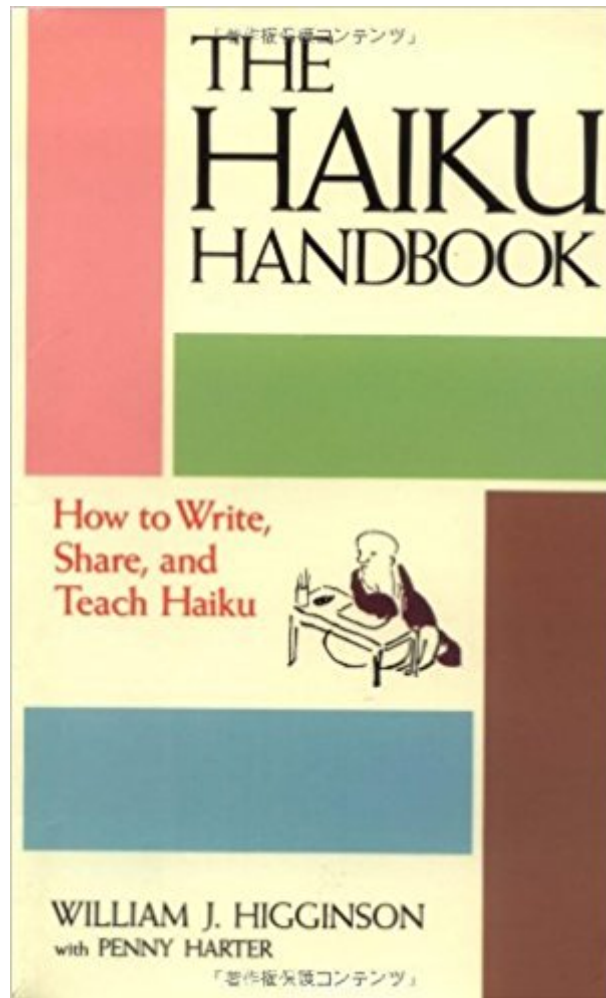




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# The Haiku Handbook: How To Write, Share, And Teach Haiku



## Synopsis

The Haiku Handbook is the first book to give the reader everything needed to begin writing or teaching haiku. It presents haiku poets writing in English, Spanish, French, German, and five other languages on an equal footing with Japanese poets. Not only are the four great Japanese masters of the haiku represented (Basho, Buson, Issa, and Shiki) but also several major Western authors not commonly known to have written haiku. The book presents a concise history of the Japanese haiku, including the dynamic changes throughout the twentieth century as the haiku has been adapted to suburban and industrial settings. Full chapters are offered on form, the seasons in haiku, and haiku craft, plus background on the Japanese poetic tradition, and the effect of translation on our understanding of haiku. Other unique features are the lesson plans for both elementary and secondary school use; and lists of haiku publishers and magazines (in several languages). The Handbook concludes with a full reference section of haiku-related terms, bibliography, and a comprehensive season-word list to aid in understanding and appreciating Japanese haiku.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The most comprehensive compendium of the haiku—its nature, uses, and history—ever to appear in English or any other language except Japanese."—The New York Times Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

WILLIAM J. HIGGINGSOON studied Japanese at Yale University where he discovered the haiku, and

served, with the U.S. Air Force in Japan. He is a charter member of the Haiku Society of America, founded in 1968, and edited and published Haiku Magazine (1971-76). He has three published collections of longer poems and one of haiku, and has work appearing in magazines and anthologies worldwide. He has also taught in the National Endowment for the Arts "Poets-in-the Schools" program, leading writing workshops in hundreds of schools, and he regularly speaks at conferences in the U.S., Canada, and Japan. Higginson's international anthology of haiku for children, *Wind in the Long Grass*, is a classroom favorite. His two-volume sequel to *The Haiku Handbook*, *The Haiku Seasons* and *Haiku World*, gives a comprehensive view of the history, present state, and international possibilities of seasonal consciousness in poetry. PENNY HARTER, Higginson's wife and collaborator on the *Handbook*, is a poet and teacher with 14 collections of poems to her credit. She has received three grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for her poetry, and an award from the Poetry Society of America. She has served as a visiting poet for the Council and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in classes from kindergarten through high school. Her work is published internationally; among her recent books are *Shadow Play: Night Haiku*, a collection for children, and her latest book, *Turtle Blessing*. The couple lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Harter teaches at Santa Fe Preparatory School.

I received a copy of *The Haiku Handbook- 25th Anniversary Edition* as a Christmas gift. I am so glad to finally have a copy of this classic haiku resource book for myself, instead of borrowing one from our local library. For anyone who writes, teaches or just enjoys haiku poetry, this is a must have book. One that you will refer to again and again, for inspiration, historical references and so much more. A nice presentation for this edition too. Makes a perfect gift. ;

I have a tendency to be too wordy in my writing, so to learn more focus and control, I have been studying (and writing) haiku. The *Haiku Handbook* has been an engaging resource for me in those efforts. Each of the book's five sections contains a wealth of ideas and information that both challenges and inspires: Part One: *Haiku Old and New* [A great introduction to the experience of haiku and to Japanese Masters. The "Why Haiku" is helpful in clarifying one's purpose for writing such brief poetry.] Part Two: *The Art of Haiku* [Natural themes, the form and craft of haiku; this is the section that I like best, and I repeatedly refer back to these pages. I especially enjoy how the author discusses the difference in Japanese and English languages.] Part Three: *Teaching Haiku* [How to teach haiku writing to children, lesson plan included] Part Four: *Before and Beyond Haiku* [Haiku and its uses] Reference Section [With Season-Word List & Glossary] Overall, this is a worthy product for

anyone who wishes to delve into haiku more deeply than the introduction that most Westerners receive.

'The Haiku Handbook' is essential reading for those wishing to comprehend the haiku. If only every grade school teacher that decides to do a haiku writing lesson would read this book first. Too many come out of such lessons thinking that writing a haiku is just a matter of counting up syllables. This book goes into the traditions of haiku at great length and enables a serious student to understand what a haiku actually is, and how to tell a good one from a second-rate one. For poets who'd like to try writing haiku, this book gives an overwhelming amount of information. I'd recommend going slow and reading and rereading useful sections rather than dashing through it and trying to apply everything you've learned all at once. One useful feature of the book is an extensive list of traditional season-words (a traditional haiku always has a season-word). Looking over the list may help you find a season word that can act as a poetry prompt for your next haiku.

Excellent book on haiku poetry. A lot of historical info about the prominent Haiku writers. The book transitions from haiku history to instruction, with a sharp focus on exemplar haiku and the poetic characteristics of a well-written haiku. I wish there was more of a focus on the instructional aspects than the historical and cultural evolution of haiku. Nevertheless, Higginson's book is a great read and I intend on reading it a second time.

This is it. This is the one you were looking for. You may buy others, but this goes into Japanese poetry with good information and examples, including prose forms. Get this, and thank yourself later.

Very informative. I enjoyed every page.

You can see my full review posted on the alternate listing for this book. I bought this version because it was \$0.01 used (with \$3.99 shipping), whereas the other version was \$16 new (Prime), \$9 used (plus \$3.99 shipping). Compared side by side (the anniversary edition I checked out from the library), they are exactly the same, only this book is slightly smaller (7 x 4.5) to (8.3 x 5.5). But even the page numbers are the same. Please refer to the reviews for the following version: The Haiku Handbook -25th Anniversary Edition: How to Write, Teach, and Appreciate Haiku

At first, I was a little sceptic about this book. A handbook about poetry? Poetry that originated in a country with a completely different language and culture? But soon I discovered it is really an encyclopedia about Haiku: its history, both in Japan and abroad, its different currents, how to write it, how to teach it. An very useful extra is the analysis of its structure, going beyond the 5+7+5 syllables. Really a must for everybody aspiring to read, write or teach haiku.

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