

Basho Haiku

Today we will be looking at some Haiku by the influential Japanese poet Basho. While reading these, consider how the form (5-7-5 syllables...3 lines, etc) affects your reading. How does Haiku compare, or contrast, to the previous poetry we have read? Do you see anything that is similar?

Scarecrow in the hillock
Paddy field --
How unaware! How useful!

A wild sea-
In the distance over Sado
The Milky Way.

The she cat -
Grown thin
From love and barley.

How wild the sea is,
and over Sado Island,
the River of Heaven

Morning and evening
Someone waits at Matsushima!
One-sided love.

On Buddha's deathday,
wrinkled tough old hands pray -
the prayer beads' sound

I like to wash,
the dust of this world
In the droplets of dew.

With dewdrops dripping,
I wish somehow I could wash
this perishing world

In this warm spring rain,
tiny leaves are sprouting
from the eggplant seed

The wind from Mt. Fuji
I put it on the fan.
Here, the souvenir from Edo.