

ZMATH 2015b.00214

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Mathematical haikus.

Math. Sch. (Leicester) 39, No. 4, 9 (2010).

From the text: There is plenty of scope for using language as a tool in mathematics lessons, helping pupils to explore and develop their understanding of mathematical concepts in unusual and creative ways. Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. Each poem is made up of seventeen sound units arranged into three lines of five, seven and five sound units each. With a little bit of creativity it's possible to take a mathematical idea and turn it into a haiku. Alternatively, the haiku could be constructed so as to summarize a mathematical rule, result or formula. One way to use this in the classroom would be to get pupils to write haikus individually or in pairs. Volunteers could then share their poems by reading them out loud, and the rest of the class would have to guess what mathematical word was being described.

Classification: C50 M80 D40

Keywords: mathematics and language; poetry; riddles; mathematical concepts; student activities; creativity; linguistics; interdisciplinary approach