

Haiku

Things to keep in mind when attempting Haiku:

1. The poem consists of only three lines, totalling 17 syllables.
Line 1: 5 syllables
Line 2: 7 syllables
Line 3: 5 syllables
2. The season, location and references to nature are to be included.
3. There is no rhyme.
4. The poem contrasts diverse ideas, is subtle, symbolic.

Samples by two Japanese Masters:

Old pond, blackly still –
Frog, plunging into water,
Splinters silent air

-Basho

If things were better
for me, Flies, I'd invite you
to share my supper.

-Issa

The sun goes to bed
Leaving the scorched horizon
To nurse its sunburn

-Lauren Atkinson

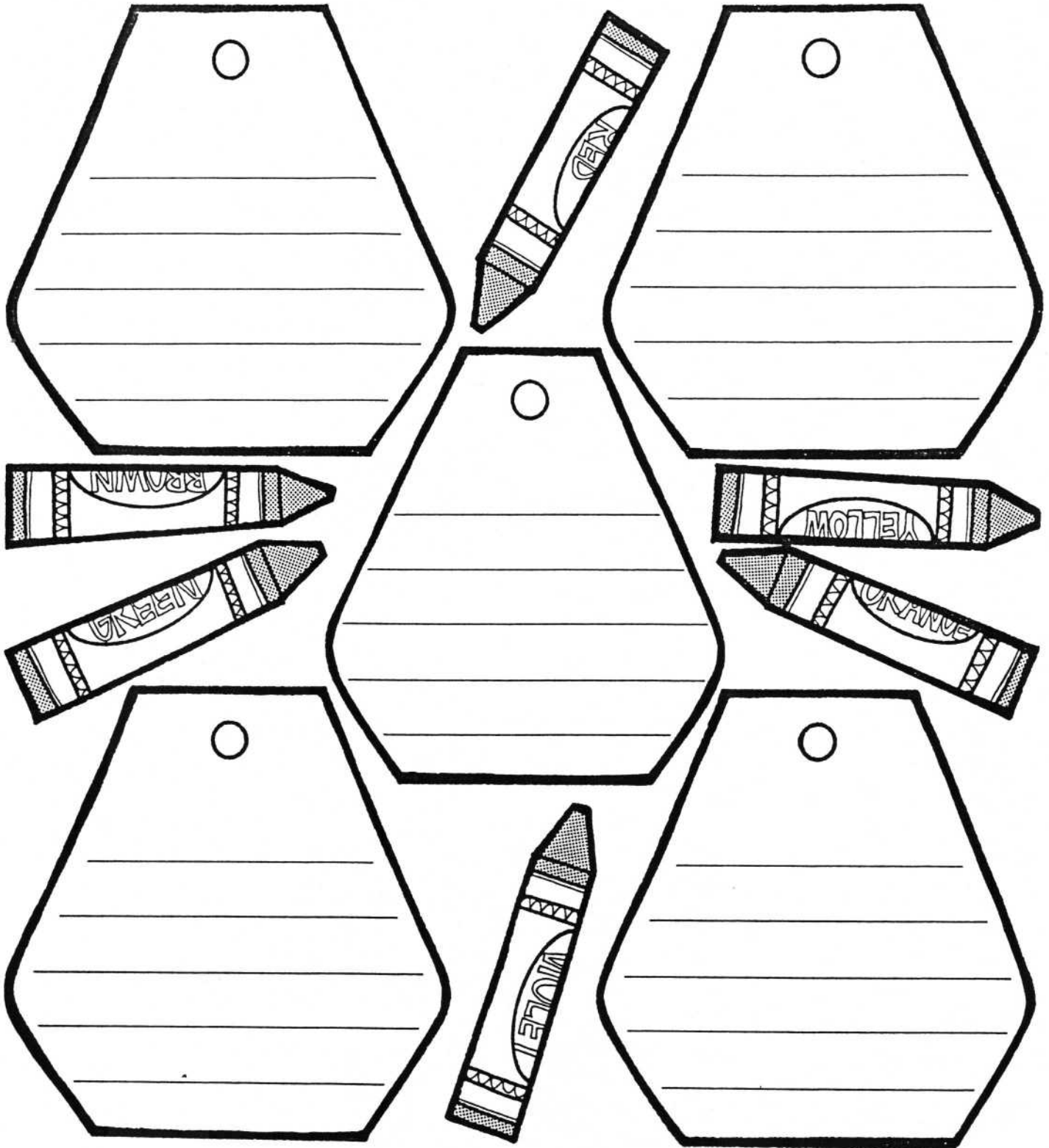
The strong wind blows
The trees in the valley shake,
Then – down comes a leaf.

-Gary Beacon

Name _____

LANTERNS

Write lanterns for the patterns below. Color each of the patterns a different color, cut them out, and hang them up.



LANTERNS

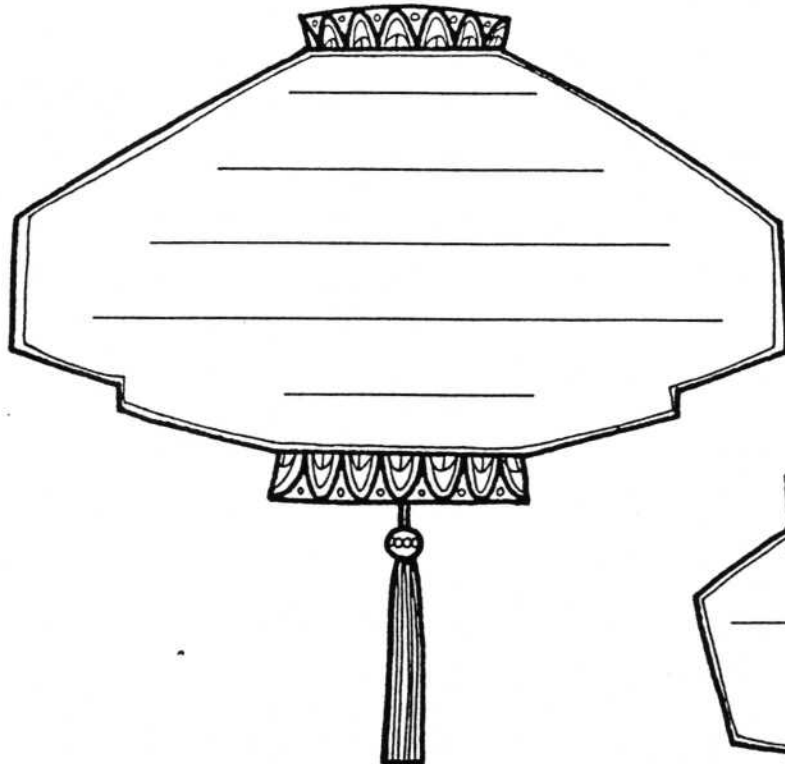
A **lantern** is a light and airy Japanese poem that is written in the shape of a Japanese lantern. Lanterns can be written singly or in a string as illustrated below.

Structure:

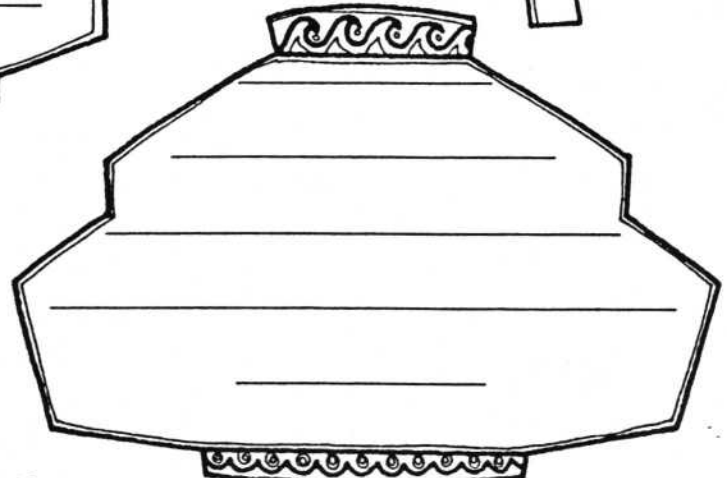
- line 1* — one syllable
- line 2* — two syllables
- line 3* — three syllables
- line 4* — four syllables
- line 5* — one syllable



Let's try one about trees:



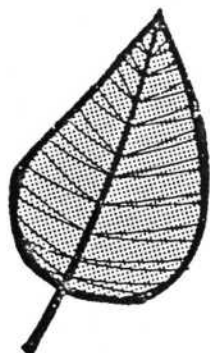
On your own:



Name _____

TANKA

Tanka is another oriental verse form much like haiku except that two more lines of seven syllables each are added to give tanka a total of thirty-one syllables.



Structure

- line 1* — five syllables
- line 2* — seven syllables
- line 3* — five syllables
- line 4* — seven syllables
- line 5* — seven syllables



Examples:

The gate is unlocked.
Boys and girls with shiny shoes
And full lunch boxes
Gather to talk of summer
While they listen for the bell.

The great out-of-doors
Beckoned to us one and all
We sought nature's joys
Along her creeks and rivers
And in the cool of the glade.

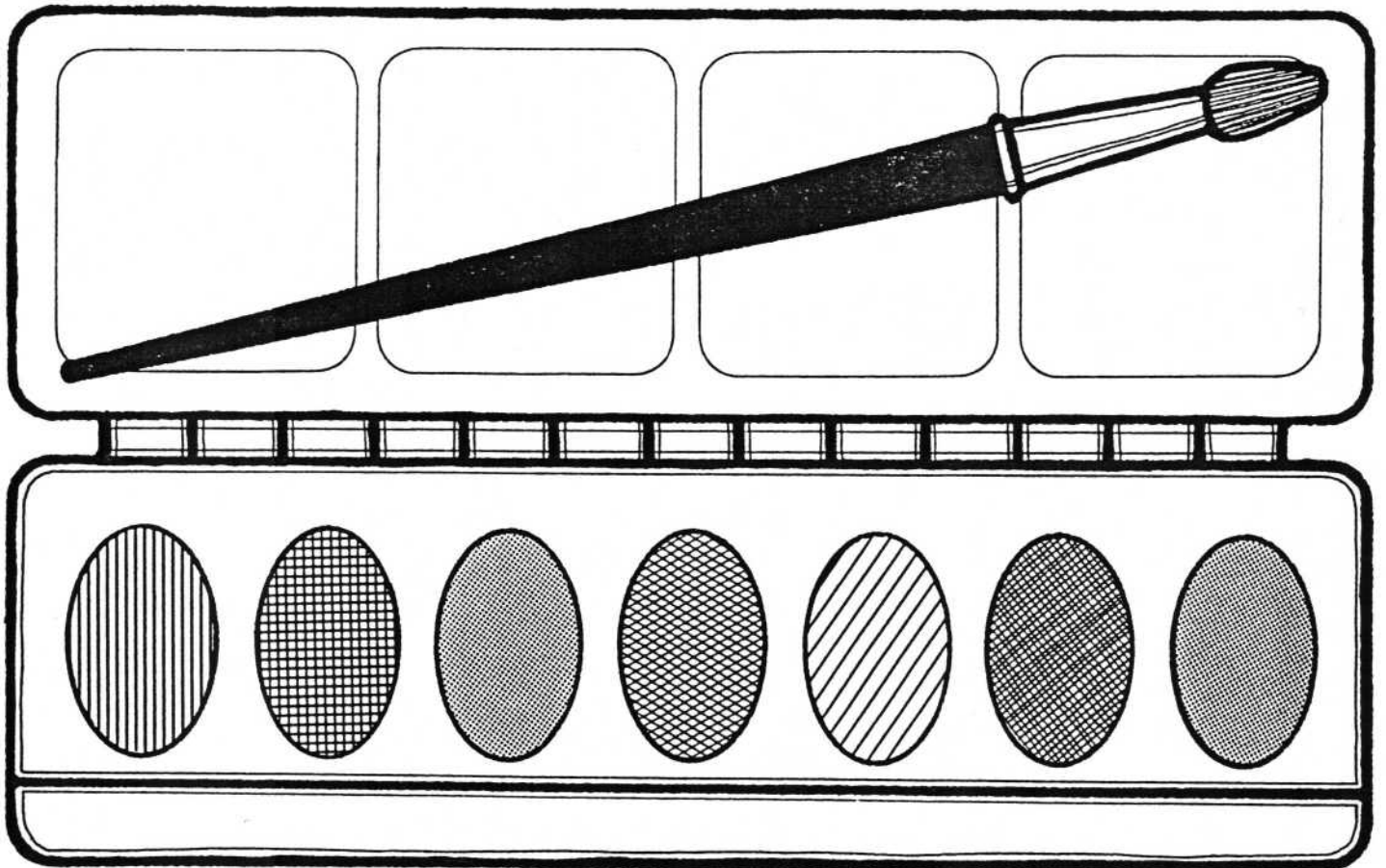
On your own:



Name _____

HAIKU

Practice some haiku verse. Then pick your favorite haiku, write it on a half-sheet of paper in your best handwriting, and illustrate it with a delicate watercolor picture.



Name _____

HAIKU

A **haiku** is an unrhymed Japanese poem of three lines containing five, seven, and five syllables, respectively. It is usually light and delicate in feeling and is concerned with something lovely in nature, especially the season of the year. Sometimes, there is a direct contrast within the verse.

Haiku was once part of ancient Japanese courtship rituals. A man would send a haiku to the woman he loved. If she liked the poem, she would write a **tanka** in response.

Structure:

- line 1* — five syllables
- line 2* — seven syllables
- line 3* — five syllables

Example:

Loud, crashing thunder
And then the rain pouring down
The rainbow appears

On your own:

