

Math in Seventeen Syllables: An Open Call for Mathematical Haiku

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Math in Seventeen Syllables: An Open Call for Mathematical Haiku

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The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics invites submissions of mathematical haiku for an upcoming poetry folder tentatively titled Math in Seventeen Syllables. Please send your submissions via email to the editors by November 1, 2017. Publication decisions will be made by December 15, 2017.

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According to Wikipedia:¹

A Haiku in English is a short poem which uses imagistic language to convey the essence of an experience of nature or the season intuitively linked to the human condition. It is a development of the Japanese haiku poetic form in the English language.

Some of the more common practices in English include:

- use of three lines of up to 17 syllables, traditionally in "5-7-5" form.
- allusion to nature or the seasons.
- use of a caesura or kire represented by punctuation, space, a line-break, or a grammatical break to compare two images implicitly.

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiku_in_English, accessed on April 27, 2017.

A mathematical haiku is just a variation of the above. For the purposes of this open call, a mathematical haiku will be a three-line poem in the “5–7–5” syllabic form that expresses a mathematical idea or experience, and gently connects it to the human condition. We encourage poets to consider using allusions to nature or the seasons, or a kire, in homage to the traditional haiku.

Curious readers may find some examples of mathematical haiku in the extensive archive of JoAnne Growney’s blog.²

Please send your submissions (including no more than three haiku per poet) via email to the editors by November 1, 2017. If you are not able to use email, feel free to use snail mail instead; our postal address is

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Note however that email is a much more certain way to reach us.

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hopefully poems
will arrive like a river—
math made tangible

²See here for posts tagged with “haiku”: <https://poetrywithmathematics.blogspot.com/search/label/haiku>.