

- Explain that now they know what a haiku poem is and have read lots, they must try to write one. From your briefcase pull out an object, such as a toy frog or an apple. Challenge the children to work in pairs to write a haiku about that object. For example:

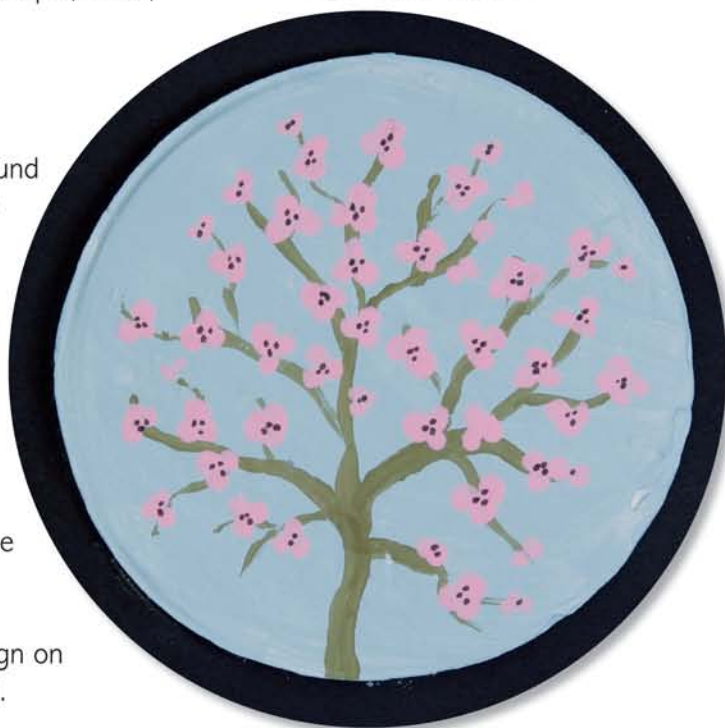
*Hop on lily pad,
Catching flies with its long tongue,
Green and warty skin.*

Practical Activities

- Read the story *The Stonecutter* (various versions available on the internet, e.g. www.pitt.edu/~dash/japan.html). Explain this story is a well-known Japanese folk tale. The children listen carefully to the story and in small groups write a haiku that tells the story.
- Read a selection of haiku poetry and ask the children to notice other features; for example, haiku poems rarely rhyme. Can they find a rhyming haiku.
- Play 'Hidden Haiku'. Make a set of haiku poems about a variety of everyday objects or fairy tales. Slice the poems up and place them into a feely box. Give each child in the group the object or fairy-tale picture. The children take turns to pick out a line of a haiku and decide if it belongs to their object or fairy tale. The first person to make a complete and correct haiku wins the game.
- Look at a selection of different types of poems that have a strict form; for example, haiku, limerick, riddle, cinquain.

Display Ideas

- Colour mix a sunset background using yellow, red and orange powder paint. Research Japanese symbols and paint a chosen symbol in black on the sunset background.
- Look at artwork based around the Japanese blossom tree. Using blue paper, black paint and pink paper recreate a blossom tree design.
- Make a clay tile and either recreate a blossom tree design on the tile or a Japanese symbol.



Cross-curricular Links

- **Geography** – Locate on a world map or globe the location of Japan. Learn about the cultures and traditions of this Far Eastern country.
- **Literacy** – Ask the children to write their own version of *The Stonecutter* folk tale, adding in other things he might wish to be.
- **Literacy** – Read a selection of other Japanese folk tales and compare with traditional tales from other cultures.