

Example Text: Tanka Poetry (Ages 7 - 11)

A tanka poem is a traditional Japanese poem. It follows a specific line and syllable structure. A syllable is a single sound - for example, 'cat' has one **syllable**, but 'kitten' has two syllables.

Tanka poems are made up of **five lines**. There are five syllables in the first line, seven in the second line, five in the third and seven in the final two lines. This is called a **5-7-5-7-7 syllable structure**. The lines do not have to rhyme.

Tanka poems focus on a theme, traditionally about nature, the seasons or feelings. Take a look at the examples and the features required.

1 Follow the **line structure** of a tanka poem by having five lines.

1 Gold **sand** treasure trove,



2 Follow the **syllable structure** of a tanka poem, which is 5-7-5-7-7. each line.

2 Waves come crashing on the **shore**,



3 The poem is themed around **nature, the seasons** or **feelings**.

3 Beautiful **blue** sea,



4 Use figurative language techniques, such as **alliteration**, to paint a picture for the reader. Alliteration involves repeating the first sound in a string of words or words that are close together in a sentence.

4 Sparkles like **precious** diamonds,



5 Use figurative language techniques, such as **personification**, to paint a picture for the reader. Personification gives non-human things (like animals, plants or objects) human traits or characteristics.

5 Mirroring the empty **sky**.



6 Use figurative language techniques, such as **similes**, to paint a picture for the reader. A simile is a technique that compares one thing to another, using the words 'like', 'as', 'than' and 'as if'.

7 Use figurative language techniques, such as **metaphors**, to paint a picture for the reader. A metaphor is a comparison between two things, using the words 'is' or 'was'.

1 **Tangled arms** above,



2 **Dropping rainbow leaves** below,



3 **Autumn sleepiness**,



4 **Is taking over the woods**,



5 **Bidding everyone goodnight**.



1 **Fields of fluffy snow**,



2 **Like a blanket of soft wool**,



3 **Covering the ground**,



4 **Untouched, pristine, spotless space**,



5 **The snow** is a new playground.

