

Structure and Tone

A **limerick** is a five-line poem with a specific rhyme and meter. The rhyme scheme is AABBA. The first, second and fifth lines have three feet each with the following stressed (S) and unstressed (U) syllables: USUUSUUS. The third and fourth lines have two feet each with the following stressed (S) and unstressed (U) syllables: USUUS.

Haiku is Japanese form of poetry usually reflecting on nature and feelings. There are three lines in a Haiku. The first has five syllables, the second seven syllables, and the third has five syllables.

Read the two poems to the write. Identify the form of each poem. Then write a paragraph discussing how the two distinct poetic structures affect the tone of the poem and contribute to its overall meaning.

1.
muscled elegance
mane and tail streaming behind
hoofs beating the earth

STRUCTURE: _____

2.
There once was a man from Kentucky
Who woke one day feeling right lucky
He placed a big bet
But was filled with regret
'Cause his horse wasn't feeling too plucky.

STRUCTURE: _____

3. What do the two poems have in common?

