



Lesson for Podcast 07: Be a Poet!

Lesson Summary: Follow the path of the water from the top pond down to the waterfall at the Isamu Taniguchi oriental garden. Along the way, record your impressions and then write a haiku.

Lesson Description: In this lesson, you will use all of our senses to observe the natural world while following the path of the water from the top of the Isamu Taniguchi Oriental garden as it runs downhill into the waterfall. Write down words to represent your feelings. Once you get to the waterfall have a seat and compose an original haiku to express your experience. The instructions are on the iPod for how to do this or you can read the activity discussion below.

Materials Needed:

I-pod, loaded with Zilker Trek and headphones

Journal

Colored Pencils

Optional:

Insect Repellant

Activity Discussion:

A haiku is a traditional Japanese, 3 line poem that consists of 10 to 15 syllables. The goal of a haiku is to communicate a feeling or experience about a nature. Basically, you are painting a picture with a few carefully chosen words. A haiku does not have to rhyme, but it does often contain a seasonal reference. If you are feeling traditional you can follow the ancient Japanese practice of 17 syllables in the pattern of 5 syllables in line one, 7 syllables in line 2, and 5 syllables in line 3.

Here's an example from our trip down the water's path:

Water (2 syllables)

Tumbling quickly (4 syllables)

Through flickering sunlight (6 syllables)

That's 3 lines and 12 syllables.

Additional Resources:

Web:

Learn more about haiku here, <http://www.worddance.com/>.

Notes:

Don't forget to upload your haikus, images and scans of your journal pages to our on-line gallery.