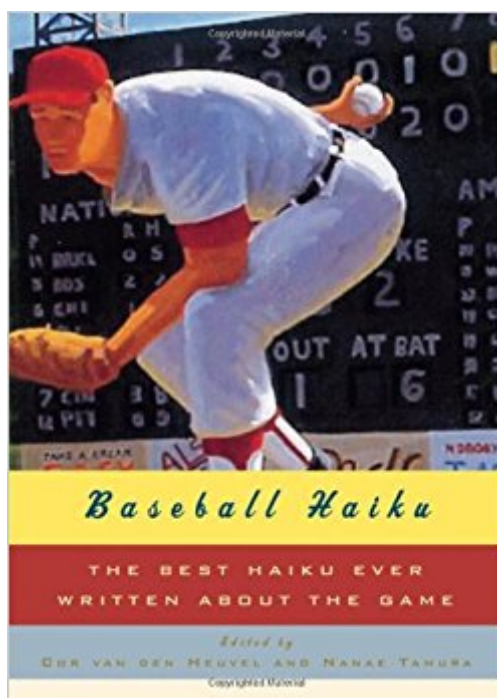


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# Baseball Haiku: The Best Haiku Ever Written About The Game



## Synopsis

Presenting more than two hundred of the greatest haiku ever written about the game. One of the most unusual baseball books of the 2007 season, this remarkable new collection, which includes poems from both America and Japan, captures perfectly the thrill of baseball— a double play, a game of catch, or the hushed pause as a pitcher looks in before hurling his pitch. Like haiku, the game is concerned with the nature of the seasons: joyous in the spring, thrilling in summer's heat, ripening with the descent of fall, and remembered fondly in winter. Featuring the work of Jack Kerouac, the king of the Beat writers, who penned the first American baseball haiku, and Alan Pizzarelli, a major American haiku poet, the collection also includes Masaoka Shiki, one of the four great pillars of Japanese haiku, who fell in love with baseball when he was a student in Tokyo. *Baseball Haiku*, a literary and baseball treasure, will make a marvelous gift for the baseball fan in your family.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1st Printing edition (April 17, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393062198

ISBN-13: 978-0393062199

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.9 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #912,745 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry](#) #140 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Japanese & Haiku](#) #371 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Asian](#)

## Customer Reviews

Introduced to Japan in 1872, the quintessentially American game of baseball has inspired more than a century of poetry written on both sides of the Pacific in the quintessentially Japanese literary form of the haiku. An appropriately international partnership of editors-translators—one American, one Japanese—here bring readers a marvelous sampling of these haiku. Including work from 15 Japanese masters (including the acclaimed Masaoka Shiki) and 30 American poets (including the Beat genius Jack Kerouac), this anthology delivers unforgettable baseball experiences in striking

imagery. Light rain raising puffs of dust from the infield, a drooping flag cueing a manager to shift his outfielders, a cricket serenading an outfielder in his lonely vigil--these and scores of other baseball moments live forever in the tight compression of these poems. The natural fit between baseball and haiku (and the closely related senryu) comes into historical and conceptual focus in an insightful introduction and afterword, where van den Heuvel ponders this cross-cultural intersection. A rare book, appealing to both die-hard fan and literary critic. Bryce Christensen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Nanae Tamura is a columnist for the haiku magazine Shiki Shimppo (The Shiki Newsletter) and contributed to If Someone Asks...Masaoka Shiki's Life and Haiku. She lives in Matsuyama, Japan. The editor of The Haiku Anthology, Cor van den Heuvel is an award-winning haiku poet living in New York City.

I am not a super fan of baseball but I still hope to see the Chicago Cubs win the World Series before I die. However, I am a big fan of haiku and I picked up this amazing 214 page hardcover book (Baseball Haiku: The best haiku ever written about the game: edited by Cor Van Den Heuvel and Nanae Tamura) for a bargain price on .Whether you love baseball or not if you love haiku you will really enjoy reading this book. This wonderful volume has both American poets and Japanese poets who have written haiku on the sport of baseball. This fantastic book is filled with incredible Haiku from a wide range of poets. The American poets include: Randy Brooks, Tom Claugen. Mike Dillon, David Elliott, Michael Fessler, Brenda Gannam, Lee Gurga, Jim Kacian, Bruce Kennedy, Jack Kerouac, Ed. Markowski, Tom Painting, Alan Pizzarelli, Michael V. Spano and numerous other Americans. Some of the Japanese poets include: Akimoto Fujio, Arima Akito, Imai Sei, Kadokawa Genyoshi, Masaoka Shuoshi, Murio Suzuki, Yamazaki Hisao, Yotsuya Ryu and numerous other poets. This is a book for anyone who loves baseball and/or haiku. This book could become a classic in the baseball and haiku fields. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncala (Zen Poetry Moments: Haiku and Senryu for special occasions).

Good introduction that summarizes types of haiku. The examples (translated) are better than those written in English

Most impressive organization...

My husband loved this!

For a book of haiku --about baseball no less-- to break out into wider readership the way this book has is reminiscent of Dave Brubeck and Stan Getz bringing jazz into the popular music charts in the 1960's. My sister gave me this book for my birthday and, as Thomas Merton wrote, as long as it talks, I'm going to listen. Cor van den Heuvel and Nanae Tamura have assembled a tour de force of baseball haiku. America brought baseball to Japan and Japan gifted this country with haiku. There is a most enjoyable introduction about the history of baseball haiku in both countries. The book has a long section of haiku by well-known, and less well-known, haiku poets in the United States, followed by a rich collection of translated Japanese haiku featuring the game. Van den Heuvel concludes with an appreciative essay on baseball in the United States and Japan. Here are some samples which reflect moments which come in the world of baseball: walking home with his glove on his head shrieking cicadas Imai Seisummer afternoon the long fly ball to center field takes its time Cor van den Heuvel dog days of summertwenty-three games out of first Michael Ketchek This last poem sounds the tone of melancholy, called wabi in the classic Japanese haiku tradition, which many of the haiku in this book capture beautifully and hauntingly, and which is certainly eventually present for any young or aging participant (or observer) in the game. Here are a few more evocations: while playing ball it becomes time to go home to supper Kawahigashi Hekigoto calm evening the ball game play-by-play across the water Jim Kacian Baseball haiku, because of their brevity, will not provide the same kind of reading as Jimmy Breslin's writing about the 1962 Mets in his chapter "They're Afraid to Come Out," nor Ed Linn's reporting on Ted Williams' last game in 1960. But they make their own special offering. Speaking of melancholy, in my case I grew up in the 1950's in Kansas City, which gives a certain meaning to the term Kansas City Blues. By the way, Cor van den Heuvel loves jazz too. Get the book.

The flyleaf of Baseball Haiku begins "there are moments in every baseball game that make fans catch their breath...Haiku captures these moments like no other poetic form..." and there you have it. If I had to choose the quintessential kigo (season word) for "summer", it would have to be "baseball". Although played in spring and autumn, nothing for me says "summer" like a baseball game (and at the beach, listening to a game on the radio). Jim Kacian slyly elevates the game to a religion: October revival all hands lift to the foul ball while Brenda Gannon has some wonderful plays (!) on sex: handsome pitcher my eyes drift down to the mound Many of Van Den Heuvel's own haiku deal with the anticipation of the game: baseball cards spread out on the bed April rain a spring

breezeflutters the notice for baseball tryouts as well as my favourite: lingering snow the game of catch continues into evening The Japanese haiku have a definite and different expression but the feel and impressions are similar. My only wish is that there could be more!

Perfect product for us! good . it is recommend. fast . my best friend need it ,

Baseball haiku is indeed a genre of which I was unaware. This is a wonderful book for fans of the lore of baseball, history, and the art of Haiku.

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