



Dylan Gilbert is eight years old and attends Horace Mann School in Riverdale, New York. A real Renaissance man, in addition to writing and illustrating haiku, Dylan loves science, playing baseball, basketball, soccer, and has composed original songs for the violin. He misses his Grandpa.

DYLAN GILBERT ON HAIKU

WHJ: Do you know how Haiku started?

DYLAN: I know a story. There was a very poor man who used to go around giving out these short poems, called Haiku—you know the format? Five syllables, then seven and five—and everyone that received one congratulated him and would say, “He’s so poor, and he does so many nice things and he gives us Haikus” so they did a very nice thing for him: they built a little house for him right next to the beach with a big sunflower on it. So that’s the story.

WHJ: How long does it take you to make a Haiku up? Could you do one right now?

DYLAN: I’ll get a piece of paper....okay, so what do you want me to write about?

WHJ: Something in this room—something you like.

DYLAN: How about my books? What words could we use that would be a good description? Okay, books....

*Brings thoughts to ideas
Each thought comes naturally
Turning pages quick*

There shouldn’t be any periods, because they’re not sentences, they’re thoughts, they’re imaginations. Haiku are describing something, so try not to put the word itself down, because it’s like a guessing game. And usually it should be about something in nature.

WHJ: “Books” wasn’t about nature.

DYLAN: Books *tell* about nature, sort of. Some of them. Some of them tell about magical quests. Some of them tell about mysteries. Some of them just tell about people talking to each other—like the movie *My Dinner With Andre*.

WHJ: Did you see that movie?

DYLAN: Not exactly. So Haiku should have a very simple topic. It’s not about clothes, it’s not about electrical stuff. It’s not about “I love my hat” or “I love my dresser”—it’s not about things you can live without.

