

# Lion's Wind Haiku Community Agreement

## Purpose

This is a supportive, safe space for poets to share their work, listen to others, and offer thoughtful feedback. Meetings are 90 minutes (with community building time at beginning and end).

## Guidelines

- **Kindness.** The goal is to improve our poetry, not judge the poet.
- **Listen before speaking.** Allow space for silence after each reading.
- **Focus on observations.** Say what you noticed or felt before offering suggestions.
- **Keep comments concise.** This ensures everyone has time to share.
- **Respect.** Only one person speaks at a time. Use “I” language. (“I felt...”, “I noticed...”) rather than “You should...”
- **Sharing.** Each participant is expected to share and give feedback to their best ability.

**Intro (5 minutes)** Each person shares one thing they're grateful for. A timekeeper is determined.

## Sharing (10 Minutes per Poet)

1. **Reading (1 minute)**
  - Poet reads one poem aloud twice, then writes it on the whiteboard while others pause, breathe, and allow it to sink in.
2. **1<sup>st</sup> Impressions (2-3 minutes)**
  - Brief one word or one sentence offered by each person around the room. (Poet listens without responding.)
  - After 1<sup>st</sup> impressions, poet may give back-story, an alternate version of the Haiku, or discuss what type of feedback they would like.
3. **Feedback (5 minutes)** Concise follow-up discussion, around the room (Participants may pass for any reason, poet remains silent during feedback.) Options may include...
  - **Strengths:** what worked well
  - **Questions:** (e.g., *“What feeling or moment were you trying to convey?”*)
  - **Suggestions:** Offer ideas with curiosity (e.g., *“I wondered what would happen if...”*).
4. **Poet Reflection (1–2 minutes)**
  - Poet may respond, ask clarifying questions, listen, or rewrite as desired.
  - Thank the group for their input.

## Closing (5-10 minutes)

1. At the end of the session, each participant shares one sentence about what they learned, enjoyed, or will carry forward.
2. Topics for future meetings discussed. Next meeting date is confirmed.