

Haiku Problem Solving: Noah

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SUMMARY:	Staff will use haiku writing to practice solving problems in a concise manner
TOPIC(S):	Problem solving, intentional thinking
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	To encourage, and give staff experience, using concise ways to solve problems
AUDIENCE:	Counselors, CITs
TIMING:	15-20 minutes, a few weeks into the summer
APPENDICES:	Noah's Ark Text
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Pens & paper
SET-UP DETAILS:	Room with enough space for group to spread out. Comfortable space if possible

00:00-00:05: Opening & Context

00:05 - 00:12: Haiku Writing

00:12-00:15/20: Share Haikus

Opening & Context (5 minutes)

Share the story of Noah's Ark (full text is available below to read or reference for anyone who wants it).

Connect the story of Noah and problems that already have, or might, arise at camp. At camp, sometimes problems can seem enormous and complicated, but sometimes simplifying them helps to gain some perspective and find a simple solution.

Introduce the format of haiku (3 line poem with a specific syllable set: 5 syllables on the first line, 7 syllables on the second line, 5 syllables on the third line)

Share the Haiku:

*A flood was coming
no, no said the animals
pairs boarded the ark*

Before splitting up into smaller groups note that the haiku is not just a rehashing of the problem, but names the problem and simply states a solution. The haiku here shows (in line 1) the problem, (in line two) the reaction, and (in line 3) the solution.

Haiku Writing (7 minutes)

Break into small groups (2 or 3) and take one minute to decide on a problem they want to address (if you are concerned that they might not have one to address, you can do a group sourcing before breaking up into groups).

Ask groups to take the next 5 minutes to write their own haiku(s) addressing the problem and using the following methodology:

- Simplify the problem
- Name the impact or reaction
- Suggest a solution

Note, your groups may find that they need to write a series of haikus (one haiku for problem, one for impact/reaction, one for solution) or they might find that the any one part doesn't fit nicely on one line. That's ok! Try to keep them short and sweet, and definitely stick with the 5/7/5 syllable breakdown for each line.

Haiku Sharing & Debrief (5 minutes)

Give each group a chance to share their haikus - ideally they should need little to no explanation.

Debrief Highlights:

- What did you realize/notice when you had to boil the problem down?
- How can you remember/help each other remember to take a step back, analyze, and simplify throughout the summer?

Genesis 6:13-22

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְנֹחַ קֵץ כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר בָּא לְפָנַי כִּי-מָלְאָה הָאָרֶץ חָמָס מִפְּנֵיהֶם וְהִנְנִי מַשְׁחִיתֶם אֶת-הָאָרֶץ:
God said to Noah, “I have decided to put an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with lawlessness because of them: I am about to destroy them with the earth.

עֲשֵׂה לָךְ תֵּבַת עֲצֵי-גֹפֶר קָנִים תַּעֲשֶׂה אֶת-הַתֵּבָה וְכִפַּרְתָּ אֹתָהּ מִבֵּית וּמִחוּץ בַּכֹּפֶר:
Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make it an ark with compartments, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

זֶה הֵוא אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה אֹתָהּ שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת אַמָּה אָרְךָ הַתֵּבָה חֲמִשִּׁים אַמָּה רָחְבָּהּ וּשְׁלֹשִׁים אַמָּה קוֹמָתָהּ:
This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

צַהֵר אֶת-הַתֵּבָה לַיּוֹם וְאֶל-אַמָּה תְּכַלְנָהּ מִלְמַעְלָה וּפְתַח הַתֵּבָה בְּצַדָּהּ תַּשִּׂים תַּחְתִּים שְׁנַיִם וּשְׁלֹשִׁים תַּעֲשֶׂה:
Make an opening for daylight in the ark, and terminate it within a cubit of the top. Put the entrance to the ark in its side; make it with bottom, second, and third decks.

וְאֲנִי הִנְנִי מֵבִיא אֶת-הַמַּבּוּל מִיַּם עַל-הָאָרֶץ לְשַׁחַת כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר-בּוֹ רוּחַ חַיִּים מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם כֹּל אֲשֶׁר-בָּאָרֶץ יָגוּעַ:
“For My part, I am about to bring the Flood—waters upon the earth—to destroy all flesh under the sky in which there is breath of life; everything on earth shall perish.

וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּךָ וּבֵאתָ אֵל-הַתֵּבָה אַתָּה וּבְנֶיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּנְשֵׁי-בְנֶיךָ אִתְּךָ:
But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall enter the ark, with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives.

וּמִכָּל-הַחַי מִכָּל-בֶּשֶׂר שְׁנַיִם מִכֹּל תָּבִיא אֵל-הַתֵּבָה לְהַחֲיֹת אִתְּךָ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה יְהִיוּ:
And of all that lives, of all flesh, you shall take two of each into the ark to keep alive with you; they shall be male and female.

מִהָעוֹף לְמִינֵי הַיָּם וּמִן-הַבְּהֵמָה לְמִינָהּ מִכָּל רֶמֶשׂ הָאֲדָמָה לְמִינָהּ שְׁנַיִם מִכָּל יָבֹאוּ אֵלֶיךָ לְהַחֲיוֹת:
From birds of every kind, cattle of every kind, every kind of creeping thing on earth, two of each shall come to you to stay alive.

וְאַתָּה קַח-לָךְ מִכָּל-מֵאֲכָל אֲשֶׁר יֹאכֵל וְאֶסְפַּת אֵלֶיךָ וְהָיָה לָךְ וּלְהֵם לְאֹכְלָהּ:
For your part, take of everything that is eaten and store it away, to serve as food for you and for them.”

וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים כִּן עָשָׂה: (ו)
Noah did so; just as God commanded him, so he did.