

Either-Or Haiku Editing Alternatives
Fall 2024

Abby Wilken, Fall 2024

~~moving schools~~
~~this time~~
~~a new me~~
-
OR

moving schools
new place
new me

I liked this second haiku because of the repetition in the last two lines. It worked better because the first line tells the reader exactly what is happening, and the last two lines are describing what the person is doing when they move schools. Abby Wilken, Fall 2024

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Katelyn Wendt, Fall 2024

~~dancing with her little feet on his toes~~
~~he blinks~~
~~and spins the bride~~
-
OR

dancing on his toes
his little girl
in a white dress

I decided to use the second version (right side) of this haiku rather than the alternative version. Abby and Charlie felt that this version allowed the reader to infer the idea that the little girl is actually a grown-up bride, whom her father still sees as a little girl, without being as wordy as the other option. Charlie also mentioned that he liked the line "he blinks" because it shows that the father thinks the daughter grew up quickly, but we ultimately agreed that this can be inferred from the second version as well. Katelyn Wendt, Fall 2024

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~~slow steps to the door~~
~~memories~~
~~loaded in a truck in the driveway~~
-
OR

frozen in the doorway
some memories
can't fit in the truck

I decided to use the second version of this haiku over the first version. As a group, we talked about how the first version focuses more on what the person is taking with them, whereas the second version focuses more on what the person is leaving behind. We felt that the second version was better because it fits better with the hesitancy to leave that is in the first lines of both haiku. The first version shows hesitancy even though they are taking the memories with them, whereas the second version describes hesitancy because of what they can't take with them. Katelyn Wendt, Fall 2024

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Charlie Armstrong, Fall 2024

studying
page after page
the more I look the less I know

OR

—

studying
~~flipping page after page~~
~~the more I look the less I know~~

The first one was picked because my group and I felt that adding “flipping” before “page after page” would break the monotony of the sentence structure, and therefore break the meaning of the monotony of studying that the haiku is aiming for, and I would agree that it makes it feel like the study session is dragged on and on. Charlie Armstrong, Fall 2024

•

frustrated mumbling
my desk has heard
every word

OR

—

~~frustrated mumbling~~
~~my desk hears~~
~~every last word~~

The first one was chosen over making the haiku in present tense with “hears” and “and mumbling”. I would agree, because the past tense makes it seem as though this frustration has been carried on for some time, and that nothing has seemed to calm down the individual, and as a result, the desk has continued to hear every word and frustration expressed, versus the short termness of making the haiku in present tense. Charlie Armstrong, Fall 2024

*frustrated mumbling
my desk hears
every word*

This haiku I edited to combine both versions of it. I liked the line every word at the end because it makes it very definitive and makes it sound like it is an ongoing occurrence. I used the last haiku and switched the last line to the one from the first edited version. Abby Wilken, Fall 2024

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Ava Zukowski, Fall 2024

~~the eagle tries to fly
with clipped
wings~~

-

OR

—

clipped wings
the eagle
tries to fly

I chose the second option better than the first. I think that the first option tells too much whereas the second option leaves a little bit more interpretation open for the reader. Additionally, I like how the second option was less wordy than the first so it provides an easier reading experience. This haiku basically differs in word arrangement, and the second I believe flows better than the first. Ava Zukowski, Fall 2024

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Bella Palermo, Fall 2024

prairie grass grows taller
I have watched you
go with it

OR

—

~~prairie grass grows
as you
grow with it~~

We all decided that the first haiku was the best option out of the two. We talked about how it sets up a scene with just the first line about the passing of time, and then to add in the person being watched lovingly signifies a passing of time still. It also feels like the haiku is telling us that time is passing, but the person watching has always been there for the other person. Bella Palermo, Fall 2024

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Caroline Arnold, Fall 2024

the sounds of summer
driven away
by a school bus

OR

~~a school bus
driving away
the sounds of summer~~

I like the first version better because it feels more like the school bus is both driving the children to school, and the bus is driving away or fending off the literal sounds of summer. It can also be read as the school bus is driving away with the children on it, and it still sounds like summer at the beginning of the school year. Caroline Arnold, Fall 2024

Our group chose that we liked the second option over the first. We liked how the voice was active instead of passive. Additionally, there are multiple ways to read this haiku. The school bus driving away and the noise on it can be the sounds of summer, or it can be pushing away the sounds of summer (as if summer is ending). We liked how there were multiple ways to interpret the poem as the middle line has a play on words. Ava Zukowski, Fall 2024

Our group was split over this pair of haiku, but I personally like the second one better. I think that the "driving away" is kind of a double entendre because the school bus is driving away physically, but it's also metaphorically driving away the sounds of summer. I also like the flow of this haiku better because if you take out the first or last line, there is still something going on. Both haiku give the word "driving" or "driven" a double meaning, but this haiku does it in a more interesting way. Bella Palermo, Fall 2024

•

an apple a day
got sick
anyway

OR

~~eat an apple
each and every day
get sick anyway~~

I think the first version feels smoother and wittier than the other version. It is the original version, and I think I like it too much to change its final draft. This haiku feels clever, and I really like the rhyme. Caroline Arnold, Fall 2024

• • •

Charley Condill, Fall 2024

~~stars and stripes
blowing peacefully in the wind
freedom~~

-
OR

~~stars and stripes
rippling in the wind
freedom~~

stars and stripes
freedom
rippling in the wind

I really like this version of the haiku. Putting 'freedom' in the middle of the haiku was very important because it gave an action to freedom by 'rippling in the wind.' The other versions had 'freedom' as the ending line, but my group liked the flow of it better as the second line. This is one of my favorite haiku that I have written, even though it is simple. Charley Condill, Fall 2024

•

~~train horn~~
~~sounds of the world~~
~~becoming my nature~~

-

OR

train horn blares
the worldly sounds
become my nature

My group chose this second version because it was the most concise and had the best flow. My original writing included an 's' at the end of 'sound' and 'become' before 'my nature.' We ended up deleting those because they were unnecessary and made the haiku sound too much like a sentence. Charley Condill, Fall 2024

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Gracie Shaffer, Fall 2024

~~wintertime blues-~~
~~snowbirds packing up-~~
~~chasing the warmer weather-~~

-

OR

—

~~wintertime blues-~~
~~in need of~~
~~warmer weather-~~

-

OR

—

~~wintertime blues-~~
~~vitamin D-~~
~~needed~~

wintertime blues
snowbirds
chasing warm weather

I chose this one out of the set because it evokes emotion with the few edits my group helped me make. By taking out packing up, the focus of a snowbird can be taken more off humans and up to the reader's imagination, whether that be a real bird or a human chasing warmer, whether in the wintertime. My group also decided that the word "the" was not needed in the last line. It was just being used as a filler word, but without it, the haiku still reads the same. Gracie Shaffer, Fall 2024

•

~~sun sets earlier~~
~~kids coming inside~~
~~less fun to be had~~

-

OR

—

~~sunsets~~
~~mom calls~~
~~for dinner~~

-

OR

—

~~shorter days~~
~~more inside play~~
~~to come~~

sunset so early
mom calls
for dinner

While the first haiku was not the original haiku of this set, I believe that we made enough changes to the second version that they formed their own, too. The only change we made to the haiku was the first line to make it stronger. We took off the "s" on sunsets and added so early. This allows the word choice to be more concise to paint a picture. Gracie Shaffer, Fall 2024

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Dan Mungons, Fall 2024

~~look up into night~~
~~see~~
~~nothing~~

OR

I look up into night sky

and see

nothing

This was chosen because the typesetting improves the experience of reading the haiku. Dan Mungons, Fall 2024

•

~~tern circling
I follow his dive
from my earthbound perch~~

-

OR

tern circles the lake
I watch his dive
from my earthbound perch

This is more or less the earliest version of the haiku, but it does still seem to be the best for what I am trying to get across. Though changes were suggested, I am keeping the second line mostly unchanged because what was special to me about this moment was the longing to fly as much as it was about the moment itself. I have changed “follow” to “watch,” though, because having that “ch” sound leads the reading to the final sound of the haiku much easier. The third line I am also tentatively keeping, as “perch” provides a nice connection between the two subjects—however, shortening the line to simply “earthbound” (as you suggested) would make the haiku more concise and would have a very strong double meaning, which I am tempted by. Sadly you can’t have your cake and eat it too. Dan Mungons, Fall 2024

This was one of Dan’s that my group debated a lot. We liked the tense on circling better in this version. I also feel like the word perch in the last line ties the whole haiku together nicely. We also dropped some words from the initial version to make it flow more. Izzy Jones, Fall 2024

• • •

Maliyah Battle, Fall 2024

~~one fork, spoon, and bowl
a daily routine
to fill me up~~

-

OR

college fork
all alone
on a night shift

I chose this second version over the first haiku because I felt it related more to what I thought of when I was inspired. I was going for a late-night meal and you're using the only fork you bring with you to school. Not even using your own bowl because you're eating a frozen meal of some sorts. It also felt easier to say in one breath compared to the first rendition. Maliyah Battle, Fall 2024

•

grandma's fancy plates
look, don't touch

OR

—
grandma
and her fancy plates
look, don't touch

I chose this first haiku as my final version because I liked how straightforward and concise it is. I wanted it to kind of replicate the feeling when my grandma would quickly shut down the use of her nice China cabinet plates. Giving a type of museum vibe as they're only used for decoration. Maliyah Battle, Fall 2024

• • •

Izzy Jones, Fall 2024

~~step after step~~
~~I tell myself~~
just one more mile

-

OR

—

~~seems like a lifetime~~
~~I push on~~
just one more mile

-

OR

—

one more mile
I chant
to myself

This was a revision of one of my haiku. We liked the word chant because it makes it seem like an ongoing thing whereas my initial version sounded like a one time thing when you are already almost done. We felt that this one had more power behind the words. Izzy Jones, Fall 2024

•

Lily Moore, Fall 2024

in my childhood bed
the mirror reveals
a 20-year-old

OR

—

~~arising from my childhood bed~~
~~a 20 year old~~
~~revealed in the mirror~~

We liked the first haiku the best because it was less wordy than the other option. It was straightforward and painted the picture I was trying to display well. Lily Moore, Fall 2024

•

doing homework
the background music
shit talk

OR

—

~~shit talk~~
~~the background music~~
for homework

The first haiku was picked over the other one because we liked how the last line brought a shock factor. Rather than have the shock factor in the beginning of the haiku and losing focus of the last two lines, have it be at the end. Lily Moore, Fall 2024

• • •

Matt Kordesh, Fall 2024

tooth jail
I break lockdown
for jollyrancher

OR

—

~~teeth jail~~
jollyrancher
~~risks breaking lockdown~~

I chose the first one, and then edited the word “teeth” to be “tooth” just because it sounded a little better, even if it makes just a bit less sense. I think this one has a more satisfying build up and resolution. Matt Kordesh, Fall 2024

•

~~porch lights~~
~~illuminate cracks~~
~~to step over~~

-

OR

stepping over
moonlit cracks
tomorrow saved

I chose this second one because it gives purpose to the “stepping over cracks.” It’s a typical superstition that you have to step over sidewalk cracks to make sure you don’t have bad luck, and I think this one illustrates that feeling a bit better. Matt Kordesh, Fall 2024

• • •

Dayton Lasack, Fall 2024

windows down
radio off
listening to the music

OR

—

~~listening to the music~~
~~windows down~~
~~radio off~~

My group decided that they liked the first haiku better because it flows more smoothly. They also thought that the "listening to the music" line is a better final line. Dayton Lasack, Fall 2024

•

voices silenced
the setting sun
demands our gaze

OR

—

~~the setting sun~~
~~silences~~
~~the crowd~~

My group liked the first haiku better because it makes the sunset feel more powerful because of the "demands our gaze" line. Dayton Lasack, Fall 2024

• • •

Melis Barutcu, Fall 2024

~~midnight~~
~~used to feel~~
~~so late~~

-

OR

midnight snack
used to be
a secret mission

Once again, we preferred the second of these two haiku. It seems more playful and more specific than the first. Although they have different meanings, I intended both of these haiku to show how staying up late when you were a kid is very different from staying up now. I think the second haiku just evokes that in a more creative way. Melis Barutcu, Fall 2024

•

~~in darkness~~

~~headlights interrupt
a tender moment~~

-

OR

late night
a tender moment
interrupted by headlights

My group and I liked the second version of this haiku better. The first reason is because I prefer the line "late night" to "in darkness" for the first line. Darkness could imply many settings, indoor or outdoor, but I wanted to show that it was nighttime. I also like having the interruption in the third line instead of the second because it allows the scene of the tender moment to be set, and then it interrupts it. Melis Barutcu, Fall 2024

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Natalie Mase, Fall 2024

Sunday
a small grain of sand
in the hourglass

OR

—

~~Sunday
the hourglass
runs quickly~~

We liked the first one best. We thought the first one offered more of a comparison between two things (Sunday and the grain of sand) and provided more imagery for the reader. Natalie Mase, Fall 2024

•

~~walking the path
good advice
from friends~~

-

OR

good advice
friends set me
on the right path

My group and I decided to go with the second version of this haiku. I explained that I had originally written the haiku in the moment as I was walking with friends in Fairview Park. They liked the spontaneity of the first version and felt it conveyed the sudden feeling of gratitude for my friends that I felt when they gave me advice. They also liked the imagery of actually walking and talking together. Natalie Mase, Fall 2024

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Rachel Nott, Fall 2024

twenty percent tip
the homeless man asks
for spare kindness

OR

—

~~leave a twenty dollar tip~~
~~don't look the homeless man~~
~~in the eyes~~

We like the first one because we liked the phrase "spare kindness" and we liked that it doesn't feel as openly aggressive. Rachel Nott, Fall 2024

•

~~continents drifting~~
~~afloat and away~~
~~old friends~~

-

OR

—

continents shifting
the friend
I used to have

The second one because i liked the phrase "the friend i used to have" as opposed to "old friends", and I liked the word choice of shifting as opposed to drifting. Rachel Nott, Fall 2024

•

painting a picture
the last time I saw you
no seatbelt

OR

—

~~the last thing you saw~~
~~I told you~~
~~to wear your seatbelt~~

The first one because it is more open to interpretation on what happened and painting a picture can be taken literally or metaphorically. Rachel Nott, Fall 2024

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