BaRaGaNewz

Photo Poems

A haiku is the closest thing in literature to a photograph or snapshot.
Here's how to write a photo poem:

1. Choose a photograph of a place in Israel from the pictures that your teacher has brought in to class. Look carefully at your photograph. Be an observer.

2. Record everything that you see, think, and imagine about the place in the picture. Try to hear, smell, feel, and even taste the setting. In other words, use words to create a photograph of something that you see. BE VERY SPECIFIC!

3. Choose a format from those provided below to best fit your photo poem.

4. Write a catchy title for your poem. If nothing else, it should be descriptive and include the subject, where and when the photograph was taken, and what it depicts. Think of captions you might find in a photo album to help you (for example: "Ibex near Ein Gedi, April 2004").

Formats:

HAIKU an unrhymed three-line poem of 5 syllables; 7 syllables; 5 syllables

TANKA an unrhymed five-line poem with
5 syllables; 7 syllables; 5 syllables; 7 syllables; 5 syllables

LUNE three unrhymed lines with 5 syllables; 3 syllables; and 5 syllables OR
3 words; 2 words; 3 words

LANTERINE five unrhymed lines (in the shape of a Japanese lantern) with
1 syllable; 2 syllables; 3 syllables; 4 syllables; 1 syllable

TRILET three unrhymed lines with 3 syllables; 6 syllables; and 9 syllables

CRAPSEY CINQUAIN five unrhymed lines with 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables

REMEMBER: These poems are compact. For maximum effect, choose your words wisely. Do not repeat words!