

Title: Lighthouse Haiku

Grade Levels: 2 - 6

Objectives: Students will learn the syllable structure of haiku poems by writing their own lighthouse themed haiku.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.B.1.2, LA.B.2.2, LA.D.2.2, LA.E.1.2, LA.E.2.2

Materials

- Samples of haiku poetry
- Lighthouse Haiku Worksheet
- Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils
- Sounds of the ocean shore to inspire and set the tone

Procedures

1. Discuss with students the requirements of a haiku poem - a three-line poem, the first line with five syllables, the second line with seven syllables, and the third line with five syllables. (**Note:** Beginners often try to evoke too many different ideas. A good rule is to have at least two concrete images, and no more than three.)
2. Discuss with students the sounds of the sea and the beauty of a lighthouse during the night and day. A lighthouse haiku can focus on a wide variety maritime and lighthouse related subjects including the lofty height of a lighthouse tower, a keeper maintaining the light, or a lighthouse's guiding light on a dark stormy night.
3. Write a sample haiku with the class. (**Note:** See sample haikus below)
4. Read the short lighthouse summary on the student worksheet with the class and discuss.
5. Have students write their own haikus. Nautical music or the sounds of the sea can be played during activity to help inspire the students' descriptive writing. (**Note:** Sounds of Nature CD can often be found online, in the media center, or as MP3 files on the web- *see YouTube*)
6. Students will rewrite their completed haikus on the Lighthouse Haiku worksheet.
7. Student can color and decorate their Lighthouse Haiku Sheet using crayons, markers, colored pencils, pictures from magazines etc.

Student Name: _____

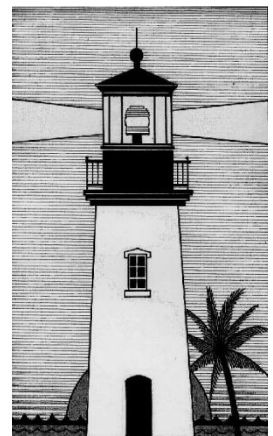
Lighthouse Haiku

Lighthouses help guide ships away from dangerous areas like reefs, sandbars, and rocky coastlines. They also help sailors safely navigate (or steer) their ships into harbors, inlets, and along rivers. Lighthouses were built close to the shore line. They can be found on top of tall cliffs overlooking the ocean, on barren rocky islands, and far out to sea near dangerous reefs and sandbars.

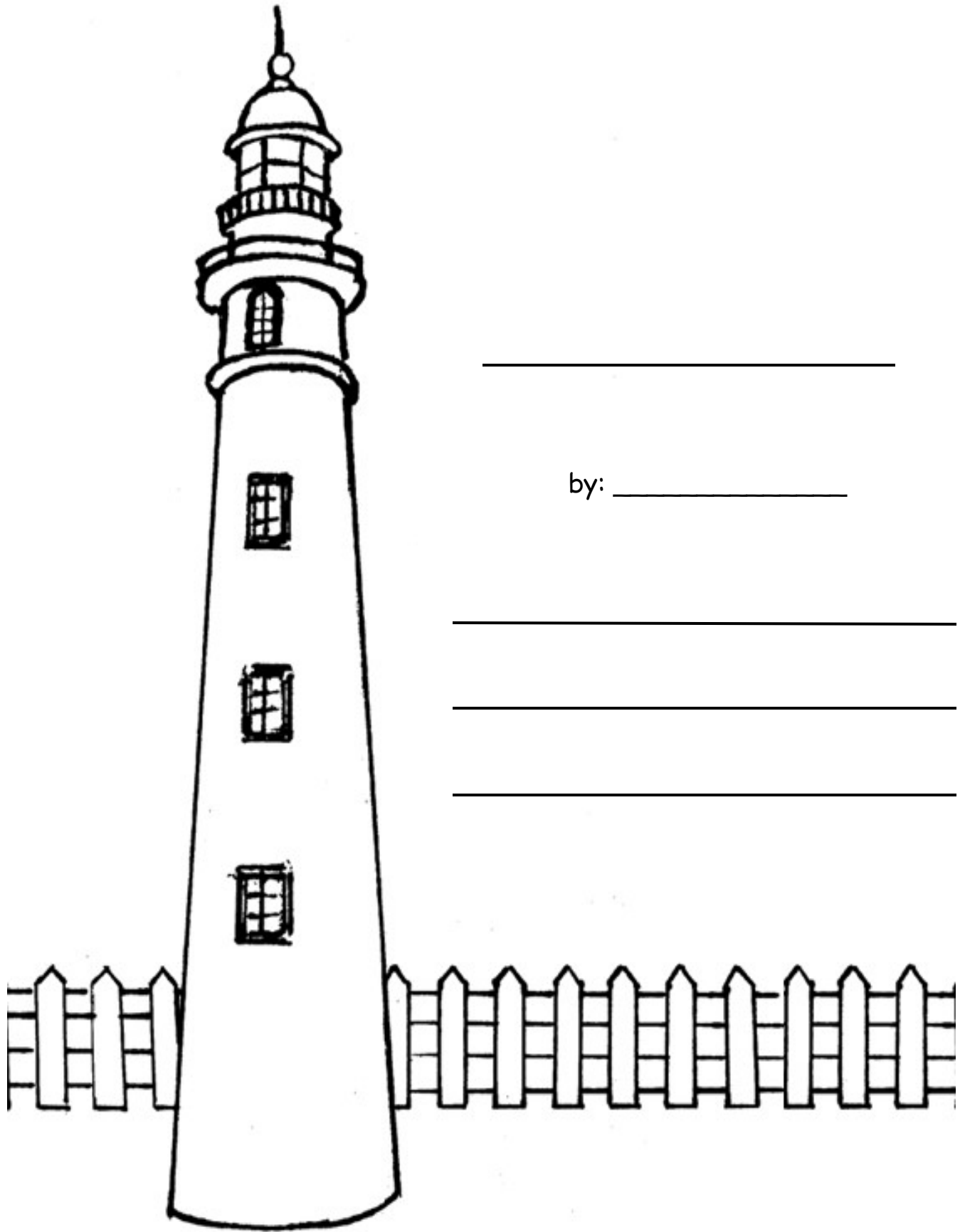
All lighthouses have a light at the top called a beacon. A lighthouse keeper was responsible for maintaining the lighthouse and for making sure the light never went out at night. A Lighthouse beacon is very bright and often flashes. Each lighthouse has its own unique pattern of light flashes to help sailors identify it at night. This pattern is called the beacon characteristic. Did you know that the light from some lighthouses can be seen more than 20 miles away!

For this activity you will write a haiku poem about lighthouses. A Haiku is at traditional form of Japanese poetry that does not rhyme. Every haiku poem has three lines, each with a specific number of syllables or beats. The first and third lines have five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. Here is an example of a haiku poem:

*Flashing out to sea
Warning Ships... Beware! Beware!
Guiding sailors home*



Try writing your own lighthouse haiku below:



by: _____

Sample Haiku Poems

Lighthouses

Raymond A. Foss

Lighthouses on shore
beacons of light shining out
love guiding us home

The Journey Home

Michael Bennett

Thirty days at sea
a shining beacon at night
guides the weary home

The Lighthouse

Cathy Burgess

Newlyn lighthouse stands
alone at the harbor mouth
watching over us