



Wildlife in Art and Poetry

Wildlife has long been an inspiration for art, song and poetry. You will need drawing paper, colored pencils, a clipboard or sturdy piece of cardboard and a comfortable camp chair. Find a quiet place in your yard where you can sit and watch wildlife. Remember that wildlife includes insects as well as birds and mammals. Try sitting near a flowering bush in order to see butterflies and other insects. A holly tree with red berries will attract birds and if you sit quietly birds may come and feed. Squirrels and rabbits walk along looking for a forgotten acorn or tender grass.

Draw the area in front of you and adding whatever wildlife you see. It doesn't matter that it isn't an exact likeness as one taken with a camera, drawing is individual and each person sees the landscape differently.

On another sheet of paper, write a short haiku poem sharing what you have seen. The Haiku is an ancient form of Japanese poetry that consists of three lines, the first and third containing 5 syllables and the second containing 7 syllables for a total of 17 syllables.

Here are a couple of examples:

The bluebird flies by
Greeting its mate with a song
They fly together

Eagle sits on branch
Hassled by a very loud crow
Flies searching for peace

Once you are happy with your haiku rewrite it on the same sheet as your drawing.

Share your work by mailing it to a relative who can't get outside or a friend you haven't seen. You can place in an envelope and place it in the mail or send it by email or social media.

