

# Creativity Prompt

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## BIRDSONG AND HAIKUS

### Description

Listen to the birds and The Beatles. Compose a haiku about it.

### Goal

Listen to the awakening of spring and an inspiring song and reflect through creative writing.

### Time to Complete

10 to 15 minutes

### Number of Participants

You can do this activity by yourself

### Materials

Pen/pencil and paper

### Instructions

Many artists and songwriters have been inspired by birdsong. Can you name one? Perhaps you thought of “Blackbird” by The Beatles, a song that has recordings of a real blackbird song in it! Take a few minutes to listen to the [song](#) and/or consider the lyrics.

Take a moment to reflect on what the words and music of this song mean to you.

Go to a place where you can hear the sounds outside and listen for the spring sounds of birds (perhaps over your morning coffee, waking up from a midday nap, or on an early evening stroll). What do you hear? If you’re in Nebraska you might have heard an Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Cardinal, or a Harris’s Sparrow.

The American poet, Wallace Stevens, was inspired by blackbirds as well as the Japanese form of poetry writing called haiku, which focuses on a short a moment in time, striking, colorful images, and the sudden igniting of the creative spark. You can see that inspiration in the first stanza of “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird,”

Among twenty snowy mountains,  
The only moving thing  
Was the eye of the blackbird.

Continued on back

Think about the birds or sounds you just heard and write your own haiku inspired poem. If it helps you get started, use the classic form of haiku—5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, and 5 syllables in the third. Or make up your own but remember to keep your poem brief and have fun!

Share your poem with someone!

### Optional Add On

More Poems for Inspiration:

Haiku by the master Japanese poet Hatsuo Basho (1644-1694):

Baby sparrows  
cheep together with  
nest of mice.

Haiku inspired poem by the pioneer of the American haiku, Paul Reps (1895-1990)

though wide  
the sky  
Never Lost  
wild geese cry

Read "[Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird](#)" by American modernist poet Wallace Stevens (1879-1955).

If you are feeling adventurous listen to a [composition](#) of the same name by German-American composer Lukas Foss (1922-2009).

[Learn more](#) about birds in Nebraska and to hear the what they sound like.

### Sharing Suggestions

Share your poem with us in the comments on Facebook, or via a tagged Instagram story.