Basho, Japan’s best known haiku poet said, “In writing, do not let a hair’s breath separate yourself from the subject.” He also stated, “You can learn about the pine only from the pine, and about the bamboo from the bamboo.”

An old pond... a frog leaps in, the sound of water.
Basho

In the spring rain: talking to each other go raincoat and umbrella.
Buson

In the spring rain: talking to each other go raincoat and umbrella.
Buson

Autumn mosquitoes buzz me, bite me... see, I am long prepared for death.
Shiki

Come orphan sparrow and play with me.
Issa

Calm and serene, the frog gazes at the mountains.
Issa

The mud-snail crawls two or three feet,— and the day is over.
Gomei

On the temple bell a butterfly has settled and is sleeping.
Buson

Calm and serene, the frog gazes at the mountains.
Issa

On a bare branch a crow has settled... autumn evening.
Basho

Now making friends now scared of people,— the baby sparrow.
Onitsura

As the festival dancing dies, the sound of the wind in the pine trees and the insects’ voices.
Sogetsu

Little sparrow mind, mind out of the way, Mr. Horse is coming.
Issa

Above the noise of the gale in the pine-trees the voices of the frogs.
Joso

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Mice in their nest
squeak in response
to the young sparrows.
Basho

A beautiful kite
rose from
the beggar’s hovel.
Issa

The returning wild geese
 mingle
with the pilgrims.
Ransetsu

Falling to earth,
the kite had
no soul.
Kubonta

Behind a line of warehouses,
where the swallows
fly up and down.
Boncho

The old man
hoeing the field,
has his head-gear on crooked.
Kito

The pheasant scratches
its beautiful face
with its spurs.
Kikaku

The man
hoeing in the field,
seems motionless.
Kyorai

The man who says,
“My children are a burden,”—
there are no flowers for him.
Basho

The rice-seedling bed;
a small snake crosses
in the evening sunshine.
Oemaru

Smoke from cooking rice
towers above the hamlet:
the voice of the hototogisu!
Issa

The crows of the wood
are gazing down
at the rice-seedling field.
Shiko

The fawn
shakes off the butterfly,
and sleeps again.
Issa

The man in the field;
all day long
the uguisu were far away.
Buson

The butterfly,
 even when pursued,
never appears in a hurry.
Garaku

The uguisu walked
in the garden,
a realm uninhabited by man.
Shoha

Japanese haiku usually has a seasonal word or some reference to nature in them. To build understanding, everyone—students and teachers—could do a haiku every day from something they see or do during the day. They could share them with each other, and/or post them in the room and around the school.