

## From Issue 2: The Use of Repetition in Haiku

From Issue 2: Seeking the Sky

Writing haiku is a process of creation — an artistic endeavor in which we paint a feeling, a moment, or an idea with words. Words of many colors and textures are available for us to use as brushstrokes in our poems. Looking at Issue 2 of *Whiptail*, we notice that many poets utilized repetition to give depth or dimension to their haiku.

What's interesting is that repetition is used for different reasons in these poems. As with any poetic element we use, we consider whether repetition is enhancing the expression of the poem or if the poem is stronger without it. Below are what we thought were some successful examples of how repetition is used in haiku.

### Repetition used to convey a feeling of movement:

mountains, more mountains, some more mountains and then a Himalayan bulbul

*-Vandana Parashar, India*

night migration the moon and the moon and the moon

*-Sue Courtney, New Zealand*

deep snow the turkey's glide-sink glide-sink

*-Mary Stevens, USA*

across infinity aleph by aleph the cardinals

*-Pippa Phillips, USA*

**Repetition used to create interesting multiple reads:**

a shadow's shadow crows

*-Brad Bennett, USA*

bird into the bird shape of a cloud

*-Melinda B Hipple, USA*

**Repetition that communicates multiple dimensions or relatedness:**

a bird that flies and the flight of a bird spring morning

*-jim kacian, USA*

this life of burrowing burrowing owls

*-Claire Vogel Camargo, USA*

the patter of water on water be quiet curlew

*-Tim Gardiner, UK*

**Repetition that describes a pattern:**

cheERP cheERP kireji CHEerp

*-Marianne Paul, Canada*

deep snow the turkey's glide-sink glide-sink

*-Mary Stevens, USA*

If you write a poem that includes repetition, consider why it is there and what function it is serving. Does the repetition in your haiku fall into one of the above categories or does it serve a different purpose?

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