

Summary*

Haiku Quintets is a collection of 248 linked haiku sequences that blends memoir, philosophy, and wordcraft into an unconventional poetic form. Departing from single-verse tradition, the author groups five haiku under one theme to form a "quintet," each paired with an image, so the five verses build toward a small narrative rather than standing alone. He calls this method "poetic impressionism by curious wordcraft" — poetry meant for browsing rather than a start-to-finish read.

The collection opens with love and family, using the form to explore intimacy, parenthood, grief, and long marriage. Pieces on the author's wife trace decades of partnership through humor and tenderness, while others address grandparenthood, sibling bonds, and the loss of a child or parent. These sections establish the book's recurring technique: compressing an ordinary domestic moment through strict 5-7-5 syllable discipline into something denser and more universal.

From there, the book widens considerably. One thread turns to mortality and meaning, with the author writing candidly as a secular humanist about death, antinatalism, and "being here now" rather than seeking an afterlife. A second thread documents the COVID-19 pandemic in real time, capturing quarantine routines and collective grief alongside wry observations on isolation. A third engages science and secularism directly, rendering cosmology and evolution in miniature, treating physics with the same intimacy usually reserved for personal subjects.

Later sections shift toward the author's professional and civic life. Drawing on a career as a mediator, he distills conflict-resolution principles — listening, reframing, finding common ground — into verses aimed at both couples and broader social conflict. Adjacent sections address democracy and racial justice, including responses to the war in Ukraine and American political division, treating haiku as suited to commentary as much as lyric feeling. Sections on travel and everyday whimsy round out the book, from decades-old journeys abroad to lighter pieces on aging and the craft of writing haiku itself.

Taken as a whole, *Haiku Quintets* functions as a loose autobiography assembled not through chronology but through recurring preoccupations — love, mortality, reason, justice, curiosity — returned to again and again in compressed form. The author frames the book as an invitation to wander, arguing meaning accumulates through repetition and juxtaposition rather than sequence.



*Summary created by perplexity.ai