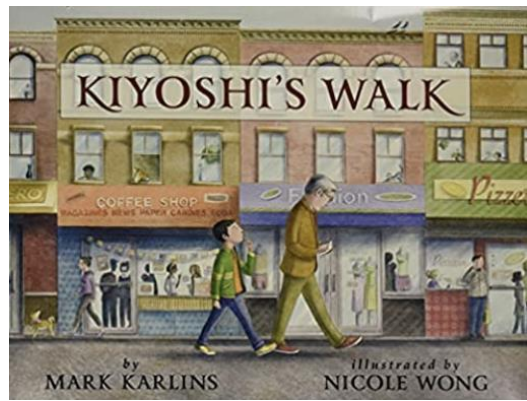




# *Kiyoshi's Walk*

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Reading Guide by L.A. Conservancy Staff

## Questions

1. Kiyoshi's grandfather Eto tells Kiyoshi that the sights and sounds of the neighborhood inspire his poems. Take a walk in your neighborhood with your family. What does your neighborhood look like? Does it look like Kiyoshi's neighborhood? What kind of sights and sounds do you hear? What type of buildings do you find where you live? Are the buildings historic (very old) or are they new? Write or draw the sights, sounds, and smells you encounter on your walk.
2. How does your neighborhood make you feel? What would inspire a poem about your neighborhood and what details would you include?
3. Kiyoshi and his grandfather walk past an old house with a fence around it. Are there old houses or old buildings with fences around them in your neighborhood? What do you think happened there before the fence was put up? How do you think the home or building was used and by whom?
4. **Short Story Activity**  
Teachers and Parents, create a list of historic buildings that students may encounter in their neighborhood. Have students research one of the buildings and provide them with a list of resources they may use for their research (library, website, newspaper articles, videos, books, etc...) After students complete their research, instruct them to write a short story about the building or home using facts from their research.
5. **Haiku Activity**  
In the Author's Note at the end of the story, we learn about a type of poem called a haiku, a traditional poem that was created in Japan. Haikus are short poems that focus on everyday life. When written in English, they follow a 5-7-5 pattern. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven, and the last line has five. Think about the observations you made on your neighborhood walk and create their own haiku! What will your poem tell us about where you live?



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