



This prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Rickey Laurentiis](#) and [Maurice Manning](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Writing Prompt: (courtesy of Maurice Manning)

Write a haiku titled "Ish."

As you know, "ish" is a word that has suddenly appeared in the English language. I hear it used all the time in casual conversation and have been surprised how quickly it has come into widespread use. I think this is great, because it further demonstrates that English is a real mongrel language. And many things can be thought of through the lens of "ish." Also, I like thinking about the haiku form in this context. The haiku, because it's so compact can seem like an "ish" poem, something that's almost but not quite a poem. Yet a really good haiku can strike us in 17 syllables and three lines as potently as any longer, more involved poem. Less is more in poetry, and the very idea of "ish" nicely conveys that.