

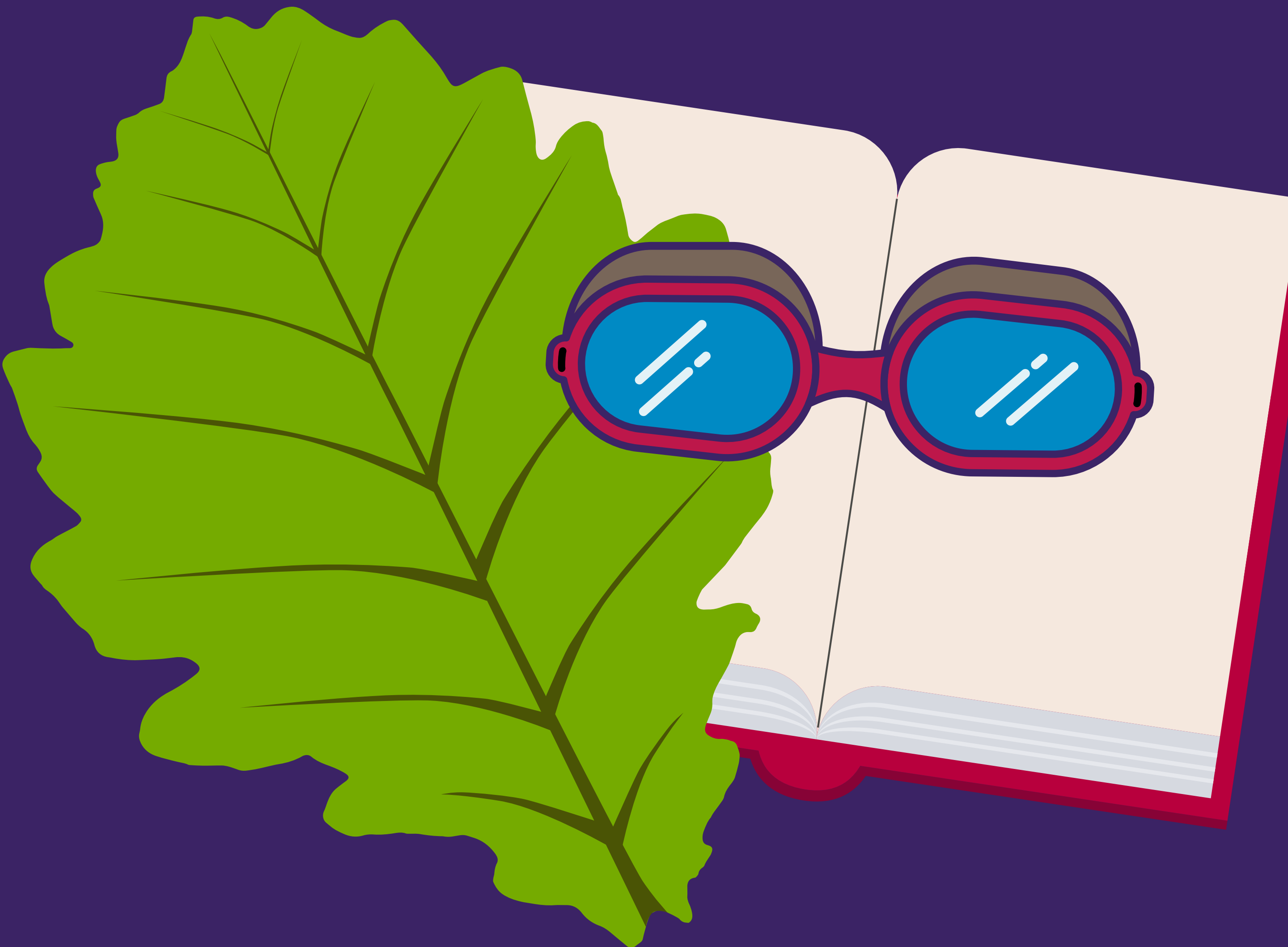


GUNNERSBURY
PARK & MUSEUM



Activity Trail

JAPANESE GARDEN





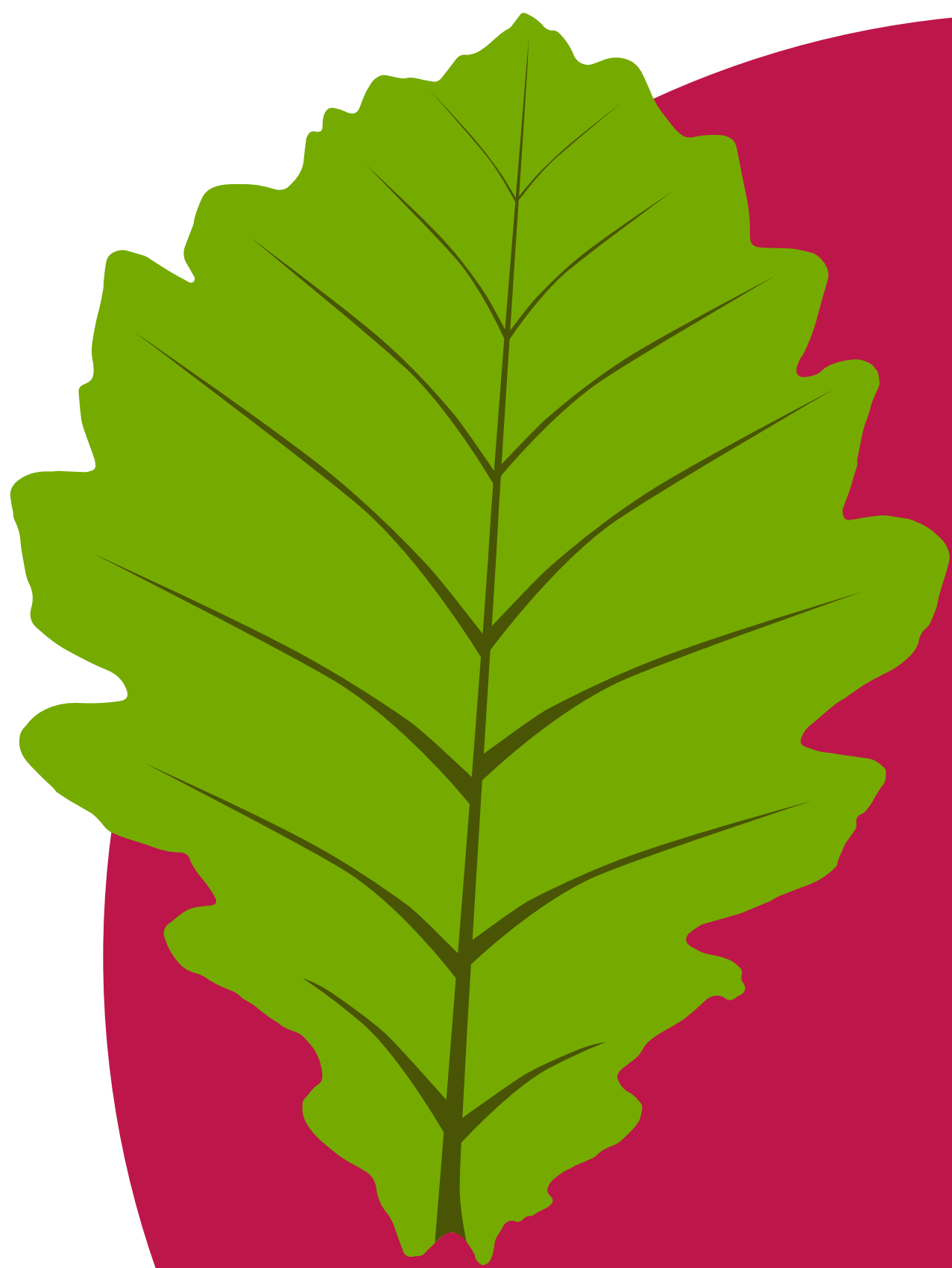
This activity is designed for the area within the dotted oval, but will work in any other green space too.

Welcome to the Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden was planted about 120 years ago after Leopold de Rothschild, someone who owned the mansions here at Gunnersbury and was *crazy* about gardening, visited Italy and saw something similar.

The garden had a series of water pools, exotic plants and even a bamboo bridge, just as he imagined gardens in Japan to be like.

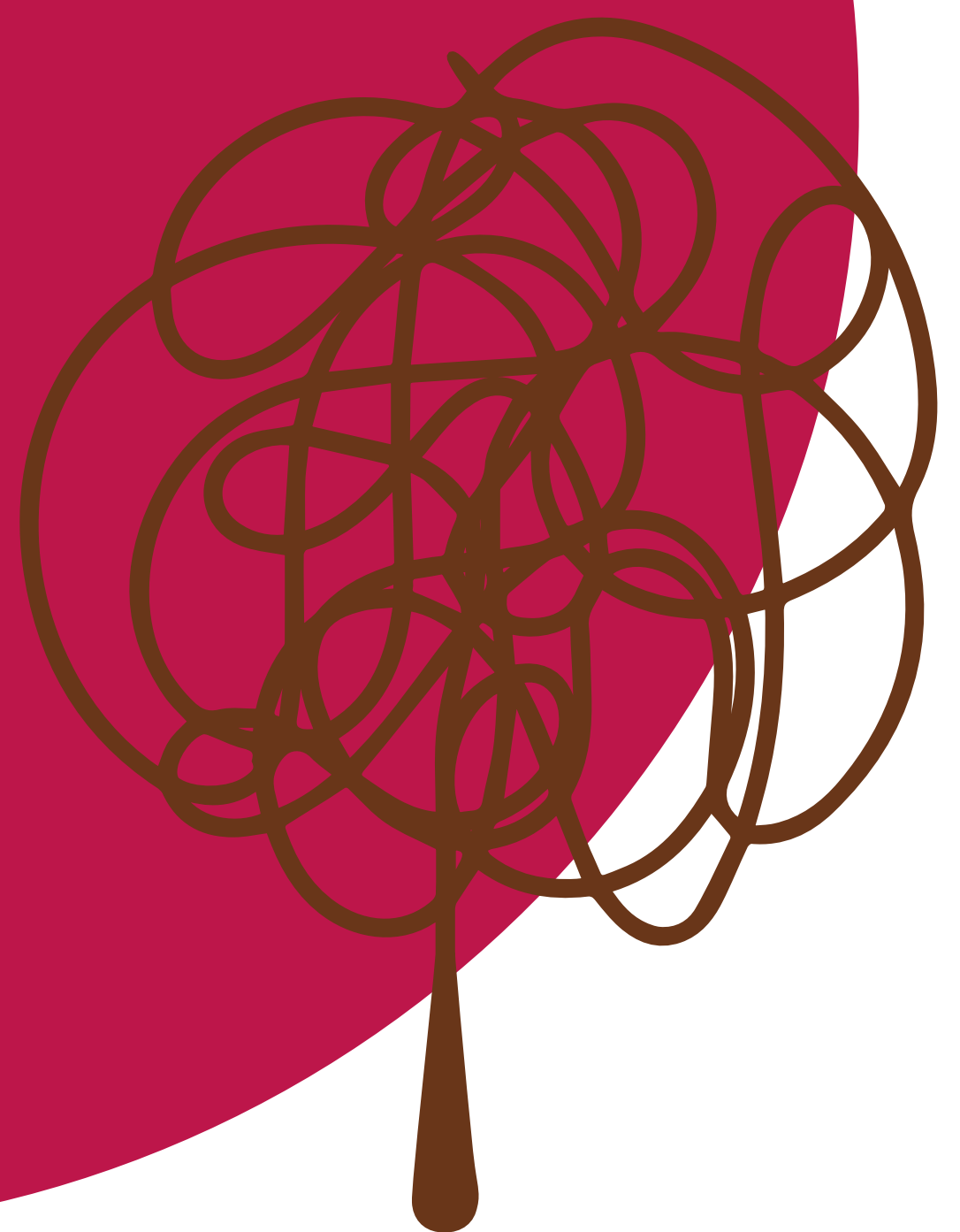
Sadly, over the years it fell into disrepair, but there are still plenty of clues - and some unusual trees - to seek out.



LOOK FOR...

THE HUGE LEAVES OF THE
JAPANESE EMPEROR OAK

THE TWISTED TRUNK OF THE
WEEPING JAPANESE PAGODA TREE



Haiku

In Japan, there's a great tradition of writing short poems called **haiku** about nature and gardens.

Here's an example to read out loud:



Weeds are just flowers
Sprouted in the wrong places
Beauty forgotten

A haiku always has three lines and doesn't have to rhyme. Instead, it follows some rules about the number of syllables (or beats) in each line.

The first line has five syllables
The second line has seven syllables
The third line has five syllables.

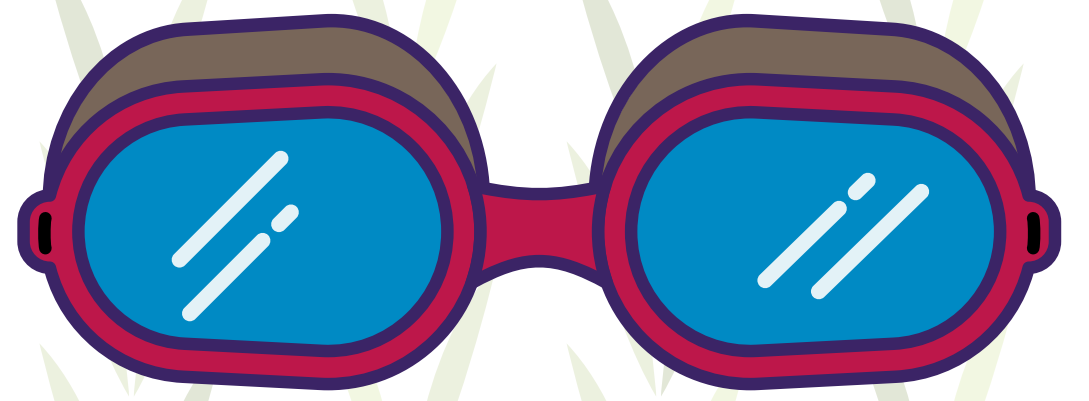
Here's the same haiku with each syllable shown in a different colour:

Weeds are just flowers
Sprouted in the wrong places
Beauty forgotten

Back at home we'll look at some tips on how to write your own, but first we need to find some inspiration in the Japanese Garden.

(ANY OTHER GREEN SPACES WILL WORK JUST FINE TOO!)

Put on your haiku goggles



Instead of looking at the 'big picture',
haikus focus on small things.

Have a wander around and imagine you're viewing
the Japanese Garden through a pair of binoculars.
Focus your vision on one small area at a time.



Does anything catch your eye?

Are there any particular plants you like?
Perhaps there's an insect going about their work, or
a puddle with ripples running across its surface, or a
leaf that's bursting with colour. It could be anything!

In your notebook...

- Write down as many adjectives (descriptive words) as you can about the 'small things' you've seen.
- Draw some sketches, or even take a photo if you like.

When back at home, we want to be able to remember exactly what you saw through your haiku goggles.

Where next?



BACK AT HOME

Dive in to discover more about some weird and wonderful trees, a baseball-playing haiku master, and top tips on how to write your own short poem.

Go to visitgunnersbury.org/back-at-home



MORE ACTIVITIES!

There are plenty more activities to try while you're still in the park, from making your own music to choreographing a dance.

Go to visitgunnersbury.org/activity-trail and follow the map.



WANT TO EXPLORE MORE?

There are other family trails to help explore the amazing history of Gunnersbury Park, including the Lost Tennis Court and Princess Amelia's Bath House.

Go to visitgunnersbury.org to download them.