Tanka Examples

Tanka on Familiar Themes

Golden aspen leaves
Shimmer in the gentle breeze
Silently falling
To the fading green grasses
I can smell winter coming.
   Kathy Keidel

The campfire snaps
My marshmallow is toasting
To a golden brown
The sugar sizzles my tongue
Warms me up for my bedtime.
   Kathy Keidel

Note Examples

I like the color of your eyes. They are very blue.
I think you are a great soccer player. You are very fast.

Notes Transformed to Tanka

Your eyes are so blue.
They are like the deep, deep sea.
They shine like the sun.
Your eyes are smiling eyes, too.
I smile back at you, my friend.
   Kathy Keidel

You, soccer player
Running so fast, like the wind
You slide, tackle, push
You see the goal up ahead
Now you score, unstoppable!
   Kathy Keidel
Tanka Rubric

Write the message you want to communicate below.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Write your *tanka* below.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Put a check next to each box that applies to your poem.

- [ ] First line has 5 syllables.
- [ ] Second line has 7 syllables.
- [ ] Third line has 5 syllables.
- [ ] Fourth line has 7 syllables.
- [ ] Fifth line has 7 syllables.

- [ ] My *tanka* communicates a message.
- [ ] My *tanka* uses a metaphor or other descriptive words.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters: Izumi and her parents</th>
<th>Characters: Lady Who Loved Butterflies and a nobleman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scene: Parents hope that Izumi will become a lady-in-waiting for the Emperor's court.</td>
<td>Scene: The Lady Who Loved Butterflies is visited by noblemen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Message 1:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Message 2:</td>
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<th>Characters: Izumi and a friend</th>
<th>Characters: Izumi and a boy</th>
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<td>Scene: Izumi’s friends think the Lady Who Loved Butterflies is wonderful, but Izumi thinks her caterpillars are more interesting.</td>
<td>Scene: Boys from families of low standing bring Izumi caterpillars, and Izumi names both the bugs and the boys (Worm Boy, Mantis Man, and Centipede).</td>
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<td>Characters: Izumi and a lady-in-waiting</td>
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<td><strong>Scene:</strong> Izumi’s parents feel embarrassed by her actions, but Izumi explains that bugs are natural and that people might have been lowly in a past life.</td>
<td><strong>Scene:</strong> The ladies-in-waiting complain that working for Izumi makes them look bad, but Izumi defends her caterpillars.</td>
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<th>Characters: Izumi and a Captain</th>
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<td><strong>Scene:</strong> A young nobleman makes a wooden snake and gives it to Izumi with a message and Izumi writes back cleverly.</td>
<td><strong>Scene:</strong> Izumi leans out her window while a Captain watches; he is curious about her and she is not worried that he saw her.</td>
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日本語の単語

愛 あい
希望 のぞみ
悲しみ さみしさ
幸せ しあわせ
苦悩 よっ きゅうふまん
喜び たのしみ
孤独 ひとりぼち
美しさ おもいで
思い出 おもいだ
美び

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