

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*

Handout

Name _____

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.

Cards for *Tanka* Exchange

<p>Characters: Izumi and her parents</p> <p>Scene: Parents hope that Izumi will become a lady-in-waiting for the Emperor's court.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>	<p>Characters: Lady Who Loved Butterflies and a nobleman</p> <p>Scene: The Lady Who Loved Butterflies is visited by noblemen.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>
<p>Characters: Izumi and a friend</p> <p>Scene: Izumi's friends think the Lady Who Loved Butterflies is wonderful, but Izumi thinks her caterpillars are more interesting.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>	<p>Characters: Izumi and a boy</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>

<p>Characters: Izumi and her parents</p> <p>Scene: 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.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>	<p>Characters: Izumi and a lady-in-waiting</p> <p>Scene: The ladies-in-waiting complain that working for Izumi makes them look bad, but Izumi defends her caterpillars.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>
<p>Characters: Izumi and a nobleman</p> <p>Scene: A young nobleman makes a wooden snake and gives it to Izumi with a message and Izumi writes back cleverly.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>	<p>Characters: Izumi and a Captain</p> <p>Scene: Izumi leans out her window while a Captain watches; he is curious about her and she is not worried that he saw her.</p> <p>Message 1:</p> <p>Message 2:</p>

Japanese Words for Use on Scrolls

あい

Love

のぞみ

Hope

さみしさ

Sadness

しあわせ

Happiness

いらぬきむじみ

Frustration

たのしみ

Excitement

ひとりぼち

Loneliness

おもいで

Memory

び

Beauty