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

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Name

Tanka Rubric

Write the message you want to communicate below.				
Write your tanka	below.			
Put a check nex	t to each box that applies to your poem.			
SecondThird linFourth li	e has 5 syllables. line has 7 syllables. e has 5 syllables. ine has 7 syllables. e has 7 syllables.			
My tank	a communicates a message.			
Mv tank	a uses a metaphor or other descriptive words.			

Cards for *Tanka* **Exchange**

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

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

Japanese Words for Use on Scrolls

Love

Hope

Sadness Happiness

Frustration