



Seasons

An EFL Literary Journal

Aichi University

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Seasons: An EFL Literary Journal
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*Poetry is a deal of joy and pain and wonder, with a dash of
the dictionary. ~Khalil Gibran*

Introduction

Welcome to the fourth edition of our second language creative writing literary journal. We are happy to provide you with the gift of poetry. *Seasons* is a collection of poetry written by students studying English at Aichi University in Japan. Inside, you'll find many *shinhaiku* and free verse poems.

The writers in this volume are unique—all of the poems are written in a second language. In other words, English is not their mother tongue, yet they persevered and have written some impressive poetry in the English language. Writing in a second language is a great accomplishment and the poems in this book shine a bright light into the endeavor which is the human condition. One must simply open their eyes and their heart to it.

Briefly on *haiku*, traditional haiku consists of four main elements: (1) the form of the poem is usually split into three lines, but not always; (2) the poem contains a seasonal reference word, *kigo* in Japanese, which refers to the season, month, or even the exact day the poem took place in order to transport the reader back to the described “moment”—the reason why most traditional haiku are written in the present tense; (3) the poem has a *kireji*, literally a “cutting word”, can be understood as a turn or a volta in sonnets, which is a brief caesuraic pause that can provide juxtaposition between two images or ideas, and in English haiku is often expressed as punctuation: most commonly an em dash or an ellipsis, yet could also be a comma, a colon, or a semicolon; and (4) usually follows a 5-7-5 syllabic structure within the three line

poem but can be altered as long as the entire haiku contains 17 syllables.

An alternative to traditional haiku is *shinhaiku*, or new haiku, a trend in Japanese literature at the turn of the twentieth century led by haiku master Shiki Masaoka (Yamagiwa, 1959). *Shinhaiku* is a modern take on the traditional form and focuses on the meaning rather than the meter—*shinhaiku* does not assume the classic 17 syllable structure. Further to that, the *kigo*, *kireji*, and three-line form are optional. Thus, *shinhaiku* frees the writer (and reader) from traditional “constraints” in order to focus on the self-expression of original ideas, imagery, and sensory emotions. For Westernized literary minded readers, a comparison could be made with the modern sonnet; *shinhaiku* evolved from the original haiku form much like the modern unrhymed sonnet evolved from its traditional precursors in the Western literary canon (Yamagiwa, 1959). Similar to the modern sonnets’ retention of the fourteen-line structure, the *shinhaiku* retains some of the traditional haiku’s original formulaic elements.

Thank you for reading this journal. Please feel free to share it with others. Be well and write on.

Jared Michael Kubokawa, July 1st, 2021

Reference

Yamagiwa, J. K. (1959). *Japanese literature of the Shōwa period: A guide to Japanese reference and research materials*. University of Michigan Press.

Spring



Look up—
cherry blossoms fall
like fluttering *kanji*
~Mao Nishiguchi

The river flows slowly
Cherry blossoms bloom—
The sun is calm
~Akari Chino

The wind is blowing
and looking up...
cherry blossoms
~Saki Nakata

When I jumped
The wind blew...
A lot of flowers were here
~Haruka Yokoyama

My heart is beating—
like the flower waiting
for the spring breeze
~Akari Chino

Summer



Beautiful night
Walking with you—
Wearing *yukata*
~Akari Chino

Put my ear
to a shell...
the sound of waves
~Saki Nakata

Melting temperature—
eating ice cream
before it melts
~Mao Nishiguchi

Open mouth wide
Eat watermelon...
The cicada is crying
~Haruka Yokoyama

Autumn



Skeletons dance &
Pumpkins leap...
On Halloween night
~Haruka Yokoyama

Halloween—
with a lot of snacks
it's so exciting!
~Saki Nakata

Autumn of appetite
chestnut, persimmon, sweet potato...
Which food to eat first?
~Mao Nishiguchi

Winter



Wishing at night—
there is Santa Claus
in the sky
~Saki Nakata

Christmas morning and
I can't find presents anywhere...
I'm no longer a kid
~Akari Chino

In the *kotatsu*...
Like a radish
I cannot move
~Haruka Yokoyama

A frigid day...
Curled up with the cat
in the *kotatsu*
~Mao Nishiguchi

Condensation appears on the glass—
outside of the window is
the snow scene
~Saki Nakata

Put on gloves and boots
Open the door—

Let's make a snowman!

~Akari Chino

Two white breaths
walking hand in hand—
with my precious boy
~Mao Nishiguchi

I wake up
The air is clear...
New Year's Day
~Haruka Yokoyama



Freeform



~Akari Chino~

Parakeet

Ta ta ta...

The parakeet is approaching

When I bring my finger closer,
the parakeet shakes the head

it's like a dance

Cycling Day

Depressing the pedals—

Riding with the wind

Fluttering my hair

Swallows singing

The sun shining above

Happening On My Way Home

On my way home,

riding my bicycle

and looking for Orion—

Oops! I fell in the rice paddy!
Orion may have laughed at me

Sweet Temptation

Grurururu...

My stomach is screaming

Sweets are calling me
“Eat me! Eat me!”

I close my ears
I can't hear. I can't hear.
I tell myself anyway

To a Comfortable Sleep

In the bed

I can hear sound of rain
para para para...
The sound invites me to sleep

My eyes gradually close...
Like healing music

Drive

Sometimes
My family goes out driving
In the car, playing music,
talking, looking at the view
Smiles overflow more than ever

Sunny days
The car seems to want to run

The view from the passenger seat is dazzling
Opening the window,
the smell of rice paddy is coming on the wind

At night
The town shows unknown faces

In the forest
We may meet a raccoon

I don't know what will happen
It's like our life

Night Only For Two
You and me are walking
along the coast silently
The wind wraps us
My heart is beating like wave rhythm

Glitter glitter-
Stars stare at us
Half moon is smiling
Hand to hand touch-

The dim night hid the red cheeks
but I just know faces of each other illuminated
by the moonlight are smiling



~ Saki Nakata ~

Today is Sunday

Today is Sunday
Go to outside? Spend at home?
What to do?

Today is Sunday
It is at noon now
I decide!

Today is Sunday
Dried Futon smells the sun

Fall's Night

The wind is blowing
Gho...Gho...
with the wind beating sound

The wind is blowing
Gho...Gho...
with swing maples like blazing in the fire
The wind is blowing
With swing leaves slowly

Go For Rabbit

A rabbit is jumping
Pyon-Pyon-
because she doesn't want to touch the bomb

A rabbit is eating radish
because that is rabbit's habit

A rabbit is sleeping peacefully
because she wants to keep her health

Today is Rainy Day

Today is rainy day
Plump...plump...
sound of drops beats the rhythm

Today is rainy day
Pitya...pitya...
Someone plays a puddle

Today is rainy day
croak...croak...
Frogs sing in chorus

Fallen Flower

The flower is fluttering down
with fallen from the tall tree

The flower is dancing slowly
without hesitating and a pause

The flower is falling beautifully
with called by you

It Rains

It rains, making a sound
I hear the sound of children

going home drenched

It rains, making a sound
I hear the sound of my mother
bringing the laundry in a fluster

It rains, making a sound
At first, there are a lot of sounds at the beginning
after a short time, only the sound of rain echoes

Soft and Fluffy

soft and fluffy
I'm on the clouds now
like a duvet

soft and fluffy
ah, I'm in the sea now
a whale calls me

soft and fluffy
sink deeply and deeply
then a dorsal fin hits me

soft and fluffy
ah, when I notice
there on the sofa



~Mao Nishiguchi~

Rainy Season

sniff sniff—

I smell damp concrete

The rainy season has come

ribbit ribbit...

I find a frog

I flip the leaves

I find a snail

glow by the water

I find many fireflies

They're all the creatures of the rainy season

I will find them completely

Fight Off Drowsiness

My little nephew is eating at home

He begins to nod off

His head swings up and down

...nod...nod...

He looks like *Shishi-odoshi*

Dancing in the Beach

In the blazing sun

Ouch!

The beach is as hot as a griddle
The soles of my feet are burning
I'm in a hurry to step

Looking around—
Everyone is dancing *samba*!

Balloon

I am released into the sky

I leave the amusement park
I leave my hometown
I leave my country

I will travel
forever and forever

In the Train

clickety clack...

I'm on my way to university

clickety clack...clickety clack...

I read my favorite book

clickety clack...clickety clack...clickety clack...

My day begins with this sound

Mermaid

Splash—

A whole blue world

Dolphins are swimming with me
The water surface is sparkling like a diamond

I dive a bit—

A colorful world
Sea anemones greet me
Clownfish are peeking between them

I stick my head out of the water—

A whole red world
The sunset is looking at me
This world is full of countless colors

Shooting Star

Twinkle, twinkle—
Sky without a cloud
Glittering like the sea

I lie down with my brothers
Like the character for river 川
We look up at the falling sky

Kiran—

We join hands in a hurry
We close our eyes tightly
We mutter three times in our hearts

We smile each other without saying anything



~Haruka Yokoyama~

One Day Be Dimly

Kero! Kerokero!

The frogs are ringing

Gasagasagasa

At that time, there was some noise

And there are no frogs

It became quite all around

The dawn night

Creatures have begun to wake up

Koltukekoltuko—

The Excitement Doesn't Stop

Run! Run! Run!

I can meet that person

The scenery changes

Something is falling from above

It's like petals on your feet

Flutter, flutter

Breakfast

Jump!

I can hear something

I'm scared

Sizzle! Sizzle!

I'm sure it is...

The sound of my bacon sizzling

Your House

Sleeping cats

Sleeping raccoon dogs

Sleeping horses

It's quiet to the ear, but the sight is noisy.

In your house

Wow! It's like a zoo

Dreams

I am a witch

I am a dwarf

I am Santa Claus

I am the tears of a crying person in a movie theater

I am a fridge

I am a mermaid

I am a curry carrot

I am the clothes the president is wearing

I can be anything

In a dream...

Feelings of the Washing Machine

Today is hot and sunny

Such a day is the day

When I play an active part

Round and round

Round and round round and round

Guruguruguruguruguruguruguruguruguruguru

I am turning my eyes

I am getting tired

Let's rest a little

The owner has come

It is sad...

I will do my best

Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

There is a cockroach underneath

I want to run away

Let's run away secretly

The trick is to walk like a Ninja

Sasasasasa

Oh!

The owner has come

It is sad..

Pyrroline

Pyrroline

Laundry is over

Night Dance Party

The night has come

It is all dark...

Then hearing footsteps
And hearing the music
It is the beginning of a night dance party

A blue cat is dancing
A big bear is dancing
A clown is dancing
Trees are laughing
The moon is laughing

Yes, this is a dance party for dolls
I visit every night
It is a fun time
Sometimes the dolls are bitten by a dog
It is nothing because there is this party

Dancing dolls
Like a flying butterfly
HIRAHIRA
Like a spinning top
KURUKURU

Dancing dolls
Hearing footsteps
And hearing the music
It is the beginning of a night dance party
Let's dance tonight





Submit your original poems,
stories and artwork to:

Seasons: An EFL Literary Journal

We accept any form of original writing, but if you need inspiration look [here](#). → There is no theme, just express your feelings and thoughts in a 3 line poem. For example:

An old leafy pond

A frog jumping in—

The sound of water

~Matsuo Basho

A car door...

The way the dog dances

Tells me it's you

~Timothy Russell

Please send your original *poems, stories or artwork* and your *name* to kubokawateacher@gmail.com. Send as many as you want!

