A SURVEY OF JAPANESE POETRY

To improve our understanding of the cognitive processes of reading poetry

Complete the questions in the pages that follow and return this survey to:

your instructor

This research is being conducted by James Garza (mljmg@leeds.ac.uk) from the University of Leeds. Should you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact him at the above email address, or write to: James Garza, C/O Karen F. Priestley, Education Service Officer (Postgraduate Research), School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, G34 Michael Sadler Building, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT.
Disclaimer

You are invited to complete a short survey about poetry. The purpose of this research is to investigate the different ways in which people respond to poetry. It will take you approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. There are no known risks associated with this research. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and will remain strictly confidential. Only anonymised data will be published. Data will be retained securely on password-protected university drives for 10 years in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. This data will be accessible only to the researcher. If you decide to participate, you may withdraw at any point up to 15 February 2019. To withdraw, simply email the code in the upper right-hand corner of this page to: mljm@leeds.ac.uk. Withdrawal will not be possible without the code, so please record it in a safe place. Please understand that by completing and returning this survey you are consenting to your participation in the study.

Instructions

You will be shown four poems translated from the Japanese. For each poem, you will be asked to complete three short tasks:

First, you will be asked to read the poem twice.

Second, you will be asked to underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking when you read the poem.

Third, you will be asked to rate the poem on some rating scales.

Finally, the last page of the survey asks for some information on your background as a reader—and that’s it!

Please do this survey at a time and place where you usually read for pleasure. And remember: There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in how you have responded to each poem.
Please read the following poem twice, then follow the instructions below.

Shiimi Clams

woke up in the dead of night—
in a corner of the kitchen
the little clams I’d bought that evening
were alive, mouths open—

"At dawn
I'll gobble you up
each and every one”

let out a cackle
like an evil old witch
after that couldn't help it had to
sleep all night with mouth half-open

1. Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.

2. Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you enjoy reading this poem?</td>
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<td>Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?</td>
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<td>How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?</td>
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<td>Not at all</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this poem an example of good literature?</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In your opinion, how literary is this poem?</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Second Poem

Please read the following poem **twice**, then follow the instructions below.

The Isolation of Two Milliard Light Years

The human race, on its little ball,
Sleeps, wakes, and works,
Wishing at times for companionship with Mars.

The Martians, on their little ball—
What they do, I don’t know.
Maybe they sloop, wike, and wook.
But at times they wish for companionship with Earth—
That’s certain.

Universal gravitation
Is the pulling together of the force of isolation.

The universe expands
And so we all unite our wants.

The universe distends
And so we are all uneasy.

The isolation of two milliard light years
Prompts an involuntary sneeze.

1. Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.

2. Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In your opinion, how literary is this poem?</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Extremely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?</td>
<td>Definitely not</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Definitely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?</td>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Extremely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you enjoy reading this poem?</td>
<td>Definitely not</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Definitely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this poem an example of good literature?</td>
<td>Definitely not</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Definitely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This evening rainfall is merciful. Traveler, my love, don’t ask for a shortcut, but take a room with me.
Please read the following poem twice, then follow the instructions below.

Instant
The sea dies
Today dies too
The sun sets
The moon dies
Today dies too
The night lifts
Time dies
Today dies
People die too
Remorselessly
Dying repeatedly
Time comes again
If the beauty
Of the sea that dies
Of the moon that dies
Remains
Unfaded
Undarkened
Then people alone
Are ugly
Drop dead, people!

1. Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.

2. Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

- Is this poem an example of good literature?
  - Definitely not
  - Definitely

- Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?
  - Definitely not
  - Definitely

- Did you enjoy reading this poem?
  - Definitely not
  - Definitely

- In your opinion, how literary is this poem?
  - Not at all
  - Extremely

- How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?
  - Not at all
  - Extremely
Reader Background

Are you a native English speaker?  (Circle one)
Yes          No

If so, which form of English do you speak?  British     American     Other _________

Did you recognise any of the poets or poems in this survey?
Yes          No

If so, which one(s)? _________________________________

What is your highest completed level of education?  (Circle one)
No formal education          GCSE or equivalent          A Level or equivalent
Bachelor          Master          Doctorate          Other ______________

What is your age?  (Circle one)
18-24          25-34          35-44          45-54          55-64          65+

How many hours per week do you typically read for pleasure?  (Circle one)
Less than 1          1 to 3          3 to 5          5 to 7          7 to 9          9 to 11          11 to 13          13+

Have you ever studied literature or poetry in a class/workshop/reading group?  (Circle one)
Yes          No

If so, where?  (Circle all that apply)  High school     University     Outside of school

Are you familiar with the theory of foregrounding?  (Circle one)
Yes          No

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

1=Strongly disagree, 4=Neither agree nor disagree, 7=Strongly agree

I enjoy reading poetry.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I have studied poetry a lot.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I read a lot of poetry.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I find I understand poetry well.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I write poems myself.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
It is important for society to have poets.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
It is important for poetry to be taught in school.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I find studying poetry interesting.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I prefer poetry to prose.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I often read poetry at home.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7
I find that reading poetry enriches my life.  1  2  3  4  5  6  7

FINISHED! Thank you very much!
Thank you for taking the time to complete and submit this survey. Your responses will help us advance our understanding of the different ways in which readers process texts.

As you are among the first to participate in this study, I would like to invite you to share any comments or concerns you have about the survey itself. Were the instructions clear? Did you find any of the tasks difficult? Are there any ways in which we can improve this survey? Please use the space below:

Should you have any further questions or concerns about this survey, please contact James Garza at mljmg@leeds.ac.uk.

Please return your completed survey to your instructor within two weeks.