

# 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.



# Before you begin

## 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: mljmg@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.**

# Let's get started!

## 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.*

**START →**

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

### Shijimi 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

- Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.
- Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

<b>Did you enjoy reading this poem?</b>	Definitely not	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	Definitely
<b>Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?</b>	Definitely not	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	Definitely
<b>How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?</b>	Not at all	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	Extremely
<b>Is this poem an example of good literature?</b>	Definitely not	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	Definitely
<b>In your opinion, how literary is this poem?</b>	Not at all	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	Extremely

**NEXT →**

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.

- Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.
- Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

<b>In your opinion, how literary is this poem?</b>	Not at all						Extremely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?</b>	Definitely not						Definitely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?</b>	Not at all						Extremely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Did you enjoy reading this poem?</b>	Definitely not						Definitely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Is this poem an example of good literature?</b>	Definitely not						Definitely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**NEXT** →

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

This evening rainfall is merciful. Traveler, my love, don't ask for a shortcut, but take a room with me

- Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.
- Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

<b>How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?</b>	Not at all						Extremely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Did you enjoy reading this poem?</b>	Definitely not						Definitely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Is this poem an example of good literature?</b>	Definitely not						Definitely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>In your opinion, how literary is this poem?</b>	Not at all						Extremely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?</b>	Definitely not						Definitely
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**NEXT** →

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!

- Underline the words or phrases that you feel are the most striking, up to a maximum of ten words or phrases.
- Circle the appropriate number to answer the questions below:

**Is this poem an example of good literature?**

Definitely not

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

Definitely

**Would you recommend this poem to someone else to read?**

Definitely not

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

Definitely

**Did you enjoy reading this poem?**

Definitely not

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

Definitely

**In your opinion, how literary is this poem?**

Not at all

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

Extremely

**How enjoyable or aesthetically appealing did you find this poem?**

Not at all

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7**

Extremely

**ALMOST DONE →**

**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

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](mailto:mljmg@leeds.ac.uk).

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