

Using Japanese poetry in the English classroom

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ACTIVITY 1:

With a partner, discuss the questions below:

- Is there any Mitsuo Aida poetry in your house? If so, where is it?
- Are there any other places that you have seen Mitsuo Aida's poetry? Where?
- Do you like his poetry? Why or why not?
- How would you describe his poetry to a non-Japanese person?
- Can you think of any of his poems from memory? If so, try to tell one or two to your partner.

ACTIVITY 2:

You and your partner will receive a Mitsuo Aida poem. Translate it to English together. Partner A should write the English version in the Poem 1 box below. Partner B, don't write anything yet.

When you are finished, ask for a second poem. Translate it with your partner. Partner A, don't write anything this time. Partner B, write the translation in the Poem 2 box.

ACTIVITY 3:

Now it's time to create your own poem. Do this task by yourself. Try to write a poem in English that sounds like a Mitsuo Aida poem. Write it in the Poem 2 box below.

Poem 1

Poem 2

ACTIVITY 4:

For this activity you just need this paper and a pen or pencil. Walk around the classroom and read your two poems to different people. They have to guess which one is the real Mitsuo Aida poem.

Use the table below. If your classmate correctly identifies the real Aida poem, circle "got it". If they choose incorrectly, circle "didn't get it".

Name		Name	
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it
	got it / didn't get it		got it / didn't get it

The student who achieves the highest "didn't get it" total will be declared the BEST POET IN THE CLASS.