

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

LANG 10 Reading Comprehension Worksheet Japanese Literature Week 13

Directions: Read pages 439 – 470 in the literature book. Use complete sentences to answer the following items. Accuracy 34% Completeness 33% Neatness 33%

1. What is the metaphor, or comparison of unlike things, at the heart of Lady Ise's tanka? Although her emotions are not stated directly, what do you think she feels about the scene she is describing?

2. The meaning of Mitsune's tanka is particularly subtle, or difficult to pin down. Assuming that the poem is set in the spring, how might the "sight of the flowers" cause a change of heart in the speaker? The speaker wishes to hide his feelings from "someone." Who might that person be?

3. What do you think the "you" is in "Though I go to you" by Ono no Komachi? How would you paraphrase the speaker's message to that person? What emotion is this tanka expressing?

4. How does the speaker in "Doesn't he realize" use an image from nature to make a point about her feelings? What is she indirectly communicating about her character?

5. What imagery and details of setting does Tsurayuki use in each of his tanka to evoke a season? What emotions do his images and word choices convey?

6. What mood does each of Saigyō's tanka convey? What images convey each mood?

7. What sound effects does the translator of "Drops of dew" use to make the tanka pleasing to the ear?

8. What are some of the images from nature that Basho includes in his haiku?

9. Based on the five haiku by Basho, what would you say is Basho's general attitude toward nature?

10. Traditionally, the Japanese put on their best clothing to go view the blossoming cherry trees in spring. With that in mind, how do you interpret Onitsura's "We cover fragile bones"? How would you describe its tone, or attitude, toward his subject?

11. What mood do the images in Onitsura's "A drift of ashes" create? What word choices help create that mood?

12. What two images from nature does Issa combine in "A snowy mountain"? What connection do you think he is suggesting between these two things?

13. How does Issa's "Everything I touch" differ from the other haiku reprinted here? What mood does it convey?

14. Buson uses the moon as an image in three of his haiku. What might the moon symbolize, or represent, in these poems?

15. What mood or experience do you think Buson is praising in "Calmly Fuji stands"?

16. In "Pleasing Things," what role do reading and writing seem to play in Shonagon's life? Cite four examples to support your view.

17. What is Shonagon's attitude toward people of very high rank? Give two examples to support your opinion.

Give three examples of Shonagon's writing style---one example of her diction, one of her syntax, and one of her tone. What words would you use to describe her style?

What kind of person do you think Shonagon was, based on inferences you have drawn from the excerpts you have read? What aspects of her writing style lead you to these inferences?
