

# **Seasons**

**An EFL Literary Journal**



**Aichi University**

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# Seasons

An EFL Literary Journal



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*Language is a city, to the building of which every human  
being has brought a stone.  
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# Introduction

Hello and welcome to the very first edition of our new literary journal. In these trying times, we are happy to provide the gift of poetry. This little journal titled *Seasons* is a collection of poetry written by students studying English at Aichi University in Japan. There are many *haiku*, a few *senryuu* and a free verse poem.

Briefly, about the form of *haiku*—*haiku* is a short form of Japanese nature poetry consisting of four main elements: 1) the poem is divided into three lines which contains 2) a season word (*kigo*), 3) a ‘cut’ or ‘turn’ (*kireji*) which provides a juxtaposition of ideas or images often expressed as punctuation (—, ... or :) and 4) follows a 5-7-5 syllable format within the three lines. These are the rules that govern ‘traditional’ *haiku*.

*Seasons* also contains ‘new’ *haiku* or *shin haiku* which follows the first three rules, but omits the 5-7-5 rule. Finally, there are a few *senryuu* which are very similar to *haiku* but do not have a season word, rather these poems tend to be about human idiosyncrasies rather than nature.

As you read, you will see that the journal is divided into four main sections that follow the four seasons as well as some *senryuu* and a free verse poem. Within each seasonal section, the poems are then divided into two further sections: the first being *shin haiku* and the second being traditional *haiku*.

The group of writers that have created these poems are quite unique. A mix of university aged students, these *haiku* were not written for a specific assignment but rather there was a campus wide call for submissions. These brave souls took up the challenge. We even had students submitting right up until the midnight deadline. The students themselves come from a mix of majors, not just the English program, and I think you will find a great mix of styles and topics because of this. Additionally, the writers nationalities are quite different as we have poems coming from Korean, Chinese and of course Japanese students. But, what is truly unique is that all of the poems are written in a second language. In other words, English is not the mother tongue of these writers, yet they persevered and have written some incredible poetry in the English language.

Writing in a second language is no small feat and I can proudly say that these poems stand up to any *haiku* out there. Ezra Pound once said, “poetry is news that stays news,” which to me, means that poetry will stay relevant as long as people continue to feel and think, to laugh and cry—in short, it is timeless. The poems in this book shine a bright light into the endeavor that is the human condition. One must simply open their eyes and their heart to it. I hope you enjoy our little collection. Be well and write on.

Jared Michael Kubokawa  
April 1st, 2020

# Spring



The cherry blossoms in the park are in full bloom  
The grass on the ground turns  
People look happy  
~Kaho Nagai

Cherry blossoms—  
Children  
With a new school bag  
~Mizuho Kobayashi

Flying Butterfly—  
Chasing Children are  
Growing with flowers  
~Akira Nimura

Spring  
Nature is blooming...  
I'm sneezing  
~Yuya Katsuyama

A dandelion  
The flowers are brown  
Spring has come  
~Yukino Kumagai

The day we met  
Like joy, like sorrow  
A long day of heavy rain  
~Jinwon Kim



Graduation day  
A photo with mom  
Under the cherry blossoms  
~Wakana Harada

The cherry blossoms  
Perspiration fostering  
Falling in the wind  
~Wang Gueng Ren

The blooms are freezing  
Secret fragrance of snowflakes—  
An *ume* flower  
~Wang Gueng Ren

I'm feeling warm wind  
I see coming in flowers  
It will start new days  
~Fuka



# Summer



In the summer sky—  
Fireworks go up  
Nearby me  
~Mizuho Kobayashi

Summer storm  
Blank paper on the desk  
Jump out  
~Ayaka Tsuruta

Playing soccer—  
Kick the ball  
And score a goal!  
~Ryuta Nakamura



Sunflower garden  
I'm in the gold world  
This is my summer  
~Satomi

Fireworks in the sky  
Fade away and flutter down  
Seems like sunflowers  
~Wakana Harada

A watermelon  
Wave a stick with an eye mask  
The burning red sun  
~Wakana Harada

Summer festival  
Together with grandmother  
We ate fried chicken  
~Yuki Shimizu

# Autumn



Beautiful night  
Look at the full moon...  
Feeling a fall night  
~Kyuma Takeuchi

A fragrant olive  
The flower's smell comes down to us  
Makes me have an autumn atmosphere  
~Tsubasa Suzuki

The days get shorter  
The season changes into Autumn  
The leaves turn yellow  
~Kichi Yasui

Maple tree leaves—  
Fluttering like a butterfly  
In the wind  
~Wakana Harada

In the autumn breeze  
Dance merrily  
Autumn leaves  
~Dai Yakura

fallen leaves  
dance in the wind—  
fall sky  
~Kusuya Orii

Wind sound...  
autumn leaves fall  
The beginning of winter  
~Nonno Tanaka



Halloween will come  
We will make jack-o-lanterns...  
Inviting the ghosts  
~Wakana Harada

The silver grasses—  
Gold waves dancing in the sky  
Under a white moon  
~Fuka

# Winter



A shivery winter day  
Thick fog or breathing air...  
Which is which?  
~Norichika Achiha

I breathe in winter  
Are you smoking?  
No! I'm breathing  
~Yuma Horiuchi

My body is heavy  
I go to a hot spring...  
My body is light  
~Yuma Horiuchi

In cold  
People lose colors, too—  
Only you have yours  
~Yuya Katsuyama

Tokyo—  
Nine degrees  
I'm alone  
~Yuya Katsuyama

I shook with cold  
My cell phone also did—  
I got warmth  
~Yuya Katsuyama

Winter vacation  
Fun things  
There are many  
~Taketo Nagata

At the ski resort  
Making a snowman  
with family  
~Daiki Asai

Get up at 5 in the morning  
The dawn in winter—  
Legs and head, too  
~Shota Yagyu

It's snowing...  
as if erasing  
everything this year  
~Takumi Kondo

Lots of brilliant snow—  
Color and paint out on  
Dark black asphalt roads.  
~Kichi Yasui

People make requests  
Reindeer are busy—

Santa is lazy  
~Kichi Yasui

Christmas day—  
Watching a lot of couples  
Thinking about you  
~Miyu Kawai

Ding Ding Ding  
All the children are waiting...  
Grandpa is wearing red clothes  
~Mai Hirakawa

At night—  
Big Christmas tree shining  
In the center of town  
~Mizuho Kobayashi



In the lots of snow—  
Kids are looking forward to  
Seeing Santa Claus  
~Akira Nimura

New Year's is coming—  
Eating a special dinner  
Praying at a shrine  
~Mizuho Kobayashi

# Senryuu



I am hungry now  
And I want to eat early—  
Mother's special food  
~Mizuho Kobayashi

In the quietness—  
All the things that I could see clear  
Just only your cheeks  
~Yuya Katsuyama

In vivid yellow  
Always his deeply black eyes—  
Stars in outer space  
~Yuya Katsuyama



# Freeform



Do You Remember Toyohashi?

*For Her*

~Jinwon Kim

You were friendly during this winter—  
The white hands of the eyes caress our sleep  
While we're spread like petals and roam in the warm earth

Spring has come and you have gone;  
Lilac flowers bloom like ghosts,  
You didn't laugh in the distance

Often your eyes crackled on the cellophane,  
Your voice pierced me like a steel skewer—  
Yes, I was stabbed for a long time without a sound.

Even if I am crawling  
Like an earthworm with a stabbed body—  
I want to go where you are,

Hide in your warm light;  
With one last stab at the back of one  
I want to die for a long time again.

And now, like a broken pair of shoes without an owner  
When I wandered through an empty field—  
Do you remember Toyohashi?

When the winter of centuries ago  
floating in snow-covered dreams...  
We're spread like petals.

Submit your poems and stories to:

# Seasons:

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We accept any form, but if you need some 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 car door...

A frog jumping in--

The way the dog dances

The sound of water

Tells me it's you

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Please send your *poems* and your *name* to  
[kubokawateacher@gmail.com](mailto:kubokawateacher@gmail.com). Send as many as you want!