

# Seasons

An EFL Literary Journal



**Aichi University**

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*To have another language is to possess a second soul.*  
*~Charlemagne*

# Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of our literary journal. In these difficult 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. Inside, you'll find many *shinhaiku* as well as free verse poems.

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* contains 'new' haiku or *shinhaiku* which follows the first three rules, but omits the 5-7-5 rule. As you read, you will see that the journal is divided into four main sections that follow the four seasons.

The group of writers that have created these poems are quite unique—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 the poems in this book shine a bright light into the endeavor which is the human condition. One must simply open their eyes and their heart to it. Be well and write on.

Jared Michael Kubokawa, February 14th, 2021

# Spring



Plum flowers swaying  
Out the window—  
In the bluest sky  
~So Asano

Baby swallows—  
I approach their nest  
Open their big mouths  
~Wakana Harada

Chirping, chirping—  
A cuckoo singing  
I feel March  
~Kenta Imai

A bush warbler...  
practices singing  
to bring warm days  
~Wakana Harada

Rainy season—  
The fragrance of grass  
floating in the humid air  
~Wakana Harada

# Summer



Surrounded by trees—  
Fireflies glowing  
Like stars  
~Kazuki Sakakibara

A humid night—  
I woke up  
Because of the hum of mosquitoes  
~Wakana Harada

A tight summer night...  
We fought ghosts  
With an old flashlight  
~So Asano

Splash—  
I split a watermelon  
A piece of red splatters!  
~Kenta Imai

Flowers in the sky  
blooming with sounds—  
My heart is shaking  
~Wakana Harada

Hot summer—

Having an ice cream.  
melt, melt, melt  
~Yoshihito Matsui

Guys I played in summer...  
I can't remember anymore  
It's like a horror movie.  
~So Asano

At the sea  
my body becomes red...  
I can't take a bath.  
~Yoshihito Matsui

Japanese plume grass...  
dancing  
with a rustling sound  
~Wakana Harada

## Autumn



The sun is setting faster  
Wearing long sleeves...  
Let's sleep hearing the insect's song  
~Kenta Imai

Once a year  
Just on Halloween—  
I see ghosts



~Kazuki Sakakibara

The window is screaming  
I am shaking—  
Heavy Rain  
~Kenta Imai

Full-moon night...  
illuminating everything  
in silver light  
~Wakana Harada

Gaze at a full-moon  
From a car window—  
runs after us  
~Wakana Harada

In the afternoon  
I discover the moon—  
Be home soon  
~Yoshihito Matsui

Maple tree leaves  
Turn from green to red—  
They look shy  
~Wakana Harada

Cold soccer hands—  
home to meet  
Mom's hot cocoa  
~So Asano

# Winter



Ding, ding, ding  
Ringing bells—  
Christmas is coming  
~Kazuki Sakakibara

Looking up—  
Rainbows of snow  
In the Christmas lights  
~Kazuki Sakakibara

One day, “white” covered my town—  
Only “white” in front  
Only footprints behind  
~Kenta Imai

Midwinter  
My hands can't use chopsticks—  
I eat hot ramen  
~Yoshihito Matsui

Reading comic books  
while sleeping in the *kotatsu*...  
Good morning!  
~Yoshihito Matsui

Prepare for battle  
You know? He is very close...

Today is Valentine's day.

~So Asano

A 12-year-old boy

Got many chocolates

But now...

~Kazuki Sakakibara



「白椿」 "White Camellia" By Ami Yamamoto

# Freeform



## ~So Asano~

### An Infant Was Not Lulled

A tree bear pacifier  
A white infant sleep  
With a letter and blanket

### For My Benefactor

There is an old phone  
That can tell a person  
Who helped you...  
I wish we had this.

### I Love You

Seeing the seaside  
Sudden she said,  
I committed suicide

I was in mental hospital,  
in crazy gentle jail,  
of lazy central hell.

Tears come and whisper,  
Die like that Christopher.  
You're not a superstar.

Kiss her cried wrist,  
Touch despaired neck,  
Bury my face into wet clothes.

### Humorous

The wall that separated us, disappeared.  
Now it doesn't exist anywhere.  
The hometown that grew us, destroyed.  
Now it's a ruin.  
The soldiers that defended us, dead.  
Now they lie on the rubble.  
Stranger kill stranger  
Never quite being able to stop.  
Weapons are different,  
We do same things from a long ago.

They disappear like this.

Finally, we find out it.  
It helps developing our technology.  
If we satisfy the conditions,  
we can go to the past and future.  
Of course, direct contacts were banned,  
We don't know about the grandfather paradox.

We went to 4.6billion years ago.  
This survey helps the astrophysics.  
We went to the cretaceous period.

It contributed to the genetic modification.  
We went to the recent times.  
We had wisdom from Neumann's dead body.

Like this, we went to the past many times,  
we get better technology and knowledge.  
Thanks to this, we become able to travel the galaxy.  
But we can't go the future no matter what we do.  
If we use lofty science, it can't be helped.  
It is out of our control.



## ~Wakana Harada~

### Lines

Many lines in an old wooden pillar  
My mother had measured our heights  
I had vied in height with my sister  
Now my line is drawn  
At higher position than her  
I am no longer a child

### Sparklers

One summer night  
playing with the sparklers

We wish the little stars keep shining  
We wish summer vacation lasts forever  
but the stars fell soon

We're missing our radiant vacation  
Our summer comes to an end

Spring Snow

One spring night  
Weeping cherry trees  
Being illuminated  
Standing out sharply against  
Blossoms shining white  
And fluttering down fleetingly  
Like snowflakes

Summer Vacation

When I woke up  
Morning cicadas were singing  
*Mean, min min min min, mee...*  
I slammed the window shut

When I grabbed the pencil  
to do my book report  
Sweat broke out on my forehead  
I turned on the air conditioner

When I finished my homework  
Evening cicadas were singing  
*Kana, kana, ki ki ki ki...*  
I didn't realize it was growing dark





## ~Kenta Imai~

### Devil's Trap

I wouldn't like to move even one step  
Once I enter, I can't leave  
I can never beat it  
It's a *kotatsu*

### Farewell and Meet

We eat *toshikoshi* soba  
And we count down with big smile  
3,2,1... happy new year!  
We say goodbye to last year  
We say hello to new year

### Diet

I want to lose my weight.  
But there are many temptations  
Today of all days!

My mother said, "I baked cakes"  
My friends said, "Let's have a BBQ"  
"Leave me alone" I screamed

Growl...

Then they gave a wry smile  
I blushed  
"Can I eat only a bite?" I said

At night, I stepped on the scale  
Needless to say  
I screamed again

### Hunting

When I was a child  
I wanted to get beetle and stag beetle

At noon  
I pointed my net at prey  
And I covered it  
But they are quick  
They ran away  
I couldn't catch them  
What is worse  
They threw urine over my face

At night  
I made strategy  
I set a trap  
It was sap  
I spread it on a tree

In the morning  
I was excited  
And I went to the tree  
But there were only ants and a moth  
I hung my head

My strategy ended in failure



## ~Yoshihito Matsui~

### Little Happy

In the clear autumn  
I clean my shoes and  
Hang them on the clothesline  
The dried shoes sway in the wind  
A dragonfly stops to sway on my shoes  
Dancing together in the breeze

### Runner

Legs cut into pieces  
Lungs explode  
Belly breaks  
Arms never move  
But never give up until reach the goal.

### Big Event

At the beginning of December  
My brain is confused  
Because the marathon event is coming

I belong to the Track & Field Club  
This is one of the problems  
If I take a low rank,  
The gaze of people become weapon  
So, I never think Marathon events are fun.

Before school, I run around my house  
During club activity, I run in the school ground  
After school, I run in the park

On the day of the Marathon event  
I almost vomit many times during warm-up  
It's finally time to run. "On your mark set... Bang!"  
I can see that I'm running at a ridiculous speed  
But I can't slow down because my rivals are coming

Only 500m left  
The limit has already been exceeded around 3km  
I can't see the surroundings  
I feel like I can hear footsteps from behind  
*Za! Za!! Za!!!*  
If I don't speed up more, I will be passed!

"Goal!"  
Fall by the side of road with the joy of being number one  
I can make an effort because there is this moment.

My Paradise  
I love this place.  
It smells unique here.  
I have to put off my shoes.  
Pay money first or last

Arrive at paradise  
through a narrow road  
I don't need anything  
but a towel

There are rules in paradise  
This rule is cleaning body first  
and being silent  
Other than that, I can enjoy it freely

I have my routine  
Go around all the place  
Drink water and  
Go to the hottest place

I endure to the limit  
and then dive into the water at once  
Go outside and lie down and feel the breeze  
It's like sleeping on a cloud.

I'm completely addicted.  
The meal after refreshing is  
also the best  
I want to visit paradise all over Japan



~Kazuki Sakakibara~

Everyday Is A Battlefield

Walking with a dog  
He pulls to go somewhere  
I feel like a bullfighter  
Seems like we can do an awesome show

By the time I'm back from walking  
He tries to ask me to frolic  
Strike a gong  
The second round will start

### My Friend

The day she was late  
We went to see the Christmas lights  
We were one of a couple  
She looked more shining than the illumination

The day I was a late  
We went to see the fireworks  
She wore a light blue *yukata*  
She looked more beautiful than the sky

### Recently

We go out to eat or watching movies  
She is attractive too even now  
But now, we are just a friend

### If I Were...

If I understood how he felt  
I can make better decisions

If I were a superhero  
Everyone around me can always feel happy

If I were rich  
I can buy anything that I want

If I were not me  
I don't know what I am doing right now

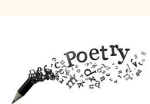
I am fine just as I am

The Seasons Have Many Faces

Get to school by bike  
One day, I can't stop sneezing  
One day, sweating like a waterfall  
One day, bathing in fallen leaves  
One day, my toes and fingers are numb

On the other hand  
I can see beautiful cherry blossoms in spring  
I can play in the sea in summer  
I can eat many delicious foods in autumn  
I can ski in winter

The seasons have many faces.



# Submit your original poems, stories and artwork to: Seasons: An EFL Literary Journal

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We accept any form of original writing, but if you need 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 frog jumping in—

The sound of water

~Matsuo Basho

A car door...

The way the dog dances

Tells me it's you

~Timothy Russell

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

