

Tanka Examples

Tanka on Familiar Themes

*Golden aspen leaves
Shimmer in the gentle breeze
Silently falling
To the fading green grasses
I can smell winter coming.
Kathy Keidel*

*The campfire snaps
My marshmallow is toasting
To a golden brown
The sugar sizzles my tongue
Warms me up for my bedtime.
Kathy Keidel*

Note Examples

*I like the color of your eyes. They are very blue.
I think you are a great soccer player. You are very fast.*

Notes Transformed to Tanka

*Your eyes are so blue.
They are like the deep, deep sea.
They shine like the sun.
Your eyes are smiling eyes, too.
I smile back at you, my friend.
Kathy Keidel*

*You, soccer player
Running so fast, like the wind
You slide, tackle, push
You see the goal up ahead
Now you score, unstoppable!
Kathy Keidel*

Handout

Name _____

Tanka Rubric

Write the message you want to communicate below.

Write your *tanka* below.

Put a check next to each box that applies to your poem.

_____ First line has 5 syllables.

_____ Second line has 7 syllables.

_____ Third line has 5 syllables.

_____ Fourth line has 7 syllables.

_____ Fifth line has 7 syllables.

_____ My *tanka* communicates a message.

_____ My *tanka* uses a metaphor or other descriptive words.

Handout

Name _____

Japanese Words for Use on Scrolls

Love

Hope

Sadness

Happiness

Frustration