

- Setsubun -

Setsubun means a change of seasons.// Spring's arrival is the most festive Setsubun,/ celebrated most years on February 3.// At shrines and temples and family homes,/ people cry "Out with the Oni! In with **Fortune!**"// as they chase off evil/ by throwing beans at an oni/ played by a man in a traditional mask and costume.//

Another way of keeping out oni/ is by decorating with a **sardine** head/ **impaled** upon holly.// The smell, the prickly leaves and the cleansing powers of holly/ all ward off evil.// **Purificatory** rites with holly rods/ were the original court ritual of Setsubun.// Emperor Monmu **bestowed** a holly-wood spear/ eight **fathoms** long/ upon Ise Shrine in AD 702.//

Old tools were once **exorcised** on Setsubun,/ for after a hundred years/ objects are said/ to transform and be filled with spirit.// A humorous poem from AD 1508/ describes Setsubun Eve/ as a Hundred Oni **Parade**.// Old, abandoned tools joined the march/ in **altered** forms,/ thirsting for **revenge** on humanity.// There is hope/ for even these **grudge**-bearing tools, however,/ as they are said to become Buddhist priests/ after **sufficiently** listening to Ichiren, the juzu rosary.//

Merely **expelling** evil is not enough.// People invite fortune/ by eating ehomaki,/ uncut sushi rolls/ filled with seven ingredients/ representing the seven gods of fortune.// They are eaten silently/ in one sitting,/ while facing the lucky direction.// This direction changes each year,/ as it faces the location of one of ten gods/ which each govern luck/ for one year in turn.//

May this new season be a change for the better.//

節分とは季節の変わり目を意味する// 春の到来は最も祝われている節分であり、/ほとんどの年は2月3日に祝われる// 神社や寺院、家々では、/人々は叫ぶ「鬼は外! 福は内!」と/ 彼らが悪を追い払うとき/ 鬼に豆を投げつけることによって/伝統的な面と衣装を纏った男が演じる//

鬼を寄せ付けないもう一つの方法は/ 鯛の頭で飾ることによってある/ ヒイラギに刺して// その匂い、棘のある葉、そして冬の浄化力/ それらすべてが悪霊を追い払うのである// 冬の枝での浄化の儀式は/ 節分の元々の宮廷儀礼であった// 文武天皇が冬の槍を授けた/ 8尋の長さの/ 702年伊勢神宮に//

かつては、節分には古い道具も祓い清められた/ 百年を経て/ 物は言われている/変化し、霊が宿ると// 1508年の風刺詩は節分の前夜を描いている/ 「百鬼夜行」として// 古く捨てられた道具たちが行進に参加した/ 変わった形で/ 人間への復讐を渴望して// 希望がある/ しかしながら、これらの怨恨を持つ道具にでさえも/ それらが仏僧になると言われているように/ 十分に一蓮(数珠)を聞いた後//

悪霊を追い出すだけでは不十分である// 人々は福を招く/ 恵方巻を食べる事によって/ 七種の具材が詰まった/ 七福神を象徴する// それらは静かに食べられる/ 一度に無言で/ その年の幸運の方角を向いてる間に// この方角は毎年変わる/ 一柱の神の位置を向くので/ (それは)幸運を司る/ 毎年かわるがわる//

新しい季節がより良い変化となりますように。

Vocabulary and Phrases

fortune	幸運
sardine	イワシ
impale	串刺し(直角に)
purify	祓い/精製
bestow	与える
fathom (unit)	尋 (1尋、180cm)
exorcism	お祓い

parade	行進
abandon	捨てる
alter	変える
revenge	復讐
grudge	恨み
sufficient	十分
expel	追い出す

Total Number of words used

: 260 words

Time for 120 wpm

: 130 sec.

Time for 150 wpm

: 104 sec.

Your BEST TIME

: _____ sec.

TIPS

fathom (=尋)とは、男性の両手を広げた距離のことである。水深を測る単位で使われる。

1尋 = 約 180 cm = 6 フィート

Summary① Fill Blank:

Setsubun means a _____ of _____, and is most celebrated with the coming of _____ on _____.

People say "_____ Oni! _____ Fortune!" and throw _____ at a man in _____. Some
decorate with a _____ on _____ to keep out oni. Old tools were once _____ on Setsubun. People also invite
_____ by eating an ehomaki sushi _____ while facing the _____.

Summary② Summary(50 -80 words):

Summary③ Sample Answer:

Setsubun means a change of seasons, and is most celebrated with the coming of spring on February 3. People say "Out with the Oni! In with Fortune!" and throw beans at a man in oni costume. Some decorate with a sardine on holly to keep out oni. Old tools were once exorcised on Setsubun. People also invite fortune by eating an ehomaki sushi roll while facing the lucky direction.