

- Children's Day -



The 5th of May is Children's Day! // **Windsocks depicting** carp are raised across Japan, / for carp that swim **upstream** / are said to become dragons. // So too are children / hoped to fight against the struggles of this life —and overcome. // Inside the home a doll or model / may be on **display**: / samurai armor, showing **martial** strength; / Momotaro, the **animal befriending**, demon slaying folk hero; / or Kintaro. //

Some say /that Kintaro, Sakata no Kintoki as he later was renamed, / was born a son of thunder and a mountain **hag**. // He spoke the language of the animals, / and had such strength / that, even as a child, / he could uproot a tree with his bare hands. // He wrestled bears, / and helped the villagers to collect wood. // His favorite axe was always by his side. // He served a famous samurai, Minamoto no Yorimitsu, / and soon was known throughout the land / as one of Japan's "Four Heavenly Kings."// Once, Yorimitsu fell ill, / but soon discovered / that his priest was a **disguised** spider-beast. // He cut his way out of the webs and the **illusions**, / but was weak with poison; he couldn't pursue the foe. // Kintaro ran down the monster with his companion, / then he defeated it with the sword given to him by Yorimitsu. //

In the hope that their children will be as strong as Kintaro, / some mothers give them iris baths on Children's Day. // Iris leaves look much like swords, / and the Japanese word for iris (shoubu) / is a **homonym** with "duel" and "**valor**."//

5月5日はこどもの日である! // 鯉を描いている”のぼり”が、日本各地で掲げられる / なぜなら流れに逆らって泳ぐ鯉が / 竜になると言われているからである // 子供たちも同じくして / この人生の困難に立ち向かい、乗り越えることを期待されている // 家の中では人形か模型が / 飾られることがある / (例えば) 武士の甲冑、これは武勇を示す / あるいは桃太郎、彼は動物と友達になり、鬼を退治する民話の英雄だ / またあるいは、金太郎だ //

ある人は言う / 金太郎、後に坂田金時と名を改めた / (彼は) 雷神と山姥の子として生まれたと // 彼は動物の言葉を話した / それに、とても強い力を持っていた / 幼い頃でさえも / 木を素手で引き抜けたほどだ //

彼は、熊と相撲を取り / 薪を集めて村人たちを助けた // 彼の愛用の斧は常に彼の側にあった // 彼は有名な侍、源頼光に仕えて / すぐに知られるようになった 日本全国中に / 日本の「四天王」の一人として //

ある時、頼光が病に倒れたが / すぐにわかった / 僧侶が、化けた蜘蛛の妖怪だと // 頼光は蜘蛛の糸と幻影を切り裂いて脱出したが / 毒で弱り、敵を追うことができなかった //

金太郎は仲間と共に妖怪を追い詰め / 頼光より与えられた剣でその妖怪を打ち取った //

子供たちが金太郎みたいに強く育つのを願って / 母親の中にはこどもの日に彼らを菖蒲湯に入れる人もいます // 菖蒲の葉は非常に剣に似ており / 日本語の「菖蒲」は / 「勝負」と「尚武」と同音異義語である //

Vocabulary and Phrases

windsock	吹き流し/鯉のぼり
depict	描く
upstream	上流
display	表す
martial	武道
animal befriending	動物と親しむ
hag	ばば/鬼婆/山姥

disguise	変装する
illusion	幻想/幻覚
pursue	追求める
foe	敵
companion	仲間
homonym	同音異義語
valor	勇武

Total Number of words used

: 253 words

Time for 120 wpm

: 126 sec.

Time for 150 wpm

: 101 sec.

Your BEST TIME

: sec.

TIPS

お祭りといえば食べ物も付き物です。

端午の節句には、かしわ餅・ちまきを食べます。

かしわ餅は江戸時代頃からの発祥で、かしわの木が、新芽が出るまで古い葉が落ちないことから「あとつぎが途絶えず、子孫繁栄」を連想し縁起が良いとされました。

最近はこののぼり型のケーキもあるそうです。

Summary① Fill Blank:

Children's day is a _____ holiday on 5 _____. Carp _____ are raised, and _____ samurai are placed as _____ so that the children can grow up to be _____. One famous samurai often used in decoration is _____ who became one of Japan's "_____, _____," and once killed a giant spider-beast. Another _____ on Children's day is to give a child an _____ because iris is a homonym of _____ in Japanese.

Summary② Summary(50 -80 words):

Summary③ Sample Answer:

Children's day is a Japanese holiday on 5 May. Carp windsocks are raised, and model samurai are placed as decorations so that the children can grow up to be strong. One famous samurai often used in decoration is Kintaro who became one of Japan's "Four Heavenly Kings," and once killed a giant spider-beast. Another custom on Children's day is to give a child an iris bath because iris is a homonym of valor in Japanese.