

- Tanabata -



Tanabata is a Japanese festival/ on the 7th day of the 7th month.// Originally, a **maiden** was appointed/ to weave a kimono by a river/ in preparation for the coming of a god:/ a **ritual** to ensure good harvests.// With the arrival of Buddhism,/ it became a preparation for the Obon festival.//

A Chinese festival / inspired by the legend of the stars Orihime (weaving maiden) and Hikoboshi (Herd-boy),/ heavenly lovers separated by a river,/ was celebrated in the same month.// She was the weaver of **garments**/ for the heavenly kingdom,/ and she fell in love/ with the heavenly cowherd.// Unfortunately, they **neglected** their duties/ to spend time with each other/ and were **banished** to opposite ends of the heavens.// This was too **harsh**,/ and they were too **dismayed** to work,/ so they were allowed to meet one day a year.//

The Japanese were delighted/ by this **parallel** / with the riverside weaving of Tanabata,/ and adapted the legend to the practice.// People now write wishes on paper cards/ that decorate bamboo/ as they pray to the stars.// The **magpies** are said to make a bridge/ to let the two lovers meet,/ if only once a year when the weather permits.//

Tanabata has not been celebrated every year/ throughout all of Japan/ because of a change in the calendar in 1873// Sendai kept the tradition as much as possible, / though not without **interruption**.// It was revived / after the war, / after a **devastating** 2011 earthquake,/ and again after the COVID-19 **pandemic**.// Where love remains, nothing is fully lost.//

七夕は日本の祭りである / 7月7日の / 元々、乙女は命じられた / 川のほとり
りで着物を織ることを / 神の来訪に備えて /
それは豊作を確かなものにするための儀式であった // 仏教が伝来するとともに / それ
はお盆のための準備になった //

中国の祭 / 牽牛織女の星 (機織りの織姫と牛飼いの彦星) 伝説に由来した /
(二人は) 川によって隔てられた天の恋人たち / は、(お盆と) 同じ月に祝われていた //
彼女は衣を織る者だった / 天の王国のために / そして彼女は恋に落ちた /
天の牛飼いと // 残念ながら、彼らは職務を疎かにした / お互いと共に時を過ごすため
に / ゆえに二人は天の端と端に追放された // この罰は厳しすぎた /
そして二人は働く意欲を失った / そのため、年に一度会うことが許された //

日本人は歓喜した / この対応関係に / 七夕という川のほとりで織ることとの /
そしてこの伝説を、その習慣に取り入れた // 現在、人々は短冊に願い事を書く / 竹に飾
り付け / 星に祈る時に // 鵲が橋を作るといわれている / この二人の恋人を合わせる
ために / 年にたった一度だけ、天候が許した時に //

七夕は毎年祝われてきたわけではない / 日本国土中で / 1873 年にあった改暦
のため // 仙台はできる限りこの伝統を守り続けた / しかし途切れがなかったわけではな
い // それは復活した / 戦後に / 壊滅的な 2011 年の大震災の後に / そしてコロナ禍の
後も再び // 愛があれば、完全に失われる物は何もない //

Vocabulary and Phrases

maiden	乙女
ritual	儀式
garment	衣装
neglect	無視する、なまける
banish	追放する
>punish	罰する
harsh	きつい

dismay	失望する、うろたえる
parallel	対応関係 / 緯線 / 並行な
magpie	カササギ
interrupt	さえぎる、妨害する
revive	復活する
devastate	荒らす
pandemic	パンデミック/大流行

Total Number of words used

: 255 words

Time for 120 wpm

: 128 sec.

Time for 150 wpm

: 102 sec.

Your BEST TIME

: sec.

TIPS

Summary① Fill Blank:

Tanabata began in Japan as a _____ whereby a maiden wove a _____ for a god to ensure a good _____. It was enriched by the adaptation of a _____ about the stars _____ and _____ which tells of how the two _____, ceased to work, and were forced _____ but for one day a year so as to continue in their _____. Celebrated on _____, people decorate bamboo with wishes, especially for _____ after _____.

Summary② Summary(50 -80 words):

Summary③ Sample Answer:

Tanabata began in Japan as a ritual whereby a maiden wove a kimono for a god to ensure a good harvest. It was enriched by the adaptation of a Chinese legend about the stars Orihime and Hikoboshi which tells of how the two fell in love, ceased to work, and were forced apart but for one day a year so as to continue in their duties. Celebrated on 7 July, people decorate bamboo with wishes, especially for recovery after disaster.