

# - Obon -

Obon is a Japanese summer **festival**.// Family **graves** are cleaned, / food is **offered** to **ancestors**,/ the Bon-Odori is danced, /and **paper lanterns** are **float**ed away / to **guide** the spirits back/ as they leave.//

Long ago, Mokuren, /one of the Buddha's best students,/ used his special powers to know/ where his mother was / after she died.// To his surprise, she was in the world of hungry ghosts.// All food turned to coal / in her mouth.// The Buddha said / to give food to her.// He did, / she was freed from hunger, / and Mokuren danced for joy.// Obon is **derived** from this story.//

During Obon, / **speedy model horses** / made from **cucumber**/ bring the ancestors into the home, / where food is offered to them.// At the Bon-Odori, / people gather to dance / and **celebrate** in the night.// Some wear masks / so that the visiting ancestors can more easily **mix** / into the crowd.//

At the end of the festival, / **sturdy** model cows /made from **eggplants** / help the ancestors return / with many gifts.// Paper lanterns are floated away / to guide them back.//

お盆は日本の夏祭りである// 家族の墓は掃除され / 食べ物は供えられる/  
先祖に / 盆踊りは踊られ / 灯籠は流される/ (先祖の) 魂を導くために/ 彼らが  
帰る時に//

ずっと昔、目連は/ 仏陀の一番弟子のひとり/ 知るために特別な力を使った/  
母がどこにいるか/ 彼女の死後// 驚いたことに、彼女は空腹の霊たちの世界にいた//  
食べ物はすべて炭に変わってしまう/ 彼女の口の中で// 仏様は言った / 母に食べ  
物を与えるように// 彼がその通りにすると/ 彼女は飢えから解放され / 目連は喜び  
踊った// お盆はこの物語に由来する//

お盆の間 / スピード感のある模型の馬が / キュウリから作られた/ 先祖を  
家に連れてきて / 彼らに食べ物が供えられる// 盆踊りでは / 人々が集まって踊り/  
夜にお祝いをする// 仮面をつけている人もいる/ 祖先がまざりやすいように /  
群衆の中に//

祭りの終わりには、/ 頑丈な牛の模型が/ ナスから作られた / 先祖が帰る  
手助けをする / たくさんの贈り物を持って// 紙灯籠が流される / 彼らのもどる道  
しるべとして//

## Vocabulary and Phrases

festival	お祭り	speed	はや 速さ
family grave	一族の墓	model	もけい 模型
offer	そな 供える	horse	うま 馬
ancestor	せんぞ 先祖	cucumber	きゅうり きゅうり
paper lantern	ちようちん 提灯	celebrate	いわ 祝う
float	う 浮く	mix in	と 溶け込む
guide	あんない 案内	sturdy	つよ 強い
(the) late _____	な きゅう 亡き / 旧	eggplant	なす
derive	ゆらい 由来する		

## Total Number of words used

: 176 words

## Time for 100 wpm

: 106 sec.

## Time for 120 wpm

: 88 sec.

## Your BEST TIME

: sec.



**【Listen & Fill Blank】**

Obon is a Japanese summer \_\_\_\_\_. Family \_\_\_\_\_ are cleaned, food is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, the Bon-Odori is danced, and **paper lanterns** are \_\_\_\_\_ away to \_\_\_\_\_ the spirits back as they leave.

Long ago, Mokuren, one of the Buddha's best students, used his \_\_\_\_\_ powers to know where his mother was after she \_\_\_\_\_. To his \_\_\_\_\_, she was in the world of hungry ghosts. All food \_\_\_\_\_ to coal in her mouth. The Buddha said to give food to him. He did, she was freed from hunger, and Mokuren danced for joy. Obon is \_\_\_\_\_ from this story.

During Obon, \_\_\_\_\_ **model horses** made \_\_\_\_\_ **cucumber** bring the ancestors into the home, \_\_\_\_\_ food is offered to them. At the Bon-Odori, people \_\_\_\_\_ to dance and \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. Some wear masks so that the visiting \_\_\_\_\_ can more easily \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_.

At the end of the festival, **sturdy** model cows made from \_\_\_\_\_ help the ancestors can return with many gifts. Paper lanterns are floated away to guide them back.

**【Q&A / A&Q】**

**Question 1:** When is Obon celebrated?

**Question 2:** Who was the first to dance a bon-odori?

**Question 3:** What do you like best about Obon?

**Ask 1:** 答えが「masks」である質問を英語で書いてください

**Ask 2** Cucumber についての質問を英語で書いてください:

**Ask 3:** 本文について知りたいことを英語で1つ書いてください

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**Sample Answer 1:** Summer.

**Sample Answer 2:** Mokuren.

**Sample Answer 3:** Dancing / decorations / friendship / the fact that it is a festival / festival food / dressing up / ghosts / etc...

**Sample Question 1:** What do people wear at the bon-odori to make it easier for ancestors to join in?

**Sample Question 2:** What animal is modeled in cucumber for obon? /  
Why are cucumbers considered fast in obon? /  
What is as cool as a cucumber? /  
etc...

**Sample Question 3:** Why does wearing a mask make it easier for the ancestors to join the bon-odori? /  
How do paper lanterns help guide the spirits if the lanterns quickly sink? /  
etc...