

Tanka Poetry

Building Background (p 535):

p 536-538: Tanka poetry evokes strong images. Try to visualize and identify the figurative language used in each poem as you read. What is the mood evoked by each poem read?

1. Author: Ono Komachi

I've gone to him
by dream paths,
my feet never resting-
but it can never match
one glimpse of him in real life

Images evoked:

Mood evoked:

Figurative Language used:

2. Author: Lady Ise

Spring rains weaving
eccentric brocades
across the face of the water-
wil they dye all the hills green?

Images evoked:

Mood evoked:

Figurative Language used:

3. Author: Ki Tsurayuki

In this world
there are many kinds of longing,
but no longing to match
the longing for one's child

Images evoked:

Mood evoked:

Figurative Language used:

Now write your own Tanka Poem: