

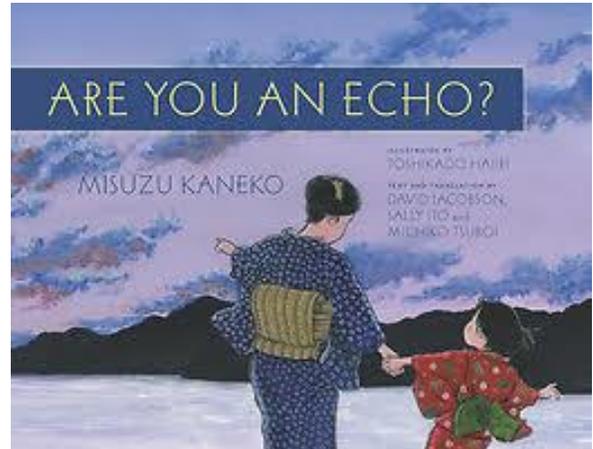
Teacher's Guide for Are You an Echo

Illustrated by TOSHIKADO HAJIRI

Text by DAVID JACOBSON

Translations and editorial contributions by
SALLY ITO and MICHIKO TSUBOI

Setsuo wants to know who Misuzu Kaneko is! After reading one of her poems in school, he discovers that her work has disappeared. Setsuo begins to search for Misuzu's poetry and finds her brother, Masasuke. Masasuke tells Setsuo all about the poet and her life, which ended tragically. Setsuo helps publish Misuzu's work, which sustains hope during Japan's own tragedy during the 2011 Earthquake. Readers learn about Misuzu's life and can read her poems in English and Japanese.



The following questions are aligned with CCSS standards for literature for grades 5,6 and 7. The corresponding standard follows each question

Questions about Book Text

1. What inspires Setsuo to find Misuzu Kaneko? How does her poem make him feel? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.6)
2. What does Setsuo find when he begins to look for Misuzu? What happened to her poetry? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
3. How long did it take to find Misuzu? Where did Setsuo finally find answers? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
4. What was Misuzu like as a child? How is her life different than other girls in Japan? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.3)
5. How does Misuzu's poem *Wonder* reflect her personality? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.6)
6. Why does Misuzu feel bad for the fish on her plate? Use evidence from the poem *Fish* to support your response. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
7. What is the tone of the poem *Snow Pile*? What words in the poem help create the tone? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
8. What events lead Misuzu to become a writer? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.2)

Are You an Echo? By Misuzu Kaneko

Chin Press 1501 Pike Place #329 Seattle, WA 98101

9. What is Misuzu's real name? Why did she change it? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.2)
10. The author indicates that the poem *Flower Shop Man* might reflect how Misuzu felt about her poems being published. How might she have felt, based on this poem? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
11. Who was Fusae? What happened to her? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.2)
12. Was Misuzu happy with her life? How do you know? How did Misuzu try to handle her struggles? Use evidence from the text to support your response. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
13. What did Misuzu do the night before her daughter was going to leave? Why did she do these things? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.6)
14. Why did Misuzu decide to end her life? What eventually happened to Fusae? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.2)
15. How did Fusae and Misuzu's mother celebrate her life? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
16. What did Setsuo do after he learned about Misuzu's life? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.2)
17. What happened to all of Misuzu's poems after her death? How did they impact Japan? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.6)

Questions about Poems

18. Why was the poem *Are You an Echo?* so important to the people of Japan? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.9)
19. What is the poem *Last Year* about? What does the boat represent? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.4)
20. What is the tone of the poem *Stars and Dandelions*? What words or lines help create the tone? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.4)
21. What character traits does Misuzu give the telephone pole in the poem *Telephone Pole*? What is she trying to show by giving the pole the same character traits as a person? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.3)
22. How does Misuzu feel about the hat in *White Hat*? What does she hope happens to the hat that she lost? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.6)

23. How does Misuzu describe her mother in *Heart*? Does Misuzu feel different or the same compared to her mother? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.3)
24. Why does Misuzu say that her treat is “sad” and “bitter” in the poem *Treat*? Have you ever felt this way? relate your experience to Misuzu’s. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.3)
25. What does Misuzu compare the waves to in her poem *Waves*? What else could one compare waves to? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
26. Do you agree or disagree with the poet when she says that dirt is not useless in the poem *Dirt*? Are there other things that we sometimes see as useless but are very important? Explain your response using evidence from the poem and your own experience. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.6)
27. In the poem *Rock*, explain why the poet believes that the rock doesn’t care if it gets in the way of those who fall because of it. (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
28. What is the speaker in the poem *Mommy Who Walks on the Sea* concerned about? What does she realize at the end? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.5)
29. Considering what we know about the poet, what can we infer about the poem *Mommy Who Walks on the Sea*? Why does the speaker believe that the sea cannot hurt her mom? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
30. What are the “cicada’s clothes” in the poem with the same name? What doesn’t the speaker understand about what has happened to the cicada? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
31. Why do the people hold a memorial service for the whales? How does this scene relate to what we know about the poet from information we glean earlier in the book? Who is the poet mourning in this poem? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
32. Why would the bee apologize to the flower in the poem *Dewdrop*? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.2)
33. How are the bird, the bell and the speaker different in the poem *Bird, Bell, and I*? How does the speaker feel about this? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)
34. What is the poem *Day and Night* about? What other cycles in our environment could be used to describe the same theme? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.1)

Whole Book Questions

35. How do the illustrations in the book contribute to the themes that are discussed in the text? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.7)
36. What poets play the same role in our culture that Kaneko fulfills in Japanese culture? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.9)
37. How would you describe Kaneko's life? How does it influence her poems? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.3)
38. Why did the author and editors include the Japanese translations in the text? What do the translations add to the text? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.4)
39. Choose one poem from the text and analyze it. What is the tone of the poem? What are the themes? Discuss how the poet created the overall mood of the poem through word choice, rhyme, and/or meter. How does the illustration affect your reading of the poem? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.4)
40. Describe the journey of Setsuo throughout the book? How do his discoveries affect how he feels about the poems? Choose an author that you would like to know more about and research three facts. What did you find out? How does it affect how you will read their work in the future? (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL5.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL6.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL7.4)