- Chitose Ame -



Shichi-go-san is a celebration/ where little girls and boys dress in **traditional** Japanese clothes/ and receive **blessings**/ at the ages of three, five, and seven.// Children are given/ long, red and white candy known as thousand year candy (chitose ame).// It represents long life.// While it is well known that red is a lucky color in Chinese culture,/ the **combination** of red and white/ is not **particularly** lucky/ because it represents **fortune** and **calamity**.// In Japan, however,/ the two colors have long separately represented/ the **mundane** and the **extraordinary**, work and festival.// There is a balance of **excess** and **scarcity**/ that is the key to good health.// Red-and-white together, called kouhaku in Japanese,/ represents the **extraordinary**, the **luxurious**, and the festive.//

Decorative packaging further drives home the point.// Shouchikubai (pine, bamboo, and plum)/ are common motifs.// Emperor Itoku of legend,/ heard tell of a couple over 1,000 years old/ who had drunk of the stream from Mount Iwane, Hyuga.// He drank too,/ thus extending his own life.// The husband did not die, but became a pine.// His wife became bamboo.// The two are still worshiped at Iwane-no-miya Shrine.// Combined with plums, a fruit that blossoms in the snow,/ the evergreen and ever lively shouchikubai/ is blessed indeed.// Their love lives on.//

Likewise, turtles and cranes/ are common motifs on chitose-ame.// Cranes mate for life/ and are said to live a thousand years,/ whereas turtles are believed to live ten thousand.//

By giving chitose-ame,/ the parents of Japan delight their children/ and wish them long lives full of love.//

飾りの包装もその意味をさらに強強調する// 松竹梅(まつ・たけ・うめ)は/ 一般的なモチーフである // 伝説的な存在である懿徳天皇は、/ 1000歳を超えた夫婦の話を聞いた/ 伝記的な存在である懿徳天皇は、/ 1000歳を超えた夫婦の話を聞いた/ しゅうがいわれまん せいりゅう みずの みずの みずの みずの みずの おんだ // 天皇もその水を飲み、/ 自分の寿命を延ばした// まっと よび は死ななかったものの松になった // 彼の妻は竹になった // 彼の妻は竹になった // でも岩根の宮神社で祀られている// 雪の中で花を咲かせる果実である梅とともに / にようりょく で つねに生き生きとした松竹梅は/じつに縁起がいいとされる// 彼らの愛は今も生き 続けている//

Vocabulary and Phrases

traditional	伝統的な
blessing	祝福
combination	こうどう 合同
particularly	特に
fortune	= 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
calamity	被害
mundane	日常

extraordinary	^{ひにもじょう} 非日常
extravagant	こうか 豪華
excess	過剰
scarcity	欠乏
luxurious	豪勢
decorative	装飾的
motif	主題
legend	伝説

Total Number of words used

: 258 words

Time for 120 wpm

: 129 sec.

Time for 150 wpm

: 103 sec.

Your BEST TIME

: _____ sec.

TIPS

drive home the point… 「ある事柄を繰り返し強調することで、相手に深く理解させ、納得させる」という意味です。重要な点を明確にし、相手が心に刻むまで説明したり、具体的な行動を促したりするニュアンスがあります。

二段落目引用元『元鶴亀松竹物語』江戸時代(1600-1800 年頃)

裏面の問題は音読を毎回 40 分以上反復してから挑戦しましょう

Summary(1) Fill Blank:	
Shichi-go-san is a coming of age ceremony for at ages 3, 5, and 7. Long candy,	
called chitose-ame, is given to children to long life. It is which represents festivity and excess in Japan.	
The packages are with shouchikubai (,, and) as well as cranes and tourtoises, all	
of long life and faithful love. Parents both and their children with chitose-ame at shichi-go-san.	
Summary(50 -80 words):	_
	- -
	_

Summary 3 Sample Answer:

Shichi-go-san is a Japanese coming of age ceremony for little boys and girls at ages 3, 5, and 7. Long candy, called chitose-ame, is given to children to represent long life. It is red and white which represents festivity and excess in Japan. The packages are decorated with shouchikubai (pine, bamboo, and plumb) as well as cranes and tourtoises, all symbols of long life and faithful love. Parents both delight and bless their children with chitose-ame at shichi-go-san.