# JAPAN: Places, Images, Times & Transformations

Suggestions for the Middle and High School Classroom

# Onomatopoeia - Hiroshi Nara

* **Objectives:**
	+ Define onomatopoeia.
	+ Understand how different vowels and consonants could represent different meanings in the Japanese language.
* **Suggested Units for Inclusion:**
	+ ELA units that explore mimetic language.
	+ Japanese units that introduce onomatopoeia.
* **Lesson Ideas:**
	+ 1. Individual Research Homework
		- Students can be assigned the *study questions* or *develop questions for the class to discuss*
	+ 2. Compare and Contrast
		- Students make lists of English onomatopoeia and their corresponding Japanese sounds. Have students discuss what differences they see and what those differences tell us about their respective languages.
	+ 3. Mimetic Charades
		- Split Japanese students into two teams. One person from each team has to silently act out a Japanese onomatopoeia given to them by the teacher and their team has to guess the correct onomatopoeia within 60 seconds. The team with the most points at the end wins.
* **Study Questions:**
	+ Define *Mimetic Language*.
	+ Think about onomatopoeia used in English. What examples can you think of? Where do we often see onomatopoeia in English?
	+ What observations does the author make about how consonants and vowels are used in Japanese onomatopoeia? Give examples of each.
	+ Take a look at the list of onomatopoeia the author gives. Other than sounds, what kinds of actions do these words represent?
	+ What is one reason why there might be so many onomatopoeia in the Japanese language?