

UNIT 3 *What We Keep Poetry Connection*

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



GIFTS

& TO THE OAK

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Studying your reflection in a mirror can be insightful.
Are there times when the image you see may not be how you see
yourself or what you want others to see?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.





POST-MAO ERA POET

Shu Ting is the pen name of Gong Peiyu. She's part of a group of Chinese writers known as the **Misty Poets**. These poets emerged in the 1970s after the death of longtime dictator Mao tse-tung. Under Mao, poets and artists weren't allowed to express feelings or personal views. Instead, they were expected to celebrate the deeds of the Communist Party and government.



The Misty Poets focused on themes of individualism, humans' relationship with nature, and the struggle against oppression. Through her poetry, Shu Ting has helped to nurture the struggle for democracy in China. Today, you'll read English translations of two original Chinese free-verse poems.



GIFTS

Think about the gifts that the earth gives to humans. Everything humans need to survive, and thrive, is provided by the natural world around us: food, water, medicine, materials for shelter, and even natural cycles such as climate and nutrients, among many other things. Eventually, we all return to the earth when our lives are ended. Some may say that humans are indebted to the earth for providing the resources that we need to live.

TO THE OAK

In "To the Oak," the speaker vows to show love for the oak tree, but not by imitating a flower, birds, a fountain, or beautiful backgrounds, because these things serve only to flatter the tree and make it seem more majestic. Instead, the speaker would like to be a kapok tree, standing beside the oak as an equal. Is it possible to remain "different and apart", but "eternally together" like the poem states?





LITERARY CONCEPT

Tone

Refers to the emotional attitude toward the reader or toward the subject implied by a literary work. Think about the emotions the speaker conveys in “Gifts” and “To the Oak”

Metaphor

Is a comparison in which one thing is spoken of or written about as if it were another.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 212-215, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Tone** - Who are the speakers in each of the poems? Is it the poet or someone else? How do the poet's words suggest the speaker's tone?



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