



Fluentlicious
Materials for language learning

Oiwa – A Japanese Ghost Story

speaking & video, B2/C1

Warm-up!

- What love stories do you know (books, films, myths, fairy tales)? Are they usually happy or sad?
- What kind of love do they talk about? (romantic, obsessive, loyal, forbidden, selfish, tragic, etc.)
- Why do people tell love stories?
- Do you think love stories are more popular when they are happy or tragic? Why?



LINKING WORDS – Storytelling toolkit

Sequencing / Time

- at first
- then
- after that
- meanwhile
- eventually
- in the end

Cause & Consequence

- because (of)
- as a result
- therefore
- so
- that's why

Contrast

- however
- although
- but
- instead (of)
- whereas

Emphasis / Drama

- suddenly
- to his/her horror
- little did he/she know...
- in the blink of an eye
- what shocked everyone was...



Linking words practice

Complete the sentences with ONE suitable linking word or expression from the list above.
More than one answer may be possible.

1. ___, everything seemed perfect between them.
2. She missed the last train; ___, she had to walk home alone.
3. He promised to call; ___, he never did.
4. ___ feeling tired, she decided to stay and finish the project.
5. The lights went out; ___, the room was completely silent.
6. He trained every day; ___, he won the competition.
7. She wanted to forgive him. ___, she couldn't forget what he had done.
8. ___, they realized the letter had been sent to the wrong person.
9. ___ he was rich, he lived a very simple life.
10. ___ everyone expected, the story ended happily.

Love stories - let's talk!

Think of one love story you know well. It can be real, fictional, or mythical.

Talk about:

- Who the main characters are
- What kind of love it shows
- How the story ends



Use at least 3 linking words!



Ideas



Pride and prejudice



Titanic

Vocabulary

Look at the words below. What do they mean?

- despair -
- cruel -
- grief -
- eager -
- curse -
- corpse -
- slash -
- mercy -
- vengeance -

Vocabulary

Look at the words below. What do they mean?

- despair - a state of having no hope at all
- cruel - causing pain or suffering on purpose
- grief - a deep feeling of sadness, especially after a loss
- eager - a feeling of wanting something very much
- curse - a wish or spell meant to bring bad luck or harm
- corpse - a dead body
- slash - to cut something violently with a sharp object
- mercy - kindness or forgiveness shown to someone you could punish
- vengeance - a strong desire to hurt or punish someone for what they did

Vocabulary - word families

Many English words change form depending on their role in a sentence. Look at the table and complete it with the correct form **where possible**.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
despair		
		cruel
grief		
		eager
curse		
slash,		
mercy		
vengeance		

Vocabulary - word families

Many English words change form depending on their role in a sentence. Look at the table and complete it with the correct form **where possible**.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
despair	to despair	despairing
cruelty	—	cruel
grief	—	grief-stricken
eagerness	—	eager
curse	to curse	cursed
slash, slasher	to slash	slashed
mercy	—	merciful
vengeance	to avenge	vengeful

Vocabulary - word families

Complete the sentences using one of the words below. Use the correct form.

despair - cruel - grief - eager - curse - corpse - slash - mercy - vengeance

- The villagers were filled with ___ after losing their families.
- His actions were shockingly ___ and unforgivable.
- She begged for ___, but none was given.
- He wanted ___ more than justice.
- The warrior ___ at the enemy with his sword.
- The house felt ___, as if something terrible had happened there.
- She spoke in a ___ voice, certain that nothing could change her fate.
- He was ___ to hear the truth, even if it hurt.

Video

Watch the video and take notes. Write down:

- Names of the main characters
- Who they are
- What happens to each of them

https://www.ted.com/talks/kit_brooks_japan_s_scariest_ghost_story

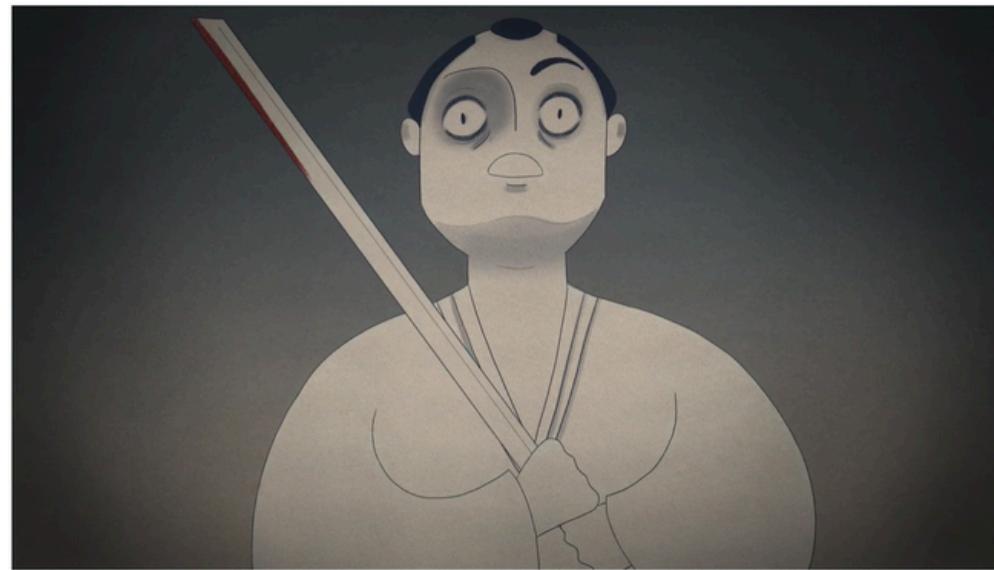


Put the pictures in the correct order.



Japan's scariest ghost story

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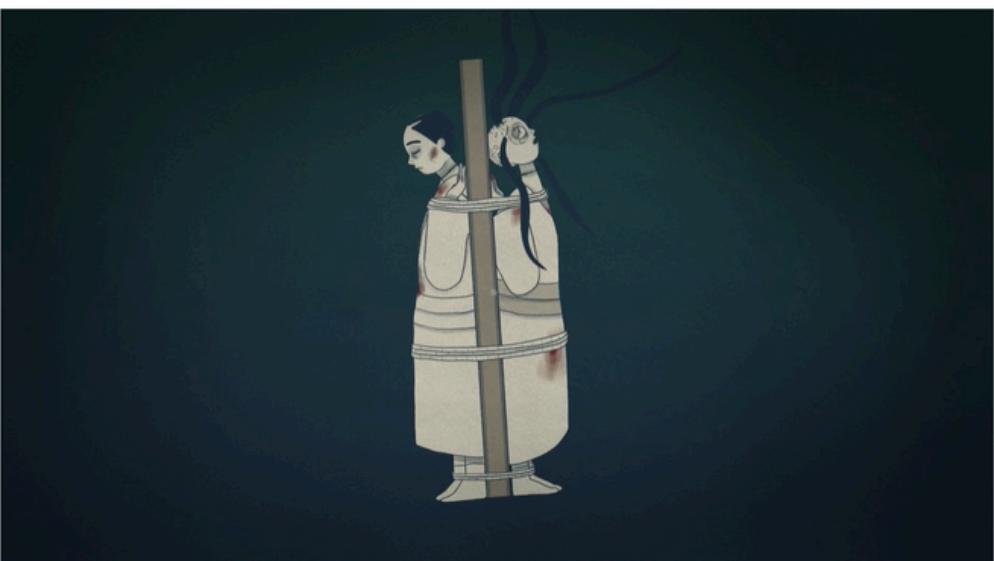
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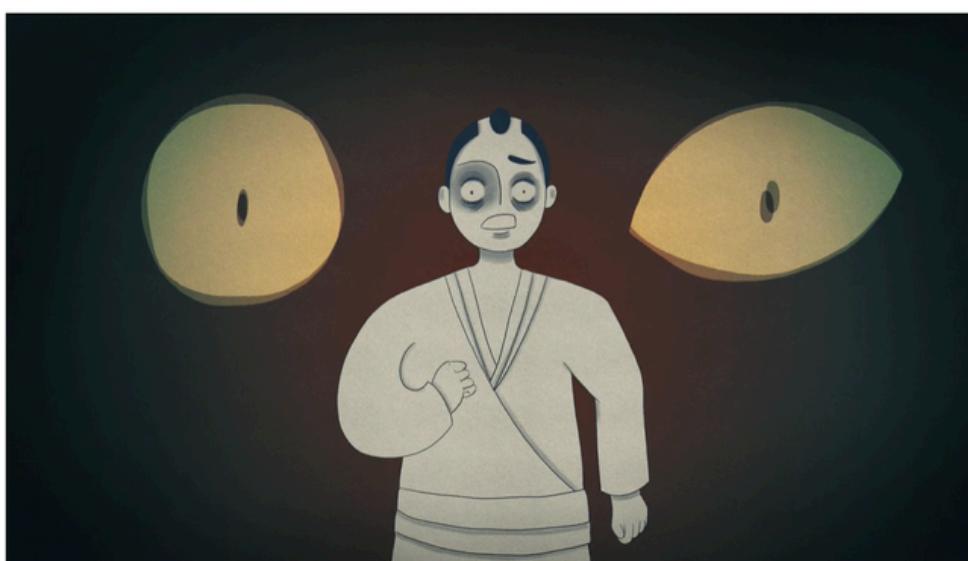
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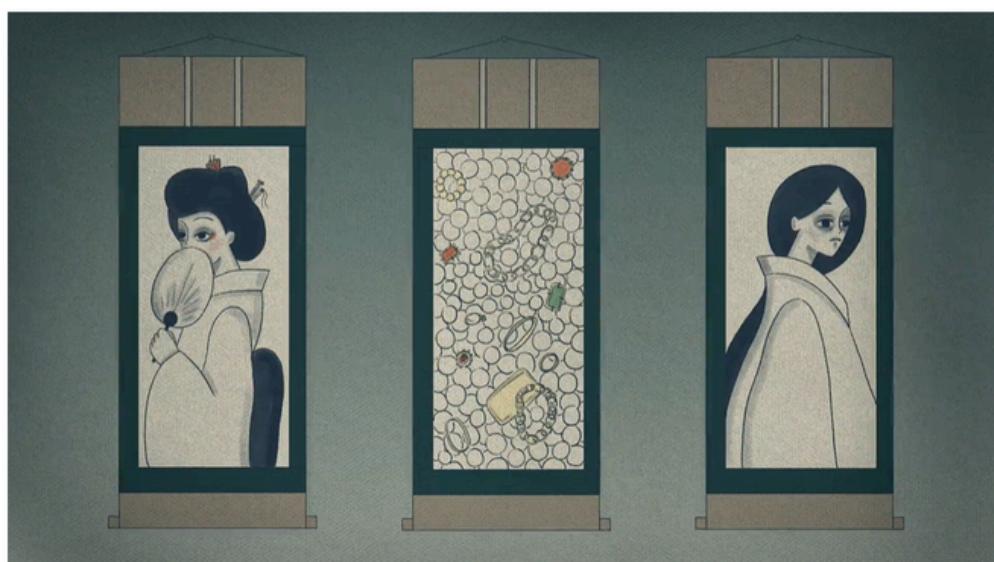
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Names:

Oiwa, lemon, Kohei, Takuetsu.

Images from TED-Ed video:
'The Ghost Story of Oiwa'

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Retell the story

Using the pictures, retell Oiwa's story:

- Use as many details as possible
- Use linking words from today's lesson
- Speak in the past tense

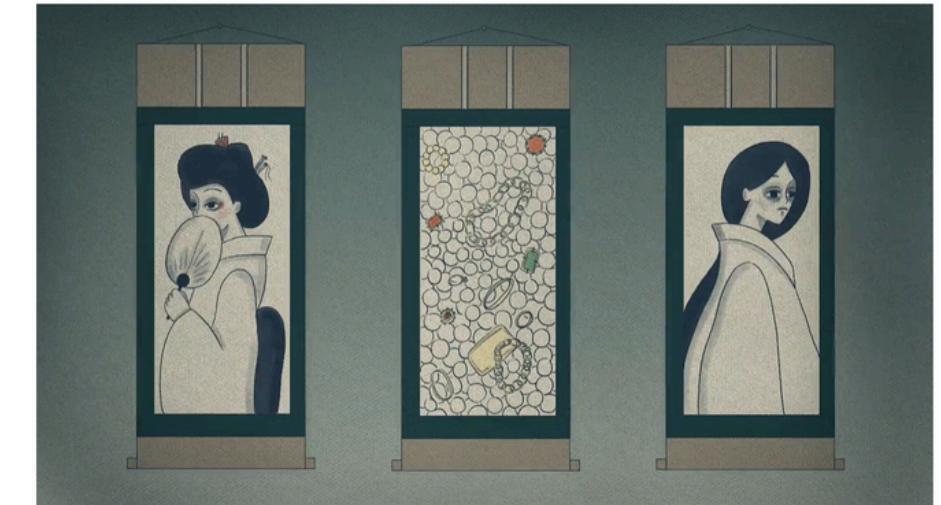
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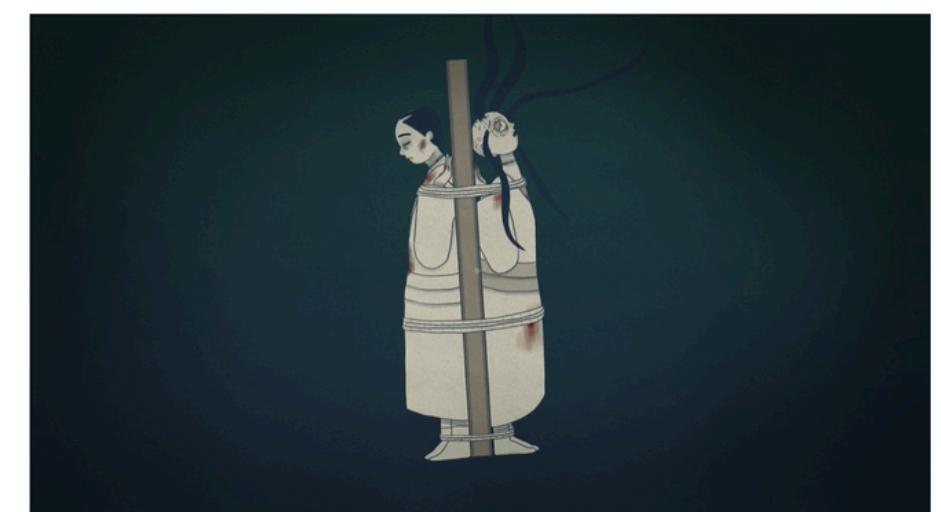
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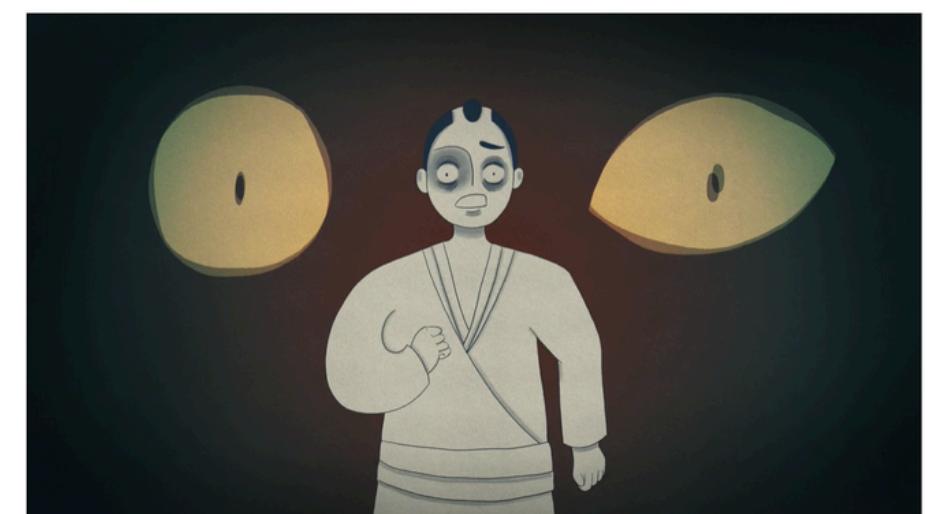
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Rewrite the story!

Rewrite Oiwa's story by changing one key element.

Choose ONE idea:

- lemon is a better, more loyal person
- Oiwa's father is stronger or arrives earlier
- Oiwa is more vengeful while she is still alive
- Another creative idea of your own

Discuss:

- How does the story change?
- Does it stay a love story, or become something else?
- Is the ending happier, darker, or more disturbing?



Let's talk!

- Why do people enjoy tragic love stories?
- Can a story still be a “love story” if it ends badly?
- Do love stories teach us anything about real relationships?
- If you wrote a love story:
 - Would it have a happy ending?
 - Would it end with death, separation, or survival?
 - Would love save the characters – or destroy them?

Answer key

Linking words - sample answers

(Other logical answers may be accepted.)

1. At first
2. as a result / so
3. however
4. Although
5. suddenly
6. therefore / as a result
7. However
8. Eventually
9. Although
10. What shocked everyone was (that)

Word families

1. grief
2. cruel
3. mercy
4. vengeance
5. slashed
6. cursed
7. despairing
8. eager



Thank you!
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