

Storytelling

I can understand a text about social media texts.

Revision: Student's Book page 90

1 Complete the compound nouns with the words below.

bestseller book contract culture high
love name phone social time TV

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 leisure _____ | 7 _____ list |
| 2 cell _____ | 8 pen _____ |
| 3 _____ series | 9 _____ media |
| 4 comic _____ | 10 pop _____ |
| 5 _____ school | 11 _____ story |
| 6 book _____ | |

2 Complete the text below with compound nouns from exercise 1. Sometimes you need the plural form.

My aunt writes novels, but not under her own name. She uses a
1 _____ . She started writing in her
2 _____ , but now she does it full-time.
Her books are very popular and often appear on the
3 _____ . They are going to make one of
them into a 4 _____ . It's a 5 _____
_____ about a teenage boy and girl. I can't wait to watch
it. My aunt has just got a new 6 _____ from
her publisher, and has already started to write her next novel.

3 Read the text opposite. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- The author believes that Twitter is a very bad idea.
- A haiku is a type of modern short poem.
- The epistolary novel contains a series of letters.

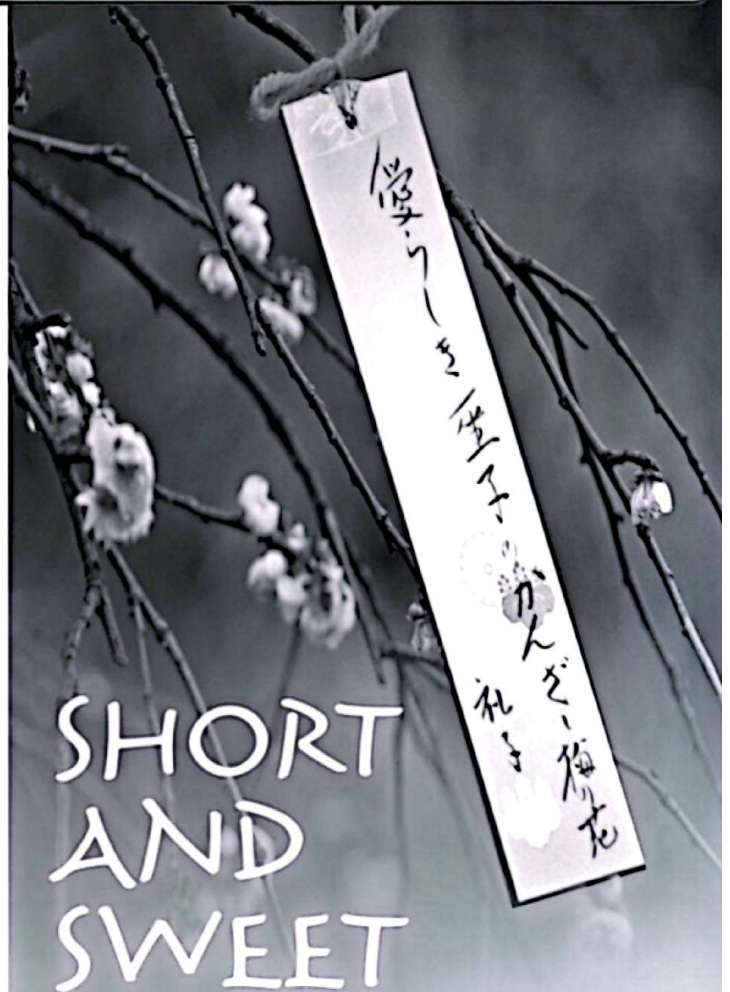
Reading Strategy

Read the missing sentences carefully. Then read the sentences in the text that come before and after each gap. Use these two strategies when selecting which sentence fits each gap.

- Look for vocabulary links between the sentence and the surrounding text.
- Look for pronouns, e.g. *he, she, it* and other references and check that they match your answer choice.

4 Read the Reading Strategy. Then match sentences A–F with gaps 1–4 in the text. There are two extra sentences.

- That's short!
- Nobody reads books any more, do they?
- They argue, for example, that fewer people read novels and write letters.
- There is, in fact, a lot we can learn from other cultures with a different writing tradition.
- Now writers are using this genre again, but with a modern day twist.
- Literature has suffered as a result.



People complain nowadays that the popularity of media like Twitter has reduced our ability to read for long periods of time and to write properly. ¹ It's also true that tweets are written by normal people, not professional authors, and that sometimes little attention is paid to correct grammar and spelling in digital messages. But are the new media only bad news for our literary tradition?

² In Japan, for example, the most popular form of poetry has long been the haiku, in which every word counts. A haiku is a poem with exactly seventeen syllables. Not words, but syllables. ³ So with this method of writing, a lot of meaning has to be conveyed in a short space. This philosophy of 'less is more' made Japan the natural place for the birth of the cell phone novel with its very short chapters.

Other storytelling traditions using shorter forms have also been adapted to our modern tastes. The epistolary novel is a book written as a series of letters, or sometimes diaries. The genre used to be admired in Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. ⁴ Authors of teenage novels now often use emails, diary entries, text messages and cartoons to tell a story.

So perhaps these shorter styles of writing are not bad for literature as a whole. Perhaps they are just modern ways of expressing the age-old tradition of storytelling.