

## KOREAN SHORT STORIES

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-12

**AUTHOR:** Nancy A. Gannon

**SUBJECT:** Literature

**TIME REQUIRED:** 45 minutes

**OBJECTIVE:**

1. Identify and compare mood and theme in two Korean short stories
2. Discuss how these relate to a style and aesthetic that is uniquely Korean

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

- Ch'oe, Inho. "The Boozer" in *Land of Exile*. Translated by Marshall Pihl and Bruce Fulton. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1993. p.102-114.
- Ha, Keun-chan. "The Suffering of Two Generations" in *Ten Korean Short Stories*. Translated by Kevin O'Rourke. Seoul, Korea: Yonsei University Press. p. 13-29.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Students will have read both short stories for homework the night before.
2. What is the mood of the piece? How does the author create the mood? Have students pick details from the story, examine the style of each writer, etc. How does the mood help express the themes in each story?
3. Why is there so much emphasis on the pain and suffering of the characters in each story?
4. Define and describe the concept of *han* in Korean culture; give examples from traditional Korean tales. How do each of these pieces relate to the idea of *han*?
5. Describe the relationship between the father and son in each story. How do the fathers treat the sons? How do the sons treat the fathers? How is love expressed? What feelings, other than love, are expressed? By the end of each story, with what feeling does each author leave you about this relationship? Discuss filial piety and how it is reflected in each of the stories.

**EVALUATION:**

- Read "Cranes" by Hwang Sun-won and write a response paper focusing on mood and themes of the story. How is it similar/different from the other two stories? (Hwang Sun-won. "Cranes" in *The Stars and Other Korean Stories*. Translated by Edward W. Poitras. London: Heinemann Educational Books, 1980. p. 127-134.)