

The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn

By Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler

Characters:

Emperor Nakamikado - Japanese Emperor who reigned at the time of the story in 1735 during the age of the samurai.

Tokugawa - The first "Shogun" or military governor. His descendants held the title of Shogun ever since.

Amaterasu - The sun goddess, worshipped by the Emperor and his people.

Seikei Konoike - Main character of the book, a boy about ___ years old.

Toda Konoike - Seikei's father, a tea merchant from Osaka.

Lord Hakuseki - Daimyo who stayed at the Tokaido Inn.

Michiko Ogawa - Girl from Kyoto whose family made paper. Traveling to Edo with her father.

Iori Ogawa - Michiko's father. Paper-maker from Kyoto.

Kokushi - Buddhist priest in Michiko's story.

Judge Ooka - Judge who Seikei helped to solve the mystery.

Bunzo - Samurai who was Judge Ooka's guard. Taught Seikei to ride a horse.

Lord of Ako - Character in the play, *Forty-Seven Ronin*. Committed seppuku (killed himself) after striking Lord Kira in the shogun's court (which was strictly forbidden).

Lord Kira - Character in the play, *Forty-Seven Ronin*. Questioned Lord of Ako's honor.

Oishi - Samurai in the play, *Forty-Seven Ronin*. He killed Lord Kira as payback for his disgrace of his former master, Lord of Ako. Oishi and the 46 Ronin committed seppuku after killing Lord Kira.

Kazuo - Boy from theater troupe who befriended Seikei.

Tomo Tomomi - Lead actor from theater troupe. Real name was Genji, son of the daimyo Takezaki Kita (a Christian martyr who refused to give up his faith). Tomomi was also a Christian ("Kirishitan").

Inu - Dog who guarded a farmer's field on the road to Edo.

Motoko - Geisha in the play, *The Double Suicide at Sonezaki*.

Itagawa Yokio - Guard in front of Lord Hakuseki's neighborhood. Had favorable memory of Judge Ooka.

Lord Takezaki - Head of the family in the final play.

Nanaho - Daughter of Lord Takezaki in the final play. Tomomi played this part.

Questions:

Where does the shogun have his castle? (City of Edo)

Where does the Emperor live? (City of Kyoto)

What is the "**Tokaido Road**?" (Highway between the Emperor's city and the Shogun's city)

"**Kago**" - Passenger-box carried on poles by two husky men

"Haiku" - Japanese form of poetry.

Who is **Basho**? (Japan's greatest poet)

"**Daimyo**" - Japanese samurai lord who commanded other samurai warriors.

"**Hachimaki**" - Samurai headband, decorated with his family crest.

Where is the Tokaido Inn located? (the town of Kameyama)

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What gift was Lord Hakuseki taking to Edo as a gift for the Emperor? (A ruby)

"Jikininki" - Eater of human flesh (from Michiko's ghost story).

Why didn't Kokushi die when he saw the jikininki in Michiko's ghost story? (Because he was a holy man)

What were the walls made of in the Tokaido Inn? (Rice paper)

What are the three qualities of a samurai? (Loyalty, right conduct and bravery)

What is the first hour after midnight called? (Hour of the Rat)

Where was the stolen jewel found at the Tokaido Inn? (In Michiko's sample box of paper)

Where did the tunnel lead from the Tokaido Inn? (Inside the temple grounds where travelers who cannot afford lodging are permitted to rest)

"Seppuku" - When a person kills himself to save his honor.

What did Judge Ooka give to Seikei? (A wooden sword)

"Komuso" - Wandering holy men. They play music to beg for food.

Where is the holiest place in Japan? (Ise, where the ancient temple was dedicated to Amaterasu)

"Samisen" - Stringed instrument played by musicians during a play.

"Ronin" - Samurai without a master (due to Lord of Ako committing seppuku). The 47 Ronin killed Lord Kira as payback for his disgrace of their former master, the Lord of Ako.

"Kabuki" - Traveling theater troupe.

What did Seikei really see through the screen in his room at the Inn that he thought were the horns of a ghost? (The hair pins of a geisha)

What was the only thing merchants were supposedly concerned with? (Making money)

"Bushido" - The way of the warrior.

What did Seikei find on the outskirts of Edo? (Boards with the warnings and commands of the shogun)

What was the summer "bon" festival? (When the spirits of the dead returned to earth and the people discarded their everyday cares to welcome their ancestors)

What was on Lord Hakuseki's family crest? (A red fish with a box around it)

"Yashiki" - Large group of buildings where the daimyo's samurai and family lived.

Why did the shoguns ban the Christian religion and execute any Christians who clung to their faith? (Because they feared the Christians were plotting a rebellion)

In What Book...

Did the Emperor forbid carts and carriages on the main highway? Why? (to prevent ruts in the smooth gravel).

Is the following quote found: "All religions may have some truth to them. We must be sure not to offend any of the gods. Particularly since we have been favored by wealth." (Seikei's father)

Is the following quote found: "A mand and his brush-writing are one and the same." (Japanese saying)

Do wandering holy men hide their faces under a basket to lose their outer selves?

Was a lord found hiding in an outhouse?

Did the governor forbid women from appearing on a drama stage?

Was the death penalty prescribed for being or sheltering a Christian