

THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Author Teru Clavel (back row, second from right) with her three children and mother, Sachiko Goodman (front row, second from left)

World Class

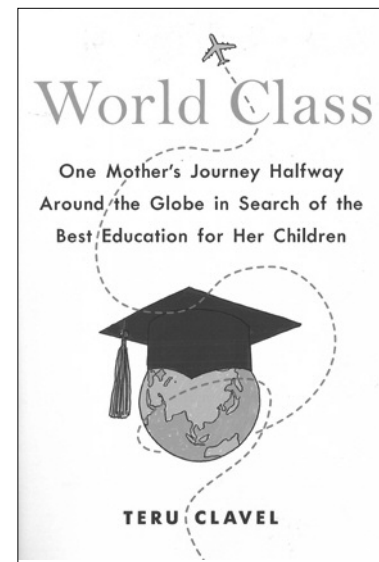
One Mother's Journey Halfway Around the Globe in Search of the Best Education for Her Children

by Teru Clavel

"World Class" is an eye-opening firsthand exploration of why Asian students are outpacing their American counterparts, with insider advice on how to help our children excel in today's competitive world.

When Teru Clavel had young children, the oldest barely two, she watched as her friends and fellow parents vied to secure a spot in the right New York City preschools.

Following a gut feeling that a truly world-class education involves more than the privilege and ennui of elite private schools, Teru and her family moved to Asia, embarking on a ten-year-



BOOK OF THE WEEK

long journey through the public schools of Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo.

During this time, Teru discovered firsthand why students in China and Japan are far outpacing their American counterparts. In Hong Kong, her children's school was nicknamed The Prison for its foreboding, austere facilities, yet her three-year-old loved his teachers and his nightly homework. In Shanghai, in a school without flush toilets, the students were kept late not out of punishment, but to master the day's lesson. In Tokyo, her children and their classmates were responsible for school chores, like preparing and serving school lunches—lunches that featured grilled fish, stewed vegetables and miso soup, not hot dogs and french fries.

These schools were low-tech and bare-bones, with teachers who demanded obedience and order. Yet Teru was shocked



Yukata Beauties Gathered Together

260 Joined NEW YORK KYOTO CLUB on Manhattan Cruise

NEW YORK KYOTO CLUB hosted the Yukata Manhattan Cruise on the evening of August 24, with 260 people in attendance.

At 6:00 p.m., the cruise ship Jewel departed the East River at 23rd Street. The ship went under the Brooklyn Bridge, then headed to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and up the Hudson River before coming back to the pier. It was a three-hour cruise.

Candy artist Candy 25, bamboo

artist Takayuki Shimizu and comedian/musician Rio Koike entertained the attendants during the cruise. There was a Yukata Beauty contest as well. Meals by Daisuke Yamada, a chef at Hakata Tonton who trained in Kyoto for eight years, and local sake and beer from Fushimi, Kyoto were served. People enjoyed the authentic Japanese food, beautiful night view and smiles of the yukata beauties.

(Photo and article by Ryoichi Miura/ Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)



to discover that her children thrived in these foreign and academically competitive cultures; they learned to be independent, self-confident, resilient, and, above all, they developed a deep and abiding love of learning. The true culture shock came when Teru returned to the States and found their top-rated California school woefully ill-prepared to challenge her children. Her kids were passing, but the schools were failing them.

In this revelatory book, Teru shares

what she learned during her decade in Asia, providing practical tips and takeaways to bring the best of Asia's education and parenting philosophies into American homes and schools. Written with warmth and humor, "World Class" is an insightful guide to set your children on a path towards lifelong learning and success.

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Apply for HAIKU Contest!

Haiku is a poem following the syllabic pattern of 5-7-5.

- Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:
Across the still lake
through upcurls of morning mist
The cry of a loon
- O. Mabson Southard
- HOW to APPLY
Website: <http://www.artofhaiku.org>
E-mail: HaikuGrandPrix@gmail.com
7 Japanese, 7 English and 7 "Under 18 Div." haiku will be selected each month. For more detail, go to <http://www.artofhaiku.org>
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