WORKSHEET

Learning *Jueju* through Chinese Painting: A Branch of Bamboo

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions based on background knowledge.

Ni Zan (Chinese: 倪瓚; 1301–1374) was a Chinese painter during the Yuan and early Ming dynasties. Along with Huang Gongwang, Wu Zhen, and Wang Meng, he is one of the Four Masters of the Yuan dynasty. He is also a representative painter of the Nanzong landscape painting during the Yuan dynasty. Ni Zan's works are mainly ink and water on paper, with light colors in between. The trees in the foreground and the regular script inscriptions in the blank spaces have almost become Ni Zan's personal symbols.

•	What is Ni Zan's identity?
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•	What is	s he cc	nsidere	ed to	be c	one c	of?
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• What are the characteristics of his works?		

Bamboo has been depicted in Chinese painting for more than a thousand years. Along with the pine and the plum, bamboo is a member of the Three Friends of Winter due to its ability to bear the harshest of winters. It is also one of the Four Gentlemen (the other three being the plum, the orchid, and the chrysanthemum) due to the moral virtues it represents. The hollowness of the bamboo stalk symbolizes tolerance and open-mindedness, and its flexibility and strength signify the human values of cultivation and integrity: one yields but does not break. All of these virtues make bamboo a very popular subject in Chinese painting, especially among scholar—artists.

•	How long has bamboo appeared in Chinese painting?
•	What does the "Three Friends of Winter" refer to?

- What does the "Four Gentlemen" refer to?
- What does bamboo symbolize?

•	Why has bamboo become a popular theme in Chinese painting?

My old friend knew how to sketch bamboo, And patterned his approach upon Wen Tong [eleventh-century painter]. Calmly he looked out the western window, And the cool wind filled his page with fall.
—Translation by Stephen D. Allee
Who wrote the poem on the painting?Why did he write this poem?
 Jueju (quatrains)—also known as truncated sentences, fragmented sentences, short sentences, and jueshi—belong to a form of modern poetry. Jueju are composed of four sentences, which are divided into Lùjue and Gujue, in which Lùjue has strict metric requirements. The most common jueju are five-character quatrains and seven-character quatrains. Six-character quatrains are relatively rare. What are the characteristics of jueju? What are the different types of jueju?

The poet Qian Weishan (act. 1341–ca. 1379) added a few brief lines of poetry in the upper left corner of the painting to

honor Ni Zan after his death: