Discussion Questions

After viewing Hikaru’s Workshop, Concert, and Off The Stage videos, use these questions for discussion:

1. What did you learn from Hikaru’s videos and their music that you didn’t know before?
2. What did you learn about Hikaru’s instruments? Have you seen a shamisen before? Do any of Hikaru’s instruments remind you of instruments you’ve seen before?
3. What does Hikaru’s music make you think of? Does it sound like anything you’ve heard before?
4. The type of music Hikaru performs spans centuries. Do you think it’s important to pass down musical traditions?
5. How do you share traditions within your family?
6. Many of Hikaru’s songs share stories about the place where their style of music originated. If you had to pick a song to represent your hometown, what would you choose? What story does it tell?
7. What do you think about the clothing members of Hikaru wear during their concert? Have you seen clothing like this before? How do you dress for important events?
8. In the Off the Stage video, each of the members of Hikaru take us to places that are important to them. Where would you take Hikaru to show them something about your hometown?
9. How does the festival that Tomoko takes us to compare to festivals or events you’ve attended?
10. What did you think about Takemi’s dance rehearsal? What other styles of dance are you familiar with?
11. Yamanaka takes us to Asakusa, a popular tourist destination. Where is your favorite place to visit? If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
12. The members of Hikaru speak Japanese, though they know a little English too. Can you say any words in Japanese? How about “arigato” which means “thank you!” Do you know more than one language?
13. What did you know about Japan before watching Hikaru’s videos? Did you learn anything new that surprised you?
14. If you could ask any of the members of Hikaru a question, what would you ask and why?