

About the Winning Submissions

We really enjoyed taking a look at all of your submissions and seeing the different approaches that everyone took when translating each line. Here are some comments from us regarding the winning submissions.

First Prize Winner : Taro Konishi

While all of the lines were excellent, lines 1 and 5 of Taro's submission stood out to us in particular. It was interesting how the translation of line 1 refers to the act of using a spoon, which is not something the original line spells out (as it is quite obvious to the Japanese viewer why Masami feels offended). The standout line of Taro's submission was Masami's piece of dialogue in number 5: "Huh? You gotta slurp them to fully taste the ramen!" We were impressed by this approach because it explains why the fact that a ramen critic cannot slurp noodles is so incredulous to Masami – something that very few submissions attempted to do. Adding extra information like this can be very useful for the English-speaking viewer that might need more context. These fresh, creative approaches that showed outside-the-box thinking led us to select Taro as the first-place winner.

Second Prize Winner: Jon Velier

Jon's submission had a very natural flow and great overall tone throughout. Additions of phrases like "I assure you" in line 2, while minor, made for a great, very natural-sounding flow. Lines 6 and 7 also stood out. "How can I trust her?" (line 6) was a great use of a question as opposed to a declaration to show Masami's doubts in the abilities of the ramen critic, and the phrasing of "Her palate is second to none" (line 7) was great as it showed just how confident Maririn is in the ramen critic.

Second Prize Winner: Georgia Schlink

Georgia's submission stood out due to great character voice – "Get real" in line 5 was a great translation for は？ふざけんな that fit Masami's character. "What kind of ramen critic can't slurp?" (also line 5) did a great job of showing the nuance of how Masami couldn't believe what she was hearing. "She's taking this seriously" (line 2) was also a nice way of having Maririn not simply deny what Masami is asking in line 1, but advocate for the ramen critic at the same time.

—Jessi Nuss