

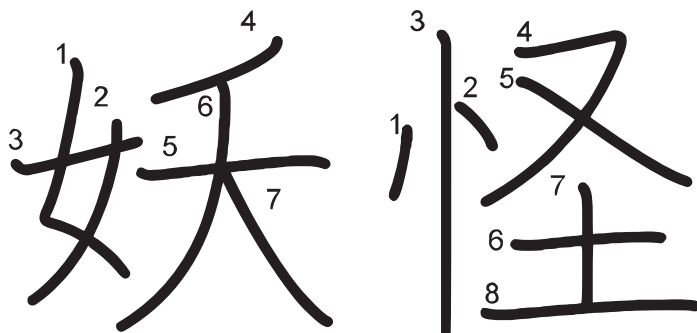


TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: YOUKAI

OCTOBER 17, 2017

The Japanese word youkai 妖怪 means many things, but the kanji characters gives a pretty good idea of how scary those creatures are supposed to be. Many ghosts in Japanese folklore are female, so it's no surprise that the first kanji 妖 uses the radical for woman 女 and the phonetic 夭. Together, they mean something bewitching and misfortunate. Meanwhile, the second kanji 怪 is made up of three radicals for heart (or feeling), hand, and ground, like the feeling 冫 you might get when seeing a hand 又 sticking out of the ground 土. Together, these also mean something mysterious or strange. Altogether, a youkai 妖怪 is going to be a bewitching, mysterious, and strange monster, so watch out!



Reading: ようかい
yoh-u-kah-ee

Meaning: ghost; monster;
goblin