

Ganbare

Lily Cline

You always said, "Ganbare,"
Work hard and keep your head high.
But I can't follow your guide
Now that you both have died.
Please, papa, give me strength.

You know times weren't easy
For a Japanese girl
Who's mother was Irish,
No place in the world.
You said to push harder and prove them all wrong,
And never forget who you are!
But who am I, papa, without you?

Do you know how it feels
To have everyone stare?
Whispering loudly,
As if I am not even there.

But you'd always stand by me, take my hands and you'd say,
"Emma, *shinjite*, you are strong and you are brave." *Shinjite*...

So I'll hear you say, "Ganbare,"
For you, in my mem'ry, live on.
And wherever I roam,
You will always be home.
Thank you, papa, for all that I know