GAO SHI (高适 A.D. 700? - 765) was a poet of the Tang Dynasty, a leading figure in the "Frontier School" (边塞诗派) of Tang poetry.

He lived in a period of many frontier battles. This aroused his patriotic spirit and led him to pay two visits to the frontier. With his profound understanding of life at the frontier, he wrote numerous outstanding frontier poems. His frontier poems in fact were a good mirror of Tang's frontier battles; he portrayed the valor of fighting men and expressed his deep feeling for the far-off soldiers, forlorn women and common people. But his outstanding works were not confined to the frontier poems. Before he became an official at the age of fifty, he had ample opportunities to meet other poor people, being poor himself, and learn about their misfortunes. In his poems he described the days of insecurity and the people's sufferings.

This academic exercise attempts to study Gao Shi's life history and works. It comprises seven chapters: the introductory chapter states the purpose of the study. Chapter two discusses the era in which Gao Shi lived. Chapter three deals with his life, family and official career, which started only when he was a middle-aged man. Chapter four touches on the main themes underlying his poems and chapter five evaluates the artistic qualities of his poems. In the sixth chapter the influences of Gao Shi's works on succeeding poets are briefly discussed. The last chapter provides a summary and a conclusion.
The study establishes Gao Shi as an outstanding poet of the genre of 'frontier' poetry. Succeeding generations of poets had been greatly influenced by the creative artistry of his poetry, whose themes concerned patriotism, hardship and suffering of the common people and strife for success in life and career.

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