

2012 第2回New Storyteller コンテスト

最優秀作品 : A Kindness

最優秀作品 : Letters

特選 : The Day of the World's End

特選 : The Mystery Woman

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A Kindness

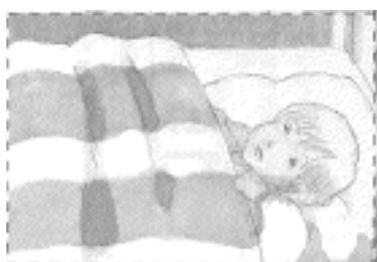
Jinpei

There was a boy named Ken. He was sleeping, but he woke up because he heard a noise. And he saw someone in his room. He screamed “Ahhh-h.”



Then a man held a gun to his temple and said, “Don’t yell. If you yell, I’ll shoot you in the head.” Ken said, “OK. OK. I’ll be silent.”

Then Ken asked, “But why are you doing this to me?” “It’s none of your business,” he said, and then he went quiet.



One hour later, the man started talking. “My son has to be operated on for cancer, so I need a lot of money, but I don’t have enough money. So I broke into your room. But I don’t want to kill anyone.” Ken said, “I’ll give you enough money. I hope that your son will be cured.” “Really! Thank you.” “Wait a minute.”

A few minutes later, Ken came back with a big black bag. The man took the bag and went to his house.

One year passed. Ken was sleeping, but he woke up because he heard a noise. And he saw someone in his room. He screamed. “Don’t scream! Do you remember me?” “Oh, I do. You came here last year. Was your son cured?” “Yes, I came here to say thank you to you.



Now, my son is running outside and studying hard.” They talked for a long time.

30 years passed. Ken became ill and was hospitalized. When he saw his doctor, he was very surprised. Ken asked, “Sorry. Did you have cancer in your childhood?” The doctor said, “Yes. But how did you know?” “I knew your father, and you resemble him.”

Letters

Violet

Dear son,

I had a strange dream last night. I was walking with you. I was very young, maybe about 17 years old. I do not remember well



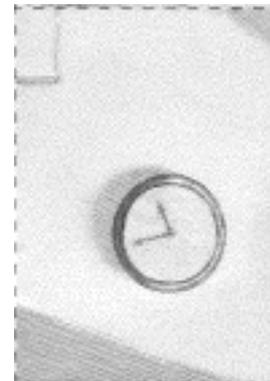
because it was just a dream, but I was saying something important to you.



Anyway, I was happy because I could talk and walk with you like a friend. You are in America with your father, so I'm a little lonely. But it's not a problem.



I want you to live happily. You must go your own way if I am not in this world. I'm going to undergo surgery now. I don't care whether it will go well or not because I can meet you later in heaven anyway.



I'm looking forward to it.
See you in the future.

From your mother, 7/24

Dear mother,

Thank you for your letter. You're not in this world, but I'm writing to you in heaven. In fact, I had that dream, too! I took a girl (maybe she was you) to the hospital because she wanted to say something important.



At the hospital she said, "After I die, we'll meet again here." Now I understand that. I was happy, too, mother. I have a big dream. I'll go to university and will be a doctor. If my dreams come true, I'll go to heaven and meet you.



I was so happy to talk with you in this letter and in the dream. I'm already the happiest and most beloved child in the world. Thank you.

From your son, 7/25

The Day of the World's End

K.K.nyagonigenyo

The sun was shining very brightly. It was as bright as noon. But that was strange because it was five in the morning. "The sun is expanding," I whispered, and closed the car door.



My mother was sitting on the bed and looking out the window. "I'm back." I said to her. She just nodded, slowly.

It was 2 years ago. My wife and son and I were visiting my mother's house on summer vacation. It was fun.



In the morning, we went to the beach. I'm not good at swimming, so I played beach ball and made a lot of sand castles. My son loved swimming and surfing. He sometimes acted like a fool and made a lot of trouble. We were happy... until then.

It was August 20th. We were returning to my mother's house by car. And suddenly, it happened.

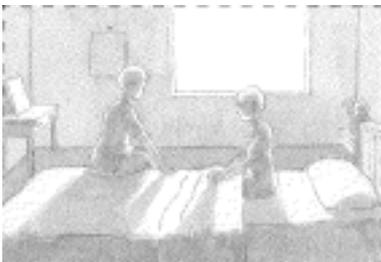




First, I thought it was a car crash. Many cars stopped, and I heard someone screaming. “What’s up? A car accident?” my son asked. He looked nervous. “Let’s turn on the radio,” I said. And I did.

“... The sun is expanding. It cannot be stopped. Scientists say the Earth will break up ...”

“Is it joke or something? Like ‘The War of the Worlds’ radio program?” I changed the channel. Click. “The world will end...” Click. “We will die...” Click. “The sun...” Click. Click, click, click! Every channel was reporting the same news. “The world will end on 7/23/2014. It cannot be stopped.”



Now it is 7/23/2014. After the shocking news, my wife said she wanted to return to her hometown and die there. We had a lot of arguments and separated. I live in my mother’s house now. “You look so tired,” my mother said to me. “Really?” I said. “I think you look more tired than me.” She smiled weakly. She got cancer last year.

Suddenly, the sun became brighter and brighter. It seemed very dangerous.



My mother and I looked at the clock. 5:42. ‘The world will end on July 23 at 5:45...’ I remembered the reporter’s voice. “Thank you for everything, Mom.” I said. She hugged me and smiled again. We sat on the bed, and looked out the window together. Tick, tick, tick, tick...

The Mystery Woman

T.Y.

Once upon a time, there was a boy who was kidnapped by a mystery woman.

His name was Jack. The woman shut him up in her house in the forest for ten years.



When he was fifteen years old, one night he thought, “I have been in this house for ten years. Oh, I will be shut up in this house when I die.”

He gave up, but then he thought of running away from there. “That’s a good idea!”



Then, the very next day, he tried to do it early in the morning.

But he was found by the mystery woman. “Where are you going?” she said in a wicked voice. Then she cast a spell on him.





But he never gave up. Two years later, he tried to run away again.
He did it. He went to a new world! It was very beautiful.

He had never seen such a beautiful thing. But he had no time. He dashed and dashed. He ran through a forest.



At last, he left the forest and he arrived in a town. There were many factories, cars and buildings. He looked for something to help him as he ran.

Then he found an elegant house. He asked for help at the house. "Help me! I have been running away from a kidnapper!" he shouted. The house's owner looked at him.



Then he froze. "Do you think you can escape from me?"
The owner was the mystery woman.

Killed by a Giant!

Cockroach

I was a cockroach who was killed by a nasty boy.

I came here two weeks ago. The room was warm and nice, so I lived here.



That night, when I was going to sleep, I heard a loud voice. I looked up and noticed a boy who was looking in my direction and yelling.

It was too noisy to sleep, so I went out of the room and slept in another place.

It happened again the next night. And again and again.



It happened every day for two weeks. I noticed he yelled because of me.

One night two weeks later, when I was entering my house, I mean the room, he looked very angry. He yelled at me, then he chased me. So I went to the left but he kept running in the wrong direction, because he was crazy or maybe because I was too small to see.



Then he looked back and noticed I was here. Suddenly he looked so afraid that he went backward. I thought he was really crazy or had schizophrenia.



I wanted to talk to make him calm down, so I went forward and tried to go near him. This time he looked really really angry. I thought he should go to a hospital. Then he ran to me again.

This time I had no time to avoid him. But he jumped very high, so I thought he was avoiding me. Wow! I was avoided by people. I felt like a giant.



But the next moment I noticed I was wrong. He wasn't avoiding me. He was killing me. "What? Why are you killing me! I didn't do anything!" I screamed.

Then his feet pressed down on me. "It hurts! It hurts!" I screamed. My legs broke. Maybe I'll have to go to a hospital, not him. But the next moment I felt myself going flat. "Ugh!" Then I died.



Mike 先生からのコメント

A Kindness

This story is full of surprises. It starts out with what seems to be a violent robbery, but after that the robber and victim cooperate to do a good deed. At the end of the story, there is another surprise.

Letters

The two letters in this story show the deep love between a mother and a son. It also shows how even after someone in your family passes away, you can still feel close to them.

The Day of the World's End

This science fiction story takes a major worldwide disaster and focuses on its effect on a single family. Because the writer gives a lot of information about the characters' backgrounds, the reader feels emotionally involved in the story.

The Mystery Woman

This story, in which a mystery woman who seems to be a witch kidnaps a child, is a combination of a fairy tale and a nightmare. The writer does an excellent job describing Jack's fear of the mystery woman and his desire to become free.

Killed by a Giant!

This writer had the brilliant idea of retelling the story in the textbook from the point of view of the cockroach rather than the boy, and then did an excellent job developing the idea, giving the cockroach an appealing personality.

宮下先生からのコメント

A Kindness

心温まるストーリーです。統一感のある言葉づかいが、自然な流れにのって美しく響きます。イディオムが頻繁にかつ効果的に使われ上手に入れてあり、前置詞の使い方も巧みです。会話文には感情がこめられ、バランスよく文章中に配置されています。ひとつの作品として、総合的にみて卓越しています。登場人物は性格がよいのも好感がもてます。

Letters

時空を超えたストーリーラインは斬新です。ドラマ化してもよい雰囲気です。手紙のやりとりでお話しを伝えるという手法は、よく練られています。文字を追っていくと、不思議なことに情景も浮かんでくるのは、表現力が高さを示しています。子供が the happiest and most beloved child in the world というのも心を打たれます。

The Day of the World's End

地球が最後の日を迎えたら、、、という壮大なテーマに取り組んだ作品です。パンクチュエーション（句読法）が作品の切れ味をよくしています。また倒置が文章のアクセントになっており、ハッとさせられます。文のスタイルをよく考えて構成してあります。人にとって大切なものは何なのかを問う秀作です。

The Mystery Woman

登場人物 2 名ともがあきらめない、というドキドキする作品です。意外な結末がおもしろいものの、ゾクゾクした気分のまま読み終わります。イラストを上手に使って、お話しの流れに合わせてあります。続編も書けそうです。作者はこの作品にどのようなメッセージをこめているのか考えさせられます。

Killed by a Giant!

ゴキブリが主人公という奇想天外なお話しです。普段はゴキブリサイドからは思考しないので、意表をつく展開です。難しい単語もよく調べてあります。ユーモアたっぷりなお話しですが、理論的な文章でもあります。最初と最後の太陽のイラストは、対照的でゴキブリの気持ちをよく表しています。

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