





# CROP

Creativity Rising Original Production



# CONTENTS

JOY .....	7
Shio Butter Ramen   Ryotaro Suzuki.....	7
The Incident Made Me Who I Am   Rei Hayakawa.....	8
15 I remember   Miyu Umeda.....	9
The Winter I Learned to Love   Ayana Kusada.....	10
Light in the Dark   Kokoro Hiramatsu.....	11
Nao Island   Reika Ebishikawa.....	12
Claude Monet, <i>The Ball-Shaped Tree, Argenteuil</i>   Rinne Kinoshita.....	14
Long-Awaited Day   Kanon Mizumoto.....	15
Grandpa's Bedroom   Momoka Yamaguchi.....	16
Family   Rika Ozaki.....	17
Up and Away   Kana Takahashi.....	18
ANGER .....	19
First Looking into Bonheur's Lion   Hyuma Erabu.....	19
Think about the Feeling "Poor"   Otoka Ikeda.....	20
In The Dark Night   Yuka Kameyasu.....	22
Sign   Yuka Kameyasu.....	23
Photograph from the Disaster of Abukuma River   Nanami Kimura.....	24
My Hawaiian Trauma   Rinko Ishii.....	25
Will of Snow   Hyuma Erabu.....	25
The Mad Cheshire   Anonymous.....	26
SADNESS .....	27
My World That No One Knows   Rei Hayakawa.....	27
Boyfriend   Suzuko Miyatake.....	27
Photograph from November 2013   Akeira Falconaya.....	29
Sorry, What Did You Say?   Yuka Kameyasu.....	30
Winter Ride   Ryota Otake.....	31
My dog takes the Stairway to Heaven   Hihiro Yamaguchi.....	32
The Reign of The Moon   Hyuma Erabu.....	33
The Extraordinary   Kyoya Nakamura.....	33
Autumn   Yuzuki Yamada.....	34
Blue Island   Ryota Otake.....	35
FUN .....	37
The Muscle   Towa Taniguchi.....	37
Adventure   Kanaho Yoshio.....	38
My Full Memory in the Backyard   Rino Higuchi.....	48
Audition   Miyu Yoshioka.....	49
My Buddy   Ayumu Sugiyama.....	56
Mistake   Kaoru Fujinuma.....	57
Tom and A Ghost   Tomoya Enokido.....	62
Play Catch With   Otoka Ikeda.....	63
Caterpillars   Runa Owada.....	69
My Living Room   Rika Ozaki.....	69
SPECIAL THANKS .....	71
CROP CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS .....	72



# JOY

## SHIO BUTTER RAMEN

*Ryotaro Suzuki*

When it comes to winter, I want to go my favorite ramen shop. “Mantaro” is a ramen shop in Sendai. There is the foot of a mountain. So, in winter, there are many people who wear ski clothes. I practiced skiing when I was elementary school. After the lesson, I often went to “Mantaro” with my family.

In the ramen shop, there are a lot of comics, and anyone can read these, such as “Dragon Ball” and “Kochikame.” Every winter, “Mantaro” is full customers after skiing. I often read “Dragon Ball” while I eat ramen.” Mantaro” is so famous in Sendai because its ramen is delicious. “Mantaro” has a long menu for ramen. My favorite menu is “Shio Butter Ramen.” The taste is salty and rich of butter and soup. After skiing, this ramen really hits the cold body.

I’ve liked this ramen since my childhood. “Mantaro” is far from my hometown. These days I did not go. So, I’ve begun to forget the taste of ramen. However, I went to “Mantaro” and ate “Shio Butter Ramen” after skiing. The store owner gets older, and the comics are damaged. Seemingly, the desks and chairs are smaller. But the taste and smell has not changed since my childhood.

In Sendai especially the foot of mountains, winter is severe. However, if you go to “Mantaro”, you can become warm from inside. Moreover, it is heartwarming to eat “Mantaro’s ramen,” too. We can feel these warming only in winter. For these reasons, “Mantaro” makes me wintery.

# THE INCIDENT MADE ME WHO I AM

*Rei Hayakawa*

“This is your own life. Say what you want to say. Say what you truly feel. You only get one life. You don't have time to be afraid.” This is a word that I have cherished for a long time. After I heard these words, it totally changed my life. These words were said by my English teacher after I went to study abroad when I was 12 years old.

In this essay, I would like to express how important these words are to me and my important incident.

When I was 12 years old, I went to America for a three-week trip with my school. At that time, I had to say that I hated English. Also, I had no confidence in myself. I really wasn't looking forward to the trip abroad. The trip started with a week in a youth camp in Seattle, Washington. It didn't start well. Although the American girls there, trying their best to communicate with me, I couldn't understand them, so I just smiled and shrugged. This was my first experience in the English language environment. And I was shocked at how poor my English ability was-especially compared to the other Japanese boys and girls from my school. I was so angry at myself and every night I cried myself to sleep in frustration. On the last night, I still didn't feel very well, but I somehow mustered the courage to try once more. I called out the American girl in my cabin and although my sentences must have been very confusing. She patiently listened and helped me to find the right words. Finally, I was communicating with other girls my age. If only I had made the effort sooner. If only I had tried harder at school. As we left camp on the bus the next morning, I felt heavy with regrets.

Seven years have passed since then. I'm in the English literature department at Meiji Gakuin University. And now, I love English and I have a lot more confidence in myself. So, what happened? Not long After I got back from America, one of my English teachers took me aside and said to me, “This is your own life. Say what you want to say. Say what you truly feel. You only get one life. You don't have time to be afraid.” As a little girl, I was shy and scared. So these words had a big impact on me. They helped me realize the importance of challenging myself. And the importance of being assertive. Interning in English, they made me realize I wouldn't progress unless I made the first small steps. I suddenly understood what I had to do. From that moment I started to try hard in English class and put all my effort into everything I had to do. Also, I began to study English without being afraid of my mistakes and to improve my vocabulary, grammar and intonation. And it's not just my English that has improved. I feel that has changed my whole life. I was the head of club activities and student council



president in my high school. Not only when I was in high school, but even now I actively participate in volunteer activities and communicate with people from overseas a lot. All these things happened because of the words from that teacher. She changed my life. Her words made me who I am.

This incident was guiding me on a new path. When many people hear about this event, they may say it's obvious. However, it was a very important event for me, a shy and nervous person, and if it weren't for this teacher's words, I would have been trembling at speaking for the rest of my life. Now, I want to be an English teacher. Just as I was given the confidence to speak, the confidence to be myself. I want to give confidence to the next generation. There are a lot of students who are afraid of speaking English, so I want to give a powerful education that eliminates that fear. I'm working hard towards my dream. I have a long way to go, but these experiences made me strong and I still have that teacher's words in my heart. I know I can make it.

## 15 I REMEMBER

*Miyu Umeda*

I remember when I was a little kid, I used to like to listen to QUEEN's song in the car, especially "we are the champions". Even though I was too young to understand the meaning of the lyrics.

I remember that I was interested in many kinds of music but never preferred to listened to J-pop. So sometimes I still don't understand when my friends are talking about it.

I remember since I love music and start admiring about playing the music instruments, I decided to join brassband club when I was in elementary school. But I didn't know anything about musical scales at the time, so I studied a lot with my friends after school.

I remember that playing the trumpet was not easy as I thought. I was belonging to 2nd part and always wishing to play 1st part. Unfortunately, the wish never came true though.

I remember when I was a junior high school student, I hastily changed playing the trumpet to flute. Because the senior girl taught me how to play it very kindly, I wanted to play with her.

I remember the first time I play the flute. I did play it better than any other musical instruments. I thought this is where I belong.

I remember the first time me and my friend got gold prize in ensemble competition. Performing in front of a lot of people made me very nervous but I made it.

I remember the last time I played the flute in summer competition. Couldn't get gold prize. I even thought the brass instruments ruined our performance because the woodwinds were all winning gold prizes in the ensemble competition. I was frustrated, but I couldn't cry because I knew the incompleted performance wouldn't get the gold prize from the beginning.

I remember that I quit playing the musical instruments when I entered high school. I tried to find a new hobby instead of playing it, which was game.

I remember the first time I played the guitar at the guitar class in Canada when I was high school student. It was really difficult, and I thought I will never play it again.

I remember that I entered the university and tried to find another hobby again, which was listening to J-rock music.

I remember the first time I went to live house and listened to my favorite artist 's songs. I was overwhelmed and decided to start playing the guitar again.

I remember the first time I performed my guitar on the stage. I missed a lot, felt embarrassed but excited the same time.

I don't remember the last time I performed playing the guitar. I think it was 1-2year ago? I was too lazy to practice it. Many of my friends asked me about when will I perform and it is kinda burden for me.

I remember the university senior's graduation live performance. I saw tears in their eyes and audience. I dimly thought I want to be respected and make someone feel like that someday.

## THE WINTER I LEARNED TO LOVE

*Ayana Kusada*

My first trip to Hakone with friends was a two-hour adventure. As the car wound its way up the twisting mountain roads, the windows fogged, and I could see my breath turning white in the chilly air. A clear reminder that winter was here. When we finally arrived and stepped outside, the air was cold yet and incredibly refreshing. I wanted to stay out forever, but reality checked in. It was minus three degrees Celsius. As I don't

handle winter well, I was surprised to find myself falling in love with the purity of Hakone's winter air.

At that point, there was no snow yet. After a meal at a cozy restaurant down the slope, something magical happened: snow started falling! We rushed outside like excited kids, staring at the snowflakes dancing in the air. They sparkled like shooting stars, delicate and ethereal, like fairies floating down from the heavens. It was the season's first snow, and its perfect timing felt like destiny. For the first time in my life, I found beauty in the season I disliked most.

Even the tourists from the restaurant ran out, stretching their hands toward the snow with delighted exclamations. The snow only lasted about 15 minutes, but it felt like a miracle, a fleeting gift from the heavens. It made me realize how many incredible sights and experiences are still waiting for me in life. That moment gave me an unexpected surge of optimism. I felt it was a blessing from God. Winter, a season I once dreaded, showed me something I had never seen before: its breathtaking beauty.

## LIGHT IN THE DARK

*Kokoro Hiramatsu*

*Twenty thousand leagues under the sea is near Sea Rider which is an attraction based on "Finding Nemo". The attraction is under the ground. You have to go down the stairs when you take Twenty thousand leagues under sea. Although the place is very dark and cool like under the sea, you have to wait there to take it. It's cool there in the summer, but if you come in the winter, you should bring warm clothes. You also hear man's voice and mechanical sounds which may make you be scary. "Attention! For your safety, remain seated and supervise your children during the mission. From captain Nemo's orders, flash photography is strictly prohibited. Thank you!"*

When I was a 7-year-old, I was scary about the darkness, mechanical sounds, and the smell of seawater. I hated them. I especially did not like darkness because I thought there might be ghost there. However, I had to ride it because my family liked it and I did not want to wait until they rode it. They were my mother who was a school nurse, my 16-year-old brother wearing glasses and my 14-year-old sister whose hair was short. The waiting line was not long, so we rode it soon.

*A cast member guided you to the entrance of the submarine. There are three seats for two people in the attraction. When you board it, you can hear the same mechanical noise you heard before boarding again. Nemo, who is a captain said "This is Captain Nemo. Welcome to the awesome*

*under the sea". For the first, there are a lot of beautiful seaweeds under the sea. However, a buzzing sound suddenly come. Which seats do you sit, you can see a big octopus attacking the submarine. One of crews and Nemo are talking each other. "The submarine's defenses have been activated. If this situation continues, this submarine will sink" "Something must have attacked us. Let it pass at full speed" "Something hold us. The submarine cannot move" "Attack by increasing the voltage" The light goes out.*

My head fulfilled with fears. I really wanted to go my home. I cried and called my mother. Someone held my hand with a warm hand. I thought this was my mother's hand. I was relieved thanks to this.

*The light come on. A crew and Nemo start talking again. "Captain, the power of this submarine is dropping sharply and sinking deeper and deeper" "Do you know where is there?" "No, sir. We came completely unknown under the sea." The conversation makes you insecure.*

I noticed the hand was not my mother's but my sister's when the light came on. That surprised me because she was usually strict with me and has a sharp tongue. For example, she always said to me "Do not run in the hallway" or "Do not be noisy". Since she was not the kind of person who shows kindness directly, I was so pleased that she helped me.

*Luminous animals watch you in the darkness. They are singing with beautiful voices. "Someone seems to be pushing the submarine up" The submarine is lifted upwards. You can see luminous animals waving their hand and you back to ground.*

## NAO ISLAND

*Reika Ebishikawa*

Nao Island has nothing but has everything.

Nao Island is in Kagawa prefecture but it is so far from the mainland, so we must get on the ferry to go to the island. I rode a ferry for the first time on this trip. The scene through the window is so beautiful. I saw sleeping people on the ferry, which shocked me because I believed the ferry was not for sleeping. Through this experience I realized extraordinary for me is ordinary for others.

I also had a surprising experience on this island. They had an art festival, which is called 'home-project'. Artists express their art by using many vacant houses on Nao Island. The most impressive work for me is black world. The black world seemed like a temple. Before we came to the black world, the clue told us "Turn off your smartphone

and leave your all belongings.” He told again and again. I didn’t know what would happen, so I was really scared and then went to the black world. Once we went inside, it was so dark. The room was blackout out and I could not see anything. There was no smell, no sound, no touch, no taste, and no looks.

“What if something bumped into me?”

“What if there is a loud noise suddenly?”

I was so scared.

I had to walk with touching the wall to move forward. Such circumstances continued for about 10 minutes and after that, we could hear a train sound, like ‘gatan-goton, gatan-goton’. I thought what this is.

I was so scared.

My heart was beating up more and more. I wanted to go out right now!! After this moment, a small light came on, and then the crew instructed us to go to this light. However, it was not easy to go because the room was blackout and I bumped into others on the way to the light. So, every time I bumped into another person, I said “sorry”, which made me painful.

I was so scared.

It was horrible. I wanted to go out right now!! And finally, we left that room. After that, the crew explained about this art experience. He said the artist created this work for people to understand the visually impaired. Finishing this experience, I was stunned for a while. This was a memorable experience. Through this, I found new aspects of the world and it’s a little horrible to

After this house project, we headed for the sea by bicycle. The sea was so beautiful. The ocean was like emerald and so clean. This scenery refreshed me.

This island will make you happy, excited, scared, and relaxed.

This island has nothing but has everything.

On Nao Island, there was no train, shopping center, fashionable food, or huge buildings, but there were warm people, clean nature, fresh food, and impressive art. Nao Islands tell us what we should have and not in life.

Nao Island brings you not a wealth of material but a wealth of mentality.

# CLAUDE MONET, *THE BALL-SHAPED TREE*, ARGENTEUIL

*Rinne Kinoshita*

Can we forget loneliness?  
To know, deep within,  
that we are our own allies—  
the trees swaying, the sun, weary, sinking,  
its final light filtering through the leaves,  
a soft, fading breath of the day.

How far does this river stretch?  
Where does it flow,  
through the quiet, endless passage of time?

The moments with those I love,  
young souls dancing, alive with joy,  
in the heart of this ancient forest.  
The trees, twisted and breathing,  
the water still, shimmering—  
I cannot look away,  
for the stillness hums.

The sun slips into dusk,  
and the vast sky, empty and endless,  
holds the memory of all that has passed.  
How far does this river stretch?  
Beyond the stars,  
to the place where all things begin,  
and everything waits for its turn.

# LONG-AWAITED DAY

*Kanon Mizumoto*

“Don’t take a photo at a venue.” “Don’t run! Please walk.” You enter the venue listening such staff’s announcement. Today is November 18<sup>th</sup>. Here is KSPO DOME in Korea. It’s the day of long-awaited concert. As soon as you enter, the sweet smell of various perfumes stimulates the nose. Perfume is the spirit of girls. And you see a view full of people from end to end. Surprisingly, 90% of them are girls. One is taking photo with an original light stick, one is talking with her neighbor, and also one is wandering around looking for her seat. But what they all have in common is that they all have excited, shining eyes and smile. You also proceed by looking at the seat number displayed on the screen. Your steps toward the seat are as light as walking on a cloud.

You arrive the seat. There is the second row, but the actual field of view is almost the same as the first row. You’re getting more and more excited about the distance between the stage that like you will reach if you stretch your hands. To share your feelings, you talk to your neighbor on the right. “Hi. Who’s your favorite member?” “Hi. I like MARK.” “Oh, good! I like HAECHAN.” “Oh, really? I have never been in such a good seat before. So, I’m very excited.” “Let’s have fun together.” No one knows yet that these two excited talkers will later yell out of happiness with so big voice. After that, the person next to you on the left gives you a set of sweets. This is because it is a kind of culture of concert in Korea. Inside, there were lots of gum and jelly of a various colors such as pink, blue and green, and chocolate crunch bars wrapped in bags. Of course, you give them the set of sweets that you had prepared. This kind of exchange can be said to be one of the best part of concerts. Since you are hungry, you eat one of them thankfully. Then, the soft and sweet flavor explodes in your mouth, and you feel that it is more delicious than usual.

In the meantime, five minutes before the concert starts. Finally, the sound gets louder, and the pre-concert song begin to play. The light stick at the venue starts shine green light at the same time, and make the venue look like a meadow. The venue unites to start a fan chant. You also shout out the fan chant that you have learned as if they were warm-up exercises. In the blink of an eye, one song is over. The enthusiasm of the venue reaches its peak. Then, the venue turns dark. You hear voices of joy from all over the venue in the excitement of finally starting. Once you adjust your breathing, you can feel your heartbeat is faster than usual. And finally, the people you really wanted to meet for long time appear on the stage.

## GRANDPA'S BEDROOM

*Momoka Yamaguchi*

It's only 4 a.m.

The view outside I see from the small window is still dark and cold, but the bedroom is warm filled with the aroma of coffee brewed by my grandpa. I remember the promise last night. Before sleep, I said to him, "I'll get up early and spend an elegant morning with you. Tomorrow is the day that I'll make a tiny wish come true!". My grandpa answered "Ok Momo-chan. How many times have I heard that? I hope your pretty wish comes true tomorrow" with his gentle smile. But, look to my right, there is no one next to me in the big and fluffy bed. He is already up and drinks a hot coffee while reading a newspaper in the light of the morning sun. I want to spend an elegant time with him today, but the smell of coffee and fluffy bed makes me sleepy. My attempt ended in failure again today.

Looking around the bedroom, there are old but beautiful antique furniture which evoke a sense of foreign culture. On the shelves, there are elephant statues and unique human figurines which scare me at the night. The carpets and sheets with Javanese batik patterns give the room an exotic atmosphere. Many patterns and designs that are not commonly seen in Japan makes me feel mysterious, but for some reason, it feels calming. In contrast to this atmosphere, a cute letter in pink, light blue, or yellow, decorated hearts, stars and characters, carefully kept in the wooden glass showcase next to the bed. Stickers are placed here and there on the walls and furniture. Mixed in with antique-style wooden furniture and Javanese batik sheets, it looks even more dazzling.

When I turn my attention to the bookshelf, there are many challenging-looking books about history and war lines, and these have reminded me my first and last time scolded by him. Sadly, there are no toys in grandpa's house. I love reading books, but the books at my grandpa's house have many kanji and are too difficult for 5-year-old me. Fortunately, when I tried to pick up a book, it turned out to be one with pictures. The title is "Journey to the west", and has an illustration of monkey, pig, and human. I felt bored with the black and white, so I had the idea to make it colorful. I use crayons and glitter stickers to make boring book cute. I thought it was a good idea, but I got scolded because it is my grandfather's precious book. I can't forget the expression of my grandfather, who always smiled and was kind, but frowned with wrinkles on his forehead when he was angry to me.

"Get up Momo-chan, it's 10 a.m."



I wake up with a gentle voice, it seems like I fell asleep before I knew it.

When I open my sleepy eyes, there is a grandpa wearing a pair of wire rim glasses with round, having beards. He smiles at me and says, "Let's have a breakfast". The living room was filled with the fragrant aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the scent of buttered toast. On my plate, there are a fried egg and two sausages with orange juice. This morning living room is also one of my beloved places.

Happy day for me begins.

## FAMILY

*Rika Ozaki*

I remember the white and fluffy Christmas cake distributed by the kindergarten on Christmas Day. I had an older sister and older brother, so I was happy to receive 3 cakes.

I remember touching my newborn sister.

I remember that on the day of the junior high school entrance examination, my father gave me a can of warm cafe au lait.

I remember my sister, who is as close as twins, had a fight in a stroller and fell and injured her forehead.

I remember the day I met a small dog 2 years older than me. He name is poohchan. When I held him, it was bitten vigorously. The puppy only allowed my older sister's embrace.

I remember the day I was taken to kindergarten with my sister and brother by a babysitter.

I don't want to remember the day when my father and mother were fighting in the middle of the night and cried because they were scared.

I remember that my family came to pick me up at the airport on the day I came back from studying abroad. I was fat and my skin was burning like a different person, so my younger brother, who was 4 years old at the time, couldn't recognize me as an older sister and became very shy.

I remember when my cute sisters quarreled, wrote letters, cried and reconciled. They are always look like twins.

I remember the day I went to the flower garden in Ibaraki with my family.

I remember the day when I stayed with my family at Pine Tree in Yamanashi prefecture and watched a Tv show that called “Mottinai Basan” with my brothers. The next day, I always ate hoto at a designated restaurant.

I remember that when my mother vacuumed, poohchan barked at the vacuum cleaner and panicked.

I remember the day when my father and I drank a bottle of imo shochu called Kobiki Blue until we opened a bottle.

I remember that my older brother, who was one grade older, was very popular with girls. It was popular everywhere, whether I went to a cram school or a lesson.

I remember studying every day for the junior high school entrance examination and it was hard. I went to a cram school in Nakanosakaue Station on weekdays, and Ogikubo Station on holidays. It was my routine for my father to drive and have lunch with my family.

I remember the day I made my mother's birthday cake with my siblings, imitating the Christmas cake I received when I was in kindergarten.

## UP AND AWAY

*Kana Takahashi*

She found herself in the big blue skies  
Flying up, up, and away

She found herself wondering  
Who has done it to her

All she could remember  
Were the red hands of hers  
Hitting the hardest rocks  
To start the fire someday

Ha! Silly me,  
She laughed in the warm wind,  
I didn't know life was this easy...

And then, we are still waiting for the day  
When she knows what she has done for her

## ANGER

### FIRST LOOKING INTO BONHEUR'S LION

*Hyuma Erabu*

Behold the countenance of King of Wild!  
His threat'ning eyes are ne'er as calm as a cat's.  
Before them are rat-small multitudes piled;  
Their sov'reign sight shall let alive no rats!  
Down them are whiskers sharp as rapier swords,  
Cold as cryo-column, splendor as spears.  
Dar'st thou not attack him, the sublime lord:  
His mane shall let thro' no man's weapon mere!  
The s'perior lord of nature, monarch,  
No mighty magnate of mortal man may match;  
His mouth is there closed, heard no roar nor bark:  
His mien false bravado from men doth d'tach!  
O, hail to him, kneel! To the apex beast!  
Or you shall be fat and flesh, special feast!

# THINK ABOUT THE FEELING “POOR”

*Otoka Ikeda*

## Introduction

Have you ever been to a slum? Probably, only a few the readers actually have visited there. Then, how much do you know about the slum? Before I went to Cebu in the Philippines, I have some image for the slum what is came from world history text-books. The image is not even a picture, it is a famous caricature by William Hogarth. In a caricature that was titled “Gin Lane”, he drew about people who are corrupted, the impoverished and starved by Gin of cheap liquor. In other words, I just know the slum from 200 years ago.

Many people who have not gone to a slum have as much information as I had before. It is not strange because there are not many places called slums in Japan. When I decided to join the volunteer activity, I thought there were poor areas. At the moment I interacted with people live in the slum, I recognized that I had biased images. I was surprised that people were really lively and looked happy. Unconsciously, I assumed that people who live in the slum were not only poor, but also pitiful. I felt embarrassed and ashamed of myself, as I hated to be considered as a poor person by other people.

## The Meaning of Poor

For example, when you see a dead animal on the street, when you see someone spill their coins on the floor, or when you see a child fall down, you may think “Poor thing”. It looks as if it is a normal idea, however, how would you feel it you were told “Poor thing” by someone? Do you think “Oh, poor me!”? For me, this word: poor seems irresponsible and conceited. I remember when my mother got sick and had a sequela, my grandmother said “You are so poor” sorrowfully. Her remark made me sad and irritated. I might feel it was hypocrisy that she said poor for the situation I and she also could not change; I thought who makes me poor was her.

This is why I am writing about “Poor” now. I wanted to reveal the feeling: poor.

From this experience, I became sensitive about poor. I tried not to feel sorry for someone, as I do not like to be felt so. But I did it for people live in slum.

So, what is poor and why does it make me feel uncomfortable? Originally, the word poor is come from *pauparos*: pau-(few, little) + paros(=producing) just means lacking things. Apparently, it is from the late of 13<sup>th</sup> century that the word poor started mean to not only material lacking or poverty, but also pitiful. I guess the change of meaning might be influenced by the population explosion in Europe. Food production could not keep up with the population explosion caused by the medieval agricultural revolution,

so poor people died from starvation. Those changing times might have made people think that poor meant pathetic.

### About happiness

In fact, is poor pathetic? I think it is not always, since happiness is made by the person themselves. To be honest, money makes me happy. When I asked what is my happiness, I always answer money is the most important. On the other hands, most of the Filipinos I interviewed said spending time with family made them the happiest. This value was really new for me, I was surprised that they said that from the bottom of their hearts too. This value looks beautiful and right for people like me, but I also do not want to deny my value. Any kinds of definition of happiness must be accepted.

The idea of happiness is made by the person's experience including his family background. In reality, many Filipinos spend time with their parents and a lot of siblings since their childhood, and they usually hang out together on weekends too. In the typical family in the slum I saw, the mothers usually stay or have small business in their house and make lunch for children from school, children basically do not start working and get some pocket money from their parents until they graduate from the university. Even this feature, the lifestyle is really different from Japanese; the social structures where there is no school lunch and many companies do not hire students make it. It may be natural that my value is different, because I was a latchkey child, started part-time job from high school and spent a lot of money for a student.

### In real case

As mentioned above, the Philippine's standard is different from that in Japan. It is the same about the slum. The impression of the slum is not tragic; I felt local people treat it as normal things that there is a slum right next to the mall that is famous for tourists. It is not a tragedy for someone, but also real life for themselves. The word can sound similar to *Danchi* in Japanese.

The ancient Roman poet Virgil said "Each of us bears his own Hell." I like this phrase. Finally, I think I hate that someone defines another person's happiness or unhappiness. Even if you are poor, it is up to your decision whoever you are unhappy or not. It is not anyone else's business.

According to a report, defiance of someone's sympathy indicates the perception that the person does not stand in the same position as they do, as "It's not your problem" and "I feel like they are looking down on me" College students often have mutually beneficial relationships with close friends who are psychologically close to them, who understand each other and support each other in difficult times. Therefore, even if

they recognize the difference in their position from their counterparts when they are pitied, it is thought that their feelings of joy are higher because they recognize that being pitied by their counterparts is justified.

In contrast, for people who do not know each other very well, who are far away psychologically, when they recognize the difference in their position from the other person, they feel that the other person does not understand them and is simply looking down on them from a superior position, so they perceive that it is unfair to be pitied by other people and their repulsive feelings are high.

### Conclusion

I could find how to face the feeling poor through writing this essay. Wrong behavior is not feeling sorry for someone, but feeling sorry for someone despite the psychological distance. Sympathy for a close friend may be helpful or comforting, however, it is arrogant to think that you can understand another person's hell even though you are not close to them. So, if you feel pity for someone, you may need to get to know them better.

## IN THE DARK NIGHT

*Yuka Kameyasu*

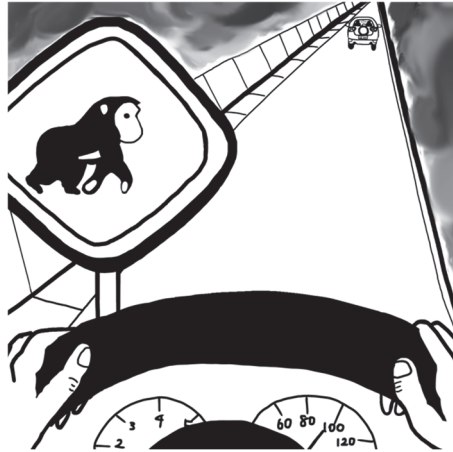
In the dark night, I tried to look at something through the window.  
but, I could only see my eyes which are trying to see something.  
In the power outage day, I tried to find the way home.  
but, I could only see the light of someone's house.  
In the sunny day, I opened the window to feel the fresh air.  
and, I found a small bird which is on the branch.  
In the rainy day, I was running to the house.  
and I found a teddy bear which was smiling at me from someone's house.  
On the warm day, I wanted to go out.  
So, I open the door, and I could notice it is raining.  
"Oh, it is sun shower day."  
I could see myself on the puddle  
but, I could not notice the frog in the puddle.



# SIGN

*Yuka Kameyasu*

I am on the highway.  
And I meet several kinds of signs.  
Deer,  
Monkey,  
Rabbit  
and  
Tanuki.  
These are so cute,  
but it says, "Be careful!!" to us.  
These signs were made by humans.



I am on the road made by concrete,  
but maybe I am really on the nature soil.  
Or on the branch of the tree.  
Here might have been their ancestor's home.  
This endless road might be supposed to become their home.  
Are these signs made for them? or for us?  
These were made by humans.

I am on the highway.  
I can see a beautiful cherry blossom tree just one moment.  
The speed is about 80, 90, or 100 km.  
What does that sign think I can do at such a high speed?  
Is it fine if I just be careful?  
For me, these signs are proof of what we humans did to them.  
These signs were made by humans.

# PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE DISASTER OF ABUKUMA RIVER\*

*Nanami Kimura*

They simply move forward,  
Not by car, nor by bike, but by boat,  
Passing through places that are no longer home.

The sunlight seems like their only hope,  
Its shadow stretching long,  
Pressing down on their faces along with the light.

Each stroke of the oar  
Takes them further from the familiar,  
Towards a future swallowed in darkness.

The road they once walked,  
The intersection where cars passed,  
The lively voices of children,  
All now submerged beneath the water's surface.

They are ruled by the water,  
Suddenly thrown into a new world.

All they can do is paddle forward,  
Straining towards an unseen goal,  
Fighting their way through this watery journey.

*\* Inspired by Wislawa Szymborska's "Photograph from September 11"*



## MY HAWAIIAN TRAUMA

*Rinko Ishii*

I went to Waikiki Beach with my family.  
A huge sea turtle appeared under my feet, and I felt scared  
While my brother looked so excited.

I went to practice swimming in the hotel pool.  
I let go of my swim ring and started drowning, and I felt pain  
While my father was laughing at me.

I went to the souvenir shop.  
I was having trouble with a store clerk speaking to me in English, and I felt upset  
But my mother was just watching me with a big smile.

My trauma was that my family underestimated my stress.  
When I was little, I wanted them to worry more.

## WILL OF SNOW

*Hyuma Erabu*

I  
Winter's snow is falling astray on me.  
Wherefore art thou falling, the vacant ill?  
The soul-less softness, silver seed of groan:  
The self-less, senseless, thou, without no will.  
Thou thawing thing, by what thou be resolved?  
Naught I see around thy fragile falldst  
Which dares in thy nothingness be involved.  
The pointless powder, show us thy weightest!  
O that I would share the blood with thee.  
Wert thou the brood was born from God with me.

## II

Superincumbent weight unseen thou own:  
Invisible force that blows some tangled hair  
Bends thy fall otherwise straight; thou be blown.  
Those sick on bed disdain thee bear despair,  
Thou, what thou brought us? –Nothing! Much I know!  
Tis us who call thee devil brought us curse:  
Tis me who blame thee cold my hand and toe:  
Tis humans write thee sullied white in verse.  
How arrogant, heinous, dingy, rott'n heart'd!  
A Heinous insult on snow of pure-heart'd!

## THE MAD CHESHIRE

*Anonymous*

I am in your dream,  
I know you have decided to think so.  
I feel, therefore...  
Am I?

You, the dreamer,  
You are at ease when you think  
You are the only thing that is real.  
Are you

You decide.  
It's just you...  
Is it?

Me, me, meow.  
I am in your dreadful dream.

# SADNESS

## MY WORLD THAT NO ONE KNOWS\*

*Rei Hayakawa*

Enormous grassland, endless sky, strong wind...  
The noise surrounding me disappeared, and my warm body begins to get cold.  
Darkness, Sorrow, Loss...  
That eye kills me.  
I do not move; I do not need anything.  
No one knows my feelings.  
No one notices my feelings.  
I am never limited...

\* Inspired by Andrew Wyeth's Christina's World

## BOYFRIEND

*Suzuko Miyatake*

I remember the first time he handed me a Chai Tea Latte from Starbucks. The cup was hot and sweating, and the cinnamon flavor was so rich. I liked to change to almond milk and liked extra cinnamon powder. He often imitated me and ordered the same latte.

When he orders a hot Starbucks in the winter, he breathes white breath and buries his face in his scarf.

I remember sitting in his old used car, the leather seats cracked and smelling faintly of gasoline. He listened to Mr. Children music at full volume. He was singing so loudly that it was noisy. I used to get angry because his singing voice was so loud that I couldn't sleep. He was kind enough to turn down the volume with one hand on the steering wheel.

I remember watching the movie version of "anatanobandaru" while lazing around in bed with him. I was too scared to watch the strange horror scene. He looks at me and teases me, often threatening me.

I remember loving the smell of his North Face parka when he lent me one cold night.

The faint scent of Bvlgari's Pour Homme Parfum on his hoodie was soothing. The smell of his cigarettes "Akamaru" was mixed into the hoodie. He took my favorite perfume, but Bvlgari looked best on him.

I remember how he always ordered a Big Mac and a Spicy Mac Chicken from McDonald's, no matter how many new items they added to the menu. He said one was too much for his stomach.

I remember that he loved animals. When I went to my parents' house in Osaka, he was petting the cat, Leo. His eyes were very gentle, and it was the kindest expression he would sometimes show.

I remember we often cooked together in the middle of the night. We often made nikujaga and octopus pepperoncino. He likes light flavors, so he always eats two cups of rice and miso soup, and kimchi. We talked until the morning while drinking Sapporo dark beer.

I don't want to remember that he liked pachinko. Even when I was at home, he would often leave the house at 7am and come back at noon. His carelessness with money was a major source of stress for me.

I remember him calling me a lot. He would go to work with his Diesel bag and call me in the car. He would call me at 4am and I would often ignore him.

I remember meeting him again a few months later. I looked awkward, but he hugged me like nothing had happened. We had broken up. At that moment, I could faintly smell his Bvlgari perfume and Akamaru cigarettes.

I remember the Starbucks Chai Tea Latte was delicious as always. Christmas songs began to play inside the store. The cinnamon scent is so lovely and it's really soothing during this cold season.

## PHOTOGRAPH FROM NOVEMBER 2013\*

*Akeira Falconaya*

A man in a hood stands still,  
surrounded by what used to be his home.  
Broken roofs and scattered debris lie silently around him.

The sky, now bright, hides the storm that shattered—,  
Haiyan, they call it.  
But he doesn't look for anything.  
He knows there's nothing left to save.

November—a month before Christmas.  
A time meant for excitement,  
for joy and Filipinos counting the days with laughter.  
But this November is different.  
Instead, it brought waves that swallowed Home.

The ground feels heavy,  
as if it remembers the weight of what stood there.  
Every step feels like walking on broken pieces of his life.

The trees bend low,  
their roots pulled out of the ground.  
The air feels heavy with salt and sadness,  
full of unfinished stories.

He stands and stares,  
as if waiting for something that will never return.

*\* Inspired by Wisława Szymborska's "Photograph from September 11"*

## SORRY, WHAT DID YOU SAY?\*

*Yuka Kameyasu*

I know you are a great person.

I know you are a good person.

I always believe you are the best.

I'm sometimes concerned about our future.

You are like a leaf flowing in the stream in the morning.

You are like the moon in the evening.

I tried to swim in the stream.

I tried to walk on the path I have never seen.

And, there was like a clean beach.

And, there was like a deep sea.

Or inside of the glass of cold wine,

Or inside of the cup of hot tea,

Or the balcony where it was too hot,

Or the town where it was almost freezing,

Or inside of my embroidered handkerchief.

Or inside of a thick blanket.

*\* Inspired by Fritz Syberg's Love Making in the Evening, 1889-91*

"Hello?" a man said quietly.

"Hello?" a woman said quietly.

"How was your day today?" the man asked shyly.

"Good. How about you?" the woman answered and asked shyly.

"Good. Thanks." the man answered with a low tone voice.

The woman was wondering about what he was waiting for.  
The man was wondering about what he should decide now.  
The woman was wondering about why he was seeing at the path behind her.

“Umm. You know...?”

“Sorry, what did you say?”

## WINTER RIDE

*Ryota Otake*

I remember warming up my motorbike engine in winter. Before riding, I always let the engine warm up to avoid putting stress on it.

I remember the first time I rode my motorbike in winter. The cold was so intense that it shocked me. I never imagined how freezing the wind could feel while riding.

I remember how cold my hands felt when riding in the winter. The freezing wind made them numb.

I remember lying in bed, unable to move from December 29 to January 5, after my first accident.

I remember how sunny and warm the day of the accident was. The sunlight felt so nice that I became distracted, and that's when it happened.

I remember feeling angry at the first doctor, who said my foot was fine, even though it was fractured and the wound became necrotic.

I remember warming my hands near the engine at red lights. The brief warmth gave me relief to keep going.

I remember getting skin graft surgery after the accident. Even after the surgery, the pain was strong, and it took three months before I could walk normally.

I remember how in summer, it only took a minute to warm up, but in winter, it took about five minutes.

I remember struggling to sleep in the hospital because of the loud snoring and farting of the older men in my room.

I remember that toward the end of December, I always think about that accident.

I remember how annoying it was to warm up the engine when I was in a hurry, but I also liked it. During that time, I could smoke a cigarette and think about where to go or what to eat.

# MY DOG TAKES THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Hiiro Yamaguchi

We are on the way back from Disneyland. As the clock strikes 0:00 a.m. the cities close their eyes, and the only dancing is raindrops.

The smell of sweet caramel popcorn fills mom's car, I am ready to drop.

The phone rings, mom is driving. I am the one to reach out and pick it up. I wake up in shock, like lightning flashed, thunder roared. Our beloved Machado had passed away, dad say.

The calm music is playing on the radio. I cry to mom in a childish way.

*Now I remember the day we spent with him. The day we went surfing in childhood. He got a name after Rob Machado. Rob, the surfer, was not tied to anything. Dad loved surfing and watched his videos over and over, like the tape would torn off. The sunlight sparkled on the waves; the end of the ocean is the beginning of the sky. Machado wasn't a good swimmer, but he was in love with water. He chased after my board, with his small skinny body. It was a warm Sunday morning when the water was splashing. We rode the waves like a roller coaster, we were like Lilo & Stitch...*

I am in the car. The seats cradle me velvety, still the air conditioning is too strong.

*We often found ourselves sitting at a charming diner by the beach, refreshing our bodies from the sea. On the counter, there was a large, inviting glass case filled to the brim with crispy, golden tortilla chips. The nachos with lots of melted cheese and hot chili beans were my favorite. Dad often enjoyed hearty clubhouse sandwiches and fed Machado scraps of meat from that. He walked around our feet in flip-flops while proudly snorting, constantly on the lookout for a tasty snack as feast. Dad always said, "Never should you give him beans cause it will stop him breathing." I was careful not to spill the beans that were on my nachos. Machado seemed satisfied as he licked the cream of my chocolate sundae...*

Leave still long way home, we say nothing still each other.

*Machado was wrapped in a snowly pure white towel in dad's arms. The scent of the ocean had changed to that of clean lemon-flavored shampoo. Dad was drying his fur on the warm deck, Machado was twisting his sweet black and white body, struggled to escape. I cracked up. 70's rock cultural CD – the player often sang songs by Led Zeppelin, the Sex Pistols' or some like that, and it was totally my dad's selection - was turning. I didn't get the meaning of the lyrics, but the slow*



*melody turned my body into a wave. The sun was starting to set, warmed our body chilled by the waves...*

The sweet smell of caramel popcorn strongly wafts in the car. The rain continues to fall silently. Air conditioners continue to cool us, and smoothly flowing music doesn't warm us up. My dog takes the Stairway to Heaven. I still don't find out the meaning of this song.

## THE REIGN OF THE MOON

*Hyuma Erabu*

All mortals, hail to me, the queen of night'st!  
I shall adorn the world with cold silence.  
My husband, tiny sun, be gone! My reign is nigh'st.  
I sound a death knell of might to defence  
against the coming age of royal threat;  
Night of mine! Mortals, abandon your soul  
Refreshed by simple sol, and drink my sweat  
That fill to brim with fright your weakest bowl.  
The fragile sun is gone; I paint the sky  
With pitchest black. Nothing mortals'd defy!

## THE EXTRAORDINARY

*Kyoya Nakamura*

My grandparents' house in Yamanashi shows some beautiful faces to us. The place is filled with nature, it tells me the actual, true face of winter. There are minimum necessary things in the house, so our senses are stimulated there because we don't have to care about more things than when we are in urban area.

The place has a garden. Probably everyone doesn't know, the reflects of sunlight were the most beautiful in this season. The drops on the leaves are iced, and those ices reflect sunlight like diamonds. Also, the temperature is drier than other seasons. Thus,

the sparkle of that light shines linearly like a ray. Insects prepare for spring, so they are not outside. I choose “hush” for this scenery from the silence of the area.

My grandmother makes me stew in this season. Every winter she makes it, so I look forward to eating it every year. Her stew was unique. She put salmon in it. Because of its salty taste, the stew has a complex taste. The salmon is softer than what we eat every day because she boils it well together, so I can enjoy not only taste but also texture.

This season is special for me. My little sister was born in winter. While my mother was in the hospital, I stayed there. At night, there are no sounds. That silence made me worried. Everything was not ordinary. I stayed there for about a week, but I felt like I spent one month there. It's an ordinary house, but it's also the home of my grandparents, where a different kind of life is spread out. The house is a world that seems extraordinary because of the silence and a little of alienation.

## AUTUMN

*Yuzuki Yamada*

You pass by in an instant  
You're popular  
If you are in here,  
No more depressing sweating  
No freezing nights  
It is comforting to be in your arms  
You don't know that, do you  
We're all waiting for you  
But I can't find you anywhere now  
You don't coexist with global warming  
I am so eagerly awaiting

Maybe I forget because it is comfortable  
I can remember the season of the sea and scarves right away  
I can only see you in my dreams, now  
And when you wake up  
By the time you know, there are no more leaves on the branches  
By the time you know, you already need a jacket  
By the time you know, you are already gone

## BLUE ISLAND

*Ryota Otake*

"We've arrived!"

At that moment, I looked outside. It was a small island surrounded by deep blue sea, so small that we could see almost the whole island from the ship. I visited Hatsushima in Shizuoka Prefecture in the summer of my first and second year of college. The purpose was for a part-time job. It was surrounded by blue sea, and it was a place where I could feel the smell of the sea and nature with my whole body. Hatsushima is about 4 km in circumference, and people can walk around it in about an hour and a half. It is a small island with a population of about 180 people.

"It feels like I've gone back to the old days."

"We'll be living here for a month. I'm nervous."

We were excited and nervous.

We landed on the island and said hello to our boss. Then after that, we were shown around the island while greeting the employees. Finally, we were introduced to our dormitory. It was an old house that the company had rented, which had previously been used as a private lodging. The room was small and smelled of tatami. When we laid out three futons, the room was almost completely covered. The next day, we started working from 8am to 5pm. I was a staff member at the forest adventure, and I helped customers wear harnesses and gave safety training. It was very hard to work outside in the middle of summer. Also, Hatsushima has a lot of insects. Once, there was a spider the size of my palm in the office. Gradually, I got used to the work and started to enjoy my time outside of work.

"Today, a fireworks show will be held at the Atami beach."

One day, a broadcast sounded on the island. The Atami beach can be seen from the breakwater of Hatsushima. So, at the end of work, we went to the breakwater. We and other part-time workers sat down at the end of the breakwater.

"Cheers!"

We watched the fireworks while enjoying beer, cigarettes, the sound of the waves and the smell of the sea. A very small firework went off, and after a while, sounds were heard. It was too far away to see the fireworks, but that didn't matter. It was a special experience in private space. I was very excited to have this experience, which is something I can't often have while on the mainland. Looking around, everyone was shining. Even after the fireworks were over, we stayed there and chatted. We all listened to music, sometimes played guitar, and drank alcohol, and our conversations were all very interesting. One day, my friend said something.

"This time is so youthful."

This life was very enjoyable and exciting, with the extraordinary feeling of being on a remote island. However, I thought about the fact that this life of working five days a week would become my daily routine for the rest of my life. The last words of my friend made me feel happy and blue at the same time.

# FUN

## THE MUSCLE

*Towa Taniguchi*

There is a boy who is so weak.  
His name is Philip the phygeek.  
At school, he was always bullied  
and at that time, he always peed.

One day, he decided to train  
in the evening after the rain.  
He thought that if he had muscles,  
he'd leave the hustle and bustle.

When he's training his biceps hard,  
a voice from his biceps he heard.  
"You're doing a great job! My mate!"  
"No way! My biceps spoke! That's great!"

Their chatting was never to end.  
He thought that he has found a friend.  
He has become so happily  
and become training it only.

Suddenly, a voice was heard loud.  
"Why you did not train all around"  
The other muscles were jealous.  
That jealousy grew dangerous.

At that night, they complained like hell.  
“Do more training on us as well”  
All through the night, muscles would call.  
Therefore, Philip couldn’t sleep at all.

He trained all immediately.  
Those voices ceased fortunately.  
The most important things to know,  
It’s that balance helps you to grow.

## ADVENTURE

*Kanaho Yoshio*

At the first of midsummer in 2026, into the heat and the painful, RONA lies on the bed of his room, and stunning. Then, with drops of sweat from forehead, he opens own eyes wide like inspiration something, ...

RONA

Yes! Let’s go on an adventure!

After that, his actions that got up from his bed is early, and prepares for an adventure, and he filled with happiness in his heart that let’s start an adventure from tomorrow. However, he recognizes for him that the prepare has things, what prepare taking long time, so it continues until midnight in the end. The next day, RONA gets ready, and doesn’t eat breakfast, and moreover, he carries on his back large luggage and goes outside. And while waking, when he reviews the plan what he writes in a notebook, a man’s face appears lie in suddenly, it enters RONA’s eyes. The face is face like seeing dirt.

SHIZUNE

Are you running away from home bear such luggage? It’s really lame. (sneers)

The man who stupid such as is RONA’s classmate, and bully who hold hostility to Rona, that is SHIZUNE.

RONA

(pure laugh)

No! I go on an adventure from now! Are you stupid?

SHIZUNE

(angry)

I don't want to be told by you! More importantly, going on an adventure? Where are you going to go on an adventure?

RONA

Where? Of course, I adventure world of outside Japan! In other words, I'm going on an adventure overseas!

SHIZUNE

Huh? Are you really? And do you realize how many years take by adventure around the overseas?

RONA

Oh...! That's right. I don't think all about that.

SHIZUNE

(shocked)

You are very the genius of stupid.

In this way, RONA doesn't have even the one side of common sense, and he has action type in immediately when resolve. And SHIZUNE feels infuriating the action, he says bad things to RONA and go to entangle. Honestly, even if Rona is said badmouthing by SHIZUNE, he feels nothing. So, regarding now interact, he feels nothing, and rather, he is the situation of enthusiast to the original purpose adventure.

RONA

Ah, I fail... I was stupid in this time, but even so, I can't give up now...

However, RONA feels biggest mistake for him regarding an adventure. But he can't give up. And, when he thinks next plan in immediately, SHIZUNE opens his mouth.

SHIZUNE

No, even if how to think, it's impossible. First, summer vacation is only last three days. As a bonus, it's weaker yen on now. Isn't there even merit anything? You don't know that, really poor thing.

RONA who listens that is just a little anxious face, but return to the original in the soon, and,

RONA

In the first place, this is no relationship things to SHIZUNE. This is my problem, and I'm not do anything even bad things to you. I appreciate what made me realize that but leave me alone.

He tells to SHIZUNE calmly and stay calm. SHIZUNE shows to RONA the face looks shock or sad for a moment, but he bellows immediately.

SHIZUNE

(angry)

Huh? It isn't no relationship! If I don't teach, you had become the situation that can't graduation high school! Rather, I want you to bow down in front of me.

RONA

That's ok! If I can't graduate high school, I will quit high school and work business. RONA who feels it's no use try to move forward for now, but SHIZUNE blocks.

SHIZUNE

Hey, wait!

RONA

(sighs and shocked)

...What?

SHIZUNE

As penalty, let me accompany you on an adventure.

RONA can't hide surprise to SHIZUNE's unexpected comment.

RONA

What!? No! I'm not your friend, so it will be unnecessary later. In addition, I decide from the first that first an adventure go alone.

Then, SHIZUNE's movement stopped, and instead, turn own face towards to Rone.

SHIZUNE

(looks surprised)

Is this your first an adventure?

RONA



(tilts his head and be puzzled)

Yeah? That's right.

SHIZUNE

(sigh) Hmm... If first an adventure anyway, it should start rather in the spring of new season.

RONA

(confused) Hmm...

RONA confuses for SHIZUNE's comment, but at the same time, RONA feels that there is a point in his opinion, so he nods. Apparently, this time seems like complete defeat to SHIZUNE.

SHIZUNE

(breathing heavily) Hmm! Well, Go back your home you today. And when the new semester starts, let's plan an adventure.

And then, RONA become keep silent, and he looks clearly SHIZUNE's face.

SHIZUNE

(grimacing face) Hey, are you listen?

RONA

Do you want to get along with me? In that case, if you tell honestly, I think good.

SHIZUNE

(look disgust) ...Also, you are the genius of stupid.

In the end, on this day, RONA and SHIZNE can't keep balance each other, and RONA goes back his home, but they wills plan an adventure. And the current, leading spring vacation in the spring of 2027, RONA and SHIZUNE starts first an adventure.

Finally, to travel all overseas are rejected by SHIZUNE, and the destination is squeezed around Queensland in Australia.

RONA

Finally, it's time of an adventure!

SHIZUNE

(looking down)

Are you really a high school student? You are a brat.

RONA

It's important to have childish mind! Rather, let's get on airplane early!

SHIZUNE

Get drunk on the airplane.

As usual, they don't normal communicate, gets on the airplane, and arrives in Australia for about eleven hours. RONA doesn't get airsickness, but on the other hand, SHIZUNE gets airsickness.

RONA

(looks tough and shocked)

"Hey... are you still? Let's go early! It's getting dark!

SHIZUNE

You often can say such a thing when person is like this situation now. So, you are weirdo.

(while) Ugh...

RONA

Before getting to the airplane, you say "get drunk" to me, so is it a penalty to you? I'm not bad.

SHIZUNE hits the nail on the head, and he falls silent.

However, RONA advises soon.

RONA

But, if we stay here for a while, I think that it's dangerous.

SHIZUNE

(like a little feel relieved)

You....

RONA

(with a smug face)

So, let's get on the tourist ferry to Queensland as soon as possible!

SHIZUNE

(with face like shocked and disgusted)

What if you die somewhere?

A few minutes later, before they get on the tourist ferry, have lunch, but SHIZUNE's physical condition recovers by that. And, finally, they will get on the tourist ferry.

RONA

Wow! It's beautiful ocean more than I expected! I have never seen.

SHIZUNE

Of course, it's overseas, so the ocean is beautiful.

RONA

Ah, I see! In the first place, that's right. That's nice, I want to bring back this beautiful ocean.

SHIZUNE

(with whisper) You are easy.

And, thirty minutes later, finally, they arrive in Queensland, and start searching various spot, that caves they never seen and on others, hidden door. However, when notice, they come to an unpopular place. SHIZUNE notices about that in the soon.

SHIZUNE

Hey, wouldn't it be better to turn back?

RONA

Hmm? Why? Sounds fun!

SHIZUNE

It's not in the case for you are talking comfortable. In addition, we don't know that what is outside.

RONA

You are scared person.

SHIZUNE

(like dissatisfied) Do you want with me fight?

RONA

Okay! Let's move forward moreover keep it up!

SHIZUNE who starts angry little by little for RONA's action holds RONA's hand and will back place where they lived originally. But RONA resists. Then, suddenly, a big shake sound and spread inside this cave, and RONA hits own head by the shake on a nearby rock. At the same time, they fall into lies.

SHIZUNE

(like a little panic)

RONA! Hey, are you okay?

SHIZUNE panics, and he slap a little RONA's cheek. Blood overflowing from his forehead.

SHIZUNE

RONA, RONA! Please answer!

RONA

(weakened)

...Hm! oh, head hurts.

SHIZUNE

Don't move. It's dangerous. ...I am worried about you. Be careful.

RONA

...Hey, it seems that we are trapped inside this cave.

SHIZUNE

(break out in a cold sweat) Is that true?

Unfortunately, this cave is freezing cold. So, SHIZUNE holds RONA's body gently.

RONA

What's wrong? Are you scare?

SHIZUNE

Huh? It's different. When I see person who like die, I will become also that. So, I share my body temperature.

RONA

...By the way, why do you hate me?

SHIZUNE

Huh? Do you ask me that now?

SHIZUNE shouts loudly RONA, but on the other hands, RONA shows to SHIZUNE face like cool, or dark. SHIZUNE feels a little fear, so he can't say hateful words.

Then, Rona starts talking again.

RONA

I have once an experience similar with now situation...But by I was cowardice at that time, a boy who come with me. In the end, only I survived...Since then, I make up my mind to become a person who active quickly and unwavering. That way, I can help someone as quickly as possible.

SHIZUNE thinks. RONA does "adventure". Of course, it's not an adventure in the sense of traveling. But he holds a painful past, and was taking various actions, and there are in the background he moving to confused. For first an adventure, SHIZUNE feels that the content is deep quite a bit.

SHIZUNE

...Of course, you aren't first an adventure.

RONA

Huh...? What are you saying? This is first.

SHIZUNE

Don't lie. And I review you.

RONA

What happened suddenly? Do you hit your head actually?

SHIZUNE

Huh? It's different. Of course, you are the genius of stupid.

RONA

Huh...

SHIZUNE

But I don't hate no longer that element.

RONA

Is that okay?

SHIZUNE

(A little annoyed)

I'm praising you.

In the case of the outside, it may seem like nothing change, but they communicate normally with each other.

SHIZUNE

I see an exit, so let's get out of here.

RONA

Yes, that's right.

SHIZUNE

Can you stand up?

RONA

Yes, it's ok. Don't worry.

And they can escape somehow from the dark cave and arrives to the place of beautiful ocean where they lived originally. RONA is relieved and puts own feet in the ocean. When he is immersed in the dream, SHIZUNE beckons towards RONA.

RONA

What's wrong?

SHIZUNE

You, it's overflowing a lot from your amount more than before.

RONA

(so anxious and panicked)

What!? It's true! What should I do...?

SHIZUNE

Because it's good, sit down.

After SHIZUNE helps RONA sit down, SHIZUNE spray gently antiseptic solution to RONA's amount, and treats politely. After a short time, SHIZUNE starts talking.

SHIZUNE

A boy who you are talk some time ago...it's me.

RONA

What...?

SHIZUNE

You may don't remember because you forget the memories of that time, but we have been childhood friends for a long time.

RONA

Oh... I see.

SHIZUNE

At that time, surely, I go miss. But it's your choice. I have think that you want to be save.

RONA

But why are you here now?

SHIZUNE

After that, there is a hidden door next to the blocked exit. And I am able to escape alone.

Rona feels shy that the content he talks some time ago, and at the same time, he feels pathetic. But, SHIZUNE advises noticing that.

SHIZUNE

You didn't do anything bad. So, don't take the blame own self. And rely on me...after that, I feel awkward meet you, so I move far away on purpose. I think that we never meet each other again, but we meet again in high school. But you are no longer the you I know...but, I make you that. I'm sorry.

SHIZUNE frowned and looked gloomy. At that moment, RONA holds his hands.

SHIZUNE

...Rona?

RONA

We have so many adventures inside knowing each other. We have been pushing forward despite our doubts. I don't know if what I'm doing now is whether correct. But, that what an adventure, isn't it? So, believe in your fun adventure and keep, SHIZUNE.

Then, SHIZUNE laugh.

SHIZUNE

(pure laugh)

...Hmm. You finally understand the meaning of “adventure”. You’re really the genius of stupid.

RONA

The genius of stupid is the best! I don’t think that I can live with you! (pure laugh)

SHIZUNE

Huh!?

RONA

Let’s hurry and continue our adventure! Today not finish yet, SHIZUNE!

SHIZUNE

I know that. Don’t stop in the way.

In sunset illuminate beautiful ocean, dyeing orange color their adventure. It’s first adventure by they have ever spun together is sigh, what new begin.

## MY FULL MEMORY IN THE BACKYARD

*Rino Higuchi*

Beautiful sunny spring sunshine wakes me up it’s time to get up. Move my body slowly, rub my eyes and look at the clock. It says 8am on 4/27. Inhale deeply and give a big yawn then head to kitchen to make a cup of black coffee. Finally, I open my eyes with the scent of well roasted coffee beans. Sipping my coffee at the deck in my backyard tells me this is the perfect way to start a day. Fresh air brings scent of lady banks’ rose. Japanese nightingales are singing so beautifully, love to listen their song. Cannot stop being in my backyard. I have lots of things to do but I decide to lay down and chill in the backyard instead of doing those stuffs. Grab a piece of banana bread, listening to my favorite music. My dog, Miley, looks at me with the face she wants to join me, so I say “come here” , she comes with super happy face and her tale is swinging right side to left side. She also lay down on green grass and put her back to me. Her small body keeps me warm and before I knew it, I fall asleep again.



Every year, blueberry bush bears lots of lovely purple blueberries in summer, now it's time to pick them. Wears groves, put the cap on and hold a bowl. Every time my sister and I do the game. Rules are simple, the person who can pick the most blueberries within 5 minutes wins. My mom is a time keeper and my dad counts blueberries. My sister glares me and I glare her. My mom says "Ready..... go!!". Picking blueberries so seriously, and my parents looking us doing it. Suddenly, a sharp pain runs through in my arm, I scream with high voice and my neighbors definitely doubt something bad thing is happened. Yes, bad thing is happening, green caterpillar bites me! My face turns red and I am panicking, running with swinging my right arm. My parents and sister are all laughing even I get bitten by caterpillar. Finally getting clam and look at my arm again, there is a small red insect bite mark. It doesn't hurt much anymore, so I am kind of embarrassed.

Summer passed, it's getting cold and cold day by day, all leaves in the backyard turning dark brown. They prepare for long cold winter. Speaking for myself, I am feeling exciting because it's my birthday today. My mom cooking lots of meal for me and my dad setting up the table on the deck in the backyard. My mom says, "its dinner time". Seeing lots of plates that putting on the table, meatloaf, salad with cheese, anchovy potato, cabbage rolls, pumpkin soup. They are all my favorite meals. This day, every year, I feel like I'm dream in because I can eat my favorite meals at once. Singing birthday song, putting the candles fire out with making a wish. Every year I wish in my mind, "May this year be another happy one for everyone."

My Christmas starts from November first. Decorate house a Christmas tree, put a Santa clause ornament, beautiful red poinsettias. My job is decorating big tree shaped like a Christmas tree in the backyard. Bring a ladder and hang decorations carefully. My dad let me design a decoration it this year, so I decided to use red and white decorations. At last, put a star on top of the tree. Christmas season, I am so excited every time when I come home.

## AUDITION

*Miyu Yoshioka*

It is the summer of 2030, and the setting is an audition hall in Tokyo. Looking around, about 200 girls are doing various things such as stretching, reading materials, and so

on. One of them, SHIZUKU, is standing at the corner of the hall with a nervous look on her face.

SHIZUKU

There are a lot of people here. These are all people who have passed the first round of auditions.

The reason why she is here is .....

—About a year ago in the spring

SHIZUKU

(looks bored)

It's so boring...

SHIZUKU, who is living an ordinary day, turns on the TV with such words in her voice. She turns the channel several times and finds that a music program is broadcasting, which is unusual for the noon time.

MC

Today's guest is the very popular idol URARA!

After the MC says that,

URARA

(with a smile)

Pleasure to meet you!

SHIZUKU is fascinated by the person who appears on the stage with a smile on her face.

URARA moved to Tokyo at the age of 16 to become an idol, attended various auditions, and at the age of 19 was scouted directly by the president of the company, leading to her debut. Her debut song became popular on SNS, and she has since become an actress and model. Today she is here to promote her new song, which she hasn't released in a year. SHIZUKU watches as she clung to the TV.

SHIZUKU

(with her eyes shining)

What is this person? Beautiful...such a shining person exists...

she mutters. After the music program was over, her face remains in SHIZUKU's mind, so she searches for her name on her phone.

SHIZUKU

What is URARA like?

There she finds her profile: Date of birth: January 22, 2006, Blood type: B, Zodiac sign: Aquarius, Height: 164 cm, Place of birth: Akita Prefecture. Scrolling further down, SHIZUKU finds a homepage that read, "URARA Produce, New Idol Audition Recruiting!"

SHIZUKU

Audition...?

When she opens the page, she finds details about the dates and locations of the auditions.

SHIZUKU

Looks like fun.

SHIZUKU is very interested in this audition. She can't stop thinking about it at school, on her way home, and before going to bed. But SHIZUKU, who lacked self-confidence, can't talk to anyone about the audition.

SHIZUKU

I'd like to say I want to do it, but...

As the deadline approach, SHIZUKU becomes frustrated and says,

SHIZUKU

I don't want to regret it!

Her mother encourages her. She decides to apply for the audition. With only four months to go until the audition, she makes her best effort in her own way and comes to the audition hall.

SHIZUKU

I'm nervous...

At the same time, she muttered this, someone who seemed to be a bigwig from the company and URARA enter the hall. At that moment, the mood in the hall changes. Everyone is looking at her. Her aura is even greater than she imagined, and everyone is overwhelmed. Then she greets the audience.

URARA

Hello, everyone. My name is URARA. Thank you for coming today.

I'd like to announce the details of the audition. This audition will evaluate three things: singing, dancing, and an interview. You will have 30 minutes to learn the choreography with the pair you will be paired with, followed by a performance, then singing in the music studio, and finally a personal interview with us. We don't have a set number of accepted applicants. There may be many, there may be none. I wish each one of you the very best in your performance. Okay, I will now announce the pairs.

The names of the participants are called one after another. And then URARA. Next is number 103, SHIZUKU AISHI, and number 124, NOAH AYANOKOJI. NOAH, who stands up at the same time as her, looks like a tall, cool girl with a short cut and light brown hair. SHIZUKU is led to another room, and she says to NOAH

SHIZUKU

(Nervously looking up)

My name is AISHI SHIZUKU. Nice to meet you.

NOAH

(with a strong tone of voice)

I'm NOAH AYANOKOJI. Have you ever learned dancing or singing?

SHIZUKU

(surprised)

No, no... I haven't...

Then she sighs and speaks

NOAH

Don't cut corners just because you're a beginner. I'm not like you, I'm serious about becoming an idol. Don't ever give me any trouble.

Surprised by the unexpected words, SHIZUKU replies

SHIZUKU

I'm also serious about coming here. I'm not just playing around.

I won't let you down.

SHIZUKU who is usually so timid doesn't know why she said that to NOAH. But she knows that she never wanted to lose to this person.

NOAH AYANOKOJI is a 16-year-old girl same as SHIZUKU. She is from Kanagawa Prefecture and has been learning dance since childhood. She is especially good at jazz and hip-hop and has won many awards. Although she has a strong personality, she is more passionate about being an “idol” than anyone else, and is very high-spirited about auditioning under URARA, the top of the idol field. This time, the dance task is to dance to the debut song of URARA with an arrangement of the song. SHIZUKU and NOAH share their ideas with each other and begin practicing. NOAH's dance is very sharp and impressive. SHIZUKU dances just as well as NOAH. When NOAH sees this, she says to SHIZUKU

NOAH

That's pretty good,

You should show your face to everyone instead of showing off how good you are. You look like you're having fun when you dance.

SHIZUKU

Really? Thanks! I'll try to follow that!

Their bonds become deepened.

The dance presentation is perfect after that. Next comes the singing lesson. The task is to sing a cappella, the newest single by URARA, and the girls look at each other.

NOAH

This song is in a high pitch...I have a low voice, so I'm worried...

SHIZUKU

Don't worry! What happened to your confidence before? You are going to be an idol, right? Then let's try to finish it!

NOAH

(Surprised face)

...Yes, thank you.

SHIZUKU

I'll sing the high part, can you sing the rap part?

NOAH

Okay. I'll leave it to me.

They work together and sing a cappella. Both are feeling good about themselves.

The final stage is the personal interview. SHIZUKU is going to have an interview with URARA.

URARA

Nice to meet you.

SHIZUKU

Nice to meet you too!

URARA

Then we will begin the interview. Please tell me why you applied for this audition.

SHIZUKU

Yes. I was bored with my normal days. Then I saw Ms. URARA on TV and I got goose-bumps. That's when I started researching idols, and that's how I found this audition.

They steadily conduct the interview.

URARA

Now for the last question. If you become an idol, what do you want to do?

SHIZUKU

I want to be an idol who moves people's hearts. I would be happy if there were more people who want to become idols because of me. I want to be the kind of person who encourages people.

URARA

That's a wonderful dream. Thank you very much.

SHIZUKU

Thank you very much!

—At the hall

URARA

This is the end of all judging. Thank you all for your wonderful performances! We will let you know the results later, so please come back to this hall again.

—A few days later

URARA

Thank you all for coming today. The audition results are in and I'm going to share them with you now. This time, out of 167 groups of 334 students, three were accepted.

The first group...

Not selected.

URARA

Then, the second group...

Not selected.

SHIZUKU feels she has already failed. NOAH puts her hands hand in front of her and hopes.

URARA

The third and final pair is...

AISHI SHIZUKU and NOAH AYANOKOJI pair!"

They looked at each other and hugged.

SHIZUKU&NOAH

We did it!

Tears are in their eyes.

URARA

(Smiles as she looks at the two of them)

Passing applicants will be invited to perform in a music program later. Good luck.

After the announcement of acceptance, they called out to URARA in the empty hall.

SHIZUKU& NOAH

Ms. URARA!

URARA turns around.

NOAH

Why did you choose us?

URARA looks at them and speaks.

URARA

This wasn't just about your singing and dancing skills; we were also looking at your teamwork skills. You two didn't make a good team at first, but you make the most of each other's strengths and cover up for each other's weaknesses, and when I saw that, I thought that this pair could become strong. I know you guys are going to be busy from now on, but please keep up the good work and let's perform together someday.

SHIZUKU&NOAH

Yes! Thank you!

Their story has just started.

## MY BUDDY

*Ayumu Sugiyama*

Whenever I see him, he makes me excited. Big black body, low ride height, bright headlights, clean wheels... My buddy's name is Toyota crown. He is tough and fast.

First time when saw him, He seemed high pressure and great. I felt it would take me a long time to control him. When I touched his steering wheel, it was like I was riding on a bull. I needed to tame him. When I stepped on the pedal, he would make a loud noise. A little pressure on the pedal would produce a great deal of speed. I began to tame him. We went for drives together and I began to understand his traits. He hates bumps because of his low ride height. When I try to go over bumps, the bottom of his body starts hurting. He also does not like large group of people riding him. When large groups of people ride him, his voice gets louder and requires more energy.

The most memorable scene of my drive with him was when we went to Minato Mirai together. I liked to drive slowly with him while listening to music, and the music and the view of Minato Mirai made his beauty stand out even more. At that point I felt like I was getting used to him.

One day, as he and I began to understand each other and I began to tame him, an incident happened. That day I went for a late-night drive with him and my friends. I was having a good time with my friends, visiting different places. My friends and I got into a conversation about cars, and one of them, who had recently gotten his license, wanted to drive for me. I was curious to see how my friend would control him, so I let my friend drive. I would later regret this greatly. My friend drove like a beginner. My friend did not understand "his" features and "he" too was moving awkwardly. I was



anxious and watched my friend carefully, but the long hours of driving had put me to sleep. A short time later I was awakened by my friend screaming. I woke up with a loud crash sound and our bodies were floating. We had an accident. After a few moments of silence, I immediately checked for the status of the accident and for his safety. I checked his damage. It looked like he had hit a guardrail. I was too shocked for words, but fortunately, no one was hurt, and his body had only minor injuries. My friend immediately apologized to me, and I was relieved that it was not a serious accident.

From that day on I decided not to let my friends drive. I realized deeply that in order to drive him, the driver must know his features well and have some driving skill. After I moved to Tokyo, he had to move back to my hometown in Aichi, and now I live apart from him. When I return to Aichi, I want to drive him as soon as possible.

## MISTAKE

*Kaoru Fujinuma*

Two students -Riku and Kento – are second grade of high school students. Riku is very tall, but Kento is normal. They wear black school uniforms to each other because it is a school. They join tennis club team and play game as a doubles team. They lost a tennis match yesterday and are arguing each other's mistake. Today is last second grade class and Riku will move far away because of father's job. Now they are arguing after lunch.

Kento

(angry)

Why you don't admit your mistake?

Kento gaze the eyes as he sit in his chair and says curiously. He doesn't want to admit his mistake.

Riku

Are you kidding me? You have to admit mistake. If you had moved faster, we could have won the game.

Kento

Really? If you had moved more forward, we have never lost a point.

Riku

Oh, you are crazy. It's not worth talking about. Please don't talk to me any more.

Kento

(angry)

I am the same way. I don't want to talk with you anymore.

Kento taps his desk strongly and leaves the classroom. After that, Riku also leaves the room. Kento knows that he will move far away, so he wants to apologize. However, he swears. Riku is the same way, he wants to apologize, but he swears. The fifth period is mathematically timed and they are in the same class. Additionally, unfortunately, they sit next to each other. The classroom is very quiet and only the teacher's voice can be heard. Riku turns his body sideways and talks to Kento.

Riku

I am not sure. Can you solve this question? Please tell me how to solve.

Riku asks Kento how to solve the question. However, Kento is in a bad mood and pretends not to hear his voice.

Riku

(irritated)

Hey! Can you solve this question? Why you ignore? Are you angry now?

Kento

(irritated)

Maybe, I am angry now. I can solve this question. If you admit your mistake, I may tell you how to solve.

However, they are so noisy in the classroom. They are scolded by the teacher, and they talk with low voice.

Riku

I want to apologize by using this chance, but you waste this opportunity. I have always thought that I didn't want to play doubles with you. I am glad I don't have to want play with you.

Kento

(surprised)

You think like this? I have same idea. I don't want play tennis with you anymore.

Riku

(ironically)

After all, you and I get along well.

Kento

Anyway, you will move to another place, won't you?

Riku

(curious)

Yes, I will. What is the problem?

Kento

There isn't problem, but I am so glad to be away from you.

Riku

Me too.

Math class was finished. They want to apologize each other. However, they can't be honest with each other. They do not make up with each other and it is time to leave for school. Kento puts his textbooks in his bag and goes for the shoe box. He realizes Riku is there.

Kento

Hey, Riku.

Riku

(a little angry)

What? What's wrong?

Kento

If you're okay with it, why don't we go home together? I want to talk to you and this may be the last day I can go home with you.

Riku thinks a little time, and he decides to go home with Kento.

Kento & Riku

I have something to say to you.

They say the word at the same time. They both smile. The slightly tense atmosphere become soft.

Riku

(Laughing)

We get along well after all. You can say it first.

Kento

Ok. I want to apologize to you for my mistake at the tennis game. I had to move faster. Also, I was wrong after all. I should have apologized earlier.

Riku

No, I should have apologized earlier. I had to move faster.

Kento

I know that you will go far away, so I wanted to apologize and make it up to you. But I am glad I can apologize in the end and make up.

Riku

I am just like you. I wanted to make up with you. I'm glad I made up with you before I moved.

There are smiles on the face of two people who have made up. In addition to this, the distance between the two people becomes close. Kento stops and turns to Riku.

Kento

By the way, where will you move?

Riku

I will move to the next town.

Kento

Really? My friend in my class said you will move quite far away from this town.

Riku

Really? I will move to the next town.

Riku is thinking for a little time. Riku said with a face as if he just remembered.

Riku

I remembered. The person who will move far away is a girl of the next class.

Kento

Really? But I definitely heard your name.

Riku

The name that you heard is Riko. My name is Riku.

Kento

It certainly is a similar name. it's possible to mishear. So will you go far?

Riku

Yes, of course!

Kento

We can meet and play again anytime! It is good for me to apologize to you. I fell like  
we are best friends.

Riku

I agree.

The two go back home in a happy mood.

# TOM AND A GHOST

*Tomoya Enokido*

There is a boy whose name is Tom.  
He is living with a nice caring mom.  
He is known as honest and shy.  
One day he looked upper sky.  
He saw a guy who's flying high.  
The guy floated down and said "Hi."  
Tom is gullible little bit.  
The guy said "I'm god." Tom believed it.  
Tom asked for the guy "Are you god?"  
The guy said "Yes but I'm little odd."  
"I can kill you." Tom was shocked.  
He was eating but got choked.  
The guy said "No. That was a lie."  
"No worries. You aren't gonna die."  
Tom was relieved and asked for him.  
"Let's be friends!" Tom was looking.  
"The guy was amazed and not feeling good."  
"Sure... but I'm a ghost not god."  
"Yay! Tom is full of joy."  
Ghost got cookies. What a good boy!  
Ghost in return gives curry rice.  
Tom tasted and it's very nice.  
Ghost said "Thank you." and disappeared.  
"What are you doing?" Tom's mom appeared.  
"I talked with a ghost!" Tom then said.  
"You're crazy." Tom's mom shook head.  
Tom didn't care and learned somehow.  
"Respect ghosts." That's in Tom's mind now.

## PLAY CATCH WITH...

*Otoka Ikeda*

One sunny summer afternoon, two boys who are wearing school uniforms and having shaved heads play catch in some riverbed in Tokyo. One boy called KAZUYA is muscular, has powerful eyes and got tanned. The other boy called SHOHEI is tall, has lovely smile and wears glasses. They are battery in high school baseball club and the combination is the best.

KAZUYA

SHOHEI! Back up a little.

SHOHEI

Okey dokey!

SHOHEI moves back on the grass.

KAZUYA

Ah, stop there! I'll throw the ball.

SHOHEI

Alright, come on!

KAZUYA throws a fastball, and it fits in SHOHEI's glove perfectly.

SHOHEI

Ah, great pitching as usual!

SHOHEI throws the ball back as well.

KAZUYA

THANKS!

Well, with the convention coming up, I can't afford to be lazy, can we?

KAZUYA throws ball faster than first pitch.

SHOHEI

(Feel the impact on the hand)

Whoa! You're really into this.

But it's completely true. It's our last convention.

SHOHEI stares at the ball once, then throws it back again.

KAZUYA

Yeah, that's right. All the club members are practicing hard these days.

KAZUYA throws the ball back.

SHOHEI

Right, not only the players, but also the manager, Yuka, is doing very well.

SHOHEI throws the ball back again.

KAZUYA

(a little up)

Um, we, well I think she's doing well.

KAZUYA's ball is a little shaky.

SHOHEI

(Extend arms wide)

Wow! What's up with you all of a sudden?

SHOHEI throws the ball having a puzzled look face.

KAZUYA

Um, no, it's nothing. I'm totally fine.

KAZUYA throws back another fastball.

SHOHEI

Ew, really?

You're always so silent when I talk about YUKA.

SHOHEI throws the ball back.

KAZUYA

(as if to explain)

No! It's not like that at all!! I don't really care about her.

KAZUYA's ball changes direction in the air again.

SHOHEI

Whoops!!



Where the hell are you throwing it!?

Shohei goes looking for the ball in the grass.

KAZUYA

(looking miserable)

Oh, I'm really sorry... but,

SHOHEI finds the ball and come back.

SHOHEI

(breathlessly)

It's too hot to do anything, so don't make me run!

SHOHEI throws the ball.

SHOHEI

Hey, you, maybe you don't like YUKA?

KAZUYA

(open KAZUYA's eyes wide)

What!?! No way!!

She's very attentive, sincere in her work, and thinks a lot about the team!

KAZUYA throws the ball so hard.

SHOHEI

(Frowns at the pain in his hands)

Alright, alright, so you mean you like YUKA?

SHOHEI throws back a slightly weaker pitch.

KAZUYA

(as if in distress)

No! It's... but I admit it. I like YUKA.

KAZUYA throws the fastball again.

SHOHEI

(a little sadly)

Is that as love?

SHOHEI throws the ball weaker again.

KAZUYA

Yes, maybe, I think so.

KAZUYA throws the ball back.

SHOHEI

(in a seductive tone)

Ok, my best friend, I have to tell you something.

SHOHEI throws the ball back.

KAZUYA

Oh, what's this all of a sudden?

(smirking)

Don't tell me you like YUKA too?

KAZUYA throws the ball back stronger.

SHOHEI

Aww... but it's...

SHOHEI grabs the ball and stares at it. And SHOHEI meditates hard once and throws the ball back with a determined look on his face.

SHOHEI

YES, that's right. I like YUKA too.

KAZUYA can not catch by surprise. And KAZUYA tries to say something.

KAZUYA

Hmm... it's...

A cool breeze passes between them, and the area are silent.

SHOHEI

I'm sorry, my friend.

SHOHEI heads to pick up the ball.

KAZUYA

(smiling)

Hey, what have you got to apologize for? You didn't do anything wrong, did you?  
The tense atmosphere changes and SHOHEI throws the ball again.

SHOHEI

(with relief)

Yes, you're right. Even if we like the same girl, it doesn't change our friendship.

KAZUYA

Exactly!!

KAZUYA throws the fastest ball in the day.

SHOHEI

(laughing)

Oh! It's too strong!!

SHOHEI also throws the fastest ball in the day.

KAZUYA

Anyway, all we have to think about now is winning the next tournament, right?

KAZUYA throws the ball back again.

SHOHEI

You're absolutely right!!

SHOHEI throws the ball back.

SHOHEI

For now, let's call a truce.

KAZUYA

I agree, my friend.

KAZUYA throws the ball back again.

SHOHEI

By the way, what kind of boy do you think YUKA likes?

SHOHEI throws the ball again.

KAZUYA

Hmm... I think YUKA likes muscular boy. So, for example, it's me.

KAZUYA throws the ball back again.

SHOHEI

(Giggling)

Really? I don't think so. Maybe YUKA likes tall boy like me.

In the other day, YUKA told me that I had style.

SHOHEI throws the ball back faster.

KAZUYA

What!?! But YUKA also said to me muscle is cool.

KAZUYA throws the ball a little stronger.

SHOHEI

Ok, wait my friend. Let's not fight.

We'll let YUKA choose after the tournament. Is it Ok?

SHOHEI throws the ball back.

KAZUYA

Yeah, it's sounds great. Let's hang in there until that day, rivals and best friends!

SHOHEI

YES!!

At that moment, a girl comes running to the bridge near KAZUYA and SHOHEI. The manager, YUKA, is a petite, pretty girl wearing a uniform and her bright hair in a ponytail.

YUKA

Hi guys!! The coach said the practice time has been moved up an hour! Hurry up, or you'll be late!!

KAZUYA and SHOHEI look at each other with surprised expressions.

KAZUYA and SHOHEI

Oh nooooooooooooo!!!!

## CATERPILLARS

*Runa Owada*

Living as caterpillars is an awesome thing.  
You can't help running as a candidate representing the interests of cabbage  
after you know the character.  
In fact, caterpillars must carry out THREE jobs.  
Firstly, caterpillars feel the earth's temperature like a nurse more than anyone  
with hand, leg, hair, with all the senses.  
Else, how can you catch the news on current affairs in the field of the earth  
without caterpillars?  
Then, a caterpillar is flying at ground-hugging attitudes like an artist.  
It often changes costumes several times since childhood.  
How can you notice the fact getting a little better than you were yesterday  
without caterpillars?  
Thanks to caterpillars, you know new news on organisms.  
Finally, caterpillars are painting the ground on the last day of their lives.  
If not for caterpillars, how can you ease the pain of being alone?  
You can understand lives are connected to the other side.  
Living as caterpillars is an awesome thing.  
You can't help running as a candidate representing the interests of cabbage  
after you know the character.

## MY LIVING ROOM

*Rika Ozaki*

It is full of my family voices. And It's smells like wood and sun. It's chaotic out there.  
There are my mom, dad, my five precious siblings, a cat and a dog. My cats are three  
brothers. They always sunbathe in a certain place. They liked to sleep by the window-  
sill. My dog loved me and followed me everywhere I went. He is like a puppy even  
though he is 6 years old. There are a lot of our favorite snacks that we bought at our  
favorite candy store on the table. While eating snacks, my two younger sisters are

fighting over which channel to watch. After the fight, they quickly made up. I adored my sisters so much. Every Monday our favorite variety show is on TV. I feel that the time spent chatting and laughing while watching it is the most precious time in the world. And also, I enjoyed most of all the days when we duked it out on video games with dancing and singing that we weren't good at, and making crepes while getting all gooey and sticky. And we loved the cornbutter ramen made by the housekeeper more than anything else. Even though our food tastes changed as we grew up. And since we are all close in age, we teach each other our studies. Each of my five siblings excelled in a different subject. So we studied to make up for each other's shortcomings. We enjoyed staying up late with my siblings, lying to my parents that I would study there until midnight when a test was coming up. I will never forget the elation I felt when I would stay up late at night hiding from my parents so they wouldn't notice. We shared all the happy and joyful things that happened that day and rejoiced together, and when things were sad, we comforted each other. Time doesn't stop, so we grew up. The place that felt big when I was a kid, and the table that felt big, don't feel that way now. We used to study and play games there, and soon we were drinking and chatting. It is very touching that we used to each bring our favorite juice and snacks here, and now we bring our finger food and drinks in the same place. I have forgotten the inexpressible smell and the unpleasant taste of beer when what I drank as a child thinking it was barley tea was beer, and I have become a beer drinker by preference. I have eaten at this table more times than I can count, and the shiny paint has gradually peeled off and become rough to the touch. It is so lovely to think that all the memories are engraved on this table. My five siblings all grew up with different faces, body shapes, and personalities, but the fact that what passes among us will always remain the same inspired me. A place that always wrapped me warmly too. This living room, where I feel the warmth of family, is my favorite place.

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CROPで「一つのすてきな本」を創り上げませんか？

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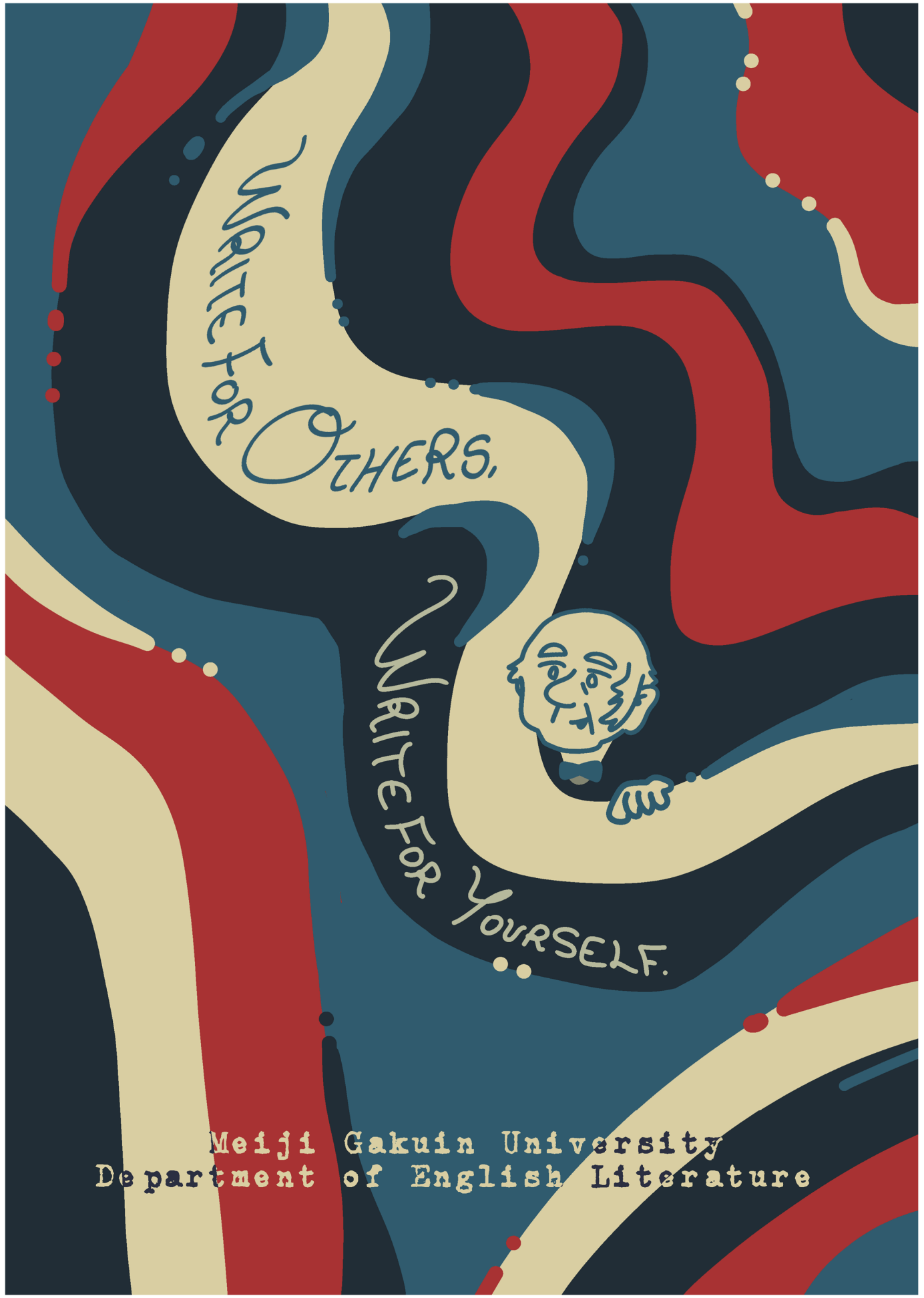


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