

第 19 回ちびっ子イングリッシュコンテスト英語暗唱部門課題文

〈対象〉 小学 3. 4. 5. 6 年

〈人数〉 1 人

Daddy-Long-Legs —Jean Webster—

Dear Kind-Trustee-Who-Sends-Orphans-to-College,

Here I am! I traveled yesterday for four hours in a train.
It's a funny sensation, isn't it? I never rode in one before.

College is the biggest, most bewildering place –I get lost whenever I leave my room. I will write you a description later when I'm feeling less muddled; also I will tell you about my lessons. Classes don't begin until Monday morning, and this is Saturday night. But I wanted to write a letter first just to get acquainted.

Before leaving yesterday morning, Mrs. Lippett and I had a very serious talk. She told me how to behave all the rest of my life, and especially how to behave towards the kind gentleman who is doing so much for me. I must take care to be Very Respectful.

But how can one be very respectful to a person who wishes to be called John Smith? Why couldn't you have picked out a name with a little personality?

I must say, however, that when I think about you, my imagination has very little to work upon. There are just three things that I know:

1. You are tall.
2. You are rich.
3. You hate girls.

I suppose I might call you Dear Mr. Girl-Hater. Only that's rather insulting to me. Or Dear Mr. Rich-Man, but that's insulting to you.

But at least you will stay tall all your life! So I've decided to call you Dear Daddy-Long-Legs. I hope you won't mind. It's just a private pet name we won't tell Mrs.Lippett.

The ten o'clock bell is going to ring in two minutes. Our day is divided into sections by bells. We eat and sleep and study by bells. It's very enlivening; I feel like a fire horse all of the time. There it goes! Lights out. Good night.

Observe with what precision I obey rules-due to my training in the John Grier Home.

Yours most respectfully,
Jerusha Abbott

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※文頭空欄に発表者の名前を記入してください。

Annual Events

1)Oshogatsu

Today we will introduce some of Japanese annual events to you.

On New Year's Day, the shrines and temples are crowded with a huge number of worshippers.

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At hatsumode, Japanese pray for a prosperous year and the good health for family members.

Hatsumode means the year's first visit to a shrine or a temple.

The worshippers throw money into the saisenbako, or collection box, and pray for good health and good fortune for their family.

During the first three days of January Japanese eat osechiryori.

Osechiryori symbolize the wish for good luck and prosperity.

Osechiryori are special dishes, which are prepared during the end of December.

On about the 28th of December, Japanese place kadomatsu, or a pair of pine branches, at the front gate of the house.

Kadomatsu is regarded as a symbol of long life and prosperity.

On New Year's Day parents and relatives give otoshidama, or gift money, to children.

Visitors on New Year's Day customarily give some money to children.

On New Year's Day, Japanese used to exchange presents, such as swords, sake and rice.

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Japanese exchange nengajo, or New Year's cards, just as Americans exchange Christmas cards.

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The animal of the Chinese horoscope of the year is usually printed on the New Year's cards.

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The New Year's cards are posted early enough to be delivered on Ganjitsu, that is the first day of the year.

2)Setsubun

Setsubun literally means the division between winter and spring.

Setsubun is a bean throwing ceremony.

Children scatter roasted soybeans inside and outside the home shouting "Fuku wa uchi, Oni wa soto".

The expression means "Fortune in, devils out."

3)Hinamatsuri

March 3rd is Hinamatsuri, that is, Girl's Festival.

Families who have young girls display hinaningyo, or hina dolls, peach blossoms and shirozake in their homes to wish for happiness for the girls.

Hina means dolls and matsuri a festival.

Hina dolls are traditionally handed down from mother to daughter.

Hina dolls are supposed to protect girls from sickness or misfortune.

Graceful dolls dressed in old court costume are placed on tiers.

4)Tanabata

Japanese celebrate Tanabata on July 7th. Tanabata means the annual Star Festival.

Japanese pray for a clear night sky for Tanabata.

Tanabata has its origins in Chinese legend involving the love romance of Altair and Vega in the Milky Way.

Only in a clear night sky can the two stars located at opposite ends of the Milky Way see each other.

5)Ochugen

Japanese exchange ochugen, or mid-summer gifts, in July.

The tradition of ochugen stems from the Chinese concept of dividing the year.