

高校生英語 休講期間中の課題⑬～4月30日～

●次の英文を読んで、あとの問いに答えなさい。

Ryoji Sato was born in a small town in Gifu in 1929. He was the youngest child in a family of three children. When he was three, his mother died at the age of 33. After that his father raised the children *by himself. In such a difficult situation, Ryoji's father always said: "Work to *contribute to society and make people happy even if you have to dress in *rags." These words were *engraved in their minds.

In 1945, Ryoji got a job at *Japanese National Railways. He became a *bus conductor in 1953. When his father died in 1961, Ryoji thought deeply about the real meaning of his father's words, and around this time, he had a *life-changing *experience.

The government began planning to build a *rock-fill dam in the *Sho-gawa River in Gifu in 1952. In 1960, the huge dam was completed. Unfortunately, 360 small villages were going to be under water because of the government's dam project. *In addition, two 400-year-old cherry trees faced the same *fate. However, many of the people who were *displaced from the small villages wanted to save them. A large-scale tree transplanting was *conducted *successfully.

Three springs after the dam's *construction, the villagers got together and enjoyed seeing the cherry trees in full *bloom. At the party, an *elderly woman suddenly started to stroke one of the trees *gently and cried aloud *with joy. Ryoji was there. The trees made their *reunion possible. Ryoji *realized that these cherry trees surely *connected people and brought peace to the villagers.

In the spring of 1966, Ryoji planted a cherry tree at the office where he worked in Nagoya. Ryoji had a dream to plant cherry trees along the *entire length of the road from Nagoya to Kanazawa. *Whenever he had time, he planted cherry trees. In 1971 he got cancer. *Despite his *serious *illness, he continued planting them. In 1976, his life ended at the young age of 47. He planted over 2,000 trees.

A 250-kilometer *ultra-marathon is held every spring to *honor Ryoji's dream of peace. It is called the Sakuramichi International Nature Run. The *participants run under the blooming cherry blossoms. These trees represent a *Milky Way on Earth as a *symbol for peace across the world.

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by oneself: ひとりだけで、自分で contribute: 貢献(寄付)する contribute to ~: ~に貢献(寄付)する

rag(s): ぼろ(服) engrave(d): 感銘させる national: 国家の railway: 鉄道

Japanese National Railways: 日本国有鉄道(日本の国が経営していた鉄道事業) conductor: 案内人、車掌

bus conductor: バスの車掌 life-changing: 人生が変わる(一転する)ような experience: 経験

rock-fill dam: ロックフィルダム(岩石や土砂を積み上げて建設されたダム)

Sho-gawa River: 庄川(岐阜県と富山県を流れる一級河川) in addition: さらに、加えるに

addition: 追加、足し算 fate: 運命、宿命 displace: 移す、強制退去させる conduct: 処理する、指揮する

successfully: うまく、幸運に(も) construction: 建設 bloom: 花、開花 elderly: かなり年配の、初老の

gently: 優しく、穏やかに with joy: 喜んで reunion: 再会 realize: 理解する connect: つなぐ

entire: 全部の whenever: ...する時にはいつでも(必ず) despite: ...にもかかわらず serious: 思い、真剣な

illness: 病気 ultra-: 極端な、超 marathon: マラソン honor: 名譽を与える participant: 参加者

Milky Way: 天の川、銀河 symbol: 象徴

