

第19講 物語文の読解(2)



演習問題 A

Your teacher has told you to choose a story and present it to the class, using notes. You have find a story about a high school student in Australia. (目安時間 10分)

Margaret is an 18-year-old high school student and an ace in the swimming club at school. As well as studying hard to pass an entrance examination for university, she has spent a lot of time doing her club activities. Her everyday efforts have resulted in her winning the championships many times in competitions. Consequently, she became more confident in herself than before.

The story goes back to an event about two years ago. A tragedy struck her abruptly and ruthlessly. On that day, she finished practicing swimming as usual and was on her way home by bike. Just at the instant when she was crossing at the crosswalk, there was a motorbike heading for her, ignoring a red light. She braked at once, only to collide with the motorbike, which made her fall on the road. She immediately lost consciousness without feeling any pain. Several people, looking worried, gathered to surround her. A man who seemed to be in his thirties kindly called an ambulance. The rider had already gone away.

Five days later, Margaret finally woke from the deep sleep and found herself in the hospital. Then, she had sharp pain in her left arm and both legs. She soon realized that her bones were broken, and she was at a loss for words. "Oh, couldn't be worse. If I couldn't swim anymore, what would I live for? My future must be gloomy," muttered Margaret with tears in her eyes. While listening to Margaret, her mother, taking care of her, could just grasp her hands tightly without saying anything. She was so seriously injured that she had to be in the hospital for a while, and even if the bones had mended, then she needed rehabilitation for a long period of time.

Almost every day, some friends came to visit Margaret in the hospital and cheered her up. One such friend was Richard, who had known her since elementary school. He was considerate, reliable, optimistic, and always on her side. "No problem, Margaret. As long as you never give up, you can achieve anything," said Richard. "Thanks, Richard. But I'm not confident. Maybe I'll be able to swim again, but not like I used to," said Margaret. "You'll never know unless you try," smiled Richard.

Margaret felt that the words Richard had said had the magical power to make her positive. She glanced at him and asked, "Do you think I'll be a good swimmer again?" "Definitely!" replied Richard.

A few months later, Margaret's bones had almost mended and she had been doing rehabilitation. Richard came to see her almost every day even on weekdays and gave her mental support. As a result, she had the courage to overcome the demanding rehabilitation.

Another few months later, Margaret finally left the hospital. She did not have much trouble leading a daily life. As for study, she had kept learning with Richard in the

hospital, so she could keep up with other students.

40 Having said that, it required more time for Margaret to become able to swim as fast as she used to. She needed to get accustomed to swimming first because she had not been swimming for such a long time. She continued practicing for about two hours five days a week for six months, paying more attention on accurately moving her body than swimming fast. Consequently, she was able to gain confidence again. That was just when she became a third grader.

45 Other members of the swimming club Margaret belonged to had also been practicing hard every day for the upcoming competition. The news that Jasmine, an ace in their biggest rival school, would also participate in the competition fueled her motivation. Jasmine set the high school record for the individual last year. Margaret had beaten her several times, but it seemed extremely tough to reach a goal ahead of her. Coming close to being overwhelmed by pressure, she took herself to the limit to swim faster.

50 On the day of the competition, Margaret was spoken to by Jasmine in a waiting room. “I heard that you had been injured. But, I’ll never be soft on you,” said Jasmine. “Of course,” replied Margaret. Two hours later, their 50-meter breaststroke race finally started. In the first half, Jasmine was just one meter ahead. However, Margaret speeded up after that, remembering how hard her training was, and reached the goal faster than any other swimmer. Margaret wept for joy and shook hands with Jasmine.

55 A week later, when Margaret returned home from school, she found a letter from Richard. “Wow, it’s been a long time. Why did he write to me?” said Margaret to herself.

Dear Margaret,

60 How’s it going? To tell you the truth, I went to see the last swimming competition. I was very excited about your race and really impressed by your never-give-up spirit. I know how painful it was for you when you got injured. If I had been in your shoes, I would have probably abandoned hope, but you didn’t. I’m very proud of you. I believe that you will also succeed in passing the entrance examination. Your future is undoubtedly bright.

65 Good luck, Richard

Margaret was delighted to have a wonderful friend like Richard. “As long as you never give up, you can achieve anything.” She remembered the words Richard said while she was in hospital, and she made up her mind to be a better swimmer. (約 910 語)

Your notes:

A story about Margaret

About Margaret

- 18-year-old high school student.
- An ace in the swimming club at school.

What happened to her two years ago

- Was hit by a motorbike (A).
- Woke up after being unconscious for 5 days.

About Richard

- Has been Margaret's friend since elementary school.
- (B).

What happened to Margaret after the accident

- ↓ After she found her bones were broken, (C).
- ↓ With mental support by Richard, (D).
- ↓ After the 50-meter breaststroke race, (E).

What we can learn from Richard's letter

- (F).

(1) Choose the best option for (A)

- ア. on the way to the swimming pool
- イ. on the way home from her swimming practice
- ウ. because she ignored a red light
- エ. because the brake of her bike was broken ()

(2) Choose the best option for (B)

- ア. Grasped her hands without saying anything
- イ. Practiced swimming with her
- ウ. Gave her positive words
- エ. Beat Margaret in the swimming competition ()

(3) Choose three out of four options(ア～エ) and rearrange them in the order they happened.

(C) → (D) → (E)

- ア. she became courageous to overcome her tough rehabilitation
 - イ. she thought she could no longer swim like she used to
 - ウ. she was nearly overwhelmed by pressure
 - エ. she cried for joy and shook hands with Jasmine
- (C) () (D) () (E) ()

(4) Choose the best option for (F)

- ア. He thought Margaret should have done her best
- イ. He thought he wouldn't be able to act like Margaret if he were injured
- ウ. He expected Margaret to become more positive
- エ. He did not know when the swimming competition was held ()

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