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もうちょっと
ハッピーエンドでもよかった
のに...



#33 November 2020

Jokes · Grammar · Beginner & Intermediate Readers · Culture · JLPT N5 Kanji



のぼりべつ

じごくだに

登別地獄谷

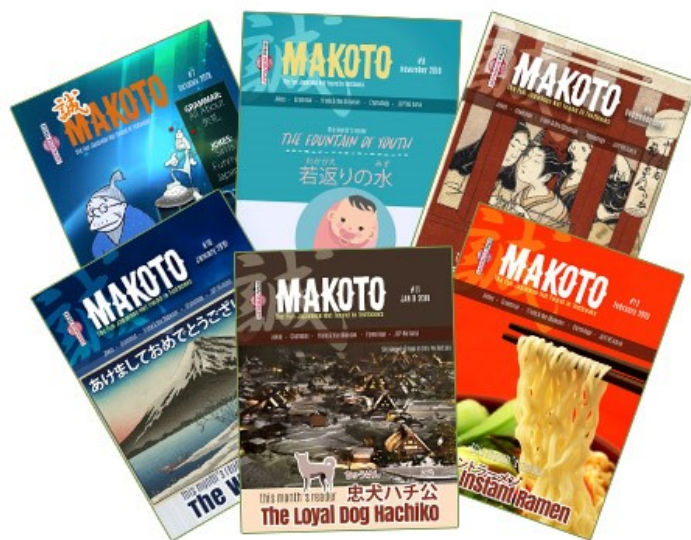
THE VALLEY OF HELL IN NOBORIBETSU BY SABRINA ITURBIDE

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ございます。

Thank you so much
for your purchase!



This month, we have another special report by Sabrina about a place you might want to visit if you ever go to Hokkaido.

This month's joke particularly tickled our funny bones. It's a little long, but I hope you will work through it to the end. If you have a sibling, you'll understand.

We finally wrap up the horrible Kachikachi yama story (Yumi chose it, not me :))

Lastly, we have been adding a lot of free content to www.thejapanesepage.com. Please use the free resources there including our free podcasts and email courses.

Thank you!
Clay & Yumi

P.S. Here's the site. Check out Makoto+!

<https://www.thejapanesepage.com/makoto>

The cover says, もうちょっとハッピーエンドでもよかったのに・・・ *mou chotto happi-endo demo yokatta noni*, which means, "I would have liked a happier ending."

Why? Read the conclusion of カチカチ山 at the end of this issue!

WHO ARE WE?

Nearly two decades ago, Clay & Yumi began TheJapanesePage.com, one of the Internet's oldest and largest *free* Japanese instructional sites with hundreds of free articles for beginners of Japanese.

They also maintain TheJapanShop.com, a webstore specializing in materials to help learners of Japanese.

Have any questions or comments?

Contact Clay directly at
clay@thejapanshop.com

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LAUGHS, JOKES, RIDDLES, AND PUNS

きょうだい けん か おこ おとうと にい まえ ぶた さけ
兄弟が喧嘩をしました。怒った 弟 がお兄さんにおかって「お前は豚だ!」と叫
びました。それを聞いたお母さんは、こう言いました。

にんげん む ぶた ぜったい い
「人間に向かって豚!というのは、ひどいわ。絶対に言ってはいけません。」

おとうと かあ き ぶた まえ にんげん い
弟 は、お母さんに聞きました。「じゃあ、豚におかって、お前は人間だ!と言っ
てもいいの?」

ぶた にんげん
「豚におかって人間?それは、いいわよ。」

おとうと にい い
弟 は、お兄さんにおかってこう言いました。

まえ にんげん
「お前は人間だ!」



Two brothers had a fight. The younger brother got angry and yelled to his brother, “You are a pig!”

Their mother heard it and said to him, “It is terrible to tell a person that he is a pig. Never say such a thing!”

The younger brother asked his mother, “Then, is it okay if I say to a pig that it is a person?”

“Calling a pig a person? Well, that’s fine.”

The younger brother turned to his brother and said, “You are a person!”

Vocabulary:

兄弟 *kyoudai*—brothers; an older brother and a younger brother [**兄** (older brother) + **弟** (younger brother); **兄弟** can also mean sibling, siblings, a brother, brothers]

喧嘩をしました *kenka o shimashita*—had a fight; argued with each other [from **喧嘩をする** (to fight; to argue); **喧嘩** (quarrel; brawl; fight; squabble; argument); **(を)する** (to do ~); sometimes, it can be shortened to be **喧嘩する**]

怒った弟 *okotta otouto*—the younger brother who got angry [**怒った** from **怒る** (to get angry; past form is used to modify the following noun); **弟** (younger brother)]

お兄さん *oniisan*—the older brother [**お** (honorific prefix); **兄** (older brother); **さん** (honorific suffix); polite for **兄**]

にむかって *ni mukatte*—toward; facing to; facing toward [a common fixed phrase; **に** (to); **むかって** *te*-form of **むかう** (to turn toward; to face toward); *te*-form conjunction]

お前 *omae*—you [can be very derogatory depending on who you use it for. Usually only used for one's very close peers or family members who are younger than oneself; never use it for someone older than oneself]

豚 *buta*—pig

叫びました *sakebimashita*—screamed; yelled [from **叫ぶ** (to scream; to yell)]

それ *sore*—it; that [pointing to what the younger brother just said]

聞いたお母さん *kiita okaasan*—their mother who heard it [**聞いた** from **聞く** (to hear; past form is used to modify the following noun); **お母さん** (mother)]

は *wa*—topic marker [**が** can work here with no issue. **は** somewhat directs the reader's attention to what comes after it (the predicate), vs. **が** which more or less adds an emphasis to the subject it's marking. It's a subtle difference, but they are otherwise interchangeable.]

こう *kou*—this way; as follows; as below [adverb form of **これ** (this)]

人間 *ningen*—human; human being

に向かって *ni mukatte*—toward; facing to; facing toward

~というのは… *to iu no wa...*—it is ... to say ~ [と (quotation marker); いう (to say); の (nominalizing particle that turns the preceding phrase into a noun state; exactly same as “to” in “to say”); は (topic marker)]

ひどいわ *hidoi wa*—terrible; very bad; horrible; harsh; severe [ひどい (terrible; very bad; harsh); わ (feminine casual ender; makes the whole sentence sound very feminine while adding emphasis)]

絶対に~ *zettai ni*—never ~; absolutely [絶対 (absolute; unmistakable); に (makes an adverbial phrase, very similar to “-ly”); it means, “never” when used with a negative ending, as in this case]

言ってはいけません *itte wa ikemasen*—(you) shouldn’t say (that); never say (that) [literally, “not good if (you) say (that)"]

言っては *itte wa*—if (you) say [言って from 言う (to say); は (topic marker); *te*-form + は is used as a conditional conjunction as “if ~”; this ては form is often used with a negative ending as てはいけない (not good to do ~) vs. ~ても is used for an affirmative statement as ~てもいい (fine to do ~)]

いきません *ikemasen*—not good; wrong [from いけない which is the negative form of いける (literally, “can go”) which means “good”. However, いける (good) and いけない (not good) are used as adjectives mostly, even though they can literally mean (“can go”; “can’t go”) depending on the context]

弟は *otouto wa*—the younger brother [弟 (younger brother); は here can be replaced by が]

お母さん *okaasan*—mother; mom; mum; ma

(に)聞きました *(ni) kikimashita*—asked (his mother) [from 聞く (to ask)]

じゃあ *jaa*—then [very casual for “then”, “if that’s the case” or “if so”; its formal version would be では or それでは]

豚にむかって *buta ni mukatte*—toward a pig; facing a pig [豚 (pig); にむかって (toward; facing)]

～と言っても *~to itte mo*—even (I) say ~; if (I) say~ [と (quotation marker); 言って from 言う (to say); も (even); “*te*-form verb + も” means “even doing ~” or “even (I; you; someone) do ~”; you could consider this as a *te*-form conjunction with も (even) attached]

いいの *ii no*—OK? [いい (good; fine; acceptable; right); の (casual question ender that most likely originated from the explanatory の which is shortened from “いいのですか”. This usage of の is used in very casual conversations only)]

豚にむかって人間? *buta ni mukatte ningen*—“a human” to a pig?

いいわよ *ii wa yo*—(that is) fine; (that is) OK [いい (good; fine); わ (feminine casual ender used by female only); よ (casual ender which add an emphasis); わ and よ are often used together]

弟は *otouto wa*—the younger brother [弟 (younger brother); は here can be replaced by が]

いいました *iimashita*—said [polite past form of 言う (to say)]

お前は人間だ! *omae wa ningen da!*—you are a human!

Want more jokes? Get our new book, Jokes in Japanese, a part of our Japanese Culture Bundle: <http://www.TheJapanShop.com/bundles>



VOCABULARY

Learn Useful Words, Phrases, and Sayings

うら か
恨みを買う

urami o kau

to incur someone's ill will; to make an enemy

i This is used when someone does something (even unintentional) that causes someone to be envious or spiteful.

Literally, "to buy hard feelings." But the "*kau*" (to buy) means "to solicit" the hard feelings instead of anything to do with money.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

わたし うら か おぼ
私には、あなたから恨みを買った覚えはない。

watashi ni wa, anata kara urami o katta oboe wa nai.

I don't remember doing anything to make you mad at me.

VOCABULARY:

私には *watashi ni wa*—to me; for me

あなた *anata*—you

から *kara*—from

恨み *urami*—grudge; hate

買った *katta*—past of 買う (to buy; to earn; to receive)

恨みを買った *urami o katta*—done anything to make you mad

覚えはない *oboe wa nai*—(I) don't recall; have no recollection [覚え (memory; from 覚える (to remember)) + は (topic marker) + ない (not to have)]

恨みを買う

PREFECTURE SPOTLIGHT

ほっかいどう

Hokkaido 北海道

Japanese: 北海道 *hokkaidō*

Capital: 札幌 Sapporo

Population: 5,507,456 (October 1, 2010)



DID YOU KNOW?

Like Okinawa, Hokkaido is both a prefecture and a region. It is the second largest island in Japan and the most northern. It is a “dō” and not “ken.”



PLACES TO SEE:

- **Sapporo**—the largest city (and capital) of Hokkaido.
- **Asahikawa**—the second largest city and officially the coldest city in Japan.
- **Matsumae Castle**—also known as Fukuyama Castle, it is famous for having over 10,000 cherry blossom trees.
- **Noboribetsu**—is a town which is also part of the wide Shikotsu-Toya National Park and is one of the prime tourist spots in Hokkaido. It is known for its *onsen* or hot springs and part of the area around the town is called Hell Valley. **See the next page for more.**

FAMOUS FOR:

- **Farms**—Hokkaido produces more agricultural products than any other prefecture.
- **Sapporo beer**—originally from Sapporo, Hokkaido, the world headquarters is now in Tokyo.
- **Wakkanai**—the northernmost city in Japan. The Russian island Sakhalin can be seen on a clear day.

ABOUT NOBORIBETSU

By Sabrina Iturbide

While I was planning my second trip to Japan with my friend, we decided to go to Hokkaido at least for a few days. Hokkaido is the second largest of the Japanese islands. At 32,000 square miles, it is slightly larger than the state of Maine. It is also the farthest north of the islands. There are a lot of places to go there, of course, but our time was limited (as always). We decided to go to a place called 登別 Noboribetsu, and I loved it!



Noboribetsu is located south of Sapporo. We were staying in Sapporo and went to Noboribetsu to spend the day. I think it is around one or two hours by train and then a local bus to 地獄谷 Jigokudani (Hell Valley).

When we arrived there, we smelled strong sulfur in the air. Noboribetsu is a great place to go for onsen or hot springs. But it also has gorgeous places to visit.

Jigokudani is one of them. It is a valley formed in an explosion crater from an eruption of Mt. Kuttara a long time ago. One of the wonders to see here are the steaming geysers. It was different from the view of the Aso volcano (see Makoto #31). At the volcano, you can see the steam going up like clouds, but here there were several shooting

steams, and there was one that rapidly shot out horizontally. It was amazing.

There are some places where you can see geysers spitting hot water intermittently, but we did not see one. You must wait a long time or be there at the right time and the right place. Anyway, the view was stunning.

After we got off the bus, we visited some stores in Gokuraku shopping street.

There were some demon figurines all around that drew my attention. Those demons are called 湯鬼神 Yukijin, and Jigokudani is their home. Yukijin are good demons that takes away your bad luck and prays for your good fortune. There are several statues of the demons. At Gokuraku Street are three stone statues for

ABOUT NOBORIBETSU

By Sabrina Iturbide

success in love, study, and business. But you will find the first demon statue while leaving the train station.

At the end of the shopping street, there is a place called Sengen Park, where you can find a geyser erupting that comes from Jigokudani. It erupts every three hours. Around it, there are several 金棒



kanabou [metal rods used by oni] of different colors and a poster with some explanation, all in Japanese, of course.

After that, we found the Jigokudani, which is 450m in diameter and has many spouts. You can find there the Tessen-Ike (the geyser) and get close to it! You can even feel the hot water around you.

From there, there are different pathways to go. We went to see the Oyunuma, a 1km round-shaped pond of hot spring in a volcanic crater of Mt. Kuttara. At the bottom, it is 130°C and on the surface it is between 40°C and 50°C. Behind it, you will find Mt. Hiyori, a smoky active volcano. I cannot say



I saw the smoky volcano, as the lake was smoky too. It was winter, and it was a rainy day. Because of that, we couldn't get as close as we wanted.

Some pathways were closed. There is a Natural

Footbath and a place called Taisho Jikogu (another geyser), but we couldn't get there.

While we were on the pathway, we found some posters with questions and answers to have fun and learn during the trekking. The answer was always at the next poster.

After all the trekking under the umbrella, we went to relax to an onsen. If you have never heard of it, an onsen is a hot spring where you must go naked (at least most onsen in Japan require that).



There are mixed and separated onsen (for women and men together or separated), and some are natural. The ones that are in Noboribetsu are natural hot springs.

We went to Takimotokan Hotel, where you can go to the baths for the day. The hotel looked fantastic. I didn't stay there, but I did visit its onsen. It was huge and the best onsen I experienced throughout all of Japan. It has five different sources of springs: Sulphur, Alum, Ferrous Sulphate, Salt, and Sodium. You can stay in the interior or go outside, and it has a beautiful view of Jigokudani. It was so amazing! It has different pools; there was also a path with water to walk between cold and hot water (up to the ankle or so), a

ABOUT NOBORIBETSU

By Sabrina Iturbide

place to lay down with water, some cold pools (too cold!!), and you can even take something to drink to the outside hot spring.



There are some rules or etiquette to consider while going to an onsen in Japan. First, you must remove all your clothes and wash to clean your body. You can do this by pouring hot water over your body. There is a shower area provided for this. Then, you can go inside the hot spring area, but you must avoid running or splashing water around. Because of the hot water, it is not recommended to stay in for a long time. I went outside for some fresh air a few times. As it was winter, it was cold, but with the hot water, it was nice. You can go to the shower again before going out to clean your body, and you must wipe your body off before going to change. They give you a small towel to use inside, but you cannot put it into the water. So, you will see a lot of people with these small towels over their heads. Finally, remember to avoid going to a hot spring after consuming alcohol since that can lead to dehydration and heat exhaustion.

After we left the hot spring, we found out there was a place to drink hot spring water there. Also, there are small stores inside the hotel, and there is a large *kanabou* with mini demons inside who come outside and play music. It was a nice thing to wrap up our visit to Noboribetsu.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sabrina Iturbide is a writer and a lover of chocolate. She has traveled widely in Japan and has been busily translating many of our books into Spanish.

You can find more of her photography and travel experiences on her Instagram page:

<https://www.instagram.com/conociendojapon/>



ごげん
語源

ETYMOLOGY

言葉の語源 kotoba no gogen - The origin of words:

きゅうしゅう

九州

Kyushu (southwestern-most of the four main islands of Japan)

ななけん きゅうしゅう え ど じ だ い ここの
 7 県しかないのに、なぜ九州というのでしょうか？江戸時代までは、9
 くに きゅうしゅう ここの くに つぎ
 つの国がありました。だから、九州 といふのです。9 つの国は、次
 とお
 の通りです。

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ちくぜん くに
• 筑前の国 | ひご くに
• 肥後の国 | ひゅうが くに
• 日向の国 |
| ちくご くに
• 筑後の国 | ぶぜん くに
• 豊前の国 | おおすみ
• 大隅の国 |
| ひぜん くに
• 肥前の国 | ぶんご くに
• 豊後の国 | さつま
• 薩摩の国 |

いま ななけん ふくおかけん さ が けん ながさきけん おおいたけん くまもとけん みやざきけん
 今ある 7 県は、福岡県、佐賀県、長崎県、大分県、熊本県、宮崎県、
 かごしまけん
 鹿児島県です。

Why is Kyushu called “9 states” even though there are only seven prefectures in Kyushu?

There used to be nine provinces until the end of Edo era. That’s why it’s called Kyushu.

Those nine regions are as follows:

- Chikuzen Province
- Chikugo Province
- Hizen Province
- Higo Province
- Buzen Province
- Bungo Province
- Hyuuga Province
- Oosumi Province
- Satsuma Province

The current prefectures are, Fukuoka prefecture, Saga prefecture, Nagasaki prefecture, Ooita prefecture, Kumamoto prefecture, Miyazaki prefecture, and Kagoshima prefecture.

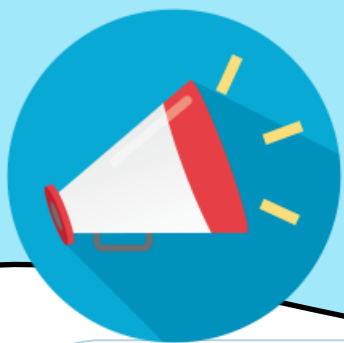
Vocabulary:

- 語源 etymology; origin of a word [語 (word; language) + 源 (source; origin; root)]
- 九州 Kyushu [“literally, “nine provinces”; the southwestern-most island out of Japan’s four main islands; 九 (nine); 州 (state; province; country); FYI: 州 is used for “state” of the United States.]
- 県 prefecture [an administrative jurisdiction in Japan very similar to a state in US]
- ~しかない there is only ~; has only ~ [しか (only; follows a noun or a noun state phrase); ない (not to have; not to exist; negative of ある; しか is always followed with ない)]
- ~のに although ~; even though ~; in spite of the fact that ~ [comes after an *i*-adjective or a verb; ~なのに when a noun or a *na*-adjective proceeds it]
- なぜ why [a bit formal compared to どうして. There is a slight feminine ring to it, but it’s not limited to females only]
- ~という to say ~ [と (quotation marker); いう (to say)]
- のでしょう why is it ~?
- の [explanatory particle refers to the preceding phrase and emphasizes it at the same time. Consider this の as having a meaning of “the case” of what the preceding phrase says as in “why is it the case that it is called “nine provinces?”]
- でしょう (assumptive volitional of です; used as a kind of question marker; sounds polite and indirect compared to ~ですか; ~でしょう? It is often used in quizzes when asking readers or audiences to take a guess); FYI: the plain assumptive volitional is だろう (from だ)]
- 江戸時代 Edo period (1603-1868)
- までは until; till [まで (until; till); は (contrast marker adding emphasis on “until Edo period”]

and setting it as the topic of the sentence)]

- 9つの国 nine provinces [literally, “provinces of nine”; 9つ (nine; nine pieces); 国 (province; normally it’s “country”, but it is used here for “province” or “territory” from Japanese history when each region was ruled under a feudal lord)]
- がありました~ existed; there were ~
- だから that’s why; therefore; for this reason [the formal and more polite version is ですから]
- ということです it is called [という (to call); の (explanatory particle); といいます is very similar and can be used here, however it lacks the “persuasiveness” or “emphasis” that is added by の which is in というのです; の holds the meaning of “the case” (that’s why it is “the case” that it’s called Kyushu)]
- は as for
- 次の通りです as shown below; as follows; as stated below [次 (next); 通り (as; like; same as)]
- 筑前の国 Chikuzen Province
- 筑後の国 Chikugo Province
- 肥前の国 Hizen Province
- 肥後の国 Higo Province
- 豊前の国 Buzen Province
- 豊後の国 Bungo Province
- 日向の国 Hyuuga Province
- 大隅の国 Oosumi Province
- 薩摩の国 Satsuma Province
- 今ある (the prefectures that) currently exist; (the prefectures that are there now)
- 7県 seven prefectures
- 福岡県 Fukuoka prefecture
- 佐賀県 Saga prefecture
- 長崎県 Nagasaki prefecture
- 大分県 Ooita prefecture
- 熊本県 Kumamoto prefecture
- 宮崎県 Miyazaki prefecture
- 鹿児島県 Kagoshima prefecture



LEVEL
N4UPPER
BEGINNER+

ANIME / MANGA PHRASE

Surprise your Japanese friends with these phrases

Please see the sound files for the pronunciation

いぬやしや

犬夜叉!おすわり!!

inuyasha! osuwari!!

Inuyasha! Sit!!

VOCABULARY

- 犬夜叉 *inuyasha*—Inuyasha [the main character of a Japanese anime; 犬 (dog); 夜叉 (a broad class of deities which appear in Hindu and Buddhist mythology. They can be benevolent or malevolent)]
- おすわり *osuwari*—sit; sit down [imperative of すわれ which is from すわる (to sit; to sit down); お (usually an honorific suffix but not quite honorific in this case); すわり from すわる (to sit; to sit down; *masu*-stem of すわる which is also a noun form of the verb); this phrase sounds like she is talking down on someone and it is not normally used in regular conversations; note: 1. おすわり (as a noun) is also used as a command to dogs to say “sit”. 2. おすわりなさい (with なさい) is an imperative form often used by adults to their children or by teachers to students; it sounds commanding but not belittling (could be stern or soft depends on how it’s said).]



HAIKU

Condensed Japanese Language and Culture

LEVEL
N4

UPPER
BEGINNER+

Masaoka Shiki 正岡子規

はつしも ま たお きく はな
初霜に 負けて倒れし 菊の花

hatsushimo ni / makete tareshi / kiku no hana

From the first frost | defeated and fallen over | the chrysanthemum flower

VOCABULARY

- 初霜 first frost [初 (first); 霜 (frost)]
- に (defeated) by; (lost) against
- 負けて got defeated and...; lost (in a battle or game) and... [from 負ける (to lose); *te*-form conjunction; it is whimsical to use 負ける to describe flowers that are harmed by frost]
- 倒れし fell over; collapsed [倒れし from 倒れる. It is an archaic version of 倒れた to modify the following noun; FYI: ~した or ~していた is thought to be derived from this し (ending of past tense verb) which began to be used in the early 1000's]
- 菊の花 flower of chrysanthemum [菊 (chrysanthemum); の (of); 花 (flower); 菊 means chrysanthemum as a plant, while 菊の花 means chrysanthemum flower]
- 正岡子規 Masaoka Shiki [a poet (1867-1902)]

KANJI SPOTLIGHT

Learning kanji one character at a time.



LEVEL

BEGINNER
JLPT N5

JLPT N5 Kanji

近

On: キン コン

Kun: ちか. い

Meaning : near; early

Hint: Looks like someone kneeling *near* a stream.

Stroke Order:

近 近 近 近 近 近 近 近 近

Examples:

さいきん

最近 recently; these days; nowadays

きんじょ

近所 neighborhood

ちかみち

近道 shortcut

ちか

ぎんこう

近くに銀行がある。

chikaku ni ginkou ga aru.

There is a bank nearby.

VOCABULARY:

- 近くに *chikaku ni*—nearby; in a near distance [近く (near; vicinity) + に (at; in)]
- 銀行 *ginkou*—bank
- が *ga*—(indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))
- ある *aru*—to be located; to exist; to have

文法の時間

GRAMMAR TIME

どのくらい *dono gurai*

about how long; about how far; about how much

ABOUT:

■ どのくらい and どのくらい are interchangeable. It means, "About how long?" or "About how far?" or "About how much?" This is made up of どの (which or what way) and くらい (about).

EXAMPLES:

とうきょう きょうと きより

東京と京都の距離は、どのくらいありますか？

About how far apart is Tokyo and Kyoto?

しんちょう

あなたの身長は、どのくらいですか？

How tall are you?

むずか

どのくらい 難しいですか？

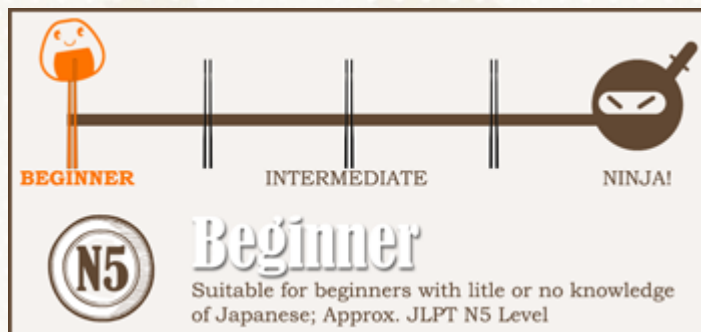
How difficult is it?

VOCABULARY:

- 東京 *toukyou*—Tokyo
- と *to*—and
- 京都 *kyouto*—Kyoto (city, prefecture)
- の *no*—(modifier which gives more detail)
- 距離 *kyori*—distance; range
- は *wa*—(topic marker particle)
- あります *arimasu*—be; is [ます form of ある (be; is; to be; to exist)]
- か *ka*—(question marker)
- あなた *anata*—you (referring to someone of equal or lower status)
- あなたの *anata no*—your [あなた (you) + の ('s; of)]
- 身長 *shinchou*—height (of body); stature
- です *desu*—be; is
- 難しい *muzukashii*—difficult; hard

よんでみよう LET'S READ!

Learn through reading for (very) beginners of Japanese



Have you only recently learned hiragana but need practice? Or perhaps, your hiragana is no problem, but you want to build your reading comprehension?

Frank and the Obaasan is here to the rescue!

Previously, Frank, an alien, crash landed into Japan and met Obaasan. With Obaasan's help, Frank learned much of the Japanese language and culture.

Following their intergalactic adventures from the first season, Frank and the Obaasan must now protect Japan from the Oresama menace. Oresama (aka Kitichan) intends to destroy the most *kawaii* thing in the universe. That, of course, is found in Japan...



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<http://thejapanesepage.com/makoto>

And now...

FRANK AND THE OBAASAN

EPISODE FIVE:

おじいさん

Try to read the Japanese first. If you need the rōmaji version, use it sparingly. Lastly, read the English to cement understanding. The pages following this section will break down each line and explain grammar, kanji, and culture. Please look for the MP3s of the stories. And now, Episode Five: The Old Man

[They exit the Shinkansen]

[OBAASAN]: ^{いちばん}1番 ^{ねこ}かわいい猫 ^きカフェはどこなのか、だれかに聞かなくちゃね。

[FRANK]: そうですね。[Frank turns to find someone to ask. Obaasan doesn't see Frank turn.]

[OBAASAN]: ^{だれ}誰か ^{わか}若くてかっ ^{ひと}こいい人がいいわ・・・

[FRANK]: すみませ〜ん！

[OBAASAN]: あっちゃ。。。[Obaasan face palms herself]
なんだ、ダサイじいさんか。。

[FRANK]: ^{いちばん}一番 ^{ねこ}かわいい猫 ^{ぞん}カフェはどこかご存じですか？

[OJIISAN]: うん、^{ねこ}猫カフェ？

[FRANK]: はい、^{いちばん}一番かわいいの。

[OJIISAN]: ^{おし}教えたくないが、こんなに ^{おんな}ピチ ^こピチでかわいい女の子がいるから、^{おし}教えてやろう。^{いちばん}一番 ^{ねこ}かわいい猫 ^{じつ}カフェ。実は、^{だれ}誰でも ^し知っている。

[OBAASAN]: あら、やだあ～。あなたってとってもかっこいい^{おも}と思うわ。 [Obaasan says, fawning]

[FRANK]: じゃあ、どこ？

[OJIISAN]: 知ら^しん。

[OBAASAN]: だれでも知^しっていると言^いったでしょう？

[OJIISAN]: それは本^{ほん}当^{とう}だ。だれでも知^しっている。わし^{いがい}以外。

[FRANK]: ああ、もうだめだ！

[OBAASAN]: まったく。しかたないわ。私^{わたし}の勘^{かん}を使^{つか}って調^{しら}べるわ！

^{へんしん}
変身！スーパーばあさん！

[A fanfare of trumpets sounds out of nowhere as Obaasan moves her hands rapidly. A cloud of smoke appears and as it dissipates, Obaasan is taking a heroic pose while wearing a mask and spandex.]

Try to read the Japanese first. If you need the rōmaji version, use it sparingly. Lastly, read the English to cement understanding. The following pages will break down each line and explain grammar, kanji, and culture. Please look for the MP3s of the stories. And now, **Episode Five: The Old Man**

[They exit the Shinkansen]

Obaasan: *ichiban kawaii neko kafe wa doko na no ka, dare ka ni kikanakucha ne.*

Frank: *sou desu ne.* [Frank turns to find someone to ask. Obaasan doesn't see Frank turn.]

Obaasan: *dare ka wakakute kakko ii hito ga ii wa...*

Frank: *sumimase~n!*

Obaasan: *accha...* [Obaasan face palms herself.] *nan da, dasai jiisan ka...*

Frank: *ichiban kawaii neko kafe wa doko ka gozonji desu ka?*

Ojiisan: *un, neko kafe?*

Frank: *hai, ichiban kawaii no.*

Ojiisan: *oshietakunai ga, konna ni pichipichi de kawaii onna no ko ga iru kara, oshiete yarou. ichiban kawaii neko kafe. jitsu wa, dare demo shitteiru.*

Obaasan: *ara, yadaa~. anata tte totemo kakko ii to omou wa.* [Obaasan says, fawning]

Frank: *jaa, doko?*

Ojiisan: *shiran.*

Obaasan: *daredemo shitteiru to itta deshou?*

Ojiisan: *sore wa hontou da. daredemo shitteiru. washi igai.*

Frank: *aa, mou dame da!*

Obaasan: *mattaku. shikata nai wa. watashi no kan o tsukatte shiraberu wa! henshin su-pa-baasan!*

[A fanfare of trumpets sounds out of nowhere as Obaasan moves her hands rapidly. A cloud of smoke appears and as it dissipates, Obaasan is taking a heroic pose while wearing a mask and spandex.]

Obaasan: We need to ask someone where the cutest cat cafe is.

Frank: Yeah, we do. [Frank turns to find someone to ask. Obaasan doesn't see Frank turn.]

Obaasan: Someone young and cool and...

Frank: Excuse me~!

Obaasan: Duh! [Obaasan face palms herself] Why? It's just an uncool old man.

Frank: Do you know where the cutest cat cafe is?

Ojiisan: Uh, cat cafe, you say?

Frank: Yes, the cutest one.

Ojiisan: I don't really want to say, but we are in the presence of such a youthful and energetic young lady, I'll tell you. The cutest cat café... Actually, everyone knows.

Obaasan: Oh my, you don't say. You are such a cool dude!

Frank: Well, then. Where is it?

Ojiisan: No idea.

Obaasan: Didn't you just say everyone knows?

Ojiisan: That is correct. Everyone knows. Except me.

Frank: We're doomed!

Obaasan: I've had enough. It can't be helped. I'll use my intuition to find it. Transform Super Baasan!

[A fanfare of trumpets sounds out of nowhere as Obaasan moves her hands rapidly. A cloud of smoke appears and as it dissipates, Obaasan is taking a heroic pose while wearing a mask and spandex.]



いちばん

ねこ

き

1 番 かわいい猫カフェはどこなのか、だれかに聞かなくちゃね。

We need to ask someone where the cutest cat cafe is.

VOCABULARY

1 番 best; most

かわいい cute; adorable

猫カフェ cat café [猫 (cat) + カフェ (café)]

は (topic marker particle)

どこなのか where [どこ (where; what place) + な (is used after an interrogative pronoun) + の (is used to emphasize uncertainty) + か (indirect question marker)]

だれかに to someone [だれか (someone; somebody) + に (to)]

聞かなくちゃ need to ask [from 聞く (to ask; to query)]

ね (sentence ender)

NOTES

~なくちゃ is a casual spoken way to say that one must do something. How to use: Verb (ない form) な~~い~~ + なくちゃ

Ex. 聞く → 聞か~~ない~~ → 聞かなくちゃ

For more see:

<https://thejapanesepage.com/gotta-in-japanese/>

ね at sentence end, indicates emphasis, agreement, request for confirmation, etc.



そうですね。

Yeah, we do.

VOCABULARY

そうですね that's so; yes, we do

NOTES

そうですね is usually used to agree with what the other is saying.



だれ わか

ひと

誰か若くてかっこいい人がいいわ・・・

Someone young and cool would be good...

VOCABULARY

誰か someone; somebody

若くて young and

かっこいい cool; stylish; good-looking

人 person

が (indicates sentence subject (occasionally object))

いい good; nice; okay; great

わ (feminine ender for emphasis)

NOTES

若くて is the て form of 若い (young). Using the て form of い adjectives expresses the meaning of “and.”

How to use: remove the ~い ending from the い adjective and replace it with ~く. Ex. 若い + く + て = 若くて

わ is often used in female speech to end a sentence. It has no meaning in particular.



すみませ〜ん！

Excuse me~!

VOCABULARY

すみませ〜ん！ excuse me!

NOTES

すみません means both “sorry” or “excuse me”, depending on the context. Here, it means “excuse me”.



あっちゃ。。。なんだ、ダサイじいさんか。。。。

Duh! Why? It's just an uncool old man.

VOCABULARY

あっちゃ duh; uh oh; oops

なんだ what the heck; oh

ダサイ uncool; unfashionable

じいさん old man; grandfather

か (question marker)

NOTES

あっちゃ is an expression of annoyed surprise or shock.

じいさん is casual while おじいさん is a politer way to call an old man or grandpa.



いちばん

ねこ

ぞん

一番かわいい猫カフェはどこかご存じですか？

Do you know where the cutest cat cafe is?

VOCABULARY

一番 best; most

かわいい cute; adorable

猫カフェ cat café [猫 (cat) + カフェ (café)]

は (topic marker particle)

どこか where [どこ (where) + か (indirect question marker)]

ご存じ know [ご is honorific prefix]

です be; is

か (question marker)

NOTES

か [when the particle か is added to a plain form clause, the clause can be used as a noun and, embedded in a larger sentence, as an indirect question]



うん、^{ねこ}猫カフェ？

Uh, cat cafe, you say?

VOCABULARY

うん uh; uh huh

猫カフェ cat café [猫 (cat) + カフェ (café)]

NOTES

うん is an interjection expressing agreement.



はい、^{いちばん}一番かわいいの。

Yes, the cutest one.

VOCABULARY

はい yes

いちばん best; most

かわいい cute; adorable

の (is used in a strongly assertive sentence)

NOTES

の at the end of a sentence is used to express assertiveness; it is naturally used by both male and female people.



おし

おんな

こ

教えたくないが、こんなにピチピチでかわいい女の子がいるから、教えてやろう。一番かわいい猫カフェ。実は、誰でも知っている。

おし

いちばん

ねこ

じつ

だれ

し

I don't really want to say, but we are in the presence of such a youthful and energetic young lady, I'll tell you. The cutest cat café... Actually, everyone knows.

VOCABULARY

教えたくない (I) don't want to say
[from 教える (to say; to tell)]

が but; however

こんなに such; like this; in this way

ピチピチ vivaciously young

で and

かわいい cute; adorable

女の子 girl; young woman

が (indicates sentence subject)

いる to exist

から because; since

教えてやろう (I) will tell (you)

一番かわいい cutest [一番 (most) +
かわいい (cute)]

猫カフェ cat café

実は actually; to tell (you) the truth

誰でも everyone; anyone

知っている know (something)

NOTES

教えたくない is the negative form of 教えたい (want to tell; want to say). ~たい means “want to do [this verb]”, while ~たくない means “do not want to do [this verb]”.

How to use:

Verb (ます stem form) + たい

Verb (ます stem form) + たくない

教えてやろう [from 教える (to tell). Vて + やろう denotes the act of imparting kindness to a person whose status is below yours. やろう is the volitional form of やる (to do)]

猫カフェ [猫 (cat) + カフェ (café)]

知っている is the 「て form + いる」 of 知る (to know; to be aware of) which expresses a meaning of “I am in the state of knowing”.



おも

あら、やだあ〜。あなたってとってもかっこいいと思うわ。

Oh my, you don't say. You are such a cool dude!

VOCABULARY

あら oh; ah (female term or language)

やだあ〜 no way; no

あなた you (referring to someone of equal or lower status)

って (emphasizes the preceding word あなた)

とっても very; exceedingly

かっこいい cool; stylish; good-looking

と思う to think...; (I) think...; (you) think...

わ (female ender for emphasis)

NOTES

やだあ〜 is the slang of いやだ (いや (disagreeable; detestable) + だ (casual version of です (be; is))) [shows the speaker's negative feelings on a thing or a person, but here, Obaasan is using it to feign humility. "You mustn't say such nice things about me even though it is true."]

とっても is a spoken variant of とても (very; exceedingly). It's better to use とても if you're writing a paper or speaking in a formal setting.

と思う is used to describe your own thoughts or someone else's thought. How to use:

Verb/い adj + と思う

Noun/な adj + だと思う



じゃあ、どこ？

Well, then. Where is it?

VOCABULARY

じゃあ then; well; so; well then
[colloquial form of では (well then; well)]

どこ where; what place

NOTES

じゃ is a shorter form of じゃあ but it is a bit more casual and it can just be a filler without meaning.



し
知らん。

VOCABULARY

知らん no idea; (I) don't know; (I'm)
not aware (of) [from しる (to know)]

NOTES

知らん is the Western Japanese negative form of the verb 知る (to know). Just replace the normal negative ending ない with ん.

Ex. 知らない → 知ら~~ない~~ + ん → 知らん



し い
だれでも知っていると言ったでしょう？

Didn't you just say everyone knows?

VOCABULARY

だれでも everyone; anyone

知っている know (something)

と言った (you) said [と (quoting particle) + 言った (said); 言った is the plain past tense form of 言う (to say; to utter)]

でしょう (I) thought you'd say that

NOTES

知っている is the 「て form + いる」 of 知る (to know; to be aware of) which expresses a meaning of "I am in the state of knowing."

と言った is used when you quote what somebody has said.

でしょう emphasizes the feeling that you're trying to make your listener say yes.



ほんとう し いがい
それは本当だ。だれでも知っている。わし以外。

That is correct. Everyone knows. Except me.

VOCABULARY

それは that is

本当 truth; right; correct

だ (casual form of the polite copula
です (be; is))

だれでも everyone; anyone

知っている know (something)

わし I; me

以外 except; with the exception of

NOTES

知っている is the 「て form + いる」 of 知る (to know; to be aware of) which expresses a meaning of “I am in the state of knowing”.

わし is used by elderly males.



ああ、もうだめだ！

We're doomed!

VOCABULARY

ああ ah!; oh!

もう already; anymore; soon

だめ hopeless; wasted; no good

だ (casual form of the polite copula
です (be; is))

NOTES

ああ is an expression of despair.

もう is an interjection used to strengthen an expression of an emotion (often exasperation).



まったく。しかたないわ。私^{わたし}の勘^{かん}を使^{つか}って調^{しら}べるわ！変身^{へんしん}！
スーパーばあさん！

I've had enough. It can't be helped. I'll use my intuition to find it. Transform! Super Baasan!

VOCABULARY

まったく good grief

しかたない it can't be helped; can't stand it; it's inevitable

わ (female ender for emphasis)

私の my [私 (I; me) + の ('s)]

勘 intuition; perception; sixth sense

を (indicates direct object of action)

使って use (my intuition) to (find)
[from 使う (to use)]

調べる to find; to look up; to search

変身 transformation; shapeshifting

スーパーばあさん Super Baasan

[スーパー (super) + ばあさん (old woman)]

NOTES

まったく literally means “completely” or “entirely,” but as an expression, it shows exasperation

しかたない literally means “there is no way to do a thing”. [し is the conjunctive form of する (to do). かた means way or method. ない means “to have not; not; impossible” which is the negative plain form of ある (to have; to exist)]

使って is the て form of 使う (to use). This て form of a verb is used to express a means or a reason for a subsequent action or event. Conjugation: Replace the final syllable of the past tense of a verb.

1. Verbs with the standard past tense ending in た → て

Ex. 使う → 使った → 使って

2. Verbs with the standard past tense ending in だ → で

Ex. 選ぶ → 選んだ → 選んで

JAPANESE READER



Intermediate

Mastered basic grammar, hundreds of kanji, and conversational Japanese; Approx. JLPT N3 Level

むかしばなし

たぬきの昔話

やま

さん

カチカチ山その3

The Tanuki Folktale, Crackling Mountain Part 3



Work through the story, sentence-by-sentence, referring to the vocabulary and grammar explanations below as needed.

なお

それからしばらくして、やけどが治ったたぬきに、うさぎはこう

い いけ い さかなつ

言いました。「これから池に行って魚釣りをしようよ。たくさん

さかな と た おおよろこ

の魚を取って、おなかいっぱい食べよう。」たぬきは、大喜び

いっしょ いけ い いけ

でうさぎと一緒に池に行きました。すると、池のそばに

それから since then [that (time) + から (from)]

しばらくして after a while; a while later [しばらく (a while) + して from する (for time to pass)]

治った healed; cured [past of 治る (to heal)]

これから from now

池 pond

魚釣りをしようよ let's go fishing [from 魚釣りをする (to go fishing; to fish)]

魚釣り fishing [魚 (fish) + 釣り (fishing)]

しようよ let's do [しよう volitional of する (to do); よ casual sentence ender adding emphasis and requesting an agreement]

たくさんの a lot of; many

取って catch and [from 取る (to catch); te-form conjunction]

おなかいっぱい 食べよう let's eat plenty

おなかいっぱい [literally, "stomach full"; おなか (stomach); いっぱい (full)]

食べよう let's eat [plain volitional of 食べる which mean "let's ~" in this context]

大喜びで with delight; delightfully

~と一緒に together with ~ [と (with) + 一緒 (together) + に (indicates adverbial phrase)]

池 pond

すると then; just then

~のそばに nearby ~; close to ~ [そば (near; close); に indicating location, used for ある/いる ending]

たくさんの 魚 を持って帰ることができるよ。」

どろ ふね の さかなつ で

よくばりなたぬきは、泥の船に乗って魚釣りに出かけました

どろ ふね いけ ま なか く しず

が、泥でできている船は、池の真ん中に来ると、だんだんと沈

ふね しず わたし たす

んでいきます。「うさぎさん、この船は沈んでしまう。私 を助
けてください。」

魚 fish

持って帰る bring home; bring back [持つ from 持つ
(to carry); 帰る (go home; go back)]

~ことができる is able to ~ [こと is a nominalizing parti-
cle denoting the preceding phrase and making it into a
noun state (subject); が (subject marker); できる
(can be done)]

よ [casual sentence ender adding emphasis]

よくばりな greedy [よくばり (greed)]

(泥の船に)乗って 魚釣りに出かけました went to go
fishing on (the mud boat)

(泥の船に)乗って riding (on the mud boat) [乗って
from 乗る (to ride); this *te*-form is used to indicate
“how” the raccoon went fishing]

魚釣りに for fishing

出かけました went out

が however; but

泥でできている船 boat made with mud [できて from
できる (to be made); いる indicates a state/
condition; same as 泥でできた船, just a different
way of describing it]

真ん中 middle; center

(に)来ると when came (to)

だんだんと gradually; little by little

沈んでいきます is sinking [沈んで from 沈む (to
sink); いきます from いく (to go); 「*te*-form + い
く」 means something is happening over some peri-
od of time. Present tense (いきます) is used as if the
scene is happening in front of the readers/audiences]

沈んでしまう will sink [(て) しまう indicates unfavora-
ble/unfortunate outcome]

私を助けてください help me please [助けて from 助
ける (to save; to assist); 「*te*-form + ください」
means “do ~ for me please”]

そこで、うさぎは言いました。「お前は、お前を許してくれた

やさ

ころ

むく

う

優しいおばあさんを殺しただろう。いま、その報いを受けなさ

どろ ふね いっしょ しず

し

い！」たぬきは、泥の船と一緒に沈んでおぼれて死んでしまい

ました。おしまい。

そこで then; right then

お前 you [sounds demeaning or derogatory, even though it can be used within a very close relationship]

許してくれた forgave [許して from 許す (to forgive); くれた from くれる (to be given); 「te-form + くれる」 means “for someone to offer some action for another’s benefit”; it is an expression from the viewpoint of the receiver of the action. A similar English expression would be “Tom gave me a hand.”]

優しい kind

殺しただろう you killed (the old lady), didn’t you?

[plain volitional of 殺した (killed), which is the assumptive form used here to mean “you did ~, didn’t you?” in an accusing tone, obviously]

いま now

その報い that retribution

受けなさい accept [受け masu-stem of 受ける (to accept); 「masu-stem + なさい」 is a command that parents or teachers would use when telling children to do something; it can sound soft or very stern depending on the situation or how it’s spoken]

と一緒に together with [と (and) + 一緒 (together) + に (indicates adverbial phrase)]

沈んで sunk and [te-form conjunction]

おぼれて to drown; to almost drown [from おぼれる which does not necessarily mean ending up dying and can mean “to almost drown”; this te-form indicates cause/reason for following verb (死んでしまいました)]

死んで died [from 死ぬ (to die) おぼれて死ぬ is “to drown”]

おぼれて死ぬ to drown [a fixed phrase]

しまいました ended up ~ [polite and past of しまう which indicates an unfortunate outcome or “to end up ~”]

おしまい the end

The Tanuki Folktale, Crackling Mountain Part 3

English Summary

Please try to tackle the Japanese first and use this only as needed.

A little while after that, the rabbit said to the raccoon whose burns had healed, "Let's go now to the pond and fish. We'll catch a lot and eat plenty." The raccoon delightfully went to the pond with the rabbit.

Then, there were two boats near the pond. One boat was made from wood, and the other one was made from mud. The rabbit said to the raccoon, "The boat made from mud is bigger and nicer. You can bring a lot of fish home."

The greedy raccoon went out in the mud boat to fish, but when it got to the center of the pond, it gradually sank. "Mr. Rabbit, this boat will sink. Please help me." Then the rabbit said, "You killed the gentle old woman who forgave you, didn't you? Now, you will get what you deserve!"

The raccoon sank with the mud boat and died by drowning.

The end.



Kanji in Focus

It is usually helpful to create a story based on the meanings of the kanji parts. Often, different kanji learning systems will use different “meanings” for the parts. We try to give the most common ones, but consistency is best. Choose one meaning per kanji part and stick with it.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">治</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ジ・チ・おさめる・お さまる・なおる</p> <p>reign; subdue</p> <p>せいじ 政治 politics; government</p>	<p>氵 water</p> <p>台 stand; pedestal</p> <p>Before a king can <i>reign</i>, pour water 氵 on his pedestal 台.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">池</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>チ・いけ</p> <p>pond; reservoir</p> <p>でんち 電池 battery; cell</p>	<p>氵 water</p> <p>也 archaic “to be”; think of it as a scorpion</p> <p>The <i>pond</i> had both water 氵 and scorpions 也!</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">魚</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ギョ・うお・さかな</p> <p>fish</p> <p>きんぎょ 金魚 goldfish</p>	<p>勹 wrapping;</p> <p>田 rice paddy</p> <p>火 fire</p> <p>Hot sushi! You wrap 勹 <i>fish</i> with rice from the rice paddy 田 and then, wanting cooked food, you fry it with fire 火.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">釣</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>チョウ・つる・つり</p> <p>angling; fish; catch</p> <p>つあ 釣り合う to balance; to be in harmony</p>	<p>金 gold; metal</p> <p>勺 ladle</p> <p>You catch the best fish by <i>angling</i> with your golden 金 ladle 勺.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">船</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>セン・ふね・ふな~</p> <p>ship; boat</p> <p>ぎょせん 漁船 fishing boat</p>	<p>舟 boat</p> <p>八 eight</p> <p>口 mouth</p> <p>The <i>boat</i> could hold eight people (eight 八 mouths 口). It was a small boat.</p>

Kanji in Focus

The following are a selection of the kanji found in this story. The underlined> reading is probably the most used.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">泥</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>デイ・ナイ・デ・ニ・ どろ・なずむ</p> <p>mud; mire; adhere to</p> <p><small>どろぼう</small> 泥棒 thief; burglar</p>	<p>氺 water [radical form of 水]</p> <p>尸 really, a corpse, but I prefer “flag”</p> <p>匕 spoon or someone sitting</p> <p>尼 (Buddhist) nun [hitting a corpse 尸 with a spoon 匕 during a rite or the <i>nun sits</i> 匕 under her flag 尸 to pray]</p> <p>A nun 尼 slips in water 氺 into <i>mud</i>.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">持</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>ジ・もつ・~もち・もて る</p> <p>hold; have</p> <p><small>きも</small> 気持ち feeling; sensation; mood</p>	<p>扌 hand [radical form of 手]</p> <p>寺 temple [土 (land) + 寸 (a small measurement)]</p> <p><i>Hold my hand 扌 and we’ll go to a tem-ple 寺.</i></p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">沈</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>チン・ジン・しずむ・ しずめる</p> <p>sink; be submerged</p> <p><small>ちんもく</small> 沈黙 silence</p>	<p>氺 water [radical form of 水]</p> <p>尢 crooked-leg</p> <p>If you are in the water 氺 and your legs are crooked 尢, you’ll likely <i>sink</i>.</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">殺</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>サツ・サイ・セツ・こ ろす・~ごろし・そぐ</p> <p>kill; murder; butcher</p> <p><small>あんさつ</small> 暗殺 assassination</p>	<p>メ cross; X</p> <p>木 tree</p> <p>戛 a pike (weapon)</p> <p>The soldier went to <i>kill</i> Jesus by piercing him on the cross メ made of wood 木 with a pike/spear 戛, but he was already dead. (John 19:34)</p>
<h1 style="text-align: center;">死</h1>	<div>READINGS</div> <div>MEANING</div> <div>EXAMPLE</div>	<p>シ・しぬ・しに~</p> <p>death; die</p> <p><small>しけい</small> 死刑 death penalty; capital punishment</p>	<p>歹 bone (some meat hanging from a bone)</p> <p>匕 spoon or someone sitting</p> <p>After the battle with so much <i>death</i>, the hero sits down 匕 among the bones 歹 around him.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAKOTO E-ZINE #33 November 2020</p>

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Do you have any questions? Anything confusing? Feel free to email me (Clay) at clay@thejapanshop.com with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

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