

1 CROWN English Communication I
Lesson 8 Not So Long Ago

良い教材と出会うことの喜び

広島県立安芸南高等学校 金森 智恵子

“Not So Long Ago”という教材に出合ったのは2007年のことで、当時は「英語 I」という1学年対象の授業の中で初めてこの教材を扱いました。

最初にこの教材を目にしたときには、先ずベトナムの少女の写真があまりにも衝撃的に飛び込んできて、どのように教えようかと少し躊躇しました。しかしその後、彼女が戦争の傷を乗り越え、力強く生きて、現在は幸せな家庭を築いているということが紹介されていたので、生徒もただショックを受けるのではなく、彼女の生き方に共感しながら、前向きにこの教材と向き合ってくれました。

「無事」にこのレッスンの本文を終えて、なんとなくほっとした気分になっておりましたら、その間ずっと私の心の中にくすぶっていた思いが、はっきりと疑問の形として浮かび上がってきました。ベトナムの少女の写真はそれ自体が強烈なインパクトを持って迫ってきますが、その前に登場した火葬場の少年の写真の意味は何なのだろうと。生徒たちは広島の子どものため、これまでに何らかの平和教育を受けてきています。そこで、生徒に「この少年は火を見つめながら、何を思っているのだろうか」と問いましたところ、大半の生徒が、「戦争が憎いと思っている」というような、いかにも戦後の子供にありがちな通り一遍の意見が返ってきました。

私自身、少女の写真があまりにもショッキングなので、指導の際もそちらにばかり気を取られていましたが、それに比べるとインパクトの弱いこの少年の写真については、よく考えて想像力を働かせてみないと、その意味は生徒には伝わらないのではないかと思いました。しばらく写真の少年

と向き合うようにして見ていたら、少年が語りかけてくるように感じたので、それをもとに対話文を作ってみたいと思いました。前半を教科書の内容をまとめて写真展の案内とし、後半を写真展鑑賞後の2人の対話という構成にして、この課の終わりに復習として使用しました。少し生徒たちには難しい言葉もあったようですが、最後に短い感想を書いてもらったところ、もう少し自分の身に引き寄せてこの教材を受け止めてくれたことがわかり、私自身もなにか僅かでも使命を果たせたような喜びを感じることができました。

それからはこの科目を担当することはなかったのですが、『CROWN English Communication I』と科目名が変わった今もなお、この奥行きのある題材が姿を消さずにいることにうれしさを感じています。

英語の教師として教材を選ぶとき、いつも悩むのが、教える生徒の現在の力にふさわしいという点を最重要視すべきか、少し難しいかもしれないが内容の深いものを与えるべきか、という点です。担当する個々の生徒の英語の力や英語への興味の度合いには大きな差があり、教える際にも常にどのレベルに焦点をあてるかということに悩みますが、教えてみて感じることは、たとえ多少難しくても、結局面白い教材、深みのある教材は、学んだ後、どの生徒も満足するということです。生徒にとって学び応えのある教材をこれからも供給して下さるよう期待しております。

最後に稚拙ではありますが、私が作りました対話文と練習問題を紹介いたします。いくらかでも参考にしていただければ幸いです。

教材資料

対話文

Sota : There are so many photos in this exhibition. biting his lip so hard? It seems to me that he was trying to endure the fear and the loneliness of being left alone. He might be trying to tolerate other negative feelings welling up inside him : grief, anger...and maybe a sense of guilty.

Yoko : Yes, I hear there are about three hundred photos here. They show us the twentieth century was not only an age of progress, but an age of war.

Sota : What picture impressed you the most?

Yoko : The picture of the Berlin Wall. It looked like a symbol of the cold war. How about you?

Sota : Do you remember the picture of a boy carrying a baby on his back?

Yoko : Yes, I remember it. I really feel sorry for the boy. I saw you standing in front of the picture for a while. What were you thinking?

Sota : Well, I was wondering why the boy was all alone. Why did he bring the dead baby to this cremation ground all by himself? What happened to his family?

Yoko : This photo was taken in Nagasaki just after the war, so maybe they were all dead because of the bomb.

Sota : Was there any place for him to go back to? I'm afraid he had nobody to take care of him.

Yoko : What makes you think so?

Sota : Well, do you remember the look of him?

Yoko : Yes. His face was hard.

Sota : The photojournalist who took this picture says that the boy was biting his lower lip so hard that it shone with blood. Why was he

Yoko : A sense of guilty?

Sota : Maybe he thought the death of the baby was his fault. A little child would cry in this situation, but I guess he couldn't afford to cry like a little child because he knew he would have to live alone.

Yoko : War is terrible especially for children. What would you do if he were your own brother?

Sota : I could do nothing but watch the flames together with him.

Yoko : I would like to hold him by the hand and share his pain. I hope he survived the hard time after the war and he is having a happy life now.

Sota : If he is still alive, he is as old as my grandfather. My grandfather has never talked about the wartime. I'll tell him about this exhibition and ask him what he went through.

Yoko : I'd like to listen to his story. Do you mind if I go with you?

Sota : Not at all. Why don't we visit him next Sunday?

練習問題

① Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our exhibition “Looking Back at the Twentieth Century.” We have collected about three hundred photographs here. They will show you something of the history of the past century.

Photographs tell us a lot. They show us what happened in the past. They sometimes show us things we may not wish to see.

The twentieth century was a century of war. There were two world wars, and a cold war, and smaller wars all over the world. A Japanese journalist

even called the twentieth century “thirty-six thousand days of suffering.” It is perhaps difficult to find any sign of hope in the photos here, but we can if we try.

There should never be war again. This is the message we would like the photographs of this exhibition to bring to you today. I would like to leave you with the thought that all this happened *not so long ago*.

Thank you.

- ② Sota** : There are so many photos in this exhibition.
Yoko : Yes, I hear there are about three hundred photos here. They show us the twentieth century was not only an age of progress, but an age of war.
Sota : [A]
Yoko : The picture of the Berlin Wall. It looked like a symbol of the cold war. How about you?
Sota : Do you remember the picture of a boy carrying a baby on his back?
Yoko : Yes, I remember it. I really feel sorry for the boy. I saw you standing in front of the picture for a while. [B]
Sota : Well, I was wondering why the boy was all alone. Why did he bring the dead baby to this cremation ground all by himself?
 [C]
Yoko : This photo was taken in Nagasaki just after the war, so maybe they were all dead because of the bomb.
Sota : Was there any place for him to go back to? I'm afraid he had nobody to take care of him.
Yoko : [D]
Sota : Well, do you remember the look of him?
Yoko : Yes. His face was hard.
Sota : The photojournalist who took this picture says that the boy was biting his lower lip so hard that it shone with blood. [E]
 It seems to me that he was trying to endure the fear and the loneliness of being left alone. He might be trying to tolerate other negative feelings welling up inside him : grief, anger...and maybe a sense of guilty.
Yoko : A sense of guilty?
Sota : Maybe he thought the death of the baby was his fault. A little child would cry in this situation, but I guess he couldn't afford to cry like a little child because he knew he would have to live alone.
Yoko : War is terrible especially for children.
 [F]
Sota : I could do nothing but watch the flames together with him.
Yoko : I would like to hold him by the hand and share his pain. I hope he survived the hard time after the war and he is having a happy life now.
Sota : If he is still alive, he is as old as my grandfather. My grandfather has never talked about the wartime. I'll tell him about this exhibition and ask him what he went through.
Yoko : I'd like to listen to his story. Do you mind if I go with you?
Sota : Not at all. [G]

① 次の問に対する答えを本文中の語句(または文)をそのまま抜いて示しなさい。

- 1) What is the title of this exhibition?
- 2) What did a Japanese journalist call the twentieth century?
- 3) They have two messages they want to send to us through this exhibition. What are they?

② 対話文が自然な流れになるように【A】～【G】に次から適当なものを選んで入れなさい。

- あ : What happened to his family?
 い : What makes you think so?
 う : What were you thinking?
 え : What would you do if he were your own brother?
 お : Why don't we visit him next Sunday?
 か : What picture impressed you the most?
 き : Why was he biting his lip so hard?