

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 1061

Hello, my friends. Welcome back to PR Junior.

Today, we are going to hear a story about two friends. Let's begin!

Takashi's best friend Yuka lives in California.

Yuka's father works there.

Tadashi writes to Yuka every week, and sometimes they talk on the phone.

Tadashi and Yuka also meet each other once a year.

They are always looking forward to this event.

That's all for today. How was it? Hope to see you soon. Bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 1061

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR1.

Today let me tell you about Helen Beatrix Potter.

Helen Beatrix Potter was an English writer, illustrator, and scientist. She loved nature very much and is best known for her children's book *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Potter was born in 1866 to a rich family in London. As a child, she had few friends but had many pets and spent much of her time outside in nature.

Potter's story *The tale of Peter Rabbit* started years before it became a book.

In 1893, she wrote letters with pictures to [a] five-year-old [boy]. Later, she changed the story into a book. It was published in 1902, and it has sold millions of copies.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 1061

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR2.

Today, I am going to talk about sea cucumbers. Let's begin.

Over the years, Cody Clements, a marine ecologist at Georgia Tech, has planted over 10,000 coral fragments across the South Pacific.

"You can just break off a branch from a coral, plant it into the sandy bottom, and it will grow into a whole new coral," explains Clements. As he was gearing\* up for an experiment in 2018 in French Polynesia, something caught his attention. It had to do with sea cucumbers — marine invertebrates that are distantly related to starfish but resemble soft pickles.

They're slow-moving scavengers, and collectively they Hoover up truckloads of sand to feed on algae, microbes, and organic matter. At the reef where Clements was studying, there were quite a few sea cucumbers. Clements decided to clear them all from his study site to make things uniform for the experiment. But a few days later, he saw that the corals were starting to die from the base up. Clements wondered whether relocating the sea cucumbers had something to do with it. And in new research published in *Nature Communications*, he and his colleagues demonstrate that when they removed sea cucumbers from a study patch, death of coral tripled. And mortality of the whole colony surged 15 times. The reasoning, says Clements, is that sea cucumbers are like "these little vacuum cleaners on the reef that are cleaning things up," digesting and eliminating microbes that can lead to coral disease and demise — threats\*\* that are exacerbated by a warming and increasingly polluted ocean.

That's it for today! Bye!

\* Pronounced with 'hard G'

\*\* Pronounced with 'short e' vowel ("threts")