

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 222

Hi, guys!

Welcome back to PR Junior! Let's see what Marley does next.

Marley jumped into the crib. Then he hung baby Luke over the rail.

"Bad dog, Marley!" yelled Mommy. "Baby Luke could get hurt!"

Daddy was flipping pancakes. Up flew the pancake. Up jumped Marley. He fetched the pancake in mid-air.

"Bad dog, Marley!" yelled Daddy.

Okay, let's stop here. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR1, 中級) No. 222

Hello, everyone!

I hope you're all staying safe during this pandemic.

Today, I'll be reading a text using Eiken level three vocabulary. Let's have a listen.

In the early nineteenth century, the western part of the United States was a mystery. In those days, Americans only lived on the eastern side. In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson asked Merriweather Lewis and William Clark to go on an adventure to the west coast. They camped outside with 31 other people. During their trip, they collected information about the land, the plants, and the animals. They drew maps, too. They reached the west coast in 1806. They gave the information to the United States government. They are famous people in American history.

Wow... a two-year-long camping trip. I wouldn't want to go on that.

Thank you for listening! And I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 222

Hello, everyone!

I hope you're doing well.

Today, I'll be reading the first part of a long passage about religious symbols in art. It is around the university entrance [exam] level so let's take a listen.

Throughout history, art has filled various roles, from delivering messages to raising awareness, making statements, or providing entertainment. At times, artists have used symbols that offer a deeper meaning of the images presented in the artwork. One popular form of artistic symbolism is the use of religious symbols. In liberal cultures, like the one that flourished during the Italian Renaissance, religious imagery and symbols could be openly depicted, such as in Leonardo de Vinci's *The Last Supper*. However, there have been times when some religions were not openly accepted, so many symbols were often used subversively to undermine the authorities while protecting followers of minority religions from persecution.

One instance was with early Christians in the Roman Empire during the first and fourth centuries AD. Despite threats of persecution, early Christians in Rome were determined to continue practicing their religion. These believers hid their ceremonies underground in the tunnels of the catacombs outside the city. Following the common practice of Roman society at the time, they decorated the walls and ceilings of the catacombs' chambers with symbolic images that could be interpreted in several ways to disguise their beliefs. In order to do so, Christians began borrowing images from more accepted and established religions in the Roman Empire and devising new ways to read these images, easily deceiving Roman authorities who entered their catacombs.

Well, that's all for today! And I'll see you next time. Bye-bye!