

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 522

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

This is part two of the story about the Litter King. Let's begin!

Lora's mum had brought lots of food so everyone had something to carry.

"We'll have our picnic at the bottom of the hill," she said. "I know a good place to sit."

Lora's dad spread out a rug and everyone sat down.

That is all for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 522

Hi! This is PR1.

A long time ago, there lived a merchant in London with his beautiful teenage daughter. In those days, if a person borrowed money and couldn't return it, he had to go to prison. Unfortunately, this merchant borrowed a lot of money from an ugly money lender. Though the money lender was old and ugly, he wanted very much to marry the merchant's beautiful daughter. So, he said to the merchant, "I will cancel your debt if you agree to give me your daughter."

Neither the merchant nor his daughter liked this idea, but they didn't know what else to do. One day, the ugly money lender said to them, "Let's play a game of chance. I will put a black stone and a white stone into this empty bag."

See you later!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 522

Hello! Welcome to PR2!

Today's movie is the second part of the research in the Arctic! Let's begin.

Some scientists think the Arctic Ocean may have lost its summer ice 400,000 years ago, when the earth was as warm as it is now. The earth has a history of warming and cooling dramatically in just decades or even years as environmental factors strengthen each other. In the Arctic, for instance, sea ice reflects most solar energy, but open water absorbs up to 90 percent. So as ice cover shrinks, the ocean absorbs more heat, potentially melting more ice until a cycle of increased heating and melting causes the permanent ice pack to disappear.

But this is a simple model, and the Arctic is not a simple environment. "The problem in the Arctic is that there's a lot of variability," says Mark Lewis, a specialist of Polar climate. "Conditions can be very different from one year to the next, so catching trends is difficult." George Peterson, who identified the thinning ice, says, "People may jump on this and say the ice cover is disappearing. Well, who knows? Everything may rebound now for the next ten years. I don't think you'd find many Arctic scientists willing to say, 'yes, it's all melting up there, and in another decade we won't have any sea ice.' Only the future will tell us."

Alright, this is it for today. See you next time. Bye-bye!