

Dictation Contest (PR Jr, 初級) No. 873

Hi, everyone! This is PR Junior. Are you ready? Let's start!

This year my family and I went to many places in Japan. We saw beautiful things and ate delicious food. We had great experiences. On August first, I visited a friend in Nagaoka, Niigata. We went to a fireworks festival. The festival started with three white fireworks. My friend said, "In August 1945, many people here died in the war. With these fireworks, we remember them and pray for peace." I didn't know that. The fireworks touched my heart.

That's all for today. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 873

Hi, guys! What's up? Welcome back to PR1.

Today, we are going to read a story called *Darth Vader and Son* Lets begin.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

Darth Vader, dark lord of [the] Sith, leads the galactic Empire against the heroic Rebel Alliance. Before he can take care of the rebels, Lord Vader must first take care of his son – four-year-old Luke Skywalker.

Daddy Vader plays baseball with Luke. Luke uses the lightsaber as a bat, but he cuts the ball. Lightsaber is sharp!

Daddy Vader goes to a bar with Luke, but Luke cannot drink juice. Why? Because he's still 4 years old!

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

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 873

Hello, PR2 listeners! How are you all doing?

Today I'd like to discuss ~~about~~ the Barbie movie which will be released in Japan on August 11th.

Barbie is an American fashion doll released in March 1959 – 64 years ago – by a businesswoman named Ruth Handler. Barbie is a blonde-haired plastic doll famous for its iconic pink color. The movie is live-action and portrays the doll's existential crisis, which removes her from her perfect pink plastic world to the real human world.

Margot Robbie, the actress playing Barbie, says the following about the movie: “I think we're putting a lot of expectations on ourselves to be everything and do everything and be perfect, like, this pursuit of perfection, which is impossible anyway.”

Rather than seeking perfection, her hope is for the movie to be a gift for “anyone” that allows them to let go of their worries and “just enjoy.”

Popularity is spreading across the globe, as it catches the attention of Chinese women, who had been sick of outdated gender roles in recent movies. According to one source, the comment section of a popular Chinese movie review site is filled with positive remarks, praising for the movie's “themes of womanhood and feminism.” It brings a breath of fresh air.

As someone who spent their childhood with Barbie dolls, I am extremely excited to watch the movie. How about you? Anyways, that is all, see you!