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the LDP executive.

ter-Middle School English Oratorical Contest

高円宮杯（地方大会）暗唱部門 例題

Short story for recitation division

~~The following is a suggested text that may be used in the recitation division of the H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy 70th All Japan Inter-Middle School English Oratorical Contest. Contestants may use another recitation text if they wish.~~

~~The recitation division competitions will take place only at the prefectural rounds of the contest and not at the national final.~~

Hikari the railway fan

“What’s your hobby?” my friend Hikari asked me one day.

I figured that he actually wanted to talk about his own hobby, so I didn’t answer his question.

“What’s yours?” I asked instead.

“I love trains,” he said.

“Why is that?” I asked.

“My father. He’s a railway fan, so I became a fan, too,” Hikari explained.

“So you two have the same hobby,” I said.

“Yes, but no,” he replied.

I asked what he meant.

“He loves to ride trains. I like to take photos of trains,” Hikari said.

His father had ridden almost all

the railway lines in Japan, starting when he was 12.

“When he was 12, my father learned that the Shinkansen started running in 1964.” Hikari said.

“His father was born in 1964.”

“When he was a student, he traveled a lot by train,” Hikari said. “When I was small, he started to take me with him. That’s how I got to like trains.”

Hikari likes to take photos of old trains running in the countryside.

But sometimes he has to travel by car to take train photos.

“To take a photo, sometimes I have to wait for a train to pass at a railroad crossing,” Hikari said. “So I have to ask my father to travel with me by car.”

“Is he OK with it?” I asked.

“He doesn’t really like it, but he always takes me,” Hikari replied. “He says spending time with me is important.”

Hikari also told me that his father named him after the Hikari Shinkansen superexpress.

“Do you know my younger brother’s name?” he asked.

“Is it Kodama?” I replied.

“That’s right,” he said.

“When I have a baby,” Hikari said, “I’ll call it Nozomi.”