

語数: 約260語 目標時間: 15分 ジャンル: 入試型総合 ねらい: 物語×手紙の複合読解

 **場面** 最終演習。物語の中に手紙が引用される複合形式は、公立入試の最頻出パターンです。「地の文」と「手紙の中」の時間のちがいに注意して、15分で挑戦。

読 最終レベルです。

When we cleaned our grandfather’s room in spring, I found an old wooden box under his desk. Inside, there were more than one hundred letters. All of them were from the same person: Mr. Ono, Grandpa’s friend for sixty years.

”We met in junior high,” Grandpa said, holding one letter like a treasure. ”After school, he moved far away. Telephones were expensive then. So we wrote.”

He let me read one letter from 1965. In it, young Mr. Ono wrote:

”Your last letter saved me. I failed the entrance exam and thought my life was over. I couldn’t tell my parents how I felt. But you wrote, ‘A friend who fails and stands up is cooler than a friend who never fails.’ I read it ten times. I will read it again tomorrow morning. And then I will stand up.”

I looked at Grandpa. He was eighty, but at that moment he looked like a boy.

”Why didn’t you just call him?” I asked. ”Or now — you could video-chat every day.”

”Letters wait,” he said. ”A call catches you at its own time. But a letter waits for you, quietly, until you are ready. When Ono was ready to stand up, my letter was there, on his desk.”

That night, I did something I had never done. I wrote a letter — a real one, on paper — to my friend Saki, who moved to Hokkaido last month. I told her about the wooden box, about the sixty years, and about failing and standing up.

Sending it took three days. Her answer took five. It was the slowest conversation of my life — and I have read her letter more times than any message on my phone. It is waiting on my desk now, next to my dictionary. Some words are worth the wait.

 entrance exam=入学試験 video-chat=ビデオ通話

問 設問(10点満点) 記号は()に、英語で答える問題は下の線に書こう。

(1)	1965年当時、2人が手紙を選んだ理由は？ ア. 電話が高価だったから イ. 手紙が速かったから ウ. 学校の決まりだったから	2点 ()
(2)	オノさんが「10回読んだ」祖父の言葉は？ ア. 「すぐ会いに行く」 イ. 「失敗して立ち上がる友は、失敗しない友よりかっこいい」 ウ. 「試験がすべてではない」	3点 ()
(3)	祖父の「手紙は待つ」の説明として正しいのは？ ア. 読み手の準備ができるまで机の上で静かに待っていてくれる イ. 返事が来るまで時間がかかる ウ. ポストで保管される	3点 ()
(4)	最終文「Some words are worth the wait.」の意味を、筆者の行動とつなげて日本語で。	2点

答

解答とポイント

(1)	ア	Telephones were expensive then. So we wrote.地の文(祖父の説明)から。
(2)	イ	手紙内引用の読み取り。明日の朝もう一度読む、と続く。
(3)	ア	waits for you, quietly, until you are ready。電話＝あちらの時間でつかまえる、との対比。
(4)	(例)待つ価値のある言葉がある——だから筆者は返事に5日かかる手紙を選び、何度も読み返し、机に置いている	waitの価値＝手紙の価値。全体の主題文。

☆読み方のコツ

ラダー60段、完登おめでとう！ 物語内の手紙・せりふ・現在の行動——複数の層を重ねて読む力は入試長文の最終形。ここまで登ったあなたは、もう「初見に強い読み手」ではなく「初見が楽しみな読み手」だ。

■ 記録しよう 得点___/10 かかった時間___分 → 8点以上なら次のLevel 20へ。7点以下なら同じレベル帯をもう1枚。