

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

My dear granddaughter,

I have watched, with both pride and quiet concern, how you continue to devote yourself to your studies even on days when the weight of discouragement seems to press upon your young shoulders, and I know well that the trials you now face often appear far larger than they truly are. ⁽¹⁾Yet allow an old man, who has lived sufficiently long to witness countless storms pass and countless worries fade, and who, having endured both hardship and grace, has learned how time quietly softens nearly every sorrow, to remind you of a simple truth.

Many years from now, when you look back from the vantage point of a wiser and more seasoned self, the troubles that trouble you today will soften into memories—small, almost tender in their distance—and you will come to understand that each stumbling stone was shaping the very strength upon which your future will stand.

In moments of hardship, people instinctively lower their gaze and see only the shadows at their feet, forgetting that no shadow exists without a source of light. But when you summon the courage to lift your head, even slightly, the world expands; the air changes; and, as Mark Twain so beautifully suggested, “People can see the stars beyond the storm only when they raise their eyes.” The stars he speaks of are not merely celestial bodies but symbols of hope, direction, and the quiet certainty that tomorrow holds possibilities unseen from the ground.

So, whenever the path feels heavy beneath your feet, breathe deeply, raise your eyes to the wide and waiting sky, and ⁽²⁾remember always that there is nothing in your journey that could ever diminish the pride I feel in watching you grow, no more truly than can any

passing shadow cast for but a fleeting moment by drifting clouds upon a steadfast and ancient lantern weaken the unwavering light by which a traveler finds his way.

With lasting affection,

Grandfather

Q1. Translate the underlined part (1) into Japanese.

Q2. Translate the underlined part (2) into Japanese.

Q3. What lesson does the grandfather hope his granddaughter will learn from his message?

Q4. After reading the letter above, imagine that you are this girl's close friend. If you were in her friend's place, what kind of letter would you write to encourage her? Write a message in 80–100 words, keep a warm and supportive tone, and include at least one supporting sentence explaining why your encouragement can be trusted. Also reflect at least one theme or image from the grandfather's letter.

◆ 手紙文の書き方

友達に向けた励ましの手紙を書くときは、次のポイントを守ると、読みやすく、気持ちが伝わりやすい英文になります。

① 呼びかけ (Salutation) を大切にする

手紙は「誰に向けて書いているか」をはっきりさせる。

- *Dear* ○○,
- *Hey* ○○, (優しく)

※ ふざけた表現は使わないこと。

② 最初に「相手の気持ちに共感」する

いきなり助言ではなく、

「あなたの状況をちゃんと分かっているよ」という一言から始める。

- *I know you've been working so hard lately.*
- *I can see how difficult things have been for you.*

→ ここがあるだけで、信頼される文になる。

③ アドバイスは“そっと提案”する形にする

友達の手紙は命令ではなく、「こうすると少し楽になるかも」のような柔らかい言い方が良い。

- *Maybe it might help to lift your eyes when everything feels heavy.*
 - *Try to take one small step at a time.*
-

④ 必ず「支持文(理由)」を1文入れる

Q4 の必須条件。

「なぜあなたがこの助言を言えるのか」を説明する。

- *I say this because I've seen how strong you really are.*
- *I believe this works because it helped me when I felt lost.*

→ “理由の一文” があると文章の説得力が急に上がる。

⑤ 本文のテーマを1つ入れる(つながりを作る)

祖父の手紙とリンクさせるために、次のどれかを必ず入れる：

- 顔を上げる(lift your eyes)
 - 光や星のイメージ(light, stars)
 - 時間が悩みを和らげる(time softens things)
 - *Like your grandfather said, you may see a light when you lift your eyes.*
-

⑥ 結び(Closing)は温かく・優しく

手紙の最後は励ましの一文で締める。

- *I'm always here for you.*
 - *You don't have to face this alone.*
 - *With all my support,*
-

⑦ 全体のトーンをそろえる

- 優しい
 - 落ち着いた
 - 丁寧
 - 偉そうにしない
 - 友達を思いやる
-

⑧ 80-100 語にまとめるコツ

- 1文を長くしすぎない
 - 必要なことだけを書く
 - 4~6文が理想
-

◆ 最重要まとめ(高校生向け)

1. 呼びかける
2. 共感する
3. アドバイス+理由のセットを書く
4. 手紙のテーマを引用
5. 温かく締める
6. トーンはやさしく 80-100 語におさめる