Mr Ryoichi Wago is a poet. He experienced the Tohoku earthquake in 2011. He shares his experience and his thoughts, as a poet, about the power of words when he survived the disaster. Check the vocabulary and expressions before you read the article, if you wish.

**ことばの力**



こんにちは。です。ぼくはです。
にんでいます。

2011のののけいけんをおしします。

* poet
* earthquake
* けいけんexperience
1. 3月11日のの後、私の町はとで外に出ることができませんでした。まどをけることもできませんでした。五日間は、ことばをうしなっていました。もガスもガソリンも水も食べ物も何もありませんでした。「自分は何もできない、自分には何もない」とくじていました。
2. 六日目にツイッターで「自分はだ」とつぶやきました。そして、その時、またを書きたいと思いました。そして、

「がふっています。しずかなです。」と書きました。

ぼくはことばをとりもどしました。

1. この日から毎日、3ヵ月間、でツイッターでをしました。すると、みなさんがをくれる。それを読んで、また書きたいと思う。ツイッターはキャッチボールのようでした。
2. このでんだことがたくさんあります。ことばは、人をはげますことができます。に、人をきずつけることもあります。

私たちは話をする時、ことばをにんでいるでしょうか。

のためにしいことばをえば、美しい未来が見えてくると思います。
ことばにはがあります。

Vocabulary and expressions

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| パラグラフ１ |  | パラグラフ3 |  |
|   | aftershock | で | being absorbed in; losing oneself in |
|   | radioactivity | する  | to send, post |
| ことばをうしなっていました | I’ve lost words |   | a reply |
|   | electricity |   | earthquake disaster |
| ガス | gas | パラグラフ4 |  |
| ガソリン | gasoline; petrol | んだこと | things I learned |
| 何もできない | I can’t do anything | はげます  | to encourage |
| 何もない | I got nothing | に  | on the contrary |
| くじていました | I was feeling strongly | きずつける | to hurt |
| パラグラフ２ |  | にんでいるでしょうか | Are we choosing (words) carefully? |
| ツイッター | Twitter | のために | for our future |
|   | safe, secure | しい | beautiful  |
| つぶやきました | muttered, tweeted | えば | if we use |
|  | poem | 見えてくる | will come in sight; will appear |
| とりもどしました | I got (words) back |  | spirit |

Answer the following questions in English and in Japanese accordingly.

1. What was the condition of Fukushima after the earthquake? Describe how things were for the first 5 days.
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2. If you were in Fukushima during the first 5 days, how would you have felt? What would you have done?
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3. のの五日間、さんはどんな気持ちでしたか。
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4. 和合さんは、六日目に何をしましたか。
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5. Translate Mr Wago’s first poem on Twitter into English.
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6. What did he do everyday for the next three months?
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7. What feature of Twitter encouraged him to keep on posting?
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8. Explain what Mr Wago learned from this earthquake disaster.
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9. According to Mr Wago, what kind of power do words have?
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10. Find the following words in the puzzle. Then write the correct word for each clue. These words are all verbs in dictionary form.
11. Leave　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
12. Feel　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
13. Write　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
14. Open　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
15. Hurt　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
16. Encourage　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
17. Choose　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
18. Tweet; mutter　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
19. Get something back　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
20. Think　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
21. Lose　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿
22. Send; post　＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

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For online quizzes, go to: <https://www.studystack.com/picmatch-3225525> <https://www.studystack.com/picmatch-3225528>

1. Do you use Twitter? If you do, what are its pros and cons?
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2. Have you ever thought that words have power? When do you feel the power of words? How can we use the power of words?
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3. Create a collection of positive words and your favourite words. Write several words that are powerful, positive or encouraging. Arrange the chosen words in Japanese and also in your language on a poster. Use your artistic and dictionary skills wherever possible.
Suggested online dictionaries:
jisho online: <https://jisho.org/>
weblio: [https://ejje.weblio.jp/content/Progress+Checker](https://ejje.weblio.jp/content/Progress%2BChecker)

Put your posters up on a wall. Did you notice any change in the atmosphere and feel of the room? Do you think being surrounded by positive words influences people?
 

Illustrations: <http://gahag.net/000259-cat-animal/> <http://gahag.net/000222-cat-animal/>

1. Extension task: Ask your teacher if you need to do this task.
Have you or your feelings ever been influenced by someone’s words? Choose A or B, and write a short essay about your experience. In your essay, reflect on your language use (how you use words).

A　Have you ever become happy because of someone’s words?

* + What was the situation? e.g. ～～の時でした；～～をしていた時のことでした
	+ Who said what to you? e.g. XXが私に～～と言いました
	+ How did the words make you feel? e.g. 私はうれしくなりました；そのことばは私にゆうきをくれました
	+ Reflect on the effect of positive language. Consider how you will use positive language in the future. e.g. これからは友達がこまっている時、やさしいことばをかけてあげたいと思います

B　Have you ever made someone unhappy because of your words?

* + What was the situation? e.g. ～～の時でした；～～をしていた時のことです
	+ What did you say to whom? e.g.私はXXに～～と言いました(言ってしまいました)
	+ How do you think the person felt? e.g. 私はXXをきずつけてしまったと思います；XXはかなしそうでした；XXは何も言いませんでした
	+ How did you feel about it? e.g.　しまった！と思いました；言わなかったらよかった、と思いました
* Reflect on your language use. How would you choose words in the future? What did this experience teach you about the power of language? e.g.　 言ってしまったら、もうおそいです；ことばを言う前に、よくかんがえなければならないと思います；ことばには、人をきずつける力があることに気がつきました