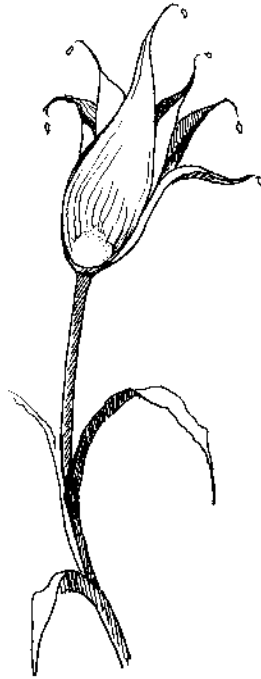


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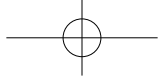
The Only Flower in the World



1-2

The Only Flower in the World is a hit song by one of Japan's most popular singing groups. Loved by Japanese of all ages, men and women alike, it had sold over one and a half million copies within a month of its release in March 2003, and went on to become the group's top- 5

[7]



8 *ECO-NAVIGATION AND SOCIETY*

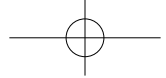
selling single that year.

Written by a well-known singer and songwriter, the song's lyrics begin in a florist's shop, where a variety of beautiful flowers are on display. Every flower is just as
10 lovely as the next. With such natural beauty, no flower needs to compete with any other. The song then asks why we human beings so often feel that we must compete with one another. According to the record company that produced the song, "*The Only Flower in the World* is
15 about universal human love."

The lyrics suggest that people, like the flowers in the shop, should also live in harmony—getting along with one another without fighting. The words stress the unique beauty and individuality of each person. "You are special,"
20 the words seem to say.

This message struck a sympathetic chord with listeners in today's fast-paced, high-stress society. The song had the power both to console and to encourage people in their daily struggles. The song reached the peak of popularity
25 in 2003 and became an anthem for world peace for many people.

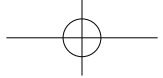
The all-male group that recorded the song made their debut in 1988 and have been tremendously popular ever since. Each of the group's five members has become a
30 well-rounded entertainer in his own right. They have all headlined in many television variety shows, starred in TV dramas and movies, and appeared in many commercials.



The high ratings of all their programs come as no surprise to anyone.

Among the adoring fans of one of the group's members 35
was a girl suffering from a serious lung disease. When
the singer heard about her, he paid a special visit to her in
the hospital. His kind words of support, it is said, gave
her the hope and courage to live, and from that day on,
she began to recover. What better story than this to 40
illustrate the genuine healing power of music in our lives?

The Only Flower in the World 「世界に一つだけの花」2003(平成15)年、(株)ビクターエンタテインメントから発売。250万枚を超える大ヒット曲になった。2007(平成19)年、文化庁と日本PTA全国協議会が主催する「親子で歌いごう日本の歌百選」に選ばれた。**1 one of Japan's most popular singing groups** 「日本で最も人気のある歌手グループの一つ」SMAP(1988<昭和63>年結成)のこと。**5 went on to become the group's top-selling single that year.** 「さらに売れ続けてその年のこのグループの最も売れたシングル盤となった。」**7 a well-known singer and songwriter** 「有名なシンガーソングライター」**8 lyrics** 「歌詞」**9 are on display** 「並べられている」**13 the record company that produced the song** 「その歌を制作したレコード会社」ビクターエンタテインメント株式会社(1927<昭和2>年創業)のこと。**17 getting along with one another** 「お互いに仲良くして」**21 struck a sympathetic chord with listeners** 「リスナーの琴線に触れた」**23 people in their daily struggles** 「毎日苦労している人々」**29 five members** 「5人のメンバー」SMAPのメンバー。中居正広(1972<昭和47>年)神奈川県生まれ、木村拓哉(1972<昭和47>年)東京都生まれ、草彅剛(1974<昭和49>年)埼玉県生まれ、稲垣吾郎(1973<昭和48>年)東京都生まれ、香取慎吾(1977<昭和52>年)神奈川県生まれ。**a well-rounded entertainer** 「多才なエンターテイナー」**30 in his own right** 「独自に」**33 The high ratings** 「高視聴率」**come as no surprise to anyone** 「誰にとっても驚くほどのことではない」**36 a serious lung disease** 「重い肺病」原発性肺高血圧症(PPH)。少女は小学2年生で発病。中学1年生の時、入院中、メンバーの一人から見舞いを受け、生きる勇気と希望を得た。**37 he paid a special visit to her in the hospital** 「彼は特別に入院中の彼女を訪ねた」**38 His kind words of support** 「彼のやさしい励ましの言葉」**40 What better story than this to illustrate the genuine healing power** 「本当の癒しの力を例証するのに、これよりもどのような良い話があるだろうか」



1-3

♥ **Exercise 1-1: Comprehension Questions** ♣

本文を読み、最も適切と思われる答えを (A) ~ (D) の中から選びなさい。

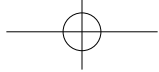
1. Who did the song *The Only Flower in the World* appeal to?
 - (A) People of all ages
 - (B) A girl in the hospital
 - (C) Women in particular
 - (D) People the world over

2. What is the song's message?
 - (A) Nations must live in peace and harmony.
 - (B) Each person should do his or her best to face challenges.
 - (C) We must treasure each person as a unique human being.
 - (D) Human beings are often too worried about life.

3. How did the song's words affect some people?
 - (A) It caused them to look at flowers differently.
 - (B) It made them think more seriously about the world's problems.
 - (C) They fell in love with the members of the singing group.
 - (D) They felt comforted and inspired.

4. What is the best description of the members of the group that recorded the song?
 - (A) Their talents are limited.
 - (B) In addition to singing, each has other talents.
 - (C) Their popularity has been short-lived.
 - (D) They prefer singing to acting on their own.

5. What happened when one of the group's members visited a girl in the hospital?
 - (A) She was too ill to have visitors.
 - (B) He sang the song for her.
 - (C) She found new strength and the will to live.
 - (D) She thought he looked different in person.



1-4

♥ **Exercise 1-2: Vocabulary Build-up** ◆

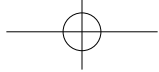
I. 次の表現が表しているものとして最もふさわしい語をボックスの中から選びなさい。

1. the number of years that someone has lived
2. a single newspaper, book, or CD that is one of many that are all exactly the same
3. a collection or number of things that are all different from one another
4. to try to be more successful than others
5. involving or affecting everyone in the world
6. to make people feel better when they are unhappy or disappointed
7. liked by many people

(A) copy (B) variety (C) popular (D) age (E) universal
(F) console (G) compete

II. 左の単語と最も近い意味を持つものを右の単語から選びなさい。

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. disease | (A) show |
| 2. fan | (B) fight |
| 3. struggle | (C) ability |
| 4. illustrate | (D) illness |
| 5. power | (E) admirer |



12 *ECO-NAVIGATION AND SOCIETY*



1-5

Exercise 1-3: Structure and Idiomatic Expressions

次の各文の空欄に入れるのに最もふさわしい語を下記の選択肢 (A) ~ (D) から選びなさい。

1. Van Gogh's famous painting is currently () display at this museum.
(A) at (B) in (C) on (D) under
2. He competed () ten other contestants for the top prize.
(A) for (B) from (C) to (D) with
3. The country suffers () widespread disease and poverty.
(A) by (B) from (C) to (D) with
4. We must learn to live () harmony with nature, not destroy it.
(A) at (B) in (C) on (D) through
5. According () the weather report, it will rain tomorrow.
(A) as (B) for (C) of (D) to



1-6

Exercise 1-4: Basic Composition

次の日本語を英訳しなさい。

1. 今年の桜の花は去年のとまったく同じように美しい。

2. この歌は普遍的な人間愛を強調しているという人もいる。

3. 彼の親切のおかげで、ファンの中に健康を回復した少女がいた。
