

“Is There A Santa Claus?” – Virginia’s Letter

「サンタクロースは本当にいるの？」幼い頃、誰もが疑問に思ったことがあるのではないのでしょうか。8歳の少女からこう質問されたら、あなたはどうか答えますか？この教材を通してサンタクロースの存在について自分なりに考え、また実際に少女へ返信された手紙を読んでみましょう。

タスク 1 : 次の質問に答え、クリスマスについて考えてみましょう。

Answer the following questions and brainstorm some ideas about Christmas.

1. Do you like Christmas time?

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2. How did you spend your Christmas when you were a child? What did you do? What did you eat?

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3. Do you believe in Santa Claus?

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4. When you have children, how will you spend Christmas time? What will you do for children?

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タスク 2 : パートナーと自分のアイデアを共有しましょう。じゃんけんをして、勝った方が始めに質問します。 **Share your ideas with your partner. Play “Janken,” and the winner asks questions first.**

Class () Number () Name ()

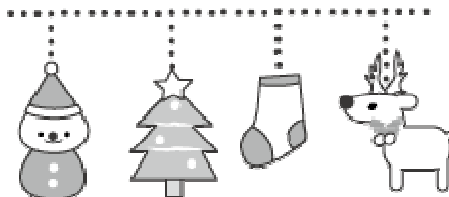
タスク 3 : 以下はアメリカの新聞「ニューヨーク・サン」に掲載された、バージニアという 8 歳の女の子からの質問です。あなたが「ニューヨーク・サン」の編集者なら、バージニアにどのような返事を書きますか？ **Read the following letter from an 8-year-old girl Virginia. She sent the letter to the Editor of “The New York Sun.” If you were the editor, how would you reply to her?**

Is There A Santa Claus?

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

*Virginia O'Hanlon,
115 West 95th Street,
New York City*



「親愛なる編集者さま:

私は 8 さいです。お友だちの中には「サンタクロースなんて、いないよ」と言う子たちがいます。パパは『もしサン紙に（聞いてみて）『いる』ということなら、いるんだよ』と言います。本当のことを教えてください。サンタクロースはいますか？」

ヴァージニア・オハンロン

115 西 95 番街 ニューヨーク市

タスク 4 : さあ、あなたは「ニューヨーク・サン」の編集者です。バージニアに返事の手紙を書きましょう。 **Now, you are the editor of “The New York Sun.” Write your letter to Virginia!**

- ① **1 0 0 ~ 1 2 0 語**で書くこと。(最後の行に単語数を記入する。)
- ② “Dear Virginia” で書き始め、“From (自分の名前)” で終わること。
- ③ 仮定法を必ず使うこと。(例: If there were no Santa Claus... / If I had (not) believed in Santa Claus, I would...など)。また、これまで学習した語彙・文法・表現を積極的に使うこと。
- ④ 提出期限: () 月 () 日

タスク 5 : 自分の手紙をクラスメートとシェアしましょう。じゃんけんで負けた方が先に編集者になり、手紙を読み聞かせます。勝った方はバージニアになり手紙の内容を聞き取りましょう。終わったら役割を交代します。

Share your letter with your classmates. Play “Jyanken,” and the winner plays the part of Virginia, and the loser plays the part of the editor. Then, switch roles.

Notes

| Partner's Name | Name() | Name() |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Is there a Santa Claus? | Yes / No | Yes / No |
| Why? Why not? | | |

Let's read the letter from the editor. — 編集者からバージニアへ宛てた実際の手紙を読んでみましょう。

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By Francis P. Church, first published in *The New York Sun* in 1897. [See *The People's Almanac*, pp. 1358–9.]

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The*
5 *Sun*:

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, “If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so.” Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

10 Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence
15 capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to
20 make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus,
25 but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil
30 covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia,
35 nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

追加情報 : <http://beebo.org/smackerels/yes-virginia.html> から↓

About the Exchange

Francis P. Church's editorial, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" was an immediate sensation, and went on to become one of the most famous editorials ever written. It first appeared in the *The New York Sun* in 1897, almost a hundred years ago, and was reprinted annually until 1949 when the paper went out of business.

5 Thirty-six years after her letter was printed, Virginia O'Hanlon recalled the events that prompted her letter:

"Quite naturally I believed in Santa Claus, for he had never disappointed me. But when less fortunate little boys and girls said there wasn't any Santa Claus, I was filled with doubts. I asked my father, and he was a little evasive on the subject.

10 "It was a habit in our family that whenever any doubts came up as to how to pronounce a word or some question of historical fact was in doubt, we wrote to the Question and Answer column in *The Sun*. Father would always say, 'If you see it in the *The Sun*, it's so,' and that settled the matter.

" 'Well, I'm just going to write *The Sun* and find out the real truth,' I said to father.

15 "He said, 'Go ahead, Virginia. I'm sure *The Sun* will give you the right answer, as it always does.' "

And so Virginia sat down and wrote her parents' favorite newspaper.

Her letter found its way into the hands of a veteran editor, Francis P. Church. Son of a Baptist minister, Church had covered the Civil War for *The New York Times* and had worked on the 20 *The New York Sun* for 20 years, more recently as an anonymous editorial writer. Church, a sardonic man, had for his personal motto, "Endeavour to clear your mind of cant." When controversial subjects had to be tackled on the editorial page, especially those dealing with theology, the assignments were usually given to Church.

Now, he had in his hands a little girl's letter on a most controversial matter, and he was 25 burdened with the responsibility of answering it.

"Is there a Santa Claus?" the childish scrawl in the letter asked. At once, Church knew that there was no avoiding the question. He must answer, and he must answer truthfully. And so

he turned to his desk, and he began his reply which was to become one of the most memorable editorials in newspaper history.

30 Church married shortly after the editorial appeared. He died in April, 1906, leaving no children.

Virginia O'Hanlon went on to graduate from Hunter College with a Bachelor of Arts degree at age 21. The following year she received her Master's from Columbia, and in 1912 she began teaching in the New York City school system, later becoming a principal. After 47
35 years, she retired as an educator. Throughout her life she received a steady stream of mail about her Santa Claus letter, and to each reply she attached an attractive printed copy of the Church editorial. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y.



More Information

- An alternative copy from the Newseum, which includes a nice scan of the original editorial.
- More historical background and analysis from *The New York Times* on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the editorial's publication.

タスク 6 : 編集者からの手紙の概要を理解しましょう。

[1st Reading- Skimming] Read the actual letter from the editor and answer the following questions.

1. According to the editor, are Virginia's friends right or wrong?

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2. Is there a Santa Claus?

()

3. Can we see Santa Claus?

()

4. Is there anything real in this world?

()

5. How long will Santa Claus live?

()

Class () Number () Name ()

タスク 7 : 編集者からの手紙を再度読み、細部を理解しましょう。

[2nd Reading- Scanning] Read the letter again and answer the following questions.

1. According to the editor, why are Virginia's friends wrong?

They _____
and they do not _____ .

2. What insect does the editor compare man to?

He compares man to _____ .

3. How certainly does Santa Claus exist?

He exists _____ and _____ and _____
exist.

4. If there were no Santa Claus, how would the world be?

It would be _____ as if _____ .

5. Nobody sees Santa Claus, but there is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

=> 日本語訳:

(_____).

6. What are the most real things in the world?

They are those _____ .

7. Have we seen fairies dancing on the lawn? - _____ .

8. When you tear apart the baby's rattle and see inside, what can you find there?

We can find that there _____ .

9. What can faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance do?

They can _____ and _____ and _____
_____ .

10. What will Santa Claus continue to do?

He will _____ .

Class () Number () Name ()

タスク 8 : 自分の手紙と編集者からの手紙を比較して、サンタクロースがいる (いない) 理由を挙げてみましょう。

Compare your letter with the letter from the editor.

| 結論／理由 | 編集者からの手紙 | 自分の手紙 |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| サンタクロースはいる？ | () | () |
| 理由① | 友達は目に見える物しか信じていないから。 | |
| 理由② | 愛、寛大さ、献身が存在するのと同じようにサンタは存在する。 | |
| 理由③ | この世の真実は大人にも子どもにも見えない物である。 | |

タスク 9 : 編集者からの手紙の中で、好きな文章を 3 つ選んでみましょう。

Choose 3 sentences you like in the letter.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Class () Number () Name ()

タスク 10 : 編集者からの手紙やクラスメートの手紙を参考に、自分の手紙を見直してください。内容を変えてもかまいません。

Rewrite your essay. Reading the editor's letter and your classmates' letters, you can change your ideas.

タスク 11 : クラスメートの手紙を読んで、マークをつけましょう。その後、内容に関してコメントを書きましょう（相手の手紙がより良くなるよう、コメントもできるだけ詳しく書こう）。

Read your classmates' essays and add some marks. Then, write your comments on "CONTENT."

MARK

☺ - I like the expression.

? - What do you mean?

MORE - need more explanation.

(例)

Dear Virginia,

I can understand how you feel. When I was little, my friends also made fun of me because I believed in Santa and my friends didn't. But, never mind, Virginia! ☺

It means you have a bigger heart than your friends. You must be a kind girl who believes in invisible things. Even if you cannot see Santa, you can see a present

for you, can't you? The present is proof that Santa really exists. I hope you will

MORE

continue to believe in Santa from now on.

タスク 1 2 : クラスメートの手紙を読んで、もし間違いがあればアンダーラインを引いて指摘しましょう（「なぜ」それが間違いであるか考えることで学ぶことができるので、間違いは訂正しなくて良い）。その後、相手の手紙の英語に関してコメントを書きましょう（1点は必ず褒めること。また、相手の手紙がより良くなるよう、コメントもできるだけ詳しく書こう）。

Read your classmates' essays and find some mistakes (if any). Then, write your comments on "English."

↓ Norman Rockwell の “Discovery (一大発見)”



http://arthistory.about.com/od/from_exhibitions/ig/american_chronicles/aonr_dia_09_17.htm

↓ Calvin & Hobbes

(<http://slicktiger.wordpress.com/2009/12/17/my-top-5-calvin-hobbes-christmas-cartoons/>)



(TASK 13 以降はオプションです)。

タスク 13 : 映画「34丁目の奇跡」を鑑賞しましょう。映画を見ている間メモを取り、簡単なレポートを書きましょう。

Let's watch "MIRACLE on 34th Street." While watching the movie, take some notes and write a brief report.

1. Did you like the movie? Why?

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2. Which characters did you like the most? Why?

()

3. Do you recommend this movie to others? Why?

()

4. Which scenes were the most impressive? Why?

()



☺trivia☺

1947年に作られたオリジナル版「34丁目の奇跡」は、アメリカの「最も感動した映画」の9位に入っています。(ちなみに1位は「すばらしき哉、人生!」、5位は「ET」。)

アカデミー賞も、「助演俳優賞」「脚本賞」の部門で受賞しています。

Class () Number () Name ()

タスク 1 4 : 映画「3 4 丁目の奇跡」のあらすじを振り返りながら、空欄を埋めましょう。 **Fill in the blanks and check to see how well you understood the story.**

😊 The Plot of "MIRACLE on 34th Street" 😊

When the Cole's Santa Claus gets ① () before taking part in the ② (), Cole's director of special events ③ () fires him and must find another person. She finds an old man and asks him to be their Santa Claus. He claims his name is ④ ().

Kris does so well during the parade that he is soon ⑤ () to be Cole's main Santa for the holiday period. All the children in New York begin to believe that he is the real Santa. However, ⑥ (), the six-year-old girl (=Dorey's daughter) does not believe in Santa Claus. Dorey's boyfriend, ⑦ (), does his best to convince Susan to believe.

While Kris is babysitting Susan one night, Susan tells him her Christmas wish. 《She would like a ⑧ (), ⑨ (), and ⑩ () 》. Kris asks if she would begin to believe in Santa if she got all those things. Susan agrees that she would.

Kris is believed to be Santa Claus and contributes to more sales for Cole's. However, one night, he is ⑪ () for attacking a man on the street. The fact is that the man he attacked was the original drunk Santa. He tried to ⑫ () Kris with the help of members of staff from a rival of Cole's.

With the help of Brian, Dorey takes Kris' case to ⑬ (). Brian must prove that not only does Santa exist, but also that Kris is the real Santa.

Just when the judge is about to make his decision, Susan walks up to the judge with ⑭ (). It contained ⑮ (). On the back, the words ⑯ () are circled. The judge realizes that, since the U.S. Department of Treasury can believe in ⑰ () with no evidence, then the people of New

York can believe in ⑱() in the same way. Therefore, the judge could decide that Santa is real.

Then, Dorey and Brian get ⑲() on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning, Susan, Dorey and Brian go driving out to the catalogue house. Kris has arranged for them to buy the house.

Dorey and Brian ask Susan what the last of her Christmas wishes was, and she tells them that it was ⑳(). Dorey and Brian look at each other, surprised, and look at Dorey's ㉑().

CHOICES:

In God We Trust / stomach / Dorey / Brian / a house / a \$1 bill / dad / hired / Susan / drunk / a baby brother / Thanksgiving parade / Santa Claus / arrested / court / a Christmas Card / God / married / Kris Kringle / deceive

My Score: / 30



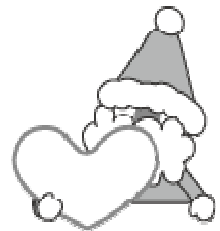
Class () Number () Name ()

タスク 16 : 「よくある間違い」から学びを深めましょう。まず、各文の間違いを自分で直しましょう。その後、なぜそれが間違いなのか、どう訂正するのかをパートナーと話し合しましょう。**Learn from “Frequently Made Mistakes.” First, find the mistakes in each sentence by yourself. Then, discuss why they are mistakes and how you correct them with your partner.**

FMM (Frequently Made Mistakes)

以下の「よくある間違い」を直して、より正確に文法を使えるようになりましょう！

1. Are you believe a Santa Claus?
2. I wasn't believe Santa Claus and didn't enjoy Christmas.
3. I impressed this movie. / The scene was very impressed. / This scene made me exciting.
4. I didn't give Santa nothing.
5. I felt relieved as if I drink a hot tea.
6. If there was someone who believes Santa Claus, I would have recommended it!!
7. I wondered how were effective evidences given by Brian.
8. At the same time, I felt like to cheer Susan.
9. She should believe Santa Claus while her childhood.
10. A little girl in this movie didn't believe in Santa too.
11. I want to be happy my children in Christmas.
12. It is necessity for us to believe something with a view to get over walls of our lives.



Class () Number () Name () **My Score: / 12**

(※タスク 17・18 はタスク 11・12 と同じです。)