

A Seed for Peace

-The Story of Kunihiko-

Narrator: Kunihiko Iida

Illustrator: Rieko Doi



My name is Kunihiko Iida.
I am Japanese, but was born in
the northeast of present China
(Manchuria) in 1942.

I lived happily with my
mom, dad and elder sister.



But my dad went to the war and died..... so we decided to go
to my mom's hometown, Hiroshima. We walked a very long way.
When we finally arrived at the port, there was no food and drink left.
We took a ship and went to Hiroshima.



At 8:15 am, on August 6th, 1945, an
atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima.

I was blown away in the air by the blast.
"Aaahh, help me!"

My mom and elder sister died because of the
atomic bomb. I was three years old then. I got ill
because of the radiation. I had severe burns too
caused by the intense heat rays.



My grandma took care of me, but I could not sit up.

Soon my grandma passed away too.

I was left alone....

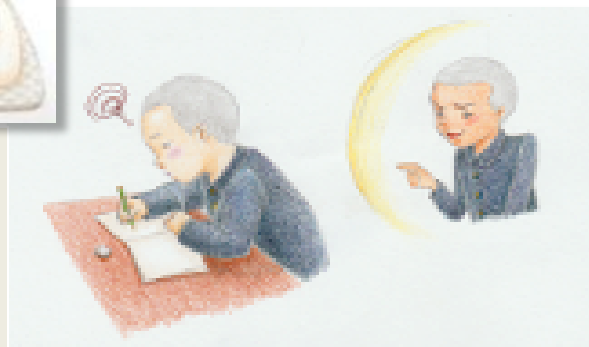


But then my uncle came back from the war.

I started the elementary school, and my uncle bought me a school satchel. I was so happy.



But I was often unable to go to school due to illness, so I could not understand the subjects. I was bullied, because I had burn scars too, but..... I still wanted to go to school.



I turned 13 years old. One day, when I was participating in the school cleaning activity, my teacher, Mr. Fukuhara praised me. "Mr, Iida, I see you are working very hard."

It was the first time in my life someone praised me! I was extremely happy, as if something was illuminated brightly in my heart.



Encouraged by the words of my teacher, Mr. Fukuhara, I decided to work harder. I studied every day.

At last, I became the best student in school.



Dr. Kunihiro Iida is now 75 years old (2017).

He has his own family, and is grateful to his teacher, Mr. Fukuhara.

Dr. Iida talks about his A-bomb experiences to children at the Peace Park. He hopes that a seed for peace will sprout in the mind of each and every one of us.

HiroshimaNihongo@yahoo.co.jp

Japanese Language Teachers for Peace

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