

LESSON 4 SOURCE 4.5 STUDENT LETTER D

P.L. #5  
Guelph, Ontario,  
Dec 18, 1946

Dear Miss "Mac"

I suppose you're wondering whether I've lost faith in you or forgot about you. I wanted to write as soon as your letter arrived but I didn't get the chance to write or even study until now. You may think I'm getting lazy but please forgive me... my back and my legs are aching so much I feel more dead than alive. These days, I'm doing work inside the barn... cleaning manure and feeding the cows - 73 in all. Of course we have to milk them twice a day. On Sundays, I have to do the whole work by myself. My dad isn't strong anymore after suffering a lot in the past.

After I sent you that letter, we had an incident with our employers whereby we managed to teach him a lesson. Since he is quick-tempered he blurted out that I lost a set of wrenches which cost him \$8.00. Actually, he had misplaced them and I didn't know anything about it so I went to his wife and gave her the \$8.00 telling her that I would like to owe up to what I had lost.

His wife, who is much more understanding than the husband asked of his trouble and he realized what he had said. In the meantime I discovered the missing wrenches but didn't tell them where they were. That night, his dad came down from the city and heard of the trouble. He finally apologized that he was quick-tempered, that he was sorry to blame me for this and gave me back my \$8.00. Ever since that time he has been very careful in treating us but occasionally he still loses his temper. My dad seems to have a dislike for him, (the young son) and every day he gets angry whenever Jack blurts out at my dad when he (my dad) misunderstands Jack's orders.

I've written to Miss Black of (?????) but all I hope is that things would turn out better for me. I'm about to give up my studies since I don't have enough time. I'm sure you've done all you can and I haven't lost my courage but what is courage or patience when my parents and the children aren't happy? All we do is live like animals. Oh well, we're trying, at least I'll do everything I can to encourage them but it's just hopeless. My parents even speak of returning to Japan. Sometimes, they say that they'd rather starve than do work for Jack. I don't blame my dad for saying so. I guess their morale is low after the defeat. So are a great many other Japanese parents.

Everytime my parents begin to feel unpleasant, I always try to encourage them that if we stay here for the winter, we'll be able to locate a more pleasant home and also I tell them that some of my friends in Guelph will be coming down to visit us at Christmas, that if we work hard, things will eventually turn out better. But I'm afraid it's very difficult to live without happiness. I've found out that a person can't get along without happiness and yet lead a normal life.

It's the highest human need.

Oh, oh, it's time for milking now so I must leave now. I'll try to let you know from time to time on how we are getting along but I tell you it'll make your hair grey, Miss Mac. Please excuse my scribbling as I'm in a hurry.

Sincerely,  
Fred Hamabayashi

P.S. my parents wish to extend their regards to you.

Letters to Tashme teacher,  
BCA, MS 2119, Box 1, File 11