



Jeff 先生と Let's learn the world!

Hello, everyone. This is Jeff. We've finally reached the end of another year. How was your 2017? Did you make any individual advancements, achieve any goals?

For me, this year marked the first time in about ten years that I read a book completely. When I was younger, I was really into the Harry Potter book series, and read through all of them. I was so into them, in fact, that I read through most of the books within a week of their release. These books are all upwards of 500-700 pages, so while this may seem a bit braggy, I do feel like that was a decent accomplishment. However, after I finished reading the final book in the series, I became burned-out on reading. After that, I barely even looked at a book for quite some time. This June, however, I began reading the "Monogatari Series" by Nishio Ishin. I had seen the anime version some years ago, and when I learned that the anime was based on a book series, it piqued my curiosity, so I read the first book: Bakemonogatari. The book was a super fun read, and it served as an excellent Japanese study opportunity, so I decided to read the entire series. I'm currently reading book number 12 out of 22 currently published books, "Koyomimonogatari."

In the west, we make our resolutions on New Year's Eve, but in Japan, they make theirs once the new year has begun. Sometimes, they write these resolutions, goals, or simply slogans artistically in Kanji. They call these first writings of the year "Kakizome," and is one of the many Japanese traditions surrounding the New Year's holidays.



Speaking of decisions, the time is here to decide on our New Year's Resolution. This is a popular New Year's ritual in the Western world. On New Year's Eve, we make a resolution about what we want to work on, achieve, or begin during the next year. A lot of people make resolutions like losing weight, quitting smoking, or getting a boy/girlfriend. However, actually carrying out these resolutions comes down to a question of will, as the majority of people barely even begin their resolution, much less complete them. However, after looking up the data on New Year's Resolutions, it seems that people who make a resolution have a success rate 10 times that of people who don't do so. This seems to show that there is value simply in making a resolution. Think about it this way: If you depart on a vacation with no clear destination or route in mind, you'll just end up meandering around aimlessly, never getting anywhere, let alone where you want to go. A New Year's Resolution serves as a road map for the journey of the new year.

So, then, everyone, what will your resolution be? As for me, I'd like to keep up with my exercise routine, as well as saving money for the future. I'll be praying that you have the force of will to carry out whatever your goals may be. See you next time, - Jeff

