

Grandma's bananas

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bananas

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III Level 4

• Japanese / English

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おばあちゃんの庭はとても素敵なの。モロコシやキビ、キャッサバなどの野菜がいっぱい。でもね、その中でも特にバナナが最高なのよ。おばあちゃんにはたくさんの孫がいるけれど、私がおばあちゃんの一番のお気に入りだということを私は知っているの。だっておばあちゃんはよく私を家に呼ぶから。そしておばあちゃんは小さな秘密を私に話してくれるのよ。でもね、教えてくれないひとつ秘密があったの。それはどこに熟したバナナがあるかということ。

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Grandma's garden was wonderful, full of sorghum, millet, and cassava. But best of all were the bananas. Although Grandma had many grandchildren, I secretly knew that I was her favourite. She invited me often to her house. She also told me little secrets. But there was one secret she did not share with me: where she ripened bananas.



その日の夜、お母さんとお父さん、おばあちゃんに呼ばれた。理由はもちろん分かっていた。その夜寝るとき、盗みは絶対してはいけないと思った。おばあちゃんから、お母さんお父さんから、もちろん誰からも。

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Later that evening I was called by my mother and father, and Grandma. I knew why. That night as I lay down to sleep, I knew I could never steal again, not from grandma, not from my parents, and certainly not from anyone else.

One day I saw a big straw basket placed in the sun outside Grandma's house. When I asked what it was for, the only answer I got was, "It's my magic basket." Next to the basket, there were several banana leaves that turned from time to time. I was curious. "What are the leaves for, Grandma?" I asked. The only answer I got was, "They are my magic leaves."

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次日は、太ったおじいちゃんの家で朝食を食べました。おじいちゃんは「魔法の籠(くらわ)」と呼んでいました。おじいちゃんは籠(くらわ)を手に持つと、籠(くらわ)の中から魔法の力が発せられました。おじいちゃんは籠(くらわ)を手に持つと、籠(くらわ)の中から魔法の力が発せられました。



The following day was market day. Grandma woke up early. She always took ripe bananas and cassava to sell at the market. I did not hurry to visit her that day. But I could not avoid her for long.

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おばあちゃんの行動、バナナとバナナの葉っぱ、大きなわらのカゴを見ることはとても楽しかった。でもおばあちゃんはいつも私にお母さんのところに行く用事を頼むの。「おばあちゃん、用意をして見せて！」そう言っても「言うことを聞きなさい。」と言ってどうしても見せてくれなかつた。

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It was so interesting watching Grandma, the bananas, the banana leaves and the big straw basket. But Grandma sent me off to my mother on an errand. "Grandma, please, let me watch as you prepare..." "Don't be stubborn, child, do as you are told," she insisted. I took off running.



次の日、おばあちゃんが庭で野菜を探っている時、私はこっそりとバナナのどこへ行くと、ほとんどが熟していた。私は我慢できずにたくさんのバナナを取ってしまった。忍び足でドアのほうに歩いていた時、おばあちゃんが外で咳をしたのが聞こえた。私は必死にバナナを服の中に隠して、おばあちゃんに気づかれないようにこっそりそっとそばを通った。

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The following day, when grandma was in the garden picking vegetables, I sneaked in and peered at the bananas. Nearly all were ripe. I couldn't help taking a bunch of four. As I tiptoed towards the door, I heard grandma coughing outside. I just managed to hide the bananas under my dress and walked past her.



When I returned, Grandma was sitting outside but with neither the basket nor the bananas. "Grandma, where is the basket, where are all the bananas, and where..." But the only answer I got was, "They are in my magic place." It was so disappointing!

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「お母さんは、お隣の二三九番地に住んでいたのです。」  
「お隣の二三九番地に住んでいたのです。」



The following day grandma came to visit my mother, I rushed to her house to check the bananas once more. There was a bunch of very ripe ones. I picked one and hid it in my dress. After covering the basket again, I went behind the house and quickly ate it. It was the sweetest banana I had ever tasted.

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14



二日後、おばあちゃんは「杖を取ってきて」と私に頼んだからおばあちゃんの寝る部屋に行ったの。そしたらね、ドアを開けたとたん、熟したバナナの強い香りがいっぱいに広がったの。そして古い毛布で隠してあるいつもの大きなわらのカゴがあったの。私は毛布をめくり、そのすばらしい香りをくんくん嗅いだわ。

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Two days later, Grandma sent me to fetch her walking stick from her bedroom. As soon as I opened the door, I was welcomed by the strong smell of ripening bananas. In the inner room was grandma's big magic straw basket. It was well hidden by an old blanket. I lifted it and sniffed that glorious smell.



「何してるの?早く杖を持ってきてちょうだい。」おばあちゃんにそう呼ばれたとき、私はその声にはっとして急いで杖を持っていった。「なんでそんなに笑っているの?」とおばあちゃんに尋ねられたとき、魔法を見つけた嬉しさのあまりまだ自分が笑っていることに気がついたの。

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Grandma's voice startled me when she called, "What are you doing? Hurry up and bring me the stick." I hurried out with her walking stick. "What are you smiling about?" Grandma asked. Her question made me realise that I was still smiling at the discovery of her magic place.