

To students in Fuzoku Junior High School

My name is Ono Yana. I am 41. I am from Ukraine. I was in Ukraine in peacetime from 1989 to 2003. Later I moved to Japan.

But I remember classes held in peacetime at school on primary military training, not only for boys but also for girls. Such classes were made to teach children basic knowledge in case of war. For example, I remember my teacher saying that in case of bombing, we had to run to the subway. But our school was far away from the subway. I thought it was impossible. Everyone was laughing. We were not serious. We did not think that a war would happen in Ukraine. I thought that even if war starts, children will not be killed because they are innocent and they have not done bad things.

But recently, reality in Ukraine showed different things. In 2022, on February 24th, my relatives told me that a war started in Ukraine. I could not believe it. I was shocked very much. I started calling my relatives and my friends in Ukraine. I begged them to leave Ukraine. I worried about them and my house. The first month of the war I was in a very strong shock. I could not sleep. One day, when I was watching TV, I saw people running to the subway. They had to be in the subway for a long time. That reminded me of the lessons taken at school.

I thought that peacetime is just between two wars. I also thought that every nation needs to always be prepared to defend themselves in case of war. The war made me and many Ukrainians realize that we have to be thankful for peacetime and enjoy our lives. Before the war, we took it for granted and we did not appreciate it. But now I realized. Later, I heard that half of my hometown was destroyed.

Usual people like us cannot change world events and politics and unfortunately we cannot stop the war. But we can talk more about the importance of peace, teach our children to live in peace with each other and neighbors and learn how to respect other people's lives. And the most important thing is to learn to think individually and assess the situation independently, and to learn not to be influenced too much by other people's opinions because they are not always right. Also, a new war might begin somewhere else. We really need basic knowledge on how to protect ourselves in case of war.

By Ono Yana

Oita Prefecture, Beppu City

The head of NPO Beautiful World

L3 ワークシート④

Class() No.() Name()

【小野ヤーナさんの手紙中の単語】

Ukraine / ウクライナ peacetime / 平和な時間 primary / 初歩的な military / 軍事の
not only～but also…/～だけでなく…も knowledge / 知識 in case of ～ / ～の場合 bombing / 爆弾の投下
subway / 地下鉄 impossible / 不可能な serious/真面目な even if ～ / たとえ～であったとしても
innocent / 無実な relative/親戚 beg～to…/～に…するよう懇願する nation / 国
defend～ / ～を防御する thankful for～ / ～に感謝している take it for granted/それを当たり前と思う
appreciate～ / ～に感謝する politics / 政治 importance / 重要性 individually / 個別に
assess～ / ～を評価する independently/独立的に not to ～ / ～しないために influence～ / ～に影響を与える
somewhere / どこか protect～ / ～を守る

My idea

Classmates' ideas

小野や一十さんの手紙を受けての平和の誓いを書こう

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and some minor blemishes or dust specks. The edges of the paper are slightly irregular.