

Title: Mr. Sato, Look at Me

Mau Murakami

Good afternoon, everybody.

Mr. Sato, please look at me. I am on the stage.
He was my homeroom teacher in my junior high school.

Now, I'm in the first grade of Tsukuba Kaisei High School, which is a correspondence school near Kashiwa Station.

I'm going to tell you about how my life has changed so far, thanks to Mr. Sato.

I couldn't go to school when I was in the first-year student of junior high school because I had been sick physically and mentally. I stayed home all day and couldn't go out. My parents were very worried about my condition of not going to school. They were also concerned about my future life.

Then, one day, Mr. Sato, my homeroom teacher gave me a call and suggested me to attend a class in night junior high school in Matsudo City. In fact, I had wanted to go to school, study and make friends at school.

The first day I was too nervous to go to a night school, so my mother drove me to school. When I entered my classroom for the first time, I wanted to go home right away. But contrary to my thought, the classmates looked friendly and were kind enough to welcome me in the class.

New things happened one after another in the night junior high school. Most of them in the night school were foreigners; they are from China, the Philippines and Pakistan. Only two were Japanese including me. That's why the lessons of most subjects were slow and made foreign students interested to study. Gradually they seemed to understand what the teachers said. Before long I could get used to the classroom and to my surprise I could ask the teachers questions about what I couldn't understand.

Students from various countries talked each other in their own language

and tried to communicate in Japanese with others. It was quite a new experience for me. At first, I was strained, but soon got relieved to attend the night junior high school.

On the graduation day of the school, my classmates gave me a card with messages. I will keep it forever. We also made okonomiyaki together. It was fun and okonomiyaki was very tasty. At the end of the day, younger students made an arch for the graduate students to pass through. I will never forget the event.

The same night in my bed, I felt the world around me was much wider than I thought. The night school and my classmates gave me courage to take on the challenge of various things.

Thank you so much, Mr. Sato. He led me to the entrance of a new world. He gave me a chance to change myself into an active person.

Now I could enter a high school and go to school almost every day. I have enjoyed my school life and have good friends around me.

Look at me, Mr. Sato. I was able to participate in this speech contest today. I am going to try to do as many things as possible from now on.

Thank you for listening.