

LESSON 8 Kazu Hiro: In Pursuit of a Dream

Part 1

Satoshi reads about Kazu Hiro's early days.

Kazu Hiro was born / in 1969 in Kyoto. // Since childhood, / Kazu has been full of curiosity and creativity. // In his high school days, / he watched many sci-fi movies. // He was inspired / by the various kinds of special effects. //

One day, / Kazu found a picture of an actor / in an American movie magazine. // The actor looked just like Abraham Lincoln, / the 16th US president. // This was due to special effects makeup. // Kazu was fascinated / and tried such makeup by himself. // He wrote to Dick Smith, / the New York makeup artist / in charge of Lincoln's makeup. // He soon got the reply, / "Send me photos of your own makeup work, / and I will give you advice." // With the help of his English teacher, / Kazu exchanged letters with Dick. // This is how he gradually learned the basics / of special effects makeup. //

Part 2

Then Satoshi reads about Kazu's activities in the movie industry.

In 1987, / Dick visited Tokyo and met Kazu. // He offered Kazu a job / as a special effects makeup artist. // It was for a Japanese horror movie / that Dick supervised. // Kazu really enjoyed this job. // Afterward, / Kazu worked at a makeup studio / and then became an independent special effects makeup artist. //

In 1995, / Kazu finally got a chance to work on a Hollywood movie, / *Men in Black*. // Then he worked on other famous movies. // His makeup technique was highly evaluated. // He was nominated for an Academy Award / in 2006 and 2007. //

However, / the movie industry always focuses on time and money. // Kazu wanted to be free / to pursue his artistic ideals. // He decided to go beyond / what he had achieved in Hollywood. // In 2012, / he moved to the field of modern art. //

Part 3

Satoshi also learns about Kazu's return to the film industry.

In 2016, / Kazu received an unexpected offer. // The famous British actor Gary Oldman asked him / to take charge of special effects makeup / for his new movie. // Gary said he would play Winston Churchill, / the former British prime minister. // Kazu hesitated / to return to the movie industry / but finally accepted the offer. // The reason why he said yes / was simple. // Dick Smith once transformed an actor into Lincoln. // Kazu wanted to show his respect for Dick / by accepting this similar challenge. //

People were astonished to see the wartime leader / move and speak on the screen. // In 2018, / Kazu was finally given the Academy Award / for Best Makeup and Hairstyling. // In 2020, / he won the award again, / for his work in another movie. //

Kazu said, / "I now understand the importance / of doing what I like / without putting a limit on my work." //

Part 4

Satoshi introduces Kazu's ideas to his class.

Hello, everyone. // What's your dream? // How will you make it come true? // Today / I will introduce two memorable suggestions / by Kazu Hiro. //

When you are pursuing your dream, / you may lose confidence / and want to give up. // You often compare yourself / with other people. // However, / Kazu says, / "It is meaningless / to make such comparisons. // Rather than worrying about others, / spend your time working toward your own goal." //

Kazu also says, / "If you find something you like, / you should continue to do it / for at least 10 years." // The Japanese proverb says, / "Three years on a stone." // Three years may not be enough. //

It was in his school days / that Kazu wrote to Dick Smith / to realize his dream. // I believe you, too, can do something / to take the first step toward your dream. // Thank you. //