

2013 第1回New Storyteller コンテスト

最優秀作品 : A Little Wizard

特選 : The Sea and The Sun

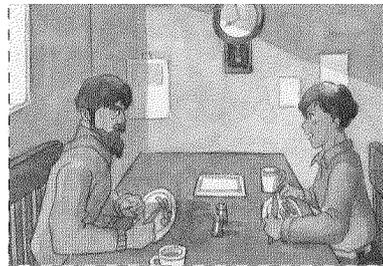
特選 : Maria

特選 : The Ghost Girl

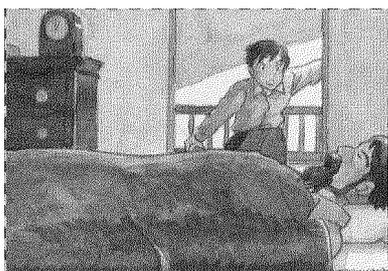
A Little Wizard

Chinami Miyanagi

Magic runs in the House of Chihara. So, the Chiharas fight with devils and dispose of them to protect the peace of the people. My Dad, Kosuke Chihara, is an experienced wizard and he can use a spell very well. I, Yukito, am a probationary wizard since I am still a child. I respect my Dad.



One day, my Dad told me, “Tonight, I’ll go to fight the queen of evil. She is very strong. Although you are a probationary wizard, you are a son of the Chiharas. If anything bad happens, keep it up.” At that time, I didn’t understand his meaning.

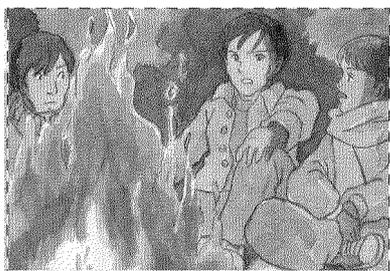


The next morning, I called Dad, who was sleeping, because breakfast was ready. “Get up, Dad. It is already morning.” Although I said that as I shook Dad, there was no sign that he would get up. Suddenly, I realized his body was very cold. I put my ear to his heart. I didn’t hear his heartbeat.

That instant, I remembered the things he told me the day before. “The queen of evil...? If anything bad happens? Such a thing can’t happen! It can’t be!” I was about to cry, but I began to think about what to do in the future.



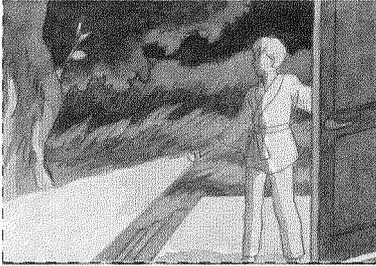
Because I thought all time, my friends worried about me.



At last, I decided I would go to the place where Dad fought. I left for there. I found a hut and I was going to go to bed because it was already night.

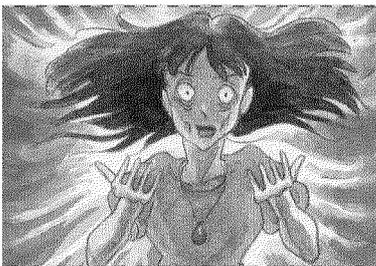


When I reached for the table lamp to turn it off, I heard voices. “A human came again!”



I went downstairs and went outside. There were some figures. I turned on my flashlight. I could see a woman and a girl sitting under the tree.

“You should also have pain because my daughter was injured by your father!” My right arm hurt. An arrow pierced my arm. I glared at her. “I lost my father because of you!” I tried to use my spell but heard voices. I heard my father’s voice from somewhere at that time. “You mustn’t fight for your personal feelings. Think about only protecting the peace of the people.”



I closed my eyes. “I am a wizard,” I thought. I opened them wide. My eyes must be red. I looked at her. I raised my hand and shouted, “Begone!” Then, she began to disappear from the legs up.

“I don’t want to die.... I want....” She and her daughter floated to the sky. They disappeared. I was so tired that I fell down.

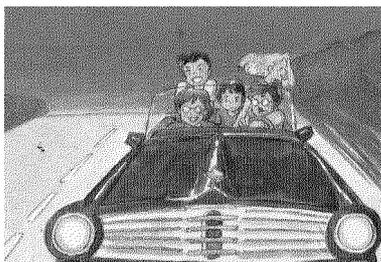


When I opened my eyes next, it was already morning. A peaceful scene spread there.

The Sea and The Sun

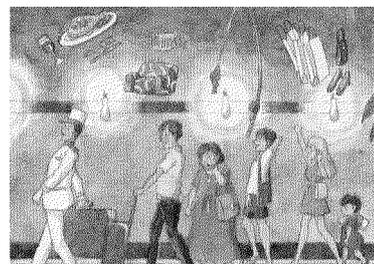
Snow Cat

Here is a girl. Her name is Mei. She lives in her house with her family. But the most important information about her is that she is a little ghost girl.



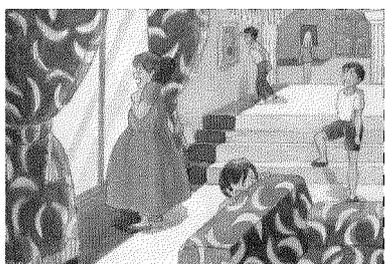
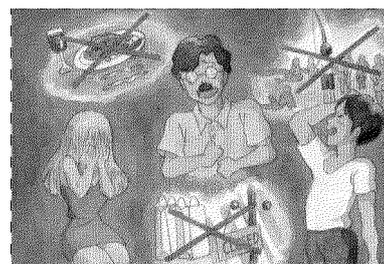
One day she and her family went on a trip. Of course they couldn't see her and notice her, but Mei liked to be with her family.

The hotel was very gorgeous. Her family was excited with their trip.



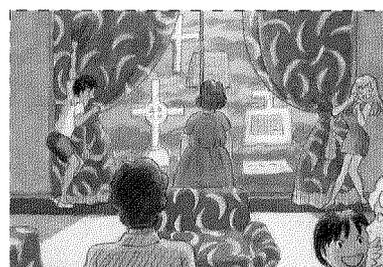
Mei was excited, too because it was the first time for her to see the sea. Actually, she loved the sea very much.

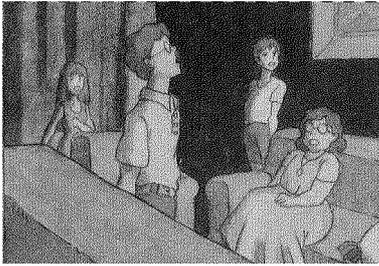
But her family began to cry. There was nothing they wanted.



They didn't like their room, either. Her mother wanted to see a beautiful view, but there was only a cemetery. "Oh, my god! A cemetery!" her mother shouted.

"But, we saw a cemetery once. When" Then, the mother and father remembered. "Mei....." the father whispered.

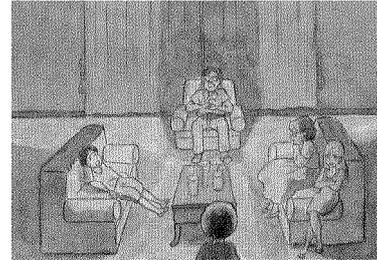




At night, the lights went out. “How unlucky we are,” the brother said. The sister said, “Who is Mei? Your friend, father?”

The father quietly sat on a sofa and began to talk.

“She was our daughter. If she was alive, she would be our oldest daughter. She was born, but she was very sick. She couldn’t go outside.



“One day she saw the sun. Then, she went outside. She ran around the house happily but heavily. But she ran into the road and got hit by a car. Her body was very weak. She died quickly and quietly.Her favorite book was about the sea. So, we buried Mei in this place.” The son and daughter listened to the father’s story quietly. Their parents were crying. “We had forgotten Mei. We remembered her because of the cemetery. We are very sorry for Mei. We are really bad parents. But we loved Mei. We loved her.”

After a while, the son said, “We didn’t have anything to do, but we do now. Tomorrow, let’s visit Mei’s grave with beautiful flowers. Mei will be happy.”

“Yes, of course. My brother,” Mei whispered. She knew that her family couldn’t hear her voice, but she continued whispering. “Dad. Mom. I was afraid because I thought you didn’t love me or remember me. That is the reason that I couldn’t go to heaven. But you gave me the words. You loved me. I’m glad to hear that. It was the gladdest moment of my whole life. As a normal girl, and as a ghost girl. Thank you.....

Then she slowly disappeared. The father suddenly lifted his head. “What’s wrong, dad?” The son asked. “Well nothing. I thought I heard Mei’s voice.” “That can’t be. Maybe you are tired, dad.” “You’re right. That’s impossible, huh?” Then, they laughed and laughed until the sun rose.

Maria

Lily St. Regis

A bad thing happened suddenly. A six-year-old girl named Maria lost her family suddenly.

One day, the whole family except Maria went shopping because she was sick that day. Then, they died in a car accident. The days went quickly after that.



A month later, Maria's uncle and aunt adopted her. Maria often asked them "Where are Mom and Dad? Where are Louise and Danny? Did they just go shopping?" They felt sorry for her whenever she asked that. And they answered "They will never come back, Maria." But Maria was always sitting by the window and waiting for family to come back.

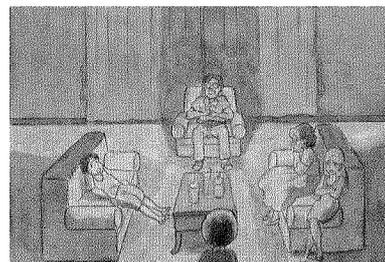


Two days later Maria's uncle and aunt took her to the sea to cheer her up. "Wow!" Maria smiled. Her uncle and aunt smiled to see that. Then Maria began to make a sand castle.



After a while, she heard her family talking and saw them making the sand castle with her. Maria ran to her uncle and aunt and said, "Hey! Come on! Dad, Mom, Louise and Danny are there!" Her uncle and aunt were surprised and at a loss. They went back to the sand castle, but nobody was there. They said no words, and Maria ran to the hotel.

When she opened the door, her family was there. “Oh! You’re here!” said Maria happily.



Then, Dad came to her and said, “Listen, Maria. You must know we died in a car accident a month ago, right? We’re dead. We can’t change the fact. So, you have to live with your uncle and aunt. I’m sure you’ll spend happy days with them. We always love you, Maria, remember.” Then they disappeared.

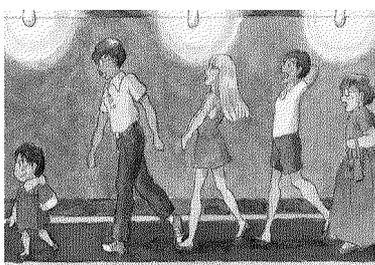
Maria ran to her uncle and aunt and said, “I understood everything. I’m all right.” And she smiled. Then Maria and her uncle and aunt started walking holding hands.



The Ghost Girl

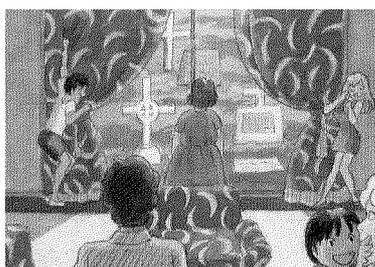
Kichijyo-girl

Once upon a time, there was a strange family driving to a haunted house. They loved ghosts and other scary things. And one day, they heard about the haunted house. The people who live around there were scared, but the family decided to stay there for the summer vacation.



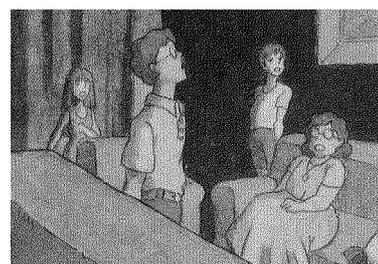
When they arrived there, they looked around the house. Many of the rooms were closed, but the sister found a beautiful spacious room. So they decided to stay there.

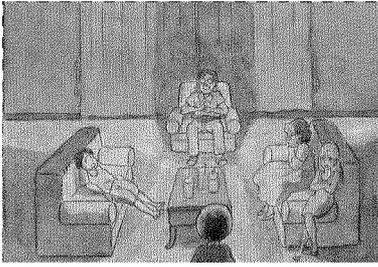
“How is the view?” asked the father “Let’s see...” said the mother. She opened the curtain.



And there was... a cemetery! “Wow, a haunted house and a cemetery garden! How exciting this is!” said the brother.

At night, they were telling scary stories to each other. Suddenly, the lights went off and they heard some laughing voices. The ghost was playing some tricks on them.

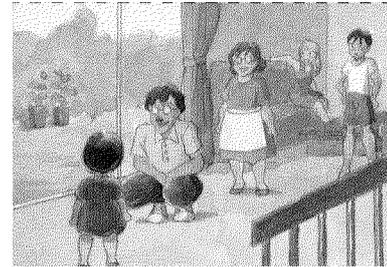




Some other things happened during the night, but the ghost didn't appear. "I wanted to talk with ghosts." said the sister. But they got sleepy, so they went to bed.

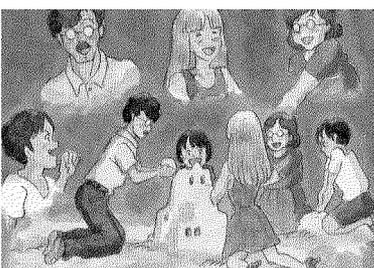
In the morning, the brother waked up his family shouting. "There is somebody in the living room!" The family jumped up from bed and ran into the living room.

In the middle of the room a girl was standing. "Who....who are you?" asked the father.



"Me? Oh, you are the people who came here last night. Nice to meet you." "So who are you?" the father asked again. "Oh! I'm a.... ghost. I died here, in this house when I was just a little baby. I don't have a name.

"I don't know my name, but I have a wish. It's to see the outside of this house. I want to see the world! Um... so...can I... stay with you? Only a few days is okay. Can I? You people aren't scared of ghosts, right?" The family looked at the little girl ghost. She didn't look very much like a ghost.



A few hours later, the family discussed it and agreed that she could live with them! They were happy ever after!! ♪

Mike 先生からのコメント

A Little Wizard

This is an exciting, imaginative story. I get the feeling that the background to the story is a complete imaginary world, with generations of wizards in the House of Chihara and continual battles against devils. I also appreciated that Yukito learns the lesson that he should use his magic to preserve peace rather than for personal reasons.

The Sea and The Sun

This is a ghost story, but it is full of deep feeling. The writer does fantastic work describing Mei's happiness at being with her family and at finally being able to go to the sea. I can also feel the parents' love for Mei, and even the brother and sister, who never met Mei, are able to show that they care for her.

Maria

This story illustrates the important lesson that life has to go on even after a terrible tragedy. Maria loses her family, but they return to her briefly to tell her that even though nobody can undo terrible events that happened in the past, it is still possible to have happy days in the future.

The Ghost Girl

The strange family in this story is immediately appealing, with their love of ghosts and cemeteries and their choice of haunted house tourism for their summer vacation. The ending of the story, when they adopt the little ghost girl and take her to live with them forever, shows how kindhearted they are.

宮下先生からのコメント

A Little Wizard

平和という目的のために、悲しみを乗り越え「父の声」を聴きながら、みんなを守る魔法使いの男の子を上手に描いています。会話文を効果的に入れながら、テンポよくお話が展開していきます。バランスのとれた、スケールの大きい読みごたえあるファンタジーです。

The Sea and The Sun

人を想う気持ちの大切さを教えてくれる作品です。だんだんと謎が解けていき、ハラハラドキドキしながら読めます。読みやすい文体で、要所にキーセンテンスがある期待を裏切らないストーリーです。

Maria

ハッとするのはじめの文章が生きています。心の動きと会話が進んでいく上で、絵が巧みに使われています。死を受け入れる難しさを、しつとりと上手に伝えてくれるストーリーです。

The Ghost Girl

読み終わると、「ゴーストガール」も普通に過ごしたかったのだと、まるで実話のような気にさせる話術があります。意外な展開に読者もおどろきつつ、ホッとする作品です。

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