

平成30年度
群馬県立女子大学
文学部英米文化学科
推薦入学試験問題

注意事項

1. 試験開始の合図があるまで、この問題冊子を開いてはいけません。
2. 印刷の不鮮明な箇所があれば手を挙げて監督者に申し出てください。
3. 解答は、解答用紙の所定の欄に書きなさい。
4. 試験終了後、問題冊子は持ち帰ってください。

次の文章を読んで、あなたが考えたことを 600 字程度の日本語で書きなさい。

When manga artist Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989) was a young boy, his mother read manga comic books to him. Back then, such parental activity was not as common as it is today. But more to the point, Tezuka's mother had a real talent for making every session truly enjoyable. She could "voice" different characters convincingly, with great skill and humor. Tezuka recalled in his autobiography how he was totally drawn into every story his mother told. He would be all ears, filled with excitement, anticipation, dread, or even be moved to tears. There is no question this experience developed his talent and enabled him to blossom into one of Japan's most famous manga artists.

A theory, which has become a subject of great interest, suggests that preschool* education can influence children all the way into adulthood. One of the foremost experts in this field is U.S. economist James Heckman, professor at the University of Chicago. In his book "Giving Kids a Fair Chance," Heckman writes about the results of a study in which young children from low-income households were chosen for free education. At age 40, these chosen children had higher levels of education and income and a lower percentage of being on welfare* than people of similar economic backgrounds who had not been chosen for this study.

Heckman regrets that even though Americans desire equal opportunities, they live in a society where the situation at birth heavily influences the fate of each individual. Not every child receives

intellectual stimulation from their parents. Therefore, Heckman argues, public early childhood education is needed to reduce this inequality.

To some extent, this is an issue for Japan, too. Wealthy parents can spend money on their children to help them develop special gifts. But if it is possible to reduce social difference with preschool education, what Heckman proposes is well worth considering.

Heckman explains that early childhood education should focus not only on academic performance, but also on emotional abilities such as endurance, carefulness and motivation. Come to think of it, he may well be proposing the present-day version of the old saying, “What is learned in the cradle* is carried to the grave.”

(Adapted from “Vox Populi: Rock the cradle with education to avoid later social disparity”, *The Asahi Shimbun*, 2017, June 14)

- 注 *preschool 就学前の
*on welfare 生活保護を受ける
*cradle 揺りかご