

Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Do you know of any famous animated movies?
2. Do you like comics or animation? Which comics or animation do you like?
3. Have you ever heard of any famous Japanese animators?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| a. likeable | d. creative |
| b. true life | e. not real; from a dream or imagination |
| c. huge | f. not in normal life; from the spirit world |

1. ___ Animation is not reality. The characters are not real people.
2. ___ Miyazaki is a very original animator. No one makes movies like he does.
3. ___ She is very charming, so everyone wants to talk to her.
4. ___ Totoro is so enormous. He's bigger than any animal I know.
5. ___ Some of Miyazaki's movies are about supernatural things, like ghosts.
6. ___ Miyazaki's movies often contain fantasy, like talking animals.

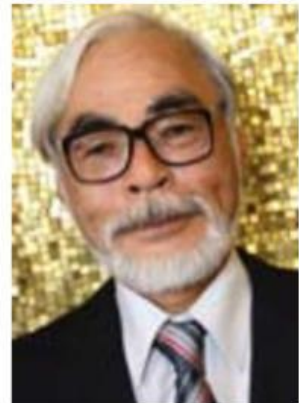
A Fantastic Mind



Hayao Miyazaki was born in Tokyo on January 5, 1941. As a boy, he liked to read and draw **cartoons**. After graduating from university in 1963, Miyazaki joined the Toei Animation Company. At Toei, he worked on many **animated** movies, like the famous *Puss in Boots*. In 1984, he made *Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind*, which was based on a comic book he wrote. Because this movie was so successful, Miyazaki was able to start his own animation company, Studio Ghibli.

One of Miyazaki's most loved movies is *My Neighbor Totoro*, made in 1987. It is a children's movie, but many adults like it, too. The movie is about two sisters who become friends with an enormous, supernatural animal named Totoro. It is a very warm-hearted story, with many **fantastic** characters such as Cat Bus, a cat that is also a bus. Miyazaki's 2001 movie, *Spirited Away*, was even more popular than *Totoro*. In fact, it made more money than any other movie in Japanese history.

All of Miyazaki's movies contain strange but charming people and **creatures**. Many of his stories happen in worlds that are different from ours. However, they still show his ideas about real life. He often points out how humans hurt the natural world. He thinks people should change how they live. Miyazaki's movies **combine** fantasy and reality in an original way. This may be why so many people like his movies.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds

239 words

² **cartoon**: a drawing that tells a story

⁴ **animate**: to make or design in such a way as to create lifelike movement

¹¹ **fantastic**: strange and interesting

¹⁶ **creature**: a living thing

²⁰ **combine**: to put together

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of this reading?
 - a. The movie *My Neighbor Totoro*
 - b. The education of Hayao Miyazaki
 - c. The most famous movie in Japan
 - d. The works of Hayao Miyazaki
2. How did the success of *Nausicaa* help Miyazaki?
 - a. He could start his own studio.
 - b. He could publish a comic book.
 - c. He could join Toei Animation.
 - d. He could work on more movies.
3. Cat Bus is a character in which movie?
 - a. *Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind*
 - b. *My Neighbor Totoro*
 - c. *Puss in Boots*
 - d. *Spirited Away*
4. Who likes *My Neighbor Totoro*?
 - a. Teenage girls
 - b. Children
 - c. Adults
 - d. All of the above
5. According to the reading, why are Miyazaki's movies so successful?
 - a. Children like them.
 - b. His movies are unique.
 - c. His movies have strange creatures.
 - d. He wants to protect the environment.

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **be based on** [to come from]
The book **is based on** her own life.
- **such as** [for example]
She doesn't like animals **such as** frogs, lizards, and snakes.
- **point out** [to show something clearly]
Please **point out** the new students for me.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. That movie _____ a famous folktale.
2. There are many beautiful cities in Europe, _____ Paris or Rome.
3. Do you think teachers should always _____ students' mistakes?

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

original
charming

supernatural
reality

animated

Hayao Miyazaki is very famous in Japan. He has made many successful 1 _____. movies. One of his most famous films is *My Neighbor Totoro*, which is about a friendly 2 _____ animal. Miyazaki's movies always have characters that are very unusual. However, they are also 3 _____ and warm-hearted. Many parts of his stories are not real, but other parts come from 4 _____. Miyazaki shows new ideas in each of his movies. They are successful because they are so 5 _____.



Listening

Not Just for Kids



Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

1. Which person is bored?
 - a. The man
 - b. The woman
 - c. Both of them
 - d. Neither of them
2. Why is the woman unsure about going to the movie?
 - a. Animation is just for kids.
 - b. Animation is boring.
 - c. The movie is too early.
 - d. She doesn't have a ride.
3. What will they do?
 - a. Wait to see the video
 - b. Buy tickets online
 - c. Choose another movie
 - d. Watch the movie together

Discuss the following questions.

1. Do you like to draw? Would you like to be an animator? Why or why not?
2. What is the best movie you have ever seen? Did it have animation?
3. What is a popular cartoon character in your country?

Grammar

Adjective Order

When you write more than one adjective, put them in the following order: quantity, opinion, size, age, shape, color, origin, material. When you use more than one adjective of the same type, put a comma or *and* in between.

The movie is about two sisters who become friends with an (enormous supernatural / enormous, supernatural) animal named Totoro.

It is a very warm-hearted story, with (fantastic many / many fantastic) characters such as Cat Bus.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

A Famous Character

(1) What is a popular cartoon character in your country? (2) What is he/she/it like? (3) What does he/she/it look like? (4) Why is this character popular?

Example

A popular cartoon character in France is Tintin. He is a very smart young boy. He looks friendly and normal. He is popular because he goes to different countries and has exciting adventures.

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. Oh no! The rain _____ my new bag.
a. hurt b. combined c. ruined d. stirred up
2. Many people think _____ food is very healthy.
a. enormous b. reality c. natural d. strange
3. He thought she was very _____, so he asked her to dance.
a. strange b. supernatural c. charming d. useful
4. I don't believe in _____ things like ghosts or spirits.
a. charming b. original c. hurt d. supernatural
5. Flying to the moon is her _____.
a. fantasy b. reality c. animation d. movie
6. He read _____ instead of studying for the test.
a. animation b. cartoons c. comic books d. nutrients
7. An elephant is a(n) _____ animal.
a. animated b. enormous c. traditional d. supernatural

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. That movie is very _____. I haven't seen anything like it before.
a. original b. originally c. origin
9. She likes _____ movies because the characters are colorful.
a. animate b. animator c. animated
10. _____ is not often shown in movies.
a. Reality b. Real c. Realistic