

Testimonial for Gay's tutoring Nobu and Takayo

It was a great fortune and joy for us to retain Gay as a tutor for Nobu and Takayo, for our entire stay in Perth right after our arrival in April 2005 until we returned to Japan at the end of August 2008.

Nobu took Gay's English lessons once or twice a week, while he attended Grade 7, 8 and half of Grade 9 classes at the International School of Western Australia (ISWA). He was an energetic boy full of curiosity but could not speak one English word at all at the beginning. Gay's approach was to start with teaching him sounds of words – speaking and hearing sounds of each word accurately. It was a formidable and time-consuming task, but if we get it right at the start, a rewarding outcome follows through. It turned out to be one of his great assets to carry on and we believe it will be his English foundation for the years to come. He now enjoys reading Harrier Potter series in English, and is able to follow a complicated text without fear. It is a quite contrast to normal Japanese students, who will definitely try to figure out a grammatical structure of the text firstly and may get lost in the context. It was amazing to see that Nobu came along such a long distance in three years. He honored “Excellence Award” in the ISWA for his Grade 8 and 9. It was a great achievement and we greatly attribute it to Gay's tireless and consistent efforts to tutor him.

Takayo was also an English student of Gay during the same period. Her requirement is not for academics but for practical conversation in daily life. In addition to the ability of hearing and speaking words correctly, Gay seemed to me to try setting practical situations – what if Takayo went shopping, what if she went to a library to loan books or how about speaking to other parents or teachers and etc. In some occasions, Gay took Takayo out to try real conversations in a shopping center or a restaurant and etc. It was greatly appreciated because it is always difficult to break the ice in conversation, particularly for foreigners who feel non-language barriers as well.

I should not forget that Gay was a good listener and consultant for us, and we owe much to her for professionalism and warm-hearted personality to respond to our needs in a responsible and reaching-out manner. No wonder if Gay may have known what happened in the Nobu's school more than we did. We wish more students could access to Gay's expertise and personality for their successes.