

What's "peace" for you?

Hello, everyone.

Have you ever asked yourself, "What does peace mean to me?"

Do you live happily everyday?

In April, an old woman who experienced the atomic bombing in Hiroshima came to our school to tell us about the day of the incident. I listened to her story and it made me feel very sad.

In May, I had the chance to visit Hiroshima before President Obama's visit. We visited the A-bomb Dome during our school field trip. As soon as I entered the war museum I was surprised by the saddest thing I've ever seen. Only one big bomb took the lives of many 14-year-old-junior high school students. I was shocked by the harshness of reality. I am happy that I can live with my family and see my friends and teachers in this peaceful society. I can go to school and study without being scared.

As I looked up at the A-bomb Dome while listening to birds singing, I thought about how, even though great damage occurred because of the bomb 71 years ago, now there are young people here talking and smiling. I can't help but feel shocked by how much the world has changed.

On the other hand, I'm relieved that I live in this peaceful country. And yet, this period may not remain peaceful for much longer. Even now, wars and terrorism are taking the lives of good people all over the world. To tell you the truth, right now we're living in an "inter-war period", which means we are between the end of the last war and the beginning of the next one. This means that war is not finished. Post-war has already become the past. If we let another war happen, there may be no future for us.

Some people say that Japan's experiences with war in the past have led us to peace in the present. But, peace does not just mean the absence of war. There are still people suffering from disease, discrimination, bullying, suicide, crime and many other terrible problems. I don't think that a world with unreasonable death and suffering is peaceful.

In the future, the development of technology will give A.I. or robots abilities greater than those of humans. Our lives will be more convenient. But we human beings will not be needed. What's worse, we may meet a fate such as those depicted in science fiction movies, with robots taking control over us. Is it really peaceful if humans can't live by their own will? Ultimately, peace has many different meanings.

We need to overcome some difficulties as a unified group and try to communicate with people all over the world. It is a lot of fun for 14-year-old boys and girls to talk to each other. If we can all be friends, it'll be a wonderful thing.

To maintain international peace and the safety of human beings, it is best to develop our intelligence and our understanding of the world. I hope you all wish that we will live together happily forever, and that you will think carefully about what peace means to you.