

G1 Reading & Speaking Practice Lesson #10

Story

The Life of Jimmy Santiago Baca

One of the **foremost contemporary** poets in the U.S., Jimmy Santiago Baca had to overcome many **hurdles** to **attain** his present position. Many others who faced such difficulties would have a lifetime of **misery**.

Baca was born of Native American and Mexican descent, and surprisingly only learned the power of words later in life.

At 2 years old he was abandoned by his parents who left him in the care of his grandparents. He grew up in a poor neighborhood in New York City. He was a street boy and a drug addict. He was in and out of juvenile detention centers. He was a homeless man. He was a poet. He was a writer. He was a teacher. He was a father. He was a man who had overcome all odds and found his way. He was a man who had found his voice. He was a man who had found his purpose. He was a man who had found his life. He was a man who had found his way. He was a man who had found his voice. He was a man who had found his purpose. He was a man who had found his life.

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read and write. By doing so he finally found his **calling** and was able to **turn his life around**. In the following years he earned some of the most **prestigious** U.S. literary awards. Baca is also an **activist** who travels the country teaching writing to **inmates** and **disadvantaged** youths and adults. In this way he helps people who are in the same position he once found himself. He has created a foundation named Cedar Tree that sponsors programs in cities that lack educational and cultural activities. Baca promotes literacy

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and literature as a means of personal and social transformation, using his own life as a demonstration of what can be achieved.

Vocabulary

foremost

contemporary

hurdle

misery

descent

be abandoned

be convicted of

calling

turn one's life around

prestigious

activist

disadvantaged

cedar tree

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lifetime of misery.

2. What was Jimmy Santiago Baca's early life like?

At the age of 2, he was abandoned by his parents and taken in by his grandmother. As a teenager, he lived on the streets.

3. When did he learn how to read and write?

He taught himself to read and write while serving his 6-year sentence for drug possession.

4. What does Baca do as well as being a writer?

He travels the country teaching writing to inmates and to disadvantaged youths.

5. What does the Cedar Tree foundation do?

It sponsors programs in cities where many residents have little access to education or cultural activities.

6. What is the most interesting thing about Jimmy Santiago Baca's life?

Even though he did not know how to read or write until his 20s, he still won some of the most prestigious literary

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8. Is there anything you would like to learn to do but just can't find time for?

I would like to learn to draw better. I am very jealous of people who can draw really well.

9. If you were going to write a story, what would you write about?

I would write a modern fantasy story where magic and monsters exist in a modern-day setting.

10. What lesson can we learn from this story?

If Jimmy Santiago Baca didn't learn to read or write until his 20s and still went on to become a prestigious writer then it may never be too late for someone to achieve their dreams.

※Google 翻訳を使用しています。参考までにご利用下さい。

話

ジミー・サンティアゴ・バカの生涯

米国を代表する現代詩人の一人であるジミー・サンティアゴ・バカは 現
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くべきことに、言葉の力を知ったのは後になってからでした。彼は2歳のときに両親に捨てられ、祖母のもとに残されました。しかし、10代の頃に逃亡し、21歳で麻薬所持で有罪判決を受けて刑務所に送られるまで路上生活を送った。6年間の刑期中にようやく独学で読み書きを覚えた。そうすることで、彼はついに自分の天職を見つけ、人生を好転させることができました。翌年、彼は米国で最も権威のある文学賞をいくつか受賞しました。バカは活動家でもあり、国中を旅して受刑者や恵まれない若者や大人に文章を教えている。このようにして、彼はかつて自分が見つけたのと同じ立場にある人々を助けています。彼は、教育や文化活動が不足している都市

のプログラムを後援する Cedar Tree という名前の財団を設立しました。バカは、自分自身の人生を達成できることのデモンストレーションとして、個人的および社会的変革の手段として読み書きと文学を推進しています。

単語

主要な	現代の	障害物
みじめさ	系	見捨てられる
有罪判決を受ける	天職	人生を好転させる
名声のある	行動主義者	恵まれない
杉の木		

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んでした。

2. ジミー・サンティアゴ・バカの幼少期はどのようなものでしたか?

2歳の時に両親に捨てられ、祖母に引き取られました。10代の頃、彼は路上で生活していた。

3. 彼はいつ読み書きを学びましたか?

彼は麻薬所持で6年の刑に服している間、独学で読み書きを学んだ。

4. Baca は作家以外に何をしていますか?

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彼は全国を旅して、受刑者や恵まれない若者たちに文章を教えています。

5. Cedar Tree 財団は何をしているのですか？

多くの住民が教育や文化活動にほとんどアクセスできない都市のプログラムを後援しています。

6. ジミー・サンティアゴ・バカの人生で最も興味深いことは何ですか？

彼は 20 代になるまで読み書きができなかったにもかかわらず、米国で最も権威ある文学賞のいくつかを受賞しました。

7. なぜ彼は Cedar Tree 財団を設立したのだと思いますか？

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です。

9. 物語を書くとしたら、何について書きますか？

現代を舞台に魔法やモンスターが存在する現代ファンタジーの物語を書きたいと思っています。

10. この話からどんな教訓が得られますか？

ジミー・サンティアゴ・バカが 20 代になるまで読み書きを学ばず、それでも一流の作家になったとしたら、誰かが夢を実現するのに遅すぎるということはないかもしれません。



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