

Preface: *Monty's Bridge to Tomorrow*

The present textbook entitled “Monty’s Bridge to Tomorrow” was created to commemorate Montgomery (“Monty”) Dickson, who perished in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011. After graduating from UAA in May 2009 with a B.A. in Japanese, Monty participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program and taught English in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, Japan. He taught English at the local elementary and middle schools as well as an adult English class. He cherished Japanese culture, and it was his dream to be a bridge over the Pacific Ocean to connect his homeland and Japan. On the morning of March 11, Monty translated words by an internationally known Japanese author, Ryotaro Shiba, into English, “There’s nothing as beautiful as dedicating one’s life for a cause.” He was 26 years old.

Beside Monty, there is one other JET English teacher who died in this natural disaster. Taylor Anderson, a graduate of Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, perished in the tsunami in Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture. A memorial project was established by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) for their alma maters. At UAA, as part of this memorial project, the Montgomery Dickson Center for Japanese Language & Culture was established in 2012. “Monty’s Bridge to Tomorrow” is one of the Center’s projects, and it has been realized by a generous grant by the CGP.

Aimed at Intermediate and Advanced level learners, this textbook has been written by a variety of contributing authors under the direction of the general editors, Eiko Ushida of the University of California, San Diego, and Hiroko Kataoka, California State University, Long Beach. This textbook is distributed online and free of charge in honor of Monty who was providing free English classes to local children. It is my sincere hope to reach as many teachers and students as possible world-wide through this textbook in order to fulfill Monty’s dream to become a bridge over the Pacific Ocean.

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