

KIMAGURE ORANGE ROAD DISC 2, EPISODES 5 – 8

Episode 5 – A Secret for Two – A Problematic Part-Time Job (05/04/87)

“Oniichan, we got a souvenir for you! Look!”

This souvenir from Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, is a wooden sculpture of a bear.

Episode 6 – That Kid’s My Rival – Midterm Exam of Love (05/11/87)

“...we'll only be tested on stuff up to Dazai Osamu's short story on pg. 28, right?”

“Dazai” refers to Dazai Osamu (1909-1948; real name “Tsushima Shuuji”), a novelist widely considered to be one of the most important post-WWII writers, but since it sounds like “dasai,” which is a colloquial phrase meaning “uncool” or “lame,” it works as a pun.

“Actually, I was near the bottom of the top third at my previous school!”

It is common to refer to class rank in terms of “jou” (upper third), “chuu” (middle) and “ge” (lower third), rather than any specific number.

“The square root of 3 is 1.7320508...”

Japanese students often rely on mnemonics to memorize terms such as these, which they are expected to know.

1.7320508 = hi(1)-to(.)-na(7)-mi(3)-ni(2)-o(0)-go(5)-re(0)-ya(8)

It so happens that the phrase “hitonaminogoreya” sounds like a sentence: “go treat people...” (as in drinks et).

“Use an ‘oar’ to ‘swiftly’ cross the river” - Relative pronouns.

“oar” in Japanese (“ooru”) and “all” are homonyms. Similarly “swiftly” (“zatto”) and “that.”

“The Lord of Soga Clan cries like a baby; 'tis 645 AD - The Taika Reforms.”

645 AD was the year the Taika Reforms were introduced. Here the mnemonic is based on “(naki)mushi-gou(kyuu),” where: “mu” is another reading for “6,” “shi” for “4,” and “gou” for “5,” hence “to cry loud, as in like a baby.”

“Oh! Is that from Mr. Fried Chicken?”

A made-up fried chicken joint, obviously based on Kentucky Fried Chicken. Japanese KFC joints actually do have statues of the Colonel at the entrance.

“Exams should be taken without using special powers. That's been the rule in the Kasuga Family for generations.”

Actually, since Mr. Kasuga does not have any special Powers, he is actually referring to his wife's side of the family. It is not uncommon to refer to the wife's side as one's own, as he does here.

“Concentration...” and “concentric plug”

“Consento” is the Japanese word for a wall socket.

“ABCB”

This ordinary, very typical “kissaten,” or a “coffee shop,” is located on a street named “Orange Road.” “ABCB” is pronounced “Abakabu” or “Abacab,” based on title of the album “Abacab” by Genesis.

Episode 7 – Madoka’s Private Life?! A Spark-Colored Kiss. (05/18/04)

“All rise! Bow!”

Classes usually begin or end with this greeting. “Kiritsu” means “All rise,” “Rei” means “Bow.” They are followed by “Chakuseki,” which means “to be seated,” if the class is to begin, or “Kaisan” if the class is over.

“Drinking alcohol isn’t that great of a thing, it seems.”

The legal drinking age in Japan is 20.

Episode 8 – You’re Smiling! A “Shutter-Chance” at the Beach. (05/25/87)

“Yeah! ‘Fickle-Minded Angel Humming Amidst the Flowers!’”

This is a reference to a girls’ comic character who was always surrounded by flowers, singing and humming.

“‘Sacrifice for what is important,’ as the saying goes. ”

The actual phrase is “Se ni hara wa kaerarenu,” literally “the stomach can’t replace the back.” It is a saying that comes from a popular card game from the Edo period. Figuratively, the phrase means that sometimes one has to sacrifice something in order to deal with what is urgent.

“Her expressions. They change as fast as the eyes of a cat!”

“Neko no me no yoo” (“like the eyes of a cat”) is a figurative phrase which means that something can change and adapt to any given situation. The saying comes from the fact that it is easy to see how a cat’s eyes instantaneously react to the amount of light that is available.