

Falling Flowers (ちりゆく花)(2)

- 1) “Hhm, so you’re saying you got given the bad role, and that daughter of the boatman, Yōko, got the good role? That teacher is playing favorites. I will soon go and have a word with the principal about this!” (says Masaе’s father).
- 2) “I’m the head of the PTA committee, therefore I have the right!” (says Masaе’s father insistently). After this Masaе’s father, Mr. Daikichi Furukawa, arrives at the school principal’s house. (He says to the school principal)...
- 3) ... “Mr. Principal, I have heard all sorts of things from Masaе. If you make her perform an unpleasant roll in the school art festival play, I will put an end to the performance.” The principal, flabbergasted, can only respond with a “Yes... yes...”
- 4) The next day the principal calls Ms. Tanaka into his office. “Ms. Tanaka, I am in trouble... (blah, blah). Anyhow, as Mr. Furukawa is a big donator...” (says the principal). However, Ms. Tanaka...
- 5) ...responds, “I must politely refuse. I have already told the students about the performance, and divided up the roles. If I tell them otherwise, they will be disheartened.” “Hhmm,” (responds the principal worriedly).
- 6) “I wonder if there is some kind of good means out there. Anyhow, Furukawa being my boss, and rich - if I make him angry, something bad is bound to come of it. Wait, a good idea has just come to me!” (exclaims the principal)...
- 7) ...soon after, the principal arrives at Yōko’s father, Seikichi’s workplace, “Err... Mr. Principal, is there anything I can do for you?” (asks Seikichi). “Hhm... well... there is a request I am hoping you can help me with...” (replies the principal).

- 8) “The fact is, this and that happened - could you please, maybe, talk to your daughter and ask her if she would refrain from taking the role?” (asks the principal). “Ah, I see. Mr. Furukawa is a big cheese - there’s nothing we can do about it.” (replies Yōko’s father in agreement). Thinking of Yōko, it didn’t feel right.
- 9) After finishing work for the day, Seikichi heads home. “But, I don’t want her to feel badly over something like a role in the art festival play...” “Well, anyhow, let me see what Yōko says,” (says her worried father to himself).
- 10) “Yōko, I have something to request,” (says her father). “What is it father?” (asks Yōko). “Uhm, please don’t take part in the school art festival play.” (says her father dejectedly). “Huh, but why?” (replies a puzzled Yōko). “Well, there’s no reason I can really give you. It’s just...” (says her father). Finding himself in a tight spot, Seikichi cannot tell Yōko the real reason...

Well...