

12th Japanese Film Festival Hula Girls Task sheet

I. 考えましょう！Let's think : Before watching the film

1. The title of this film is 「フラガール Hula girls」. What story can you imagine from this title and the poster below? Share your story with your classmates.



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2. Read this introduction to the film. How does it compare with your stories?

Based on a True Story

In 1965, the Joban coal mine, the largest mine in mainland Japan, faces a crisis; massive layoffs are imminent and its once-thriving mainstay industry is barely hanging on by a thread. In a desperate move to revive the town, a plan is developed to create a “Hawaiian Paradise” in this cold, northern region. The featured attraction is to be a hula show, but of course in this isolated place far north of the equator and Hawaii, there are no palm trees... nor are there hula dancers.

3. What do you know about hula dancing? Please discuss this with your classmates.
4. Imagine the life of a mining town in Japan in the 60s.

II. 見てみましょう！Look out for these! : Before watching the film

Here are some specific items to focus on while watching the film. You can discuss them with your classmates after viewing.

1. The slogan of this mining company is written in Kanji on the wall of the office. It is 「－()－()」. Can you recognize the Kanji in the blanks? Where do you see them?
2. Can you see the katakana words for 「ハワイ」(Hawaii) and 「フラ」(Hula)? Where do you see them?
3. There are many English origin Katakana words in this film. Which ones can you pick up?
4. How do people address each other in this film? Focus on the words they put after their names, for example 「～さん」.
5. What kinds of greeting words can you pick up in this film?
6. There are a number of expressions used for “Thank you” in this film. Which ones can you pick up?
7. When the hula teacher teaches the hula dance, which instruction words does she use? (for example ‘Stand up!’ , ‘Move!’).
8. How does the teacher count the rhythm in Japanese?
9. The teacher says the movements of the hula are like a sign language and she shows some examples. What are they in Japanese?
10. How do you say ‘I love you’ in Japanese?
11. The language of the Iwaki area is different from standard Japanese. Can you notice some difference?
12. There are examples of traditional Japanese lifestyle and housing in this film. Which ones can you pick up?

Senior Secondary

III. 読みましょう／書きましょう Let' s read and write : After watching the film

1. Read the descriptions of the two main characters and fill in the blanks with the words from box below. Words may be used more than once.



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みなこさんです。みなこさんは () です。かぞくはおかあさんと () がいます。おとうさんはいません。ともだちといっしょにフラガールになりましたが、おかあさんがはんたい(disagree)したので、いえを ()。みなこさんはすこし気が () です。ひらやま先生ともよくけんかをしました。

たくさんれんしゅうしたので、みなこさんは、フラガールズのリーダーになりました。いちばん右のしゃしんをみてください。()ぼうしを ()。きれいですね。



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ひらやま先生です。とうきょうから ()。おさけが () です。気が () です。いつもおしゃれな服を ()。

ひらやま先生は、はじめはこの町が () でした。町の人もひらやま先生が () でした。ひらやま先生はいなかの人を山猿(mountain monkeys)だ、とおもっていました。町の人はどうきょうからきたひらやま先生を気取っている (stuck up) とおもっていました。

でも、だんだん気持ちが ()。フラガールズたちも先生がすきになりました。

かぶっています きています つよい しろい こうこうせい おにいさん

すき きれい かわりました でした きました

IV. 感想 Your impressions : After watching the film

2. Social changes in the 60s is a background theme of this movie. What occurred in the following areas?
 - ① Industry
 - ② Lifestyle of people in mining towns
 - ③ Women' s lifestyle and social roles

3. The difference between city (Tokyo) and country (Iwaki) and what the two social groups think of each other is also a theme of this film. What were the differences, and do you think they still exist in today' s Japan and Australia?

4. Suppose you are a film critic of The Australian newspaper. How would you review this film? These are examples of movie reviews. Write your own review in Japanese or English.

“Loaded with underdog heroics and bursting with youthful enthusiasm...a gallery of well drawn characters and keen observations of small-town life make the time pass pleasantly” *Variety* (Richard Kuipers)

「すばらしいえいがです。しゃかいのへんか (social changes) は、ひとのじんせい (life) をかえますが、ひとのじんせいも、しゃかいをかえるかもしれません。ダンスシーンもきれいでした。」 *JFおむすび* (松本こうじ)

<http://www.rialtoentertainment.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=front.viewFilm&filmid=1752C1C4-0E6D-4ABA-B87F9914D953065B&zone=nz>

<http://www.hulagirls-movie.com/>