5. The Beatles

In 1956, John and his friends formed their first band, the Quarry Men. Julia was their biggest fan. She didn't act like a mother to John. She was a friend who never told him what to do, and she didn't try to change the way he acted.

Julia Lennon was different from the other adults John knew. In those days, most women did not wear trousers. Julia did. She dressed and talked without worrying about what other people thought. John, the young rebel, saw himself as his mother's son. He also dressed, talked, and acted the way he wanted to. So his mother's death was a cruel blow to 17-year-old John.

After his mother died, John went into a shell. He didn't talk much about her. But there was one friend, a member of the Quarry Men, who understood John's pain and loss. He was Paul McCartney. Paul's mother had died two years earlier. Lennon and McCartney had two strong bonds --- their music and their grief. In time, the grief passed. But their music continued to grow. And ten years after her death, John and Paul would write a song together, "Julia," in memory of John's mother.

Aunt Mimi wanted John to pay more attention to school and less attention to his music. She hoped he would work hard at Quarry Bank Grammar School and go on to a university. "The guitar is all very well, John," she said. "But you'll never make a living out of it."

John didn't want to give up music. He asked Mimi to let him work at it a bit longer --- "to get it out of my system." Mimi agreed. She still hoped John would see that there wasn't much future in playing a guitar.

Music was too important for John to give up. He stayed with it, and his schoolwork did not improve. There was no chance that any university would accept him. Still, his grades were good enough to get him into the Liverpool College of Art in 1957. John's talent as an artist was clear to his teachers and classmates. But music was taking over his life.

John Lennon and Paul McCartney practiced together for hours and hours. They also began composing songs together. The Quarry Men played at local dances, youth clubs, and any place else they could find an audience. The band was made up of three guitar players and one drummer. Early in 1958, a new guitar player joined John and Paul as a regular. His name was George Harrison.

The teen-agers played together for two years. In that time, they got better and better. And the group's name changed a number of times. "The Quarry Men," "Johnny and the Moondogs," "the Rainbows," and "the Silver Beatles" were some of the names used.

Where did the name "Beatles" come from? A band member jokingly suggested they call themselves "Beetles." It was a kind of tribute to American rock star Buddy Holly's band, the Crickets. Someone else suggested using a famous pirate's name from Treasure Island, Long John Silver. The two were combined into "Long John and the Silver Beatles." But John Lennon didn't want to be called "Long John," so that part was dropped. "The Silver Beatles," however, stuck. And after a while, it was shortened to just "the Beatles."

In 1960, the band played their first professional job as the Beatles. The band was now John, Paul, George, bass player Stu Sutcliffe, and drummer Pete Best. Stu Sutcliffe, an art school friend of John's, left the group in 1961 to paint. A year after that, Pete Best was replaced by Ringo Starr. John, Paul, George, and Ringo were the four who went on to fame and fortune as the Beatles.

At first, the Beatles played in small nightclubs and at local dances. But soon they were hired to play in other British cities. They even played in Hamburg, West Germany. As they got better and better, the Beatles earned more money and worked at larger clubs. They played less and less music written by other rock composers. More and more, they were playing songs written by themselves, especially by Lennon and McCartney.

The 1960s have been called the "Decade of the Beatles." Their songs were played all over the world. Hits such as "Yellow Submarine," "Yesterday," "All You Need Is Love," and dozens of others are still played. Their movies --- A Hard Day's Night, Help! and Yellow Submarin --- were seen by millions of eager fans. John, Paul, George, and Ringo became very rich.

By the late 1960s, the Beatles started to drift apart. In 1969, the year of their largest album sales, they almost broke up. And in 1970, they did. Each of them wanted to do different things with his life. John and his wife, Yoko Ono, recorded albums of their own music. John also wrote books, which had his own drawings. And he began painting again. For a while, he dropped out of music entirely, giving his time completely to Yoko and their son, Sean.

In 1980, the Lennons started to record a new album. It was never completed. Late on the night of December 8, 1980, John Lennon was killed in front of his New York City home. A few hours later, people started to gather across from the Lennons' home. Many held candles in their hands, the small flames flickering in the cold night air. Well into the morning, they stood and softly sang John's songs. And that same day, millions of others mourned his death around the world.

John Lennon is gone. But the music he made is not. It is still popular, still being recorded, still finding new listeners. As John's widow, Yoko, said, "His spirit is in the world forever."

５　EXERCISES A (内容理解)

１　( )に適切な日本語を入れ、本文のあらすじを完成させなさい．

　1956年、ジョンは最初のバンド(ア　　　　　　　)を結成した．ジュリアは彼の最大のファンであり、母というよりはむしろ(イ　　　　　　　)のような存在だった．ジュリアは当時の女性にはめずらしく(ウ　　　　　　　　)など自由に生き、それがジョンと共鳴し合っていたので、彼女の死は大きな心の痛手だった．しかし同じく母を失っていた(エ　　　　　　　　）と強いきずなで結ばれ、２人で音楽の練習に明け暮れた．(オ　　　　　　)の反対を押し切って(カ　　　　　　　)入学後もバンド活動を続けた．バンド名をいろいろ変え、メンバー交代もして1960年にビートルズの名で(キ　　　)人で演奏活動を始め(ク　　　　　　)年にジョン、(エ)、ジョージ・ハリソン、(ケ　　　　　　　)の４人で成功への道を歩み出した．ビートルズの歌の特色はその大部分が(コ　　　　　　)の共作のオリジナル曲であることで、(サ　　　　　　　)と呼ばれる1960年代に数々のヒット曲を生み出した．

　世界中に多数のファンを持つようになったビートルズもやがて各自が自分の生き方をめざすようになり、(シ　　　　　)年に解散した．ジョンは(ス　　　　　　　)といっしょにアルバムを出したり、本を書いたり絵を描いたりし、一時は音楽活動をやめ、(セ　　　　　　　　　)に専念した．1980年12月8日夜、彼は(ソ　　　　　　　　)で殺害された．世界中のファンが嘆き悲しんだが、彼の音楽は今でも生き続けている．

２　本文の内容に合うものにはT、合わないものにはFを書きなさい．

(1) John never felt lonely after his mother's death because he had many friends to play music with. ( )

(2) John didn't do well at school, and so he couldn't go on to any university. ( )

(3) Ringo Starr was the last to join the Beatles. ( )

(4) Millions of fans enjoyed the movies of the Beatles as well as their songs. ( )

５　EXERCISES B (文法・語い)

１　( )内の語句のうち正しいほうを選びなさい．

(1) I met a friend of (ア．Tom イ．Tom's) on my way back home.

(2) She stood on the deck, her hair (ア．streaming イ．streamed) in the wind.

(3) It is getting (ア．dark and dark イ．darker and darker).

２　次の各組の文がほぼ同じ意味になるように、( )に１語入れなさい．

(1) The coffee was so hot that I couldn't drink it.

The coffee was ( ) hot for me to drink.

(2) This English book is so easy that I can read it.

This English book is easy ( ) for me to read.

(3) I don't know which way I should take.

I don't know which way ( ) take.

(4) They said, "Let's sing together."

They ( ) that they sing together.

(5) There is every chance of his being the winner.

There is every chance ( ) he will be the winner.

３　日本語の意味に合うように、( )内の語を正しく並べかえなさい．

(1) たとえばバラやヒマワリのような花が庭にあります．

　　Flowers (as / roses / sunflowers / and / such) are in the garden.

(2) 彼はだれにも言わずに町を去った．

　　He (the / town / anyone / without / telling / left).

４　(　　)内の指示にしたがって派生語を書きなさい．

(1) short(動詞形) (2) die(名詞形)

(3) young(名詞形) (4) profession(形容詞形)

(5) fame(形容詞形) (6) art(人を表す名詞形)