

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter March, 2018

The Importance of *Black Panther*

On March 1st, *Black Panther* was released in movie theaters in Japan, though it came out in other countries in February. Many people in Japan may have seen that there are a lot of people talking about this movie on the Internet, particularly in America. So what makes a superhero movie so important to so many people?



Black Panther was created in 1966 for the *Fantastic Four* comic book by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, and was the first black superhero. In the years since his creation, Black Panther has been unique among black characters in superhero comics. He's portrayed as one of the smartest men on the planet and is the ruler of a small African nation, which possesses the most advanced technology on Earth.

In the movies, Black Panther first appeared in 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*, played by Chadwick Boseman (who previously starred as Jackie Robinson in *42*). Boseman returns in *Black Panther*, which has become one of the top ten highest-grossing movies in history.

Black Panther isn't the first black superhero movie, but it is the first to feature a predominantly black cast. As the movie is mostly set in Africa, all the major characters are portrayed by black actors and actresses. Of the main cast, there are only two white actors—Martin Freeman and Andy Serkis—and they're both supporting characters.

The reason why this is important is because there's long-been a belief in Hollywood that a movie can't be successful unless the main character is a white man. But many recent films are now proving this logic wrong, such as the horror film *Get Out*, the comedy *Girls Trip*, and even the new *Star Wars* films. Now *Black Panther* can be added to the list.

But there's something even more important behind *Black Panther*. When I was a boy growing up in Chicago, my two favorite movies were *Superman* starring Christopher Reeve and *Batman* starring Michael Keaton. I had no shortage of superheroes who looked like me. In the stories I read or watched, there was no limit to what a white man could accomplish. We could run corporations, we could command starships, we could change the entire world.

But black children had no such role models. Even when I was growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, black characters in fiction were usually sidekicks or comedy relief. In horror movies, they were always the first characters to die. Black heroes were often trapped in poverty or were criminals or ex-cons. Africa is often depicted in movies as a post-apocalyptic wasteland, ravaged by war and strife. Here in Japan, the terrible practice of "blackface" (where non-black people paint their face to look black) is still far too common on TV.

Black Panther flips all those expectations on their head. It shows a vision of Africa untouched by colonialism, it gives us a black man as a genius and a noble hero, it shows black women who are capable of being engineers and warriors. That's important for black boys and girls, because it tells them that there's no limit to what they can accomplish.

Hopefully, the success of movies like *Black Panther* and *Wonder Woman* will lead to even more representation of women and minorities in movies.

Article by Perry

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here is a review of *Black Panther* with a trailer:
<http://time.com/5133882/black-panther-review/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: I think it is fair to say, you cannot progress if you are afraid of change. And those who are able to embrace change will progress rapidly. This holds true whatever the endeavor, but especially when it comes to learning a second language. It is by the nature of your new language that you will start to see the world differently. The question, then is, whether or not one wants to “see different.”

Junko Says: We’re going to run a special 2-month TOEIC course of 16 X 90-minute lessons. We have been successfully teaching this program outside of Crossroads for a few years already. You can learn overall test strategies and special strategies for listening and reading. We will also guide you on how to prepare for the TOEIC at home. If you’d like to take this course, please ask for details at the reception.



Perry Says: As most of you have probably heard, this is my last month at Crossroads. Next month, I will begin teaching at Kagoshima University, so I’ll be leaving Matsuyama at the end of March. While I’m excited to take this next step in my career, I’ve also really enjoyed getting to know all of you and will miss you. Good luck with your English studies!

Darrin Says: March would have to be my favourite month in Japan. The days have become comfortable with the knowledge that the last of the really cold weather is behind us and the parks are starting to become colourful with plum blossom. While I do suffer from allergies that react to the pollen from the Japanese red cedar pine, I love how much more cheerful people seem to be in March. How about you? What is your favourite month of the year?



Mandcy dit: Pierre de Ronsard disait que l’ “amour et les fleurs ne durent qu’un printemps”. Durant la plus jolie saison de l’année, on attends avec beaucoup d’impatience de contempler la floraison des cerisiers et d’assister à une tempête de neige de fleurs. Une occasion très agréable pour pique-niquer avec les gens que l’on aime et boire du saké avec modération..... ou pas.

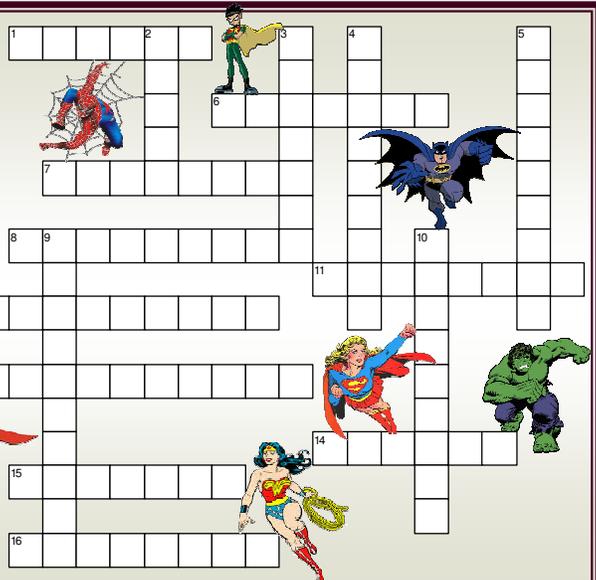
ACROSS

- 1 bitter conflict
- 6 a state of having on money
- 7 earning before tax
- 8 an uninhabitable wilderness
- 11 represented graphically
- 12 specifically or especially
- 13 much greater in number or influence
- 14 former prisoner (hyphenated)
- 15 based on imagination
- 16 an amount that is less

DOWN

- 2 turns or tosses over with a sharp movement
- 3 violated or destroyed by force
- 4 represented or described
- 5 not effected or influenced by
- 9 to gain through effort
- 10 assistants or companions

Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))

Study for the TOEIC - A Special Course

We are going to have a special course at Crossroads for people who want to master the TOEIC. It will be a two-month course with two 90-minute lesson every week

or

a four-month course of one 90-minute lesson each week.



Questionnaire

* Our course is designed to teach useful techniques for dealing confidently with all seven parts of the test.

* We have already been teaching this course for over 6 years to our business clients with great success.

* It is designed for those who want an impressive TOEIC score for career advancement.

* We will start each course as soon as we fill each group - 4-6 students per group.

* Ask at the office for the details.....

and.....

let your friends know about this, too!



We want to know your thoughts about the lessons at Crossroads. Knowing how you feel about studying with us is very important to us.

- * Do you think you are improving?
- * Do you have any requests?
- * Can you understand your teacher?
- * Is there something you'd like him to change?

Soon your teacher will hand out one of these questionnaires in class, If you miss the handout, please pick one up in the office.

We are looking forward to reading your opinions, so please don't be shy!!!



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 1 not divided or shared with others
- 4 the game of football
- 8 doubt
- 11 useful equipment, mechanism or gadget
- 13 highly attractive
- 15 most cars have this
- 16 creative thought or action

DOWN

- 2 acknowledged and praised for achieving something
- 3 a distinctive period of time
- 5 distinguished from others
- 6 not arrogant
- 7 someone who opens a new line of research
- 9 documents granting sole rights
- 10 something given or shown as a mark of respect
- 12 preventing air to enter
- 14 a machine for transporting people and goods



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.