



次の文章を読んで、あとの各問に答えよ。

Fred became a member of a baseball team for little boys when he was seven. He practiced on a \*field near a river. He enjoyed baseball with his \*teammates.

When he became a junior high school student, he joined the baseball club. One summer day the \*manager said to him, “Fred, \*pitch to me.” Fred did that. The manager said, “Nice pitching! You’ll be a good pitcher.” Fred was very glad. He became a pitcher.

It was fun for him to pitch in games. When he pitched, his team won. But things were getting bad. He began to think the team was winning \*only because of him. He \*lost his temper when his teammates \*made errors. He always tried to get \*strikeouts, but often \*failed. His teammates didn’t feel good. The team began to lose games. The manager said, “Remember, Fred. You’re not just a pitcher. You’re one of the team.” The manager stopped using him.

One day Fred was sitting by the river and \*was deep in thought. Then he heard a \*voice. Someone was singing. He looked around. A girl was playing the guitar and singing. He spoke to her, “Hi, I’m Fred. That was a nice song.” She said, “Thank you. I’m Jane. I wrote it. What are you doing here?” He said, “I loved baseball. But now it’s not fun.” He told her his story about baseball. She said, “Listen, Fred. I love singing. I write songs and visit a hospital to sing for people. They \*look forward to my visits. When I’m with them, they look happy. I’m happy, too.” He felt something warm in his heart. He wanted to be like her and told that to her. She said, “I think you can. Look, those little boys are playing baseball on the field over there. How about teaching them? They’ll be glad.” He said, “Will they? OK, I will.”

He walked to the field and asked a little boy, “Can I join you?” The boy smiled and answered, “Sure!” Fred taught the boys how to throw, catch, and hit balls. Each boy was enjoying baseball. He thought, “They’re \*sharing a good time. I was like them when I was little.” In the evening, a boy smiled and said to him, “We had a very good time today. Please come to teach us again.” He looked around. Everyone was smiling. He said to the boys, “I had a very good time, too. See you.” Then he left the field.

That night Fred remembered Jane’s words and thought, “Doing favorite things can make people happy.” And then he thought about the boys. He thought, “They shared a very good time together through baseball. Now I understand what the manager meant.”

The next day he said to his teammates, “I’m so sorry. I was \*selfish. I want to enjoy baseball with you. I’ll try my best to pitch well.” The manager smiled and listened. After that Fred practiced very hard with his teammates. They began to \*accept him.

The manager gave Fred a chance to pitch in a game again. The little boys came to watch him. He tried his best for everyone. He pitched through the game and his team won. Everyone was glad and came to him. He was really happy. He felt that sharing a good time with people around him was wonderful. He looked up at the blue sky. Just then there was a girl’s voice, “Nice pitching!” He looked back and saw Jane. She was smiling.

〔注〕 field 野球場 teammate チームメイト manager 監督 pitch 投球する only because of ~ ~だけで lost his temper 腹を立てた make errors エラーをする strikeout 三振 fail 失敗する be deep in thought 物思いにふける voice 声 look forward to ~ ~を楽しみに待つ share 共

有する selfish 自分勝手な accept 受け入れる

(1) But things were getting bad. とあるが、この内容を、次のように書き表すとすれば、[ ]の中に、下のどれを入れるのがよいか。

[ ], and then the manager stopped using him.

- ア Fred became selfish, the team began to lose games
- イ Fred's teammates became selfish, he didn't feel good
- ウ Fred pitched well, his teammates didn't make any errors
- エ Fred's teammates felt the team was winning only because of him

(2) 次のア～エの文を、本文の内容の流れにそって並べ、順に記号を書け。

- ア Fred said sorry to his teammates.
- イ Fred told Jane his story about baseball.
- ウ Fred wanted to be like Jane and told that to her.
- エ Fred joined the little boys and taught them how to play baseball.

(3) 次の文を、本文の内容と合うように完成するには、[ ]の中に、それぞれ下のどれを入れるのがよいか。

① One summer day [ ], and that made Fred very glad.

- ア Fred's teammates asked him to be a pitcher
- イ the manager told Fred to join the baseball club
- ウ the manager said that Fred would be a good pitcher
- エ Fred's teammates asked the manager to pitch in front of them

② Fred said to his teammates that he would [ ].

- ア leave the field alone
- イ try his best to pitch well
- ウ make people in the hospital happy
- エ practice hard to stop making errors

③ When Fred pitched in a game and won again, he [ ].

- ア found he was just a pitcher in the baseball club
- イ began to know why his teammates didn't accept him
- ウ understood why the manager didn't use him as a pitcher
- エ felt that sharing a good time with people around him was wonderful

(4) 次の質問に英語で答えよ。

① Where did Fred meet Jane for the first time ?

② What did Fred think when he remembered Jane's words that night ?