

2011島根大・2005弘前大・2001成蹊大

次の文章を読み、設問に答えなさい。[50点]

429 words

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04

I was driving to a business appointment and, as usual, I was planning in my mind what I was going to say. I came to a very busy intersection where the traffic light had just turned red. "All right," I thought to myself, "I can beat the next light if I race ahead of everyone else."

5 My mind and car were ready to go when suddenly my mental condition was broken by (1) an unforgettable sight. A young couple, both blind, were walking arm-in-arm across this busy intersection with cars moving quickly in every direction. The man was holding the hand of a little boy, while the woman was carrying a baby. Each of them had a long white stick extended, searching for clues to navigate them across the intersection.

10 Initially, (2) I was moved. They were overcoming what I felt was one of the most feared handicaps — blindness. "Wouldn't it be terrible to be blind?" I thought. My thought was quickly interrupted by (3) horror when I saw that the couple were not walking in the crosswalk, but were instead moving directly toward the middle of the intersection. Without realizing the danger they were in, they were walking right into the path of
15 approaching cars. I was frightened for them because I didn't know if the other drivers understood what was happening.

As I watched from the front line of traffic, I saw (4) a miracle unfold before my eyes. *Every car in every direction* came to a simultaneous stop. I never heard the screech of brakes or even the beep of a car horn. Nobody even yelled, "Get out of the way!"
20 Everything froze. In that moment, time seemed to stand still for this family.

Amazed, I looked at the cars around me to confirm that we were all seeing the same thing. I noticed that everybody's attention was also fixed on the couple. Suddenly the driver to my right reacted. Putting his head out of his car, he yelled, "To your right. To your right!" Other people followed all together, shouting, "To your right!"

25 The couple adjusted their course very calmly as they followed their instructions. Trusting their white sticks and the calls from some concerned citizens, they (5) made it to the other side of the road. As they arrived there, (6) one thing struck me — they were still arm-in-arm.

I was surprised by the emotionless expressions on their faces and judged that they had
30 no idea what was really going on around them. Yet I immediately sensed the sighs of relief given by everyone stopped at that intersection.

1 下線部(1)の具体的な内容を、本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。

[8点]

2 下線部(2)で筆者が感動した理由を、本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。

[5点]

3 下線部(3)で筆者が恐怖を感じた理由を、本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。

[7点]

4 下線部(4)の具体的な内容を、本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。

[8点]

5 下線部(5)の意味を、(a)~(d)から1つ選びなさい。*

[3点]

(a) 投げた (b) 飛び込んだ (c) 到達した (d) 完成した

6 下線部(6)の具体的な内容を、本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。

[4点]

7 本文の内容と一致するものには○を、一致しないものには×をつけなさい。*

[3点×5=15点]

- (a) The author felt that blind people should not be walking on busy roads with children.
- (b) The couple asked considerate drivers to get out of the way.
- (c) Every driver started shouting at the couple to move out of the crossroad.
- (d) The couple were guided to the other side of the road only by the sounds of their white canes hitting the road.
- (e) The couple were helped by the words of many drivers giving them directions.