

【Recommended Books 2019】

Hello, I'm OMORI Masao, Mayor of Okayama.

This is becoming an annual thing at the year end, and I would like to introduce the most impressive books I read in 2019.

In the history genre, I recommend “Sekigahara Renbanjo”, “Tohaku”, “Chi no Nihon shi” by ABE Ryutaro, “Nobo no Shiro” by WADA Ryo, and “Nihon o tsukutta 12 nin” by SAKAIYA Taichi.

Especially, 1300 years of Japanese history is condensed in 46 short stories in “Chi no Nihon shi”. I read this book while on a flight to Bulgaria in last November. Although I know the historical facts of each story, I was impressed with the imagination (creativity) of the author that he fleshes out his original stories to every frame of the history.

In the genre of current affairs and society, I read or reread “Han wa rekishi ni ari”, “Shukumei ni iki unmei ni idomu” and “Sori no kiryou” by HASHIMOTO Goro, “Nihonjin no hokori” by FUJIWARA Masahiko, “Nihonjin toshite koredakewa shitte okitaikoto”, “Nihonjin ga shiranai sekai to Nihon no mikata”, “Nihonjin no kokoro to katachi” by NAKANISHI Terumasa, and “Sekaichizu o yominaosu” by KITAOKA Shinichi.

I had an opportunity to have a talk with Mr. HASHIMOTO Goro for about 20 minutes when he gave a lecture in Okayama the other day. I think I learned the attitude toward the elderly from him. We need to respect them who had made the base of Japanese society and it is very important to support their dignity.

In more relaxing genre, I recommend “Yube no kare, ashita no pan” by KIZARA Izumi, “Kino ga nakereba ashita mo nai” by MIYABE Miyuki, “Penguin wa sora o miageru” by YAENO Toma, “Kimi wa iiko” by NAKAWAKI Hatsue, and “Mitsubachi to enrai” by ONDA Riku.

I also recommend “Shoryu no tsubasa” by TAKAOKA Megumi and

“Nozokikomu to...” by NAKAGAWA Yuki from the prize winning books of the 35th “Children’s Book Award of the Citizens”.

Since I have become a Mayor, I have had opportunities to introduce children’s literature in relation to “Okayama City Literature Award” commemorating TSUBOTA Joji, a children’s book author and an honorary citizen of Okayama. Therefore, I started liking to read “more relaxing” books.

On the essay, “Incho no hitorigoto” (Volume 1) written by DOI Akihiro, hospital director at Okayama Kyokuto Hospital, I feel his personality is very well expressed on the writing. Unfortunately, I haven’t had a chance to read Volume 2 and 3 that I was given.

Books that my friend recommended me to read are “Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon’s Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart” by James Doty and “Giving Kids a Fair Chance” by James J. Heckman. This is a genre that I don’t usually choose to read so it accentuated the regular habit of my reading.

If you are interested in any of the books I introduced, please have a look at them at bookstore.

I wish you a new year and please take care of yourself in this cold weather.