

## **Recitation Script**

### **1. Umeko Tsuda**

#### **A Pioneer of Women's Education**

In 1871, a six-year-old girl left Japan for the United States. Her name was Umeko Tsuda. She was one of the first Japanese women ever sent abroad to study. She lived with an American family, studied English, science, and Western culture, and quickly became fluent in English.

During her years in the U.S., she learned the importance of education and how it gave people freedom and power. She saw that girls and boys were treated equally at school. This was very different from what she had known in Japan.

When Umeko returned to Japan ten years later, she was shocked. Most girls were not allowed to attend school. They were expected to marry young, take care of their families, and stay at home. Education for girls was not seen as important. Umeko believed this was unfair and that it needed to change.

She once said, "Women must cultivate their minds just as men do, to become independent individuals." She believed that education was not only for men. It was for everyone, regardless of gender. She wanted women to have the same chances in life as men.

In 1900, Umeko founded Tsuda College, one of the first higher education institutions for women in Japan. She created a place where young women could study, grow, and prepare to lead. She believed women should have the power to think for themselves and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

Today, women in Japan and around the world can study any subject, follow any career path, and become leaders in many areas. That progress was made possible by pioneers like Umeko Tsuda, who opened doors and changed minds.

We must remember her courage and passion. She showed that education can break down barriers and bring new hope. Her life teaches us that learning is not just about gaining knowledge—it's about creating a better future.

Let us follow her example. Learn with purpose. Speak with confidence. And use your education to build a world where everyone has a voice.

(334 words)

## **2. Shibasaburo Kitasato**

### **A Doctor Who Saved Lives**

Shibasaburo Kitasato was a great Japanese doctor and scientist who helped save many lives. He was born in 1853 and grew up in Kumamoto. As a young man, he studied medicine and became interested in fighting serious diseases that spread and harmed many people.

Later, he traveled to Germany to study with Dr. Robert Koch, a famous scientist known for his work on germs. There, Kitasato learned advanced medical science and research methods. He discovered how the body's immune system protects people from illness. He also became the first person in the world to grow the tetanus bacteria in a laboratory, which was a major step in developing a treatment for tetanus.

In 1894, a terrible plague spread in Hong Kong. People were dying quickly, and the city was filled with fear. Kitasato went there immediately to help. He found the cause of the disease and helped stop it from spreading. His quick action and scientific skills saved thousands of lives and gave hope to people in crisis.

But his efforts didn't stop there. He continued to study other diseases like cholera, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. He believed that science was not only for gaining knowledge, but for saving lives and helping communities.

He once said, "Science must serve the people. Research is meaningless unless it helps others." These words show his deep care for society and his belief in using knowledge for good.

Kitasato also worked to improve medical education in Japan. He opened the nation's first research center focused on dangerous illnesses and trained many young doctors and scientists. Thanks to his efforts, Japan became a leader in modern medical research.

Even today, we learn from his work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, doctors and scientists around the world worked with the same spirit of science and cooperation to protect lives. Kitasato's legacy still guides us.

His life teaches us that knowledge is powerful when used to help others. Let us follow his example: study with purpose, care for others, and use your talents to make the world better.

(339 words)

### **3. Eiichi Shibusawa**

#### **A Businessman with a Heart**

Eiichi Shibusawa was a remarkable Japanese businessman and thinker. He lived from 1840 to 1931 and helped modernize Japan during a time of great change. He is often called “the father of Japanese capitalism” because he played a major role in building Japan’s modern economy.

But Shibusawa did not believe that business was only about making money. He believed that good business must be based on strong moral values and ethical behavior. He once said, “Without morality, there can be no real economy.” For him, success in business should not come at a cost to others. He believed that helping society was part of true success.

He helped establish over 500 companies, including banks, railways, factories, and hospitals. At the same time, he supported schools, welfare programs, and public services. He believed that business and social good could grow together.

Shibusawa respected fairness, teamwork, and honesty. He believed in working with others and sharing success. He often spoke about the importance of being useful to society. “The most important thing is to be useful to society through business,” he said. These words still inspire people and guide many young entrepreneurs.

Even though he became successful, Shibusawa lived simply. He focused more on kindness and effort than on wealth or fame. Many respected him not only as a businessman, but also as a leader with vision and heart. He advised both government leaders and private companies with wisdom and humility.

Today, when we think about careers or money, we often ask, “How much can I earn?” But Shibusawa’s life teaches us to ask, “How can I help others through my work?”

His idea of “moral business” is important in today’s world. We need people who care about others—not just numbers. We need people who lead with kindness, especially in difficult times.

Let us learn from Eiichi Shibusawa. Use your skills not only for your own success, but for the good of all. Real success is not just what you gain—it’s what you give.

(334 words)