# The Peach COBBLER



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy September, happy back to school, and for our new JETs, welcome to Okayama! This month's newsletter features some general advice to get you started on your journey here. Find more on page 7!

I'd also like to highlight our Okayama Events section on pages 25-27. There are some really interesting outings around the prefecture this month if you're looking to get out of your apartment and explore.

Lastly, we're so excited to see so many of you at our annual Welcome BBQ tomorrow! If you signed up, make sure to check your email for specific event details.

Stay Peachy!



# OKAJet 2026-27

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Hello ALTs old and new,

I wanted to share more of a hack than a lesson that has truly come in handy in my two years here. My JHS kids absolutely love some of the games from taysteachingtoolkit.com. In particular the Mario and the Exploding Kittens version (choose a letter box for a random question). You can go to her website and download the templates for the google slides / ppt games and use them as is OR modify them to fit your needs. I often only get 15-20 minutes per class to use on these games, which is not enough time for each group to answer one question at a time, like we did in my junior high school classes.

I needed ways to balance time, the faster kids, the slowest kids, and the points systems to provide fair play that encouraged all students. Below are a few ideas to add into your ppt games to spice things up or get real bang for your buck when it comes to game time, while engaging as many students as possible.

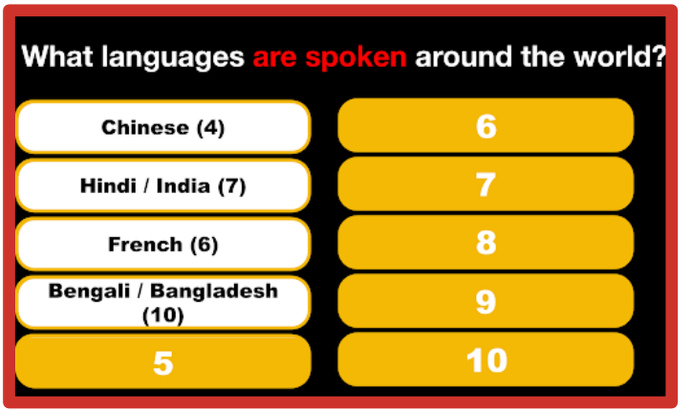
I make my slides 75% all groups - every group will write their answers on a whiteboard and gain the same point values - and 25% special slides with different point values. This helps keep the groups on their toes and provide a bit of extra fun while raising student engagement to almost 100%. Below are some special slides you can add in!

**Speed slides** - Speed rounds require students (whoever is next in the janken order) to stand up, read the question first, and THEN raise their hands with the answer. Fastest group gets to answer and earn the chance for points.

**Roulette slides** - A dice determines which group gets to answer a question by themselves to gain all the points. Make sure no group gets to go too many times / roll for a new group if a previous group is rolled twice.

**X points for 1 answer slides** - Example questions include “write as many animals as you can in English - 10 points per animal.” or “write as many sentences using (insert target

grammar sentence).” Another would be “Describe your summer vacation - 1 correct sentence = x points.” If you are doing this one encourage students to keep it simple to increase accuracy. Students must rotate the whiteboard after writing an answer to insure all group members participate in writing.




**Match the teacher!** - I love this one for the first introduction of passive voice in junior high school 3A. Give the students a question - “What is something eaten for American school lunch?” Students must write as many answers as possible within the time limit (rotating who writes of course). Add up to 10 answers of your own on the slide with different point values next to them (ex; pizza - 3 ) and reveal them at the end. Each answer that matches yours gets the points. All other correct answers get 1 point. Great for cultural questions.

**First come first serve!** - All groups will answer the questions but they gain point values based on speed. The first 3 groups to get the correct answer get 100 pts, the next 2 get 75 and the last 1-2 get 50 for example. I never make the point values starkly different here to make sure the slower groups don’t get discouraged. You can also do this with time - answer in 30 sec = 20 pts, 45 = 15 pts, etc.

**Give or Get?** - After determining which group will answer, have a slide with a random point value on it that could be negative or positive. Groups can choose to keep the mystery points or give them to another group. Groups may lose or gain!

**Speak Out** - Students must give a verbal answer and other groups must give a different answer. Example, “what are the be verb forms?” Groups can answer “is” “are” “was” etc as long as each group verbalizes a different correct answer. Assign point different point values for answers or make this an all groups slide that targets speaking over writing.

Hope these help everyone out. Adjust everything as needed and have some fun!

-Alexa

**Did you have a lesson or game that went well? Submit your stories to okajet.contact@gmail.com.**



# Welcome to Okayama!

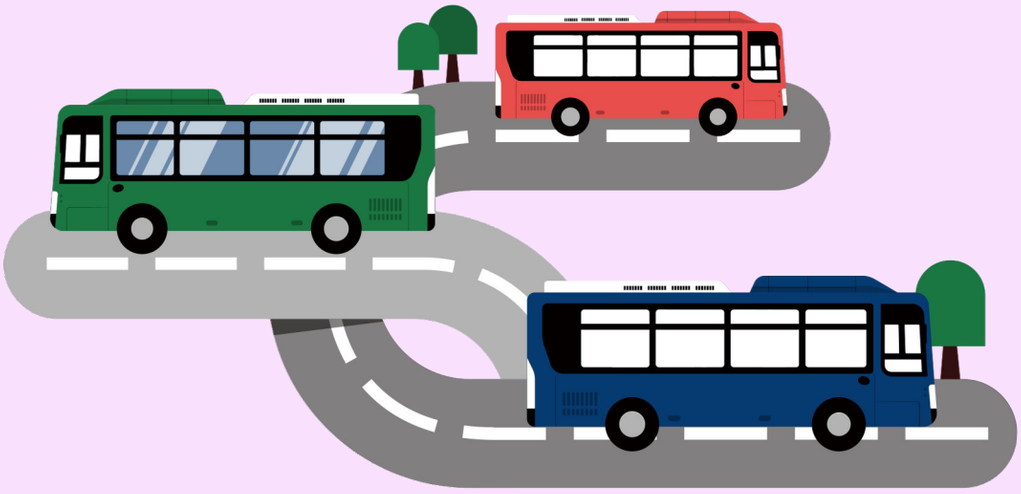
Hello all, especially those reading for the first time!

First, I would like to congratulate you for making it through a very competitive process to make it onto the JET Programme. We've all been there and know exactly how grueling it can be.

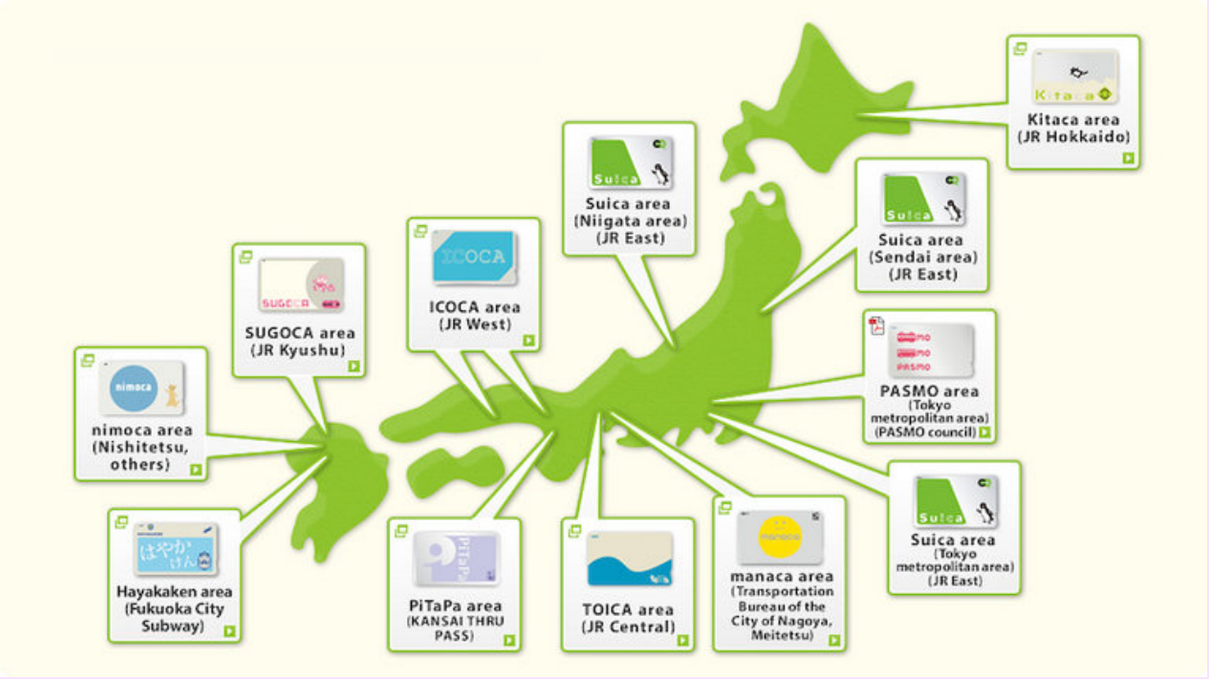
By now you'll have been here for a month or so, which means your school, supervisor, predecessor or a mix of all three hopefully helped you with the essentials to get started. This article will serve as somewhat of a beginners checklist and tip section.



First thing to establish, how are you getting around? No matter where you move, public transit and your commute will be a priority. We're not too unlucky in Okayama when it comes to trains or buses. Living in Tamano though, I've discovered the latter to be a tad unreliable when sticking to timetables. Buses don't typically have the same spotless punctuality record as trains do here, shocking I know, but traffic exists in Japan too. It's outrageous.



An IC card is a lifesaver. National variants such as ICOCA and SUICA are recommended as you can use them pretty much wherever but be aware there is a small 500 yen deposit fee for the physical card. Free if you use the app, but said apps are pretty 'iffy' from time to time.



If you're super rural, you'd probably need a car or bike to get around. I could be wrong about this, but from what I know, you can own a car but some placements do not allow you to drive to work. Double check with your supervisors before buying one if your wish is to commute by car.





A general bit of advice if you have a bicycle is to always keep your keys separate, as losing them requires a whole lot of hassle and fees to prove the bike is actually yours and to then change the locks.

Second, and arguably most important, get those nearby konbini and supermarkets on lockdown. We can debate which is best (Lawson, don't @me) but any will suffice. They truly are lifesavers, especially since you can pay bills and order event tickets directly at the counter. If you can get passed the jingles, any スーパー will do. Marunaka, Himawari, Hallows, Happys, BIG...The list goes on.



One thing you absolutely should consider mapping out early on is potential trips either within the prefecture or indeed outside. Exploring Japan is one of the key things about JET, so definitely get out there as much as you can and don't just cave to the temptation of sitting in your apartments sipping Strong Zero and Cafe Latte.

Locally we have Okayama Castle and Korakuen, which I'm sure most people went to during orientation. Kurashiki's Bikan Historical Quarter, Kojima's Jeans Street, Naoshima Island, (which is technically Kagawa Prefecture but most easily accessed via Uno Port. I'd be happy to join anyone headed out there, since I'm placed right by it.) Mt. Ojigatake, the Washuzan Highlands, and perhaps the lesser known sightseeing train 'La Malle de Bois'.





We're somewhat blessed in that Okayama Station is positioned on the Shinkansen line and serviced by the Nozomi Super express trains. It means you can get to a number of amazing places within an hour. Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Himeji, and Kobe via bullet train. If you want to take it a step further, Nagoya and Fukuoka are about one hour and 40 minutes in either direction. Takamatsu is easily accessible with the Rapid Marine Liner. There are express trains to Matsuyama in Ehime, Tottori, Shimane.

What Okayama might not have in relation to other cities, it makes up for by being such a great central hub travel wise. Okayama Momotaro Airport, where you landed from Tokyo, has regular flights to Sapporo, Okinawa, even Seoul, Shanghai, and Taipei.

Absolutely USE that 'nenkyu' you get. You didn't travel thousands of miles to get chained to your desk or flat.
Touch grass, concrete, bamboo, sand, whatever it might be.

If you're still scrambling around looking for deals on furniture or appliances, BookOff and HardOff are the major secondhand stores. Okayama Mottainai's Facebook page is literally packed with deals from other foreigners looking to get rid of things. Mercari and Second Street are other options.




I will say though, if you can afford it, don't go super cheap on things like your futon, chair, desk, etc. Home comforts can be incredibly important for your overall happiness. I had one of the worst office chairs known to man and I splurged big on an IKEA upgrade. I could not tell you how much better sitting playing games for 8 hours feels now.

Another thing I would like to add is that you'll have been set up in Chugoku Bank to receive your salary. Again, could be wrong, but I think everyone here has an account with them. The problem is that foreign residents never seem able to get Debit or Credit cards from there. Japan Post is the most reliable second choice, and there are a million options when it comes to Credit Cards here, just double check those T's and C's. Major company ones like Amazon, Rakuten, or PayPayare the safest choice and they can be set up pretty easily to work with your bank account.

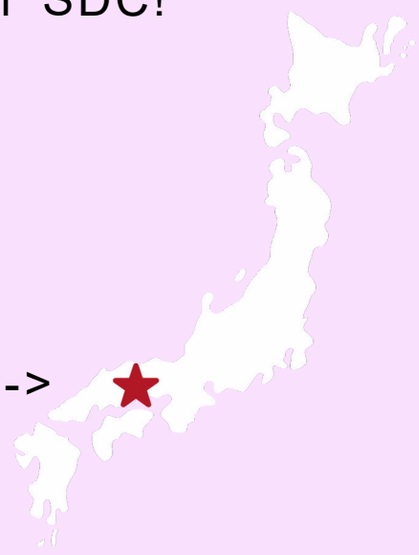
中国銀行




Finally, if you have any issues, we are all here to help. Adjusting to life here can have its ups and downs. Block Leaders, PA's, I imagine just most of your fellow ALTs will want to help if you ever need it. If you need a drink or a bite to eat somewhere, watch us flock to the opportunity. Don't ever isolate because you feel as though you'd be a bother. You're not, and never will be.

Have a lovely time in Japan, you've earned it! Hope to see you all at the welcome party and/or SDC!

New home away from home -->



# A Bouquet of *Unrequited* Love - Part III

*The Flowery Visuals of Episodes 4 and 5 of "Kamiina Botan Fully Blossoms When Drunk".*

"Does that mean you'd drink with me if I didn't drive?" Kanade says to Ibuki. Kanade had just offered Ibuki a special strawberry-infused whiskey, made just for her days before. But nothing is said. Nothing but the sound of the wind carrying the soft petals of the Orange Day Lily surrounding them. The silence was her answer. She will never be that person.

Last month, I made a mistake. Upon closer look and comparing images of real-life flowers, I have come to the conclusion that instead of Balloon Flowers, they are in fact Cupflowers. With that out of the way, we continue our exploration of flowers, their meanings, and how they tie into the anime "Kamiina Botan Fully Blossoms When Drunk." While last time we only explored the blue and purple Hydrangeas and their meanings, this time we will be exploring three flowers that appear in episode five: the Marigold, the Cupflower, and the Orange Day Lily.

## Kamiina Botan and the Marigold

Although native to Central America, Marigolds *(Tagetes spp)* are very popular in Japan. Walk outside in the months of April to November, and you'll surely see a few planted along roads, in gardens, and in parks. Generally, Marigolds have both positive and negative meanings, from vitality and warmth to grief and jealousy. However, orange marigolds in particular can represent sincerity.

In one scene of episode 5, Botan and Kanade were making a homemade strawberry-infused whiskey, which Kanade will try to give to Ibuki after a nudge given by Botan. Upon finishing and while talking about plans for what to do with the drink, one particular shot lingers. Composed of flowers taking up the bottom third of the foreground, windows taking up the midground, and finally Botan and Kanade in the background. The entire shot is split in half using the colours of the flowers in the foreground and window frames in the midground, clearly showing a divide between the two with something, *or someone*, in the middle between them. On Botan's side are the Marigolds, clearly indicating that in this particular context, these are her flowers. Opposite, are Kanade's flowers, the purple Cupflowers. Finally, separating the two in between are the white Cupflowers: Tonami Ibuki.



With sincerity being what orange marigolds can represent, how the shot is laid out, the placement of the flowers being on Botan's side, and how Botan helps make a drink that may or may not give Kanade an upper hand, a

connection can be made to Botan's character. She, like the flower, is sincere with her actions. Even after deducing that Kanade's ultimate goal was to give Ibuki the drink, Botan still encourages her to give the drink to Ibuki as Kanade still hesitates. After all, what is sincerity if not acting without hidden feelings? Malicious intent? Sabotage? Kanade knows this too. Despite the sting, she cannot bring herself to resent Botan because if she does, she becomes the villain.

## Kamiina Botan and the Cupflower

Named after a Spanish Jesuit from the 16th century, the Cupflower *(Nierembergia spp)* comes in various colours and shades such as purple and white, both with a bright yellow middle. Because of the flower's namesake, the Cupflower, regardless of colour, can symbolize "unforgivable love" or "forbidden love," but other Japanese sources also say that it can mean "to soothe the heart".



In the cold open of the episode, we see Ibuki, younger with longer hair. She tries to reach for someone in front of her, only to be interrupted by her alarm. As she slowly wakes up on a cold, rainy morning, she looks outside. A single overhead shot shows a flowerbed of White Cupflowers in the rain. This is Ibuki's flower. The rain falls loudly outside as Ibuki sits up on her bed, room still dark. "Simmer down," she says. She's not saying that to the loud patter of the rain outside. She's telling herself that to soothe her heart inside.




Later on, in the same scene as the Marigolds, purple Cupflowers are shown on the side where Kanade stands. At this moment, Kanade's love for Ibuki can be seen as an "unforgiving" love. A love that has battered her, thrown her in a loop, and ultimately isn't treating her well. As a sailor might describe rough waves, Kanade is sailing through that storm. A "forbidden" love in the sense that she is barred from her goal, with Botan forbidding her from this love. Another way to interpret this scene is also the obvious one. On

two sides are Kanade and Botan, and in between them, the person of affection, Ibuki, all represented by the Cupflowers and Marigolds.




Botan sees right through Kanade. A shot with the purple Cupflowers taking full view with Kanade in the background.

## Kamiina Botan and the Orange Day Lily

The Orange Day Lily *(Hemerocallis fulva)* is a flower that only flowers for a single day, hence the name “Day Lily”. The Orange Day Lily blooms bright orange, and despite the name, it is not a true lily. In Japanese, the Orange Day Lily is called *wasuregusa (忘れ草)*, where 忘れ means “to forget.” In China, where it is originally from, the flower is often shown in literature to represent forgetting one’s sorrow. Because of the fact that the flower blooms for only a day, it can also represent fleeting emotions and moving on.

On an outing with just Ibuki alone, the two find themselves in a field of Orange Day Lilies at sunset. The end of their bloom. With the strawberry-infused whiskey Kanade made before the trip in hand, she offers it to Ibuki,



wanting to drink together. Ibuki refuses, but not because Kanade is driving, as she pointed out, but instead because the seat at Ibuki's table for two is already taken. What if Kanade wasn't driving? A silence. The loose petals of the Orange Day Lilies fly through the wind surrounding them. A roundabout way to confess one's feelings, and in return, a roundabout way to be rejected: with silence sharp as knives.

"Sorry," Kanade says, breaking the silence. A smile forced to hide her sorrow, "forget what I just said."

The orange petals floating in the air and the setting sun reflect the end of different journeys: The progression of daylight, the bloom of the flowers, and Kanade's chances with Ibuki. As painful as it is, Kanade accepts it but the pain in her heart will continue until, hopefully, in a different time, in a different place, she may find someone who does have an open seat for her at the table.

The sun has set, and the sky grows a dark purple. Kanade, beaten down, sits down and lights a cigarette. In reconciliation, Ibuki takes the cigarette from Kanade's mouth and takes a puff. "Hey... Am I doing this correctly?"

Ibuki says, softly. Despite rejecting her advances, no hard feelings are left. No resentment.

## Conclusion

This month, I covered the last three flowers prominently shown in episode 5 of “Kamiina Botan Fully Blossoms When Drunk”. The Marigold, representing sincerity with Botan’s true attitude towards Kanade. The Cupflower, representing forbidden, unforgiving love or the soothing of the heart, with Kanade’s unreachable sights and Ibuki’s aching heart. Finally, the Orange Day Lily, representing the act of forgetting, with Kanade taking the last steps to forget about this sorrow and the first steps into moving on. Next month, now that all six flowers have been talked about, I will conclude this series by giving one last closure to Kanade. If you’ve seen the show, you may know what, *or who*, I will be mentioning.




Written by Wilson Yuan

# The State of Movies

## Spider-man: Brand New Day

### Review and Retrospective

By Lewis Spencer

Fair warning, this will indeed be a spoiler heavy review. By the time you're reading this, it'll be over a month since release, but for the three people who want to see this movie and haven't yet, this is for you.




It's safe to say that Spider-Man: No Way Home was a cinematic phenomenon when it was released five years ago. (Yeah, I know, feel old?)

It came at a time where we all needed something spectacular to escape the reality of our lives back then. It didn't just allow for cinemas to reopen and recoup worldwide, it burst their doors off the hinges. With a total box office of just under $2 billion, a love letter to the previous renditions of the iconic character as well as beloved villains, and a satisfyingly tragic ending, whatever came next was always going to have a lot of hype to live up to.

So, the question of the hour, does it?

I'd say absolutely.

Director Destin Daniel Cretton is no stranger to the MCU, helming both Shang-Chi and Wonder Man. The former was absolutely brimming with flair and style, though the storyline was far from perfect, there is no denying that it's one of the best looking Marvel movies with an equally magical soundtrack. Wonder Man defied expectations completely, receiving near universal acclaim for its character driven, smaller, and more focused narrative. These two aspects of his talent and vision pair nicely with Spider-Man in theory, the challenge is finding the balance between them alongside the right story to tell. An essential part of bringing the next chapter of something to life is to first think if it's actually worth telling, or even needs to be told.

It was delightful to see that not only was Brand New Day worth making, but also manages to carve a path for future stories in the MCU. I'll give you all a refresher for the plot before diving into why I believe the movie to be so strong thematically.

Peter upholds his desire to protect MJ and Ned by not reintroducing himself to them, and thus keeping them far from danger. By doing so, he enters near total isolation, burying the man and becoming only the hero. He spends four years taking down smaller criminal syndicates, helmed by the likes of Tombstone and Scorpion, and forms a bond with Detective Jean DeWolff, who is the first to explicitly tell Peter he needs to create some real connections with people.

He then moves on to stop Frank Castle (Punisher) from destroying half a town as he chases down a tank destined for the Department of Damage Control (DODC). The driver is revealed to be mind controlled, with the true perpetrator able to bounce between bodies seemingly at a whim. They use this power to break Mac Gargan (Scorpion) out of custody and back into the city.

When Peter investigates with the help of Yelena Belova, he is directed to DODC Director Bill Metzger to ask about the mysterious ‘V-Max’ the telepath is apparently targeting. Metzger denies any knowledge of it, but now being backed by the Hand as security, he is plainly made to seem suspicious from the get-go.

Peter then finally caves to his curiosity after a chance encounter with Ned at a bodega, following him to his and MJ’s housewarming party. The three share a pleasant encounter with Ned still showing huge, borderline creepy admiration for Spider-Man, but the mood is soured when MJ’s new boyfriend appears.

This emotionally devastating revelation sends Parker spiraling, causing rapid changes to his body. He wakes the next morning with extreme senses, far more physical power, and organic webbing capabilities. After a brief ‘test-drive’, he moves to prevent another attack on a DODC facility, where he overpowers Scorpion, who himself is still being puppeted. However, Peter loses control almost entirely, brutally smashing his enemy into a nearby police car, severely injuring one officer in the process. DeWolff, understandably furious, demands he take time to regain agency over his emotions.

This leads him to Bruce Banner, now a professor at Empire State University, who delights in students’ questions about his escapades as the Hulk, all whilst using a suppression device to remain in his purely human form. This inhibitor is what catches Peter’s attention, as he believes the same technology might be able to control or even negate his newer, unwanted mutations.

As he builds and tests the device, an intruder enters his home and inspects the letter Peter had been keeping to give to MJ. Using her power, she threatens to harm MJ if he doesn’t stop protecting the DODC. He races across the city to ensure the safety of the one he loves, before she is ruthlessly controlled to take advantage of and manipulate Peter in a gut-wrenching fake ‘reunion’.

After Peter agrees to what she wants, he is determined to learn their true identity. In the movie’s worst kept secret, rivaled only by the reveal of the two other Spider-Men in the previous film, we learn that the powerful mind-controller is in fact, Jean Grey. I’ll give you a moment to take in that highly shocking news…

He then takes MJ to the Punisher for her protection, and she helps him refine the inhibitor he now seeks to use against Jean to stop her abilities causing any further harm.

Jean then uses the Hulk for a massive assault on the main DODC tower. Metzger, alongside his guards, hide in a security vault as Spider-Man and Punisher attempt to take down the Hulk and Jean respectively.

With Peter getting his red and blue arse handed to him, he is only saved by a flicker of light from his eyes and a desperate plea, reminding Hulk that they are not enemies, before dropping from the building, leaving Peter to neutralise Jean’s power with the universal inhibitor. She utters the name ‘Sara’ before being subdued, with Metzger saying she was a colleague he remembered as he was under Jean’s influence.

After a chaotic, demanding affair, he returns to Frank’s hideout to check on MJ, who had found the letter he had written all those years ago. He has no choice but to reveal his face and confess that he never stopped loving her. Though in return, all MJ can do is sympathise but admit that the spell worked just as intended. She doesn’t remember him, and couldn't possibly love him back. The cold, harsh, yet inevitable truth Peter had spent all this time running from, finally ripping his heart in two. No amount of webbing could fix it.

Despite everything, he brings her home safely, and she in turn asks if he’d like to see Ned again, assuring him that he’d be able to handle the truth too if he told him. They share a heartwarming few moments together, and Peter honestly explains what happened to MJ when she was under control. She forgives him, and states she had no memory of the incident, which arouses suspicion since Metzger claimed to have thought of someone named Sara whilst being controlled.

He quickly contacts Yelena once more, who showed genuine pride that Peter finally seemed to have some friends. After some digging, she reveals that Sara is actually Jean’s sister, who shared similar abilities before being abducted by the DODC.

They realise that Jean was now likely sharing that same fate, with Peter knowing he must do something to stop their experimentation.

It is here that we learn ‘V-Max’ is actually the weathered branding on the air vents above Jean’s cell. Sara, in her distress, had relayed the last thing she had seen before succumbing to dangerous and vigorous testing. Jean, now completely blinded by rage, engulfs the entire facility and its surroundings in a psionic field. Peter is the only one with the ability to resist it.

In the ultimate test for his mental prowess, Peter overcomes the Hand warriors sent to defeat him. He combines everything he had learned as both Peter Parker and Spider-Man, and triumphantly declares his intent to live that life to the fullest, before tearing the inhibitor off and engaging in a masterful combat scene.

At last when the two face off again, a restrained Metzger driving Peter to hurry, he allows Jean into his mind, where she is greeted by a memory of Aunt May. She is able to feel the warmth of her words, that she can be loved for who she is, not what everyone expects her to be. She and Peter share the pain and bond of loneliness, and realise that they can both move through it together.

All the while, Frank had set up a sniper to enact his own typical form of justice. As he pulls the trigger, Peter blocks the bullet, causing a near-fatal wound. He warns Jean to run, and is carried to the hospital by a now distraught Punisher, who stays with him throughout his recovery, admiring his bravery for saving her. It’s a touching moment between the two.




We end on somewhat of a high, with crowds outside the hospital cheering at the revelation that Spider-Man survived, Peter freely walking through with everyone around him none the wiser. He places flowers at May’s grave once again, vowing to stop isolating himself, and being who he truly is, rather than just the empty shell of his mask.

Though right before the credits roll, Peter approaches Ned once more, unmasked. The two do their signature handshake, teasing that either the effects of the spell have slipped a little, or that Ned remembers MJ referred to Spider-Man as Peter by accident in their earlier encounter. A nice touch of mystery to bring the story together.

Thematically, this is pure, bonafide Spider-Man. The very heart of the story brimming with various perspectives on sacrifice, the dangers of isolation and rumination, and the willpower to embrace oneself in the pursuit of protecting and saving others. This alone makes the movie stand out, alongside how said themes are woven through the characters.

Peter himself shows that you need not be telepathic to be caught in two minds. “With great power, there must also come great responsibility.” pairing so well with his desire to suppress that which he refuses to confront. For both his mental and physical issues, he seeks only to find a way to inhibit them, rather than embrace their truth. The mutations are as much a part of him as the feelings he tries so desperately to shut down.

Frank Castle offers a view into a bleak future, set only on vengeance and delivering justice in the ways he deems fit. He manifests the type of loneliness that can turn someone into an unrecognisable machine of destruction. But equally, through Peter’s words and actions, we catch glimpses of what he can be when his guard is down. Peter would be around the same age as his son before he was murdered, and it’s refreshing to see that Frank’s heart, however black it may seem, beats red all the same.

Jean is the product of trauma with no one there to guide her through it. Her powers amplified through a broken mind desperately reaching into others to find the answers no one can give her. No one, except someone who is willing to look her way with no fear, to embrace her abilities, her true self, without fighting back. She does some truly wrong and immoral things, but truth and warmth bring her back and redeem her to a point where she can re-evaluate what it means to have such capabilities. I’m sure a certain other professor will continue to show her

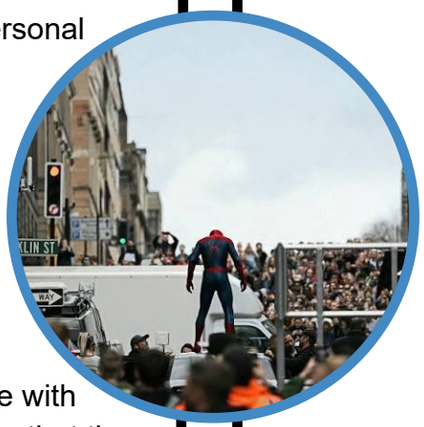
the way in future movies…

I will admit that the use of the Hulk felt slightly undercooked. His inclusion works well in theory, Banner suppresses what he believes to be ‘the monster’ rather than continuing to embrace the best of both worlds. It explicitly shows that you can’t contain what’s inside forever. But the treatment of the character in this movie and others continues to be lacking. After he is taken away for ‘treatment’ post Hulk-out, nothing is conveyed that Peter does anything to defend or help him. Even just a small afterthought or line of dialogue could’ve shown that he is being discharged or taken care of. Things like that can help a shared universe feel much more alive.



The likes of Yelena and Mac Gargan are mostly used to either carry the plot along or set up appearances in future films, but when you have so many recognisable characters, it can be nigh on impossible to balance all of them, and that’s even without mentioning the short flurry of rogues gallery cameos at the beginning of the film. However, Jean DeWolff was certainly a welcome addition, and rightly gave Peter the kick up the arse that he needed, when he needed it.

Overall, Spider-Man: Brand New Day was mostly the film I think everyone wanted to see. With all this talk of ‘street-level’ after such massive event movies, it does well to stick to the personal stories. The emotional beats land, at times with full force. All of us can relate to heartbreak and loneliness, we all know what that can do to our minds, our motivations. It’s part of what makes the character of Spider-Man so relatable. That he has these powers but still cannot escape the troubles of everyday life can resonate with everyone, of all ages. Is it any wonder that the movie has already made around two and a half billion dollars?



Giving the movie a rating seems strange after writing all of this, after feeling the way it made me feel, but I’d be very harsh to give it lower than a 9/10.

Anyone can struggle, anyone can ‘wear the mask’, but we all have the strength to push through, and none of us have to do it all alone.

# OKAYAMA EVENTS




## Yume Town Kurashiki "Bear Art Experience Workshop"

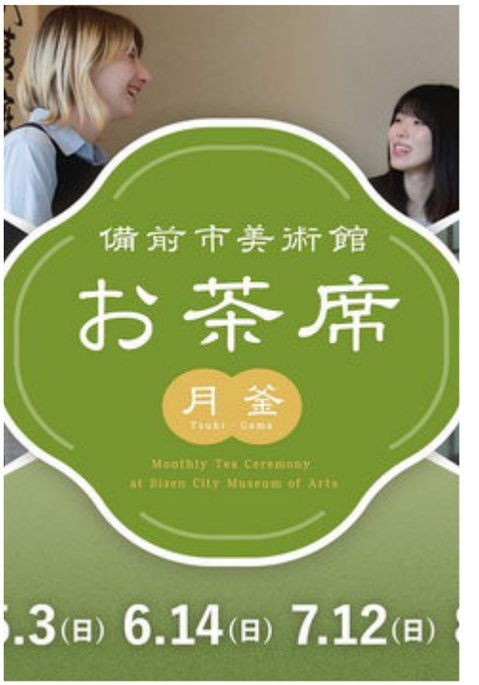
**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, September 5th-6th

**Location:** Yume Town Kurashiki

**Time:** 10:00 - 17:00, last entry 16:30

**Admission:** 3000 yen per finished work

**More info:** 日本語




## Bizen City Museum of Art Tea Ceremony

## 備前市美術館お茶席（月釜）上半期

**Date:** Sunday, September 6th

**Location:** Bizen City Museum of Art, 3rd floor tea room "Tsubotsuboan"

**Time:** 40 minute sessions from 10:00-15:30; see website for time details

**Admission:** 1000 yen

**More info:** English support available

日本語




# The 3rd Capybara Festival? at Okayama Forest Park German Forest

**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, September 12th-13th

**Location**: Okayama Forest Park, German Forest, Event Venue "Bühne"

**Time:** 09:30-17:00

**Admission:** The event is free, but an entrance fee to the German Forest (1,500 yen for adults, 1,000 yen for children) is required

**More info:** 日本語




# 2026 Bitchu Tamashima Minato Sake Festival

# 2026 備中玉島湊酒まつり

**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, September 12th-13th

**Location:** Kurashiki City Tamashima Agasaki Park / Tamashima Citizens' Exchange Center

**Time:** September 12th **(**Sat): 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM, September 13th (Sun): 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Admission**: Fees apply for participating stores

**More info:** 日本語



# 3x3 Basketball EXE PREMIER JAPAN 2026 Men's ROUND8

**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, September 12th-13th

**Location:** AEON Mall Okayama

**Time:** September 12th (Sat) 12:00-17:40, September 13th (Sun) 11:00-16:40

**Admission:** Free

**More info:** 日本語




## "Okayama x Kagawa" Connecting Food Expo

## 「岡山×香川」つながる食の大博覧会

**Date:** Saturday and Sunday, September 19th-20th

**Location:** Convex Okayama Main Exhibition Hall and Outdoor Exhibition Hall

**Time:** 10:00 - 16:00

**Admission:** Free; food and drinks are at your own expense

**More info:** 日本語



## German Forest Music Fireworks Festival

## ドイツの森 ミュージック花火大会

**Date:** Saturday, September 26th

**Location:** Okayama Forest Park German Forest

**Time:** 19:45-20:00

**Admission:** Adults (junior high school age and older) 1500 yen, children (ages 4 to elementary school) 1000 yen, dogs 500 yen.

**More info:** 日本語




## Kinoshita Circus

## 木下大サーカス 岡山公演

**Date:** until September 27th, closed on 9th and 16th

**Location:** OkaSyo Co., Ltd. Headquarters

**Time:** 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM,

Fridays: 1:00 PM, 3:50 PM

Sundays and public holidays: 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 3:50 PM

**Admission:** 2000-4500, see website for detailed pricing

**More info:** 日本語

# Teacher's Corner

We are highlighting moments in the classroom from the OKAJet community!

Did you have a lesson or game that went particularly well? Do you have a creative method for feedback or rewards?




Submit your stories to **okajet.contact@gmail.com** and share the success! Special thanks to Chris for this suggestion!

# October Theme: Autumn

**The end of summer is finally in sight, and so are autumn activities! Whether its Halloween festivities, thrifting for cold-weather clothes, or tsukimi, share your fall must-do's with us. Please keep submissions to 500 words and feel free to include pictures!**



## Want to be part of the newsletter?

**We are always looking for new talent and help at the newsletter, so if you have writers itch you want to scratch, or have some ideas for the newsletter look, please contact us at our email!**

**okajet.contact@gmail.com**

# Your Art Here!

Show us your creativity! Submit artwork, photography or poetry to okajet.contact@gmail.com to be featured on the final page.