

# Hello Kitty Throws the First Pitch on Specially Themed Night at Dodger Stadium

日本を飛び出して世界で活躍しているのは大谷翔平選手だけではありません。今回の記事は日本だけでなく、世界へ飛び出して世界中で大活躍しているキャラクターについてです。どんなキャラクターが浮かびますか？



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

On Tuesday, April 16, Hello Kitty [made a](#) special [appearance](#) at Dodger Stadium, home of Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers.

It was "Hello Kitty Night." Celebrating, the [beloved](#) Sanrio character took to the mound for the ceremonial first pitch. Wearing a Dodgers number 74 uniform, she threw the ball with a shotput-like style as she aimed for pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto's glove.

The ball bounced three times before neatly landing in Yamamoto's glove. That [prompted](#) loud cheers from the stands.

The Dodgers went on to play the Washington Nationals, winning 6-2 on the Hello Kitty-themed night.

[Meanwhile](#), Hello Kitty accepted help from music legend Yoshiki for the evening's entertainment and stood by as the influential musician received a standing ovation for his performance. Yoshiki is also an important supporter of Hello Kitty as he created her 50th Anniversary global theme song.

The Dodgers, led by Okinawan-born manager Dave Roberts, are considered one of the [favorites](#) to win the 2024 World Series. Superstar Shohei Ohtani's team will hold its second Hello Kitty Night of the season on August 19 against the Seattle Mariners. (The team's full promotional schedule for the season is posted on MLB's official website.)

Source : Hello Kitty Throws the First Pitch on Specially Themed Night at Dodger Stadium  
[JAPAN Forward](#)

## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. make an appearance** (イベントなどに) 姿を現す・顔を出す・出演する

The Japanese singer **made an appearance** on the most popular talk show in the U.S.

**2. beloved** 人々に愛されている・親しまれている

The small town's **beloved** mayor passed away last night.

**3. prompt** 引き起こす、促す、駆り立てる、刺激する、刺激・促進、即座の、迅速な、時間に正確な

His unusual behavior **prompted** concern among his family members.

**4. meanwhile** その一方で、それと同時に、そのころ、(次の出来事が起こる) それまでの間に

John is waiting for the bus. **Meanwhile**, his sister is already at school.

**5. favorite** 優勝候補、本命、お気に入り、お気に入りの・大好きな

She is the strong **favorite** to become the next CEO of the company.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How did Hello Kitty throw the ceremonial first pitch?
2. Who assisted Hello Kitty for the evening's entertainment, and why is he important to her?
3. Are there any memorable ceremonial first pitches at baseball games or musical performances at sports events?
4. If you were to choose characters or celebrities for an important sports event, who would you like to see there?
5. How do you feel about popular characters or celebrities making appearances at sports events?

## 4. 日本語関連記事： ハローキティがドジャース本拠地で始球式 捕手役は山本由伸

サンリオの人気キャラクター「ハローキティ」が4月16日、米大リーグ、ロサンゼルス・ドジャースの本拠地「ドジャースタジアム」に登場した。

この日のナショナルズ戦は「ハローキティ・ナイト」と題して開催され、背番号「74」のドジャースのユニホーム姿でマウンドに上がると、若干砲丸投げに似た投球フォームで捕手役の山本由伸投手のグラブをめがけて投げ込んだ。

ボールはスリーバウンド。山本投手のグラブに収まるとスタンドからは大きな歓声が上がった。

試合前の米国国歌は親友のYOSHIKIさんがピアノで生演奏。

グラウンド上で共にマイク持ち、アナウンスも行った。