

POPLAR

2016



About Us



POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd., a leading independent publisher of children's books in Japan, has been in business for more than 65 years. As it started as a children's books publisher, it has always tried to provide children with enjoyable and exciting books. Today, the company's goals remain unchanged: everything it publishes should be enjoyable and enrich people's lives.

To date, POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd. has published many best-selling picture book series, which have sold more than one million copies, including "the Little Mouse" and "Hide & Seek." It has also published long-selling storybook series, such as "Kaiketsu Zorori" and "Let's Go! Zukkoke Trio." Moreover, the company launched an encyclopedia series, "POPLARDIA," in 2002 and an illustrated reference book series, "WONDA," in 2012.

Furthermore, POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd. expanded by publishing books for adults, including fiction, non-fiction, essays and business books, in 2000. Several works of fiction, such as "The Restaurant of Love Regained" and "Midnight Bakery" series, have sold nearly one million copies and have been made into a TV drama and film. POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd. publishes around 500 titles annually, and many of its titles have been licensed to foreign countries.

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Poko and Moko, the Lamb Twins

Jun Ichihara



Ages 0+
190 x 190 mm
38 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591146736
Rights sold:

Poko and Moko are twin lambs. They look exactly alike, and they get along so well that they spend every minute of their day together. But they're also different in a lot of ways. For one thing, Poko is a boy and Moko is a girl. Poko likes breads and rolls, but Moko likes cakes and pastries. They both like donuts, so if they only have one, they split it in half (turn the half-width page to show the donut cut perfectly in two). Poko's room is . . . (open the fold-out door on the left) . . . littered with toys, while Moko's room is . . . (open the fold-out door on the right) . . . neat as can be. But even though they're different, when they join forces they can do things neither of them could ever do alone (lift the fold-up flap to see the tall tower of blocks they've built). It's not so obvious because of their fluffy wool coats, but Poko is actually a bit chubby, while Moko is slim and trim (turn the partial page to see them in their underwear). Poko likes to play hide-and-seek (look for him hiding in the picture); Moko loves to climb trees (trace your way up the maze-like branches to where she is). And what do they want to be when they grow up? Turn the page with the hole in it to find out.

The use of fold-outs, cut-outs, and other special features adds an extra element of fun to discovering how the twins are different and yet get along so well—thus conveying the joy of getting to know a playmate's unique personality.



About the Author

Jun Ichihara was born in Aichi Prefecture and graduated from Osaka University of Arts. In addition to creating picture books, he works as an illustrator for books, magazines, and ads. His picture-book titles include *Wakuwaku ABC bukku* (ABC Excitement), *Nikkori niko niko* (Everybody Smiles), *Wāratta* (Theere's the Smile!), and *Sugoi kuruma* (Awesome Car).

What Do You Say ?

Text by **Minamisuna Sakura Nursery School**
 Illus. by **jinco**



Ages 0+
 140 x 140 mm
 20 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591146149
 Rights sold: China and
 Vietnam

It's morning. Can you give us a cheerful greeting? "Good morning!"

Greetings and other expressions we use to be polite in our daily interactions with others are the first step to good communication. When we offer people a friendly smile and a word of greeting, it immediately generates warm, caring feelings. This book teaches young readers the expressions they need in the course of a typical day, beginning with "Good morning" and ending with "Good night." Interactive flaps are included in two places to help children better understand the situational behavior that accompanies the words spoken. Each case also includes a sidebar with a variety of notes for parents, including alternate expressions, additional explanations about when the greeting is called for, the meaning behind the words, and so forth. On the final two pages are shown eight additional situations and the proper thing to say in each—such as when answering the telephone, meeting someone on the street, or visiting a friend's house. Altogether the book covers 25 different situations and the appropriate politeness formulas to use for good manners in Japanese culture. Children can learn how to be courteous while enjoying a picture book with their parents.



About the Author

Jinco graduated from Seisen University with a degree in Japanese literature, and began her career as a product planner at San-x, known for its stationery and other merchandise featuring a variety of cute characters. She subsequently reinvented herself as a digital designer and became a video-game planner at Namco, the operator of video arcades, amusement parks, and other entertainment venues. She also drew illustrations and wrote poetry on her own, and established herself as a character creator by launching a website featuring original characters. Since February 2001 she has worked as an independent character creator and planner. She has designed a wide variety of characters, including Tamagotchi creatures.

Minamisuna Sakura Nursery School
www.minamisunasakura.com

Together with Mofumo

Text by **Suzune Sato**

Illus. by **Mon**



Ages 2+

200 x 200 mm

31 pages

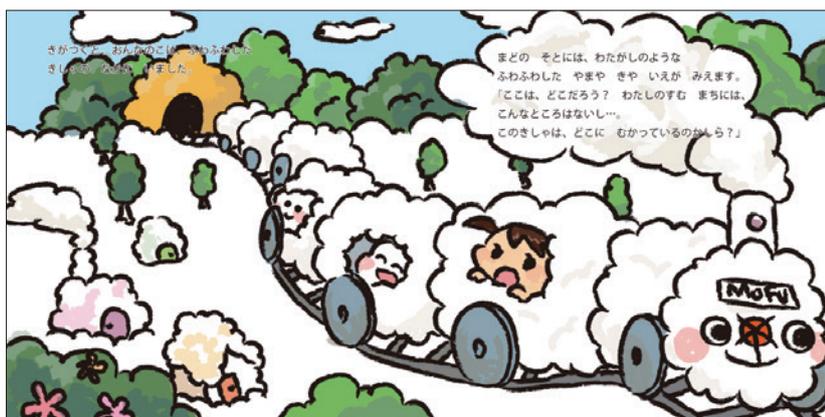
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591144336

Rights sold:

Through the upstairs window of her red-roofed house, a little girl of about kindergarten age can be seen crying. She seems to have had a tiff with her best friend. “I’m never going to play with her again. I don’t need friends anymore!” she declares. The moment she says it, she notices a tiny little door in the wall of her room. She opens it to see what’s on the other side, only to find herself being sucked through it into a world of fluffy clouds. The next thing she knows, she is on a train made of cloud puffs, riding through scenery where the mountains and trees and houses all look like cotton candy. When she alights from the train, she meets a fluffy girl wearing a red ribbon on her head who says her name is Mofumo. Mofumo and her friends take the little girl to a zoo and an amusement park. The little girl simply follows along without saying anything at first, but when it hits her how much fun Mofumo and her friends are having together, she suddenly bursts into tears from wanting to see her own friend again.

As if on cue, the amusement park vanishes and the little girl finds herself back at the train station. As she prepares to board the train, Mofumo gives her a red ribbon as a symbol of friendship. So long as she has that ribbon, they can see each other again any time she wants. The little girl ties the ribbon in her hair and returns to her own world. Then she goes to apologize to her friend and they quickly make up. A delightful book to read with children who have had a falling out with a playmate.



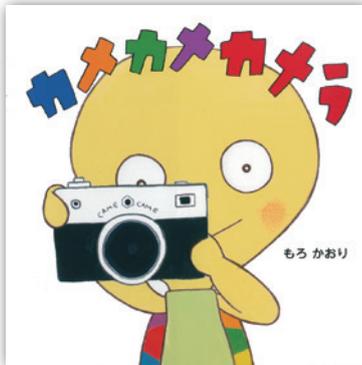
About the Author

Suzune Sato lives in Tokyo. In 2014, as a first grader, she won the Poplar New Character Grand Prize for her submission *Mofumo-chan famiri* (Mofumo and Her Family). The following year her winning Mofumo character was adapted into the picture book *Mofumo-chan to issho* (Together with Mofumo).

Mon lives in Tokyo, where she works as an illustrator and designs novelty goods. Her submission for the Poplar New Character Grand Prize contest took the Nezumi-kun (“Little Mouse”) Prize in 2014. *Mofumo-chan to issho* (Together with Mofumo) is her first picture book.

Turtle Cam

Kaori Moro



Ages 2+

190x 190 mm

29 pages

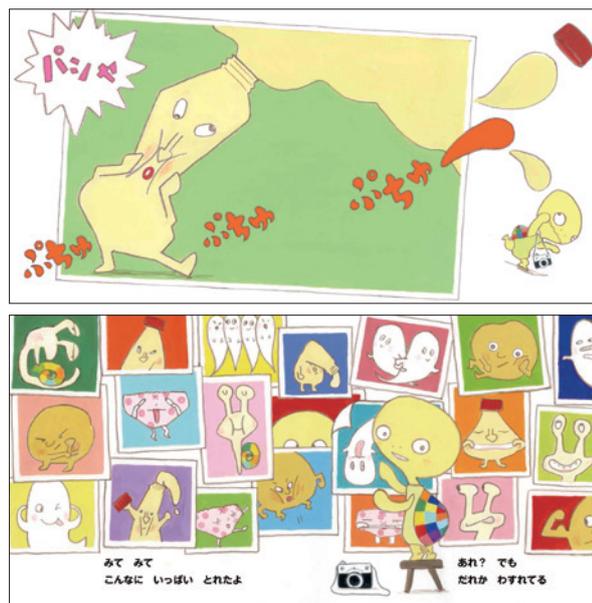
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147474

Rights sold:

Playing on the fact that the Japanese word for “turtle” is the same as the first two syllables of “camera,” the main character of this picture book is a turtle who loves to take pictures. “Look at my camera. Isn’t it neat?” he says, just itching to put it to use. Along comes a snail. “Hello there, Mr. Snail! Let me take your picture! Kame kame kamera!” Snap! He captures Mr. Snail with his long tongue sticking out. Next he encounters a tube of mayonnaise. “Hello there, Mr. Mayonnaise! Let me take your picture! Kame kame kamera!” Snap! Mr. Mayonnaise squeezes his cheeks to make a funny face and mayonnaise squirts from the top. Oh dear! Next is underpants. “Hello there, Missy Underpants! Let me take your picture! Kame kame kamera!” Snap! Missy Underpants stretches her face in a big wide grin. Next comes Mr. Potato, who stamps his feet like a sumo wrestler and sends Turtle flying. Then Turtle gets a little nervous when he sees three ghosts appear, but he snaps their picture anyway—only to discover that the photo he took shows a whole lot more ghosts all around them. As Turtle looks at all the pictures he has taken, he pauses. He can’t shake the feeling that he’s forgotten someone. “Oh, yeah!” he says. “You!” and turns his camera toward the reader. “Kame kame kamera!” Snap!

The back cover shows the front of a camera, with a disk of foil glued on as the shiny lens, so young readers can play camera with the book when they are done reading. It’s a work that highlights the fun of taking pictures.



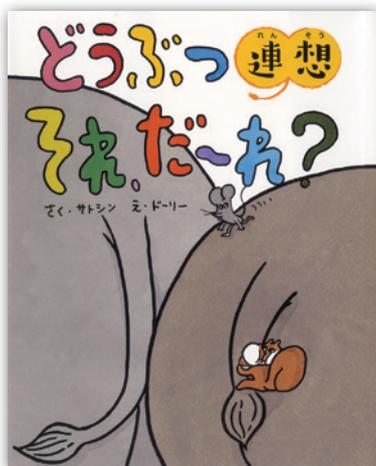
About the Author

Kaori Moro was a preschool teacher before becoming a self-taught illustrator. Picture books she has illustrated include the onomatopoeic titles *Pittsun tsun* (story by Etsuko Bushika) and *Pappi puppe pon* (story by Yoshiaki Ushiro). She also creates felt dolls and accessories, and has shown her work in solo exhibitions.

Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+

282 x 216 mm

32 pages

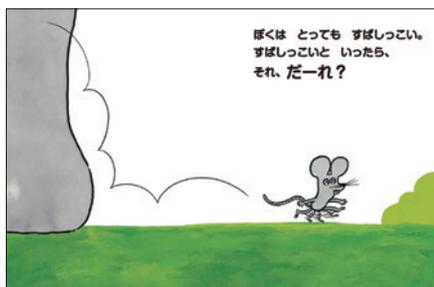
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645603

Rights sold:

“I’m a mouse,” says a mouse. “I’m nimble and quick. And someone else is nimble and quick, too. Who, do you think?” The reader turns the page to find a squirrel. “A squirrel!” announces the mouse before dashing nimbly into the underbrush, and then the squirrel takes over. “I’m a squirrel,” he says. “I’m good at climbing trees. And someone else is good at climbing trees, too. Who, do you think?” On the next page appears a monkey and the same pattern is repeated. “I’m a monkey. I’m good with my hands,” says the monkey. “And someone else is good with his hands, too. Who, do you think?” The next page reveals a raccoon, and he is followed by a cat, a sea lion, a hippopotamus, and an elephant—each associated by one shared characteristic with his predecessor and by another with his successor. In the cute and colorful artwork by Dolly, each of the animals is seen demonstrating their talents.

As we might expect from author Satoshin, known for traveling around the country to participate in read-aloud events for children, the text is written with lively participation from the audience in mind. It’s a wonderful book to enjoy with any sized group.



About the Author

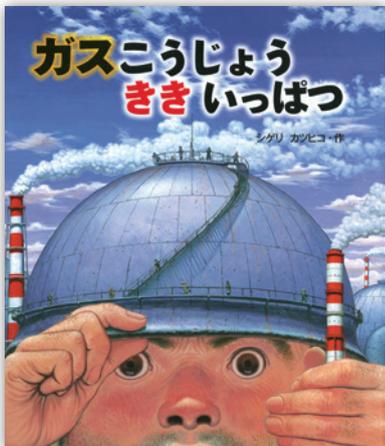
Satoshin (1962–) was born in Niigata Prefecture. He worked in ad production, as a homemaker, and as a freelance copywriter before launching a career as a picture-book author. His picture book *Unko!* (Poop!) won the 2010 Kenbuchi Picture Book Bibakarasu Prize as well as the MOE Picture-Book Seller Grand Prize. Among his popular titles are *Ottamageta to Gosaku-don* (Gobsmacked Gosaku) and *Tokoya ni itta raion* (The Lion Who Went to the Barber Shop), and works he has collaborated on with the illustrator Dolly include *Dōbutsu mazezoze asobi* (Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!), *Dōbutsu senryū: Boku dāre?* (Animal Senryū: What Am I?), *Dōbutsu rensō: Sore dāre?* (Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?), and *Ma, ikka!* (It’s All Right). He also originated the *otete ehon* (literally “little handy picture-book”) game, in which the child holds her hands open like a book, and parent and child pretend they are reading a picture book together. In frequent appearances at schools and elsewhere around the country, Satoshin actively promotes this as a means of fostering fun parent-child communication and play.

www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s

Dolly (1986–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Kyoto Seika University. She works as an illustrator and manga artist, and also as a cut-paper artist. Picture books she has provided the artwork for include *Dōbutsu mazezoze asobi* (Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!), *Dōbutsu senryū: Boku dāre?* (Animal Senryū: What Am I?), *Dōbutsu rensō: Sore dāre?* (Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?), and *Ma, ikka!* (It’s All Right).

Crisis at the Gas Plant

Katsuhiko Shigeri



Ages 4+

255 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

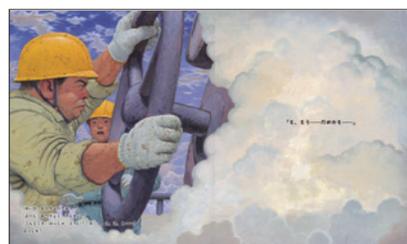
ISBN 978-4591147801

Rights sold: korea

In a factory that produces gas, men work in shifts to keep the plant running around the clock, 365 days a year. Let's go on a tour.

We begin with the arrival of raw materials in dump trucks. The loads are transferred inside, where they are ground up into just the right size, and then sent down a big long chute to a chamber below. Workers dangling in harnesses are tasked with keeping the walls of the chute clean so the ground-up materials can flow smoothly. It's a dangerous job. In the chamber below, the materials are processed into a goo that is sent on to a long winding trough, where more workers stand by to remove unwanted items from the flow. The tour of the large, sprawling plant continues to the Odor Division, where research is being done on smells that can be added to the gas, and the Sound Division, where scientists are experimenting with a variety of large horns. These and other hints along the way begin to raise questions as to exactly what kind of gas this plant produces. Finally the gas is ready, and it's time for it to be released. But there's an unexpected problem. The valve on the tank won't open. A strange voice rings out from above, "Gotta hold on!" And moments later, "It's only five minutes until break!" But the workers ignore the voice as the pressure in the tank rises and gas begins to leak. If something isn't done soon, the tank will blow. Sparks can be seen. The crisis response team arrives to clear the blockage, and the valve is tried again. BRAAP! The gas lets out a satisfying odor and sound as it is released, and the workers cheer. The "gas plant" is actually inside the body of a schoolboy, who has just let out a fart during class. He turns red in the face, but inside his "gas plant," the men are still hard at work producing more gas.

Holding readers' attention with its playful imagination and lifelike detail, the story takes readers for a ride to its laugh-inducing conclusion.



About the Author

Katsuhiko Shigeri (1962–) was born in Gifu Prefecture and completed his education at a technical school. An author and illustrator of picture books, he also works as a freelance illustrator for book covers. He made his publishing debut in 2010 with *Kaminari Kozō ga futte kita* (Thunder Kid Comes Tumbling Down), which quickly won fans for its eye-popping artwork with finely drawn, lifelike detail. The same distinctive style is on display in his *Gojōsha arigatō gozaimasu* (Thank You for Traveling with Us Today, 2012), and *Gasu kōjō kiki ippatsu* (Crisis at the Gas Plant, 2016). Among the picture books he has collaborated on as illustrator are *Basugaeru* (Tour Bus Frog) and *Boku wa maigo ja nai* (I'm Not Lost).

The Invisible Man Has Dinner

Yasushi Tsukamoto



Ages 5+

260 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147764

Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

During dinner one evening, an invisible man came and sat down in the chair beside me. Then he reached over and started eating from my plate. Since only he was invisible, and not the food, I could see the things he ate making their way down into his stomach. Later, he came to the bathroom while I was taking my bath, and I could see that the food had been digested into poop. I told him he was welcome to join me in the bath, but he had to go to the toilet first.

Several days later, my mom was looking for some cake she'd put in the refrigerator, when the kitchen door opened and a wedge of cake came floating in. Surprised, she tried to put it back into the refrigerator, but she couldn't get it to go in, so she decided to just set it on the table. I alone could see what the problem was: the cake was inside the invisible man. The next morning when Mom went into the kitchen to make breakfast, she found some poop floating in mid-air and let out a scream. I explained about the invisible man, but she didn't believe me. So I gave him some vegetables to eat, and when she saw the pieces of cucumber, tomato, and carrot moving through the air, she finally realized it was true.

When Mom made pork cutlets and shredded cabbage for dinner that night, she made enough for the invisible man, too. The invisible man took extra helpings of the shredded cabbage, so I followed his example. Mom said it was good for us to get lots of dietary fiber. The next morning I had a nice big poop, and it felt really good.

This is the fourth volume in author Yasushi Tsukamoto's Buttobi omoshiro shokuiku ehon (Gobsmacking Fun Dietary Ed Picture Books) series, which includes *Kono sushi nāni* (What's This Sushi?), *Hashire! Yakinikun* (Get in Shape, Yakinikun!), and *Yakizakana no noroi* (The Curse of the Roasted Fish).

Presenting a simple story that imagines what it would be like for an invisible man to eat visible food, the book teaches young readers the benefit of getting plenty of fiber in their meals.



About the Author

Yasushi Tsukamoto (1965–) was born in Tokyo. He works not only as an illustrator but as a picture-book author in his own right; he is also an essayist. His picture books include *Retasu no ehon* (The Book of Lettuce), *Kono sushi nāni* (What's This Sushi?), *Hashire! Yakinikun* (Get in Shape, Yakinikun!), and *Aisu sukēto pengin* (Penguin On Skates). His collaborations with Shuntarō Tanikawa include *Sono ko* (The Other Boy), *Futari onaji hoshi no ue de* (Two Girls Living on the Same Planet), and *Shinde kureta* (Died for Me) *Yakizakana no Noroi*. The grilled fish Curse Winning picture book award of Libro book store.

Polar Bear Post Office

Seigo Kijima



Ages 5+

265 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146637

Rights sold: China, France
and Taiwan

A polar bear named Milk is postmaster of the forest, and the woodland residents all know they can depend on him if they're ever in need of help. One day he is postmarking the mail with his stamp as usual when he notices that one of the cards is actually addressed to him. "Please help!" it says. It is from the red-crested crane couple who live in District 1, and they say that their newborn chick has been missing for three days. Worried that Red Fox or Sea Eagle might have eaten the chick, Milk rushes out to ask them about it, but it quickly becomes clear that that's not what happened. With his worst fears assuaged, Milk closes the post office while he makes the rounds of the forest to tell the chipmunks, deer, owls, and others about the missing crane chick, asking them to let him know if they find out anything. And in the following days, he always keeps an eye out for the chick as he's making deliveries. But spring gives way to summer and the chick still doesn't turn up. Then one day another post card addressed to Milk appears in the mail—this time from another red-crested crane couple who live in District 3. It says they have been taking care of a lost crane chick since spring, and would like Milk to help them find its parents. Milk rushes out to tell the chick's parents, and he also spreads the good news among all the other woodland creatures. The chick is reunited with its parents, and they live happily ever after.

Milk is modeled on an actual polar bear living in the Kushiro Zoo in Hokkaido, who is so adept at walking erect on his two hind legs that visitors say he looks like a person in a bear suit. The conception for the book was born when author Seigo Kijima wondered what that polar bear might be like as a postman. The bear is joined in this amusing story by a variety of animal species native to Hokkaido.



About the Author

Seigo Kijima (1949–) was born in the eastern Hokkaido city of Kushiro. He started showing his illustrations while still a student at Tokyo Design College, and had his work selected by a series of juried exhibitions beginning in 1975. He currently works as an art director. In 2013 he received the Japan Picture Book Awards Readers' Prize for the first picture book he illustrated, *Kirin ga kuru hi* (A New Giraffe; story by Kageki Shimoda). In 2015 he created his first solo picture book, *Shirokuma yūbinkyō* (Polar Bear Post Office).

The Dragon God's Toothache

Toshitaka Sekiya



Ages 5+

260 x 290 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146156

Rights sold:

Having made himself into a fine doctor while away, Densuke the kappa river imp returns home to the river where he grew up, only to find that it has almost completely dried up due to a protracted dry spell. He wonders if the Dragon God who makes it rain might be sick, and heads up-river to Gourd Lake to see what's going on. When he gets there, he finds the Dragon God whimpering in agony with a terrible toothache. Densuke tells him to open wide, and discovering several bad cavities, quickly rubs his secret cure-all ointment on them. With his pain gone and his strength back, the Dragon God flies up into the clouds and makes it rain again, and all the creatures of the river—kappa, catfish, eels, carp, turtles, and frogs—delight in the return of water to the nearly dry riverbed. After a full day of fun and rejoicing, the story closes with a picture of the Dragon God brushing his teeth before bed.

Author Toshitaka Sekiya's bold and dynamic cut-paper artwork, filling each page with highly expressive creatures in vivid color combinations, is sure to capture the hearts of readers both young and old. The river in the story is modeled on the Yoshii River that runs through the area where Sekiya grew up in Okayama Prefecture. The happy ending leaves readers feeling as if they, too, have had a refreshing day of fun at the river.

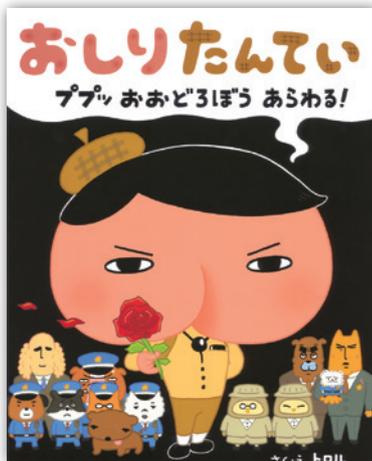


About the Author

Toshitaka Sekiya (1944–) was born in Okayama Prefecture and graduated from Kyoto City Art College (now Kyoto City University of Arts). An admirer of the works of Hokusai, he spent some of his time as a student rambling about the country with his sketchpad in hand, sleeping under the stars. After graduation he worked as a designer for a kimono fabrics company before making his debut as a picture-book author in 1976 with *Nakaoka wa doko ze yo* (Where's Nakaoka?; story by Yukihiro Tajima); the work received an honorable mention at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 1991. His *Ohōtsuku no umi de ikiru* (Living on the Sea of Okhotsk; story by Aya Togawa) took the Sankei Children's Book Art Award in 1998, and a Biennial of Illustration Bratislava Golden Apple the following year. His other works include *Hokkaidō: Matsuura Takeshirō no Ezo-chi tanken* (Hokkaidō: Takeshirō Matsuura's Travels in the Land of Ezo).

The Bum Detective: The Case of the Brazen Thief

Troll



Ages 5+

270 x 210 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146743

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

This is the fifth installment in the Oshiri tantei (The Bum Detective) series of picture books featuring a detective with a face like a butt and a brilliant deductive mind.

A cat burglar who styles himself “Master Thief U” brazenly gives advance warnings to the wealthy owners of the treasures he intends to steal. In spite of these notices, no one has ever laid eyes on the mysterious figure. During a special “Ancient Civilizations” exhibition at the Hōhō Museum, a letter arrives from Master Thief U saying that he intends to snatch “The Goddess’s Muffler” that night. The police are at a loss how to protect the radiant, incomparably beautiful scarf that is on display around the neck of a goddess sculpture, so they call in the Bum Detective. The thief appears as promised, and although the Bum Detective sees through his disguise, makes off with the scarf. The Bum Detective pursues him, and thanks to brilliant deduction together with a lucky break for his sidekick Brown the Dog, manages to recover the priceless scarf. The thief himself, however, slips through his grasp.

Along the way are a series of mazes, hidden pictures, and other puzzles, offering additional fun and giving readers the sense that they are helping to solve the mystery.



About the Author

Troll is a team consisting of writer Yōko Tanaka (1976–) and illustrator Masahide Fukasawa (1981–). Together they produce picture books, illustrations, and application graphics for the iPhone, iPad, and Android. Their first picture book, Oshiri tantei (The Bum Detective), has expanded into a multi-volume series. The Bum Detective behaves like a perfect English gentleman, except that his face looks like a butt, and he blows farts from his face! He is very kind to ladies and likes tea and sweet-potato cakes. He often says, “I smell trouble,” and solves it. Other titles in the picture-book series include Oshiri tantei: Pupu! Reinbō daiya o sagase (The Bum Detective: Find the Rainbow-Colored Diamond), Oshiri tantei: Pupu! Chiisana shochō no dai-pinchi (The Bum Detective: The Little Police Chief’s Big Problem), Oshiri tantei: Pupu! Kieta obentō no nazo (The Bum Detective: The Mystery of the Missing Lunch), and Oshiri tantei: Pupu! Ōdorobō arawaru! (The Bum Detective: The Case of the Brazen Thief). Troll also produces a companion series of readers targeted at the lower grades of elementary school, called Oshiri tantei fairu (The Bum Detective Files), which includes Oshiri tantei: Murasaki fujin no angō jiken (The Bum Detective: Lady Purple and the Secret Code).

Thread Them Together: Animal Fun

Kimika Warabe



Ages 1+

160 x 200 mm

10 pages

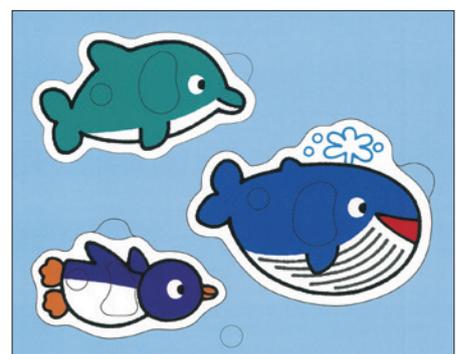
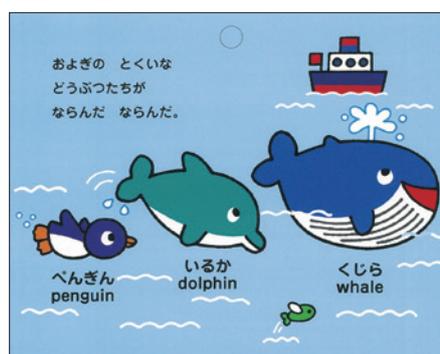
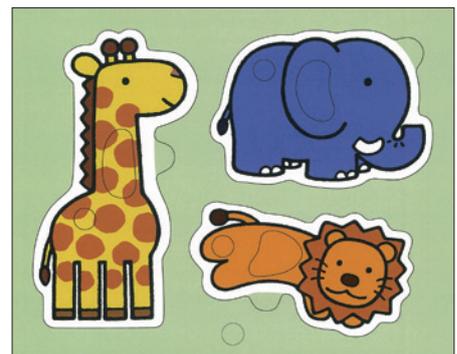
Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591150511

Rights sold:

This is an interactive picture book that offers dexterity training for children as young as 12 months, as they thread the provided cord through holes in animal cutouts.

The pre-cut animal cards can be popped out of the book and threaded together into a chain as illustrated on the cover. Thread them all together for a full parade! Or thread them in groups to match the situations shown in the book: animals taking a walk together across the countryside, sea creatures swimming one after another, all in a row, and so forth. Each card has holes of two different sizes, and they can also be turned over to practice color recognition—offering alternative modes of play to match each child's stage of development. When finished playing the threading game, children can fit the cards back into the book in the manner of a puzzle for even more fun.



About the Author

Kimika Warabe (1950–) was born in Kumamoto Prefecture. After getting her feet wet in the field of illustration while a student at Chūō University, she established herself as a freelance illustrator upon graduation. In 1982 she founded Omochabako (Toy Box), a company focused on creating picture books and character design. She has produced numerous books designed to promote children's intellectual development, and many works related to childcare as well. She also has a line of other products under the Warabe Family name, including such things as towels, baby clothes, and dishes. Her published titles include the small-format interactive books *Tobidasu! Ugoku! Dōbutsu* (It Pops Up! It Moves! Animals), *Tobidasu! Ugoku! Tabemono* (It Pops Up! It Moves! Food), along with many others in the same series; and *Kisetsu to gyōji no ehon* (Picture Book of Seasonal Observances).

First Crafts: Tearing, Crumpling, Folding, Drawing, Cutting

Sawako Marubayashi



Ages 2+

210 x 180 mm

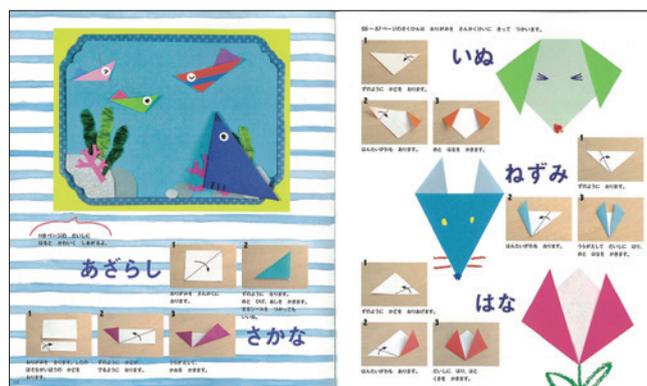
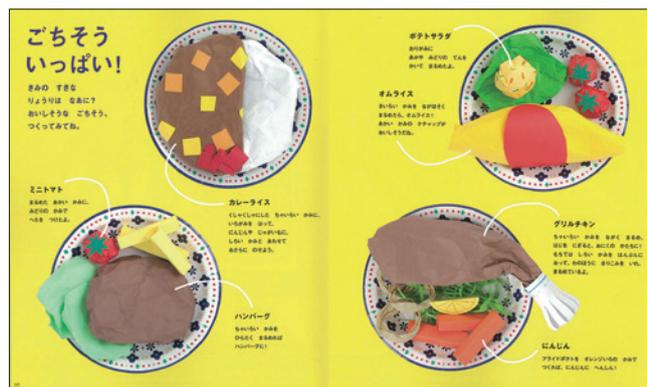
127 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591145371

Rights sold:

Inquisitive little children love to tear paper into pieces, crumple it into a ball, or play with it in other ways. This book is filled with ideas for creatively channeling that kind of play into paper-craft projects. The projects make use of four basic shaping techniques—tearing, crumpling, folding, and cutting—plus drawing, and range from very simple crafts that children as young as two can make, to more advanced projects that allow for many variations and arrangements. Tots will love the yummy-looking pizza, spaghetti, ramen, curry rice, grilled chicken, crepes and other foods made of paper and bits of yarn, and they will have endless fun playing with the folded and cut animals. With ideas suitable for different ages and interests, the book offers little ones and their parents many years of crafting fun together. At the end of the volume are 16 pages of cutouts to be used in completing the various projects.



About the Author

Sawako Marubayashi is an artist educated at Tama Art University. She is on the artistic staff of the arts and crafts show *Kimi nara nani tsukuru?* (What Would You Make?) on NHK Educational TV. She is also editor of the crafts component of *Kodomo charenji poketto* (Kids' Challenge Pocket), which home-delivers educational materials for toddlers on a monthly basis, and has had a role in planning crafts-related supplements for the venerable children's magazines *Mebae* (Sprout) and *Yōchien* (Kindergarten). Her books include *Sawako-san to Happō-kun no hajimete kōsaku* (Sawako and Happō's First Crafts, 2013), *Ritoru supēsu* (Little Space, 2014), and the *Marubayashi-sanchi no tezukuri kaguchō* (The Marubayashi Family's Handmade Furniture Book, 2010–2012) series. She conducts workshops throughout Japan to spread the word about the joys of hands-on crafts.

The Hidden Pictures and Maze Book (Pocket)

Noriko Sato



This is the sixth volume in Poplar Publishing's Mecha mecha asobukku (Loads of Fun Books) series, designed to help children develop their imaginations, thinking skills, and powers of concentration. The book includes not just hidden pictures and mazes, but find-the-mistakes puzzles, connect the dots, and more—160 fun challenges in all. Children hone their thinking skills as they find forgotten sandbox toys, navigate a dinosaur maze, look for hidden characters in a south-sea island landscape, and so forth. Each challenge is posed as a story and charmingly illustrated. The book is published in a compact size to make it easy to carry, allowing young ones to entertain themselves anywhere and everywhere. The fun-filled illustrations—by Noriko Sato, who designed the cover, and 11 other artists—are a pure delight.

Ages 2+

190 x 150 mm

192 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591145692

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



About the Author

Noriko Sato, known in Japan by her pen name Nori, holds degrees from the Keio University Faculty of Letters and the University of Brighton School of Art, Design and Media. Besides working as an illustrator, she is also involved with animation shorts, character design, and 3D projects ranging in mode from cute to stylish.

Find the Mistakes Book (Pocket)

Michiyo Koto



Ages 2+

190 x 150 mm

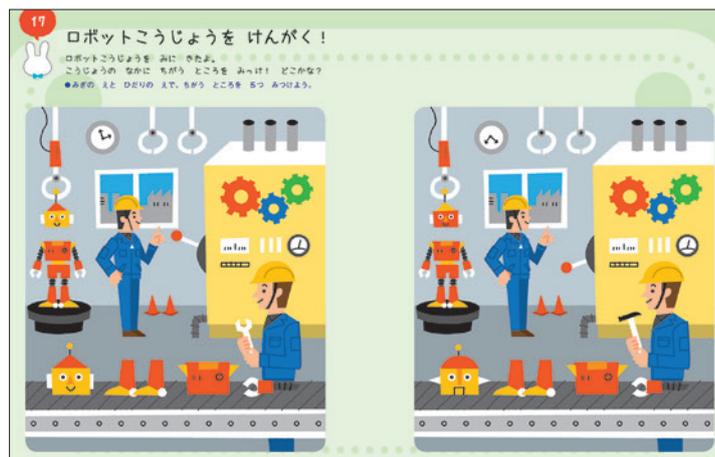
192 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591145708

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

This is the seventh volume in Poplar Publishing's Mecha mecha aso-bukku (Loads of Fun Books) series, designed to help children develop their imaginations, thinking skills, and powers of concentration. The book includes not just find-the-mistakes puzzles, but hidden pictures, mazes, connect the dots, and more—160 fun challenges in all. Children hone their observation skills as they look for mistakes by comparing robot factory scenes, world maps, and so forth. Each challenge is posed as a story and charmingly illustrated. The book is published in a compact size to make it easy to carry, allowing young ones to entertain themselves anywhere and everywhere. The fun-filled illustrations—by Michiyo Koto, who designed the cover, and 11 other artists—will keep children fully engaged right through to the final page.



About the Author

Michiyo Koto works as an illustrator for advertising, magazines, books, and websites. She is affiliated with “cue’s,” a graphic design and illustration unit offering high-quality illustrations that are “simple and fun, cool and cute.”

Fun with Zoomadanke: Kendama!

Zoomadanke



Ages 6+
210 x 150 mm
127 pages
Softcover
ISBN 978-4591146866
Rights sold:

Kendama is the Japanese version of the classic cup-and-ball game known in a variety of forms around the world, played with a ball attached by string to a handle with which it must be caught—in France, it's known as the bilboquet. The current design of Japan's kendama handle, with three cups and a spike, became established around 1920, and subsequent years have seen its acceptance throughout Japan as a traditional toy and folk-craft item that has also inspired serious research by practitioners aiming to achieve greater success as well as the development of competition models.

The Zoomadanke performance duo, who oversaw the production of this book, have been drawing enthusiastic crowds at shows that fuse kendama tricks with dance. The two certified toy consultants here present the tricks they have been teaching children throughout the country—from basic moves to complex sequences of those moves that will wow your onlookers—liberally illustrated with photographs that even youngsters can follow. Whether you are a grade-schooler picking up a kendama for the first time or an advanced adept working to perfect a spectacular routine, the book brings you advice from the pros. It's just

what you need to train for the freestyle kendama competition you've always wanted a shot at!

The book comes with a DVD of Zoomadanke in performance, including tips by the duo on how to practice and develop your kendama skills.

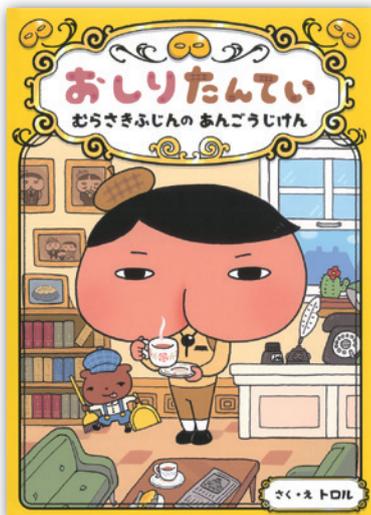


About the Author

Zoomadanke is the name of a kendama (cup-and-ball) performance duo comprising Kodaman (1980–) and Easy (1990–). They perform over 100 shows a year combining their kendama virtuosity with music and dance, and are otherwise engaged in spreading the word about the many different ways you can enjoy the classic game. In recent years they have also appeared on television and other media, and have taken their show on tour overseas.

The Bum Detective: Lady Purple and the Secret Code

Troll



Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

88 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146187

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan



The Bum Detective series so popular among the picture-book set now has a companion in this illustrated chapter-book series targeted at elementary-age children. This is the first volume in the series and contains two all-new stories.

In the title work, the Bum Detective is in his office reading the newspaper during tea time, and an article about a serial burglar wanted by the police has just caught his eye when a woman dressed from head to toe in purple comes in the door. She needs him to decode a message she recently discovered at the back of her safe, she says. It was apparently placed there by her ancestors on the farm that has long been in the family, and she is convinced it will lead her to treasure if she can break the code. The detective thinks she must be the woman people call “Lady Purple” mentioned in another article in that day’s paper—the owner of a sweet potato farm who loves to dress in purple. Although he senses something suspicious about her, he works with her to solve a number of different puzzles, and in the end succeeds in learning the location of the treasure as well as his client’s true identity: though disguised as Lady Purple, this is actually the male burglar the detective had read about in the paper.

In the second story, *Oyatsu dorobō wa dare da?* (Who Stole the Custard?), the Bum Detective hears the sound of breaking glass coming from inside as he arrives back at his office from a shopping trip. When he enters, his assistant, Brown, tells him a burglar has just fled out the broken window with the egg custard that was supposed to be their snack. The detective then notices that his favorite teacup is also missing. The burglar must have taken that as well, suggests Brown, but in the face of the detective’s systematic investigation of the evidence and sharp-witted questioning, ultimately admits the truth: he had inadvertently broken the teacup and the window himself, and had quickly hidden the pudding in order to make it look like there had been a burglary.

Integrated into the stories at various points are a variety of games for readers to enjoy as they make their way through the book—mazes, hidden pictures, “What’s wrong with this picture?” and others.

About the Author

Troll is a team consisting of writer Yoko Tanaka (1976–) and illustrator Masahide Fukasawa (1981–). Together they produce picture books, illustrations, and application graphics for the iPhone, iPad, and Android. Their first picture book, *The Bum Detective*, has expanded into a four-volume series.

Dinosaurs Still Live

Text by **Kyōichi Tomita**

Illus. by **Masakatsu Shimoda**



Ages 9+

220 x 185 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147191

Rights sold:

Compiled by dinosaur expert Kyōichi Tomita and illustrated with great dynamism by Masakatsu Shimoda, this science reader for children presents the latest research on dinosaurs and their evolution. The text is written in simple language that even grade-schoolers with little prior scientific knowledge can follow.

In recent years, dinosaur fossils with feathers have been discovered. Having feathers could have benefited dinosaurs in a number of ways: helping maintain body temperature in frigid climes such as Antarctica, keeping their eggs and their young warm, attracting mates, expressing anger toward enemies, and most important of all, enabling flight. The first creatures to use feathered wings to fly through the air were in fact dinosaurs—in particular, the smaller and weaker ones. As larger, more powerful dinosaurs proliferated, smaller dinosaurs found haven in the trees. They flapped their feathered wings to help them climb trees or to hop from one to another, and then gradually increased their ability to remain in their air for longer periods of time until they could live entirely off the ground.

Beginning with the revelation that the famous tyrannosaurs of the Cretaceous period had feathers, the book discusses why dinosaurs flourished and how they are linked to Earth's ecosystems today. It goes on to explain that, of all creatures living on Earth at present, dinosaurs are the most closely related to birds—in other words, that dinosaurs evolved into birds—and ultimately arrives at the conclusion set forth in the book's title: dinosaurs still live.



About the Author

Kyōichi Tomita (1966–) was born in Fukushima Prefecture. He has conducted research on dinosaurs at fossil fields all over the world as well as on the reptiles of Okinawa, and has devoted himself to CG reconstructions of dinosaurs as well as science education. As an expert on reptiles and dinosaurs, he has had a hand in many books and magazine features for children, and has served as an advisor to dinosaur exhibits mounted throughout Japan. Among his many publications are *Saishin kyōryū nyūmon* (The Newest Dinosaur Basics), *Za hachūrii & ryōseirui* (Reptiles and Amphibians), and *Sūpā riaru kyōryū daizukan* (Super-Real Illustrated Dinosaur Compendium).

Masakatsu Shimoda (1967–) was trained at the Kuwasawa Design School. For a period of two years beginning in 1994 he traveled through China, Tibet, Nepal, India, and the countries of Europe, drawing portraits of the people he met. Upon returning to Japan, he featured the portraits in a magazine series, and in 1997 the portraits were compiled into the book *Private World*. Besides working as an illustrator for magazines and such, he also creates picture books, among which are a number of collaborations with the poet Shuntarō Tanikawa, such as *Ān* (Open Wide) and *Buta rappa* (Pig Horn). In recent years he has been creating and holding exhibits of dinosaurs sewn out of sailcloth. His work is featured in the book *Kyōryū ningen* (Dinosaur People), with photos by Meisa Fujishiro and poetry by Shuntarō Tanikawa.

Learn a Technique by Comics: Shōgi School for Loving Kids

Text by **Ichiro Tagawa**

Illus. by **Kazuhiro Murakawa**



Ages 9+

210 x 150 mm

207 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591146491

Rights sold:

Shōgi, also known as “Japanese chess,” is a board game for two played with 20 pieces each on a nine-by-nine grid of 81 squares. The game is distinctive among chess variations for being the first to institute a rule that allows captured pieces to be returned to the board as one’s own.

This work is an introductory guide to shōgi in comic book format, presenting the basic rules of the game as well as tips on winning strategies. The main character is Shōtarō Katsura, age nine or so, who has never had the slightest interest in the old-fogeyish game his grandfather keeps offering to teach him. But when he discovers that the new girl at school who moved from Tokyo loves shōgi, he decides he wants to learn to play. Supervising editor and professional shōgi player Takanori Hashimoto appears as himself in the story on the premise that he is visiting Shōtarō’s town on vacation. He takes Shōtarō step by step through the rudiments of the game, and readers who know nothing at all about shōgi get to tag along, learning the rules and basic strategies from a pro.

Sidebars at the end of each chapter offer additional information, and a

glossary of terms is included at the end of the volume. The book contains everything a beginner needs to know to get started with the game.



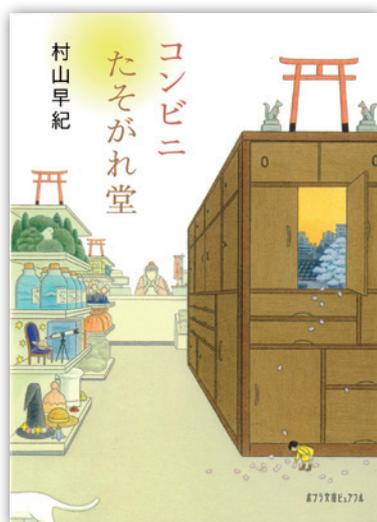
About the Author

Takanori Hashimoto (1983–) was born in Ishikawa Prefecture. He is a *kishi*—a professional shōgi (“Japanese chess”) player. In 1994 he was admitted to the Shōreikai—the Japan Shōgi Association’s organization for training professionals—as a student of shōgi master Shōji Kenmochi. He was promoted to fourth *dan* and joined the ranks of professionals in 2001. Considered one of the most promising young *kishi*, he attained his current rank of eighth *dan* in 2012 (the highest *dan* is nine). An avid promoter of the game, he has taught classes to children and served as a commentator for tournament play. His publications include *NHK shōgi shirīzu: Hashimoto Takanori no shōri o tsukamu uke* (NHK Shōgi Series: Takanori Hashimoto’s Winning with Defense, 2010).

Kazuhiro Murakawa (1970–) was born in Yamagata Prefecture. He made his debut as a manga artist in 1999 with *Ayumu no koma* (Ayumu’s Pieces), a year-long series in the manga weekly *Shōnen Sandē* (Boys’ Sunday) about a high-school boy whose sights are set on becoming a professional shōgi (“Japanese chess”) player; the series was subsequently compiled in five paperback volumes. His other titles include *Haya* (Haya: A Fishing Cutie; 4 vols.), about a high-school girl who has grown up as an expert river-fisher thanks to her ichthyologist grandfather, and *Masaru no itte* (Masaru’s Move; 3 vols.), about a boy who gains admission to the Japan Shōgi Association’s school for training professional shōgi players.

The Twilight Mart

Saki Murayama



150 x 105 mm

180 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591114162

Rights sold: Korea, Taiwan
and Vietnam

This is the first volume in a tremendously popular series of linked stories that has grown to five volumes and counting. The tales are set in the fictional community of Kazahaya and center on a mysterious convenience store, known as the Twilight Mart, on the edge of town. Surrounded by legend, it is said to be reachable only by those who are searching for something out of some deep-seated need.

Each story tells about a different customer who visits the store. The clerk is a silver-haired, golden-eyed young man of mysterious mien, who in spite of his eccentric appearance is capable of feeling strong empathy for his customers. They are a diverse lot: a schoolboy, a schoolgirl, a thirtyish female radio announcer, a cat in human form, and so forth. All are individuals leading ordinary, unassuming lives, the outlines of which slowly come into focus as they reveal their innermost desires and prayers.

Although a premise reminiscent of children's stories may seem removed from adult interests, the advancing narratives evoke fond memories and reawaken emotions from simpler times that have been stored away deep in readers' hearts. The audience for the series has grown both in size and breadth with each new volume, with even older male readers remarking on how moved they were by the deep insights offered on loneliness and death. For readers overwhelmed by the myriad stresses of contemporary life, these "fairy tales for adults" reaffirm the essential goodness of people and shake the imagination out of its torpor.

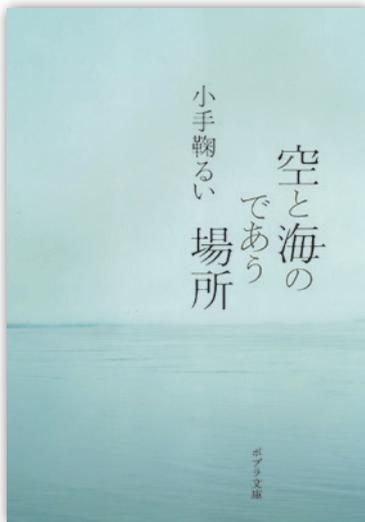
In addition to the title story, in which a fifth-grade boy visits the store, the volume includes Anzu (Apricot), in which the eponymous cat, approaching death, takes on the form of a little girl to visit its master and say goodbye; Te o tsunaida (Hand in Hand), in which a little girl looking for the doll her mother threw out in anger learns about her mother's own childhood, and mother and daughter are finally able to connect; Sakura no koe (Sakurako's Voice), in which the eponymous radio announcer discovers how important her voice is to listeners from the past and future as well as the present and decides not to quit her job; and Aru terebi no monogatari (The Story of a Television), in which a family's beloved television set, now old and breaking down, musters its last bit of strength to show the little girl wonderful images. In the course of these tales, the Twilight Mart convenience store emerges as a place where those who have lost something treasured and irreplaceable can receive and send invisible messages; it is also a place where they can leave behind their indescribable sense of loss and heartache. Readers will find in these stories not only healing for the heart but the courage to accept the past and begin moving forward again.

About the Author

Saki Murayama (1963–) was born in Nagasaki Prefecture. She received the Mainichi Children's Story New Writer Prize in 1991 and the Muku Hatojū Children's Literature Prize in 1994 for *Chiisai Eri-chan* (Little Eri). Her popular titles include *Sabaku no utahime* (Desert Songstress), *Ruryūru* (Reliure), *Sono hon no monogatari* (Story of the Book), the *Shēra-hime no bōken* (The Adventures of Scheherazade) series, the *Konbini Tasogare-dō* (The Twilight Mart) series, the *Kafe Kamome-tei* (The Seagull Café) series, the *Kaiba-tei* (The Seahorse Mansion) series, and the *Kaze no oka no Rurū* (The Little Witch of Windswept Hill) series, as well as other stories set in the fictional town of Kazahaya.

Where Sky and Ocean Meet

Rui Kodemari



155 x 105 mm

192 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591102978

Rights sold:

Konoha Kakehashi, 32, is a freelance illustrator. One day she receives a request from the publisher of a forthcoming children's story by Yūi Igarashi, alias "Arashi," to provide illustrations for the volume. According to the young editor, Arashi is currently on an extended trip overseas, but he has personally directed that Konoha be commissioned to illustrate the story.

Konoha and Arashi had in fact lived together until five years before, and not a day has gone by since without her thinking of him. The two had met when they were both 13, at a residential facility for children from troubled families. Konoha had become unable to go to school as a result of bullying; Arashi had been removed from his parents' care and turned over to relatives. They are drawn to each other and exchange their first kiss. Arashi's dream is to become a writer; when he leaves the facility he promises Konoha he will come to her aid if she ever finds herself in difficulty.

They run into each other again in their 20s, when Konoha is a budding illustrator and Arashi is trying to establish himself as a writer. They fall in love and soon move in together. Completing a manuscript he has poured heart and soul into, Arashi sends it off to a publisher with high hopes, only to receive a stinging rejection note in return. After seeing the note, he disappears for a time; when he finally comes home, he and Konoha have a falling out, in part due to his womanizing, and she ultimately leaves him. Five years have gone by since.

Arashi's manuscript begins arriving in sections from overseas, and Konoha draws the requested illustrations. Through the events of the story, she comes to know the loneliness Arashi is experiencing and his awkwardness in expressing his love. Once the final section has arrived and the story is complete, communications from Arashi cease. With only his last post card as a clue, she goes to Ireland to look for him, and the two are finally reunited on a hill where they can look out over the sea to the distant horizon—where sky and ocean meet.

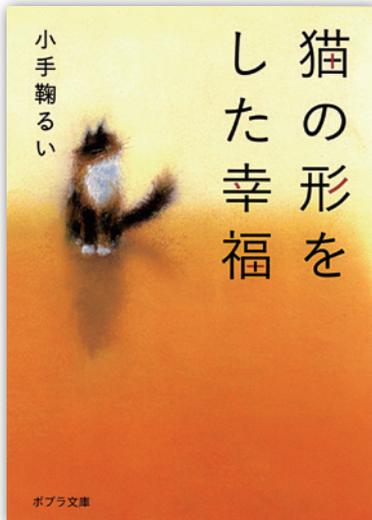
It is the story of a man who lives under an unbearable burden of loneliness, the woman who wants desperately to save him from it, and their love for each other that reaches across time and distance.

About the Author

Rui Kodemari (1956–) was born in Okayama Prefecture. In 2005 she received the Shimase Award for Love Stories for *Hoshii no wa, anata dake* (You're the Only One I Want). Since then she has produced numerous romances, which have gained her a steady following. Her fiction works include *Sora to umi no deau basho* (Where Sky and Ocean Meet), *Mochizuki seikaten* (Greengrocer Mochizuki), *Neko no katachi o shita kōfuku* (Happiness in the Form of a Cat), *Kyūshi issō* (Nine Lives Make One Life), *Utsukushii shinō* (Beautiful Heart), and many others. In 2014's *Appuru songu* (The Apple Song), she takes on a weightier storyline while still retaining the delicate charm of her established style. She has also published essay collections, including *Aishi no neko Purin* (My Beloved Cat, Purin) and *Uddosutokku no mori no hibi* (Days amid the Trees of Woodstock). She currently lives in Woodstock, New York.

Happiness in the Form of a Cat

Rui Kodemari



155 x 105 mm

262 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591126967

Rights sold: Korea

Set against the constantly changing seasons of the American countryside, this story tells of the powerful bond that forms between a married couple and their beloved cat. It is based on author Rui Kodemari's own experiences with her cat, no longer of this world.

Ayano, born and raised in Japan, and Michio, of Japanese descent but born and raised in the United States, are introduced to each other as potential marital partners in Tokyo. They instantly hit it off, decide to get married without delay, and Ayano moves to America. It is a second marriage for both of them, following unions that left each of them scarred. Agreeing that they would like to have a cat as part of their new life together, they go to the local animal shelter, and when a Norwegian Forest kitten leaps out of the cage onto Michio's shoulder, they decide to take it home.

The kitten quickly becomes the center of their life and a symbol of their happiness. Even the scratches it leaves on the furniture as it bounds about the house are endearing to them. Stories about the cat are interwoven with the ebb and flow of the couple's love for each other, telling of how it responds to the appearance of wildlife outside the windows, what it did when left home alone while the couple went on a trip, and so forth. The young kitten grows into adulthood and ages far more quickly than its human guardians; the two look on with growing concern as the end appears nigh, and then their beloved companion is gone. As close as Michio and Ayano have been as husband and wife, they respond differently to their loss—each grieving and healing in his or her own way—and this serves to bring subtle wrinkles in their relationship into relief.

About the Author

Rui Kodemari (1956–) was born in Okayama Prefecture. In 2005 she received the Shimase Award for Love Stories for *Hoshii no wa, anata dake* (You're the Only One I Want). Since then she has produced numerous romances, which have gained her a steady following. Her fiction works include *Sora to umi no deau basho* (Where Sky and Ocean Meet), *Mochizuki seikaten* (Greengrocer Mochizuki), *Neko no katachi o shita kōfuku* (Happiness in the Form of a Cat), *Kyūshi isshō* (Nine Lives Make One Life), *Utsukushii shinzō* (Beautiful Heart), and many others. In 2014's *Appuru songu* (The Apple Song), she takes on a weightier storyline while still retaining the delicate charm of her established style. She has also published essay collections, including *Aishi no neko Purin* (My Beloved Cat, Purin) and *Uddosutokku no mori no hibi* (Days amid the Trees of Woodstock). She currently lives in Woodstock, New York.

Bibi Goes to Africa

Text by **Ichiro Tagawa**

Illus. by **Mitsuo Nakamura**



150 x 210 mm

192 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591146125

Rights sold:

This is a sequel to *Bibi*, a picture book for adults set in author Ichirō Tagawa’s hometown in Yamaguchi Prefecture and telling of a stray cat named Bibi and a middle-aged man who have a meeting of the hearts, only to become separated in the end. In this second installment, Bibi makes a journey to Africa.

Remembering how her friend used to talk about Africa, Bibi finds a ship in Yokohama harbor headed for the distant continent and stows away on board. When she arrives, she heads westward to explore. She sees firsthand what the desert is like, how the people live, what their schools and markets and clinics are like, and how much effort they must put into obtaining water. She learns about slums on the outskirts of big cities where poor people live, about refugee camps for people who have had to flee civil strife, about child soldiers sent into battle by guerrillas, about forced child labor in diamond mines, and other unhappy realities that are part of life for the people who dwell there. A cat she meets named Salaam offers to be her guide, and along the way the two cats compare notes on the life and culture of their native lands.

Tagawa has for years accompanied actress, writer, and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi to Africa, producing television documentaries of the trips. His experiences from visiting nearly 20 different countries on the continent are reflected vividly in this book, making it not only a travelogue but a prayer for the children and for peace. “Cats don’t go around fighting and killing each other. People have a thing or two to learn from us,” says Salaam at one point, and his words continue to resonate long after the last page.

About the Author

Ichirō Tagawa (1939–) was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture and graduated from Hiroshima University. He joined TV Asahi directly out of college and produced programming for the company straight through to retirement age. He began covering actress, writer, and UNICEF goodwill ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi’s trips to Africa in 1984, and has continued to accompany her as a freelance producer even after his retirement. At home in Yamaguchi he runs a blueberry farm and is active in his local community. In 2013 he launched the Tabuse Whole Park Project, a grand experiment aimed at turning his entire hometown of Tabuse into a park. His publications includes *Shiruku-rōdo maboroshi no ōkoku: Rōran kara no tegami* (The Lost Kingdom on the Silk Road: Letter from Lou-lan; 1988), *Bibi* (2009), and *Bibi no Afurika ryokō* (Bibi Goes to Africa; 2015).

Mitsuo Nakamura (1953–) was born in Tokyo, and works as an illustrator and essayist. Reflecting his fondness for remote regions of the world, much of his work both as artist and essayist is on nature and travel themes. His travels have taken him from the Himalayas to the European Alps, Patagonia, and more. Among his many publications are *Nonbiri-yama ni hi wa noboru* (Sunrise on Carefree Mountain; 1998), *Yamatabi no ehon* (A Picture Book of Mountain Travel; 2002), and *Oedo chōteizan sanpo* (A Tour of Tokyo’s Ultra-Low Mountains; 2007). Books he has illustrated include *Bibi* (2009) and *Bibi no Afurika ryokō* (Bibi Goes to Africa; 2015).

Hide and Seek Series

Koji Ishikawa



Ages 0+

160 x 160 mm

32 pages

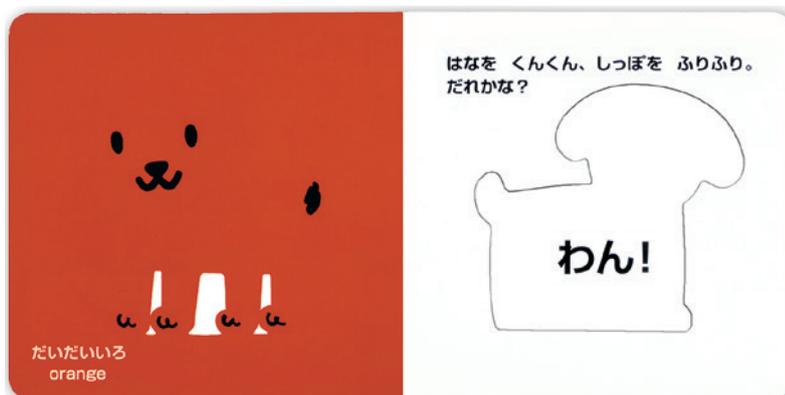
Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591092378

Rights sold: China, France,
Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam

Hide and Seek Animals

Which animal is hiding? The shape of an animal is punched out on each page. A dog, a cat, a lion and many more animals are hiding in this book. The Hide and Seek series is very popular in Japan, with sales totaling more than 1.75 million copies. Eleven titles have been published so far.



About the Author

Koji Ishikawa, born in 1963, is the author of more than 30 picture books. His work was selected at the Illustrators' Exhibition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2004.



Vehicles, Ships & Airplanes



Toys



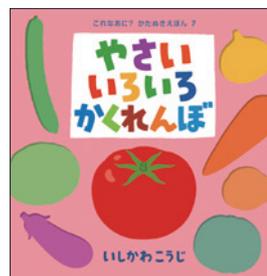
Clothes



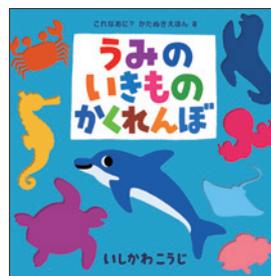
Fruits



Animals' Patterns



Vegetables



Sea Animals



Birds



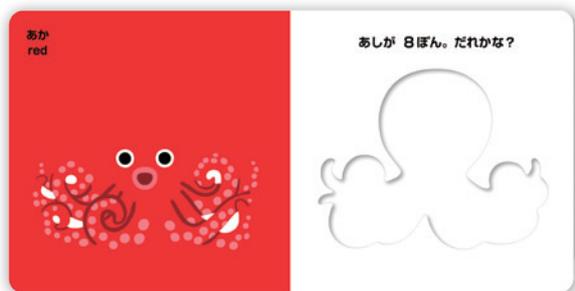
Christmas



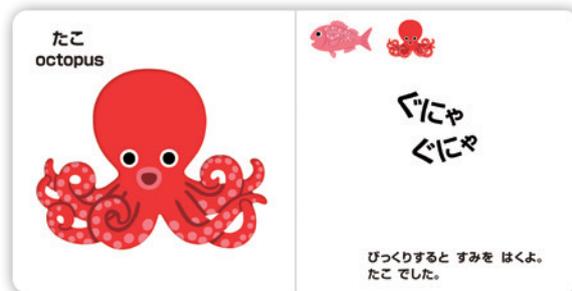
Insects



Halloween



Sea Animals



Jump!

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 0+

155 x 155 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591064764

Rights sold: Argentina, China,

France, Korea, Taiwan and

Russia

Turn the pages to see all kinds of animals jumping high in this delightful book that has sold 620,000 copies in Japan.

A frog jumps. A kitten jumps. A dog jumps—wow, that’s high! A grasshopper jumps, a rabbit jumps, then a snail . . . oops, no luck. A chicken leaps with its chick, a fish splashes out of the water, and last comes a little girl to join in the fun, too.

The volume is the first in the “My First Adventure” series by Tatsuhide Matsuoka, one of Japan’s leading authors of scientific picture books. While the animals’ movements are comical and bring a chuckle, they’re also accurately rendered, so young readers will enjoy themselves and get a taste of science.



About the Author

Tatsuhide Matsuoka (1944–) has been one of Japan’s foremost illustrators specializing in the natural sciences. He won a Japan Picture Book Award in 1981 for *The Neptune Beetle of the Amazon* (text by Yoshitake Suzuki); the Japan Science Book Award in 1993 for *Jungle*; and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award in 2009 for *Illustrated Guide to Woodland Fun*.

Holes

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 0+
155 x 155 mm
36 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591064771
Rights sold:

From the hole in the middle of the page, the face of a living creature peeks through. When you turn the page, you find an illustration of that creature's nest hole—in the ground, in the bed under a river, in a tree hollow, and so forth. For ants, moles, bees, woodpeckers, flying squirrels, owls, foxes, kingfishers, catfish, and more, readers are given a clear and accurate picture of what life is like inside their natural habitats—places normally beyond our view.

The book is the second volume in the author's My First Adventure series, a set of science-related picture books in which he brings the precise and intricately rendered nature illustrations for which he is known to the very youngest readers, so they can begin getting to know the world at their feet from the time they first begin to walk. The series also includes *Jump!*, featuring creatures that jump, and *Footprints*, showing the tracks that many different creatures make.



Who Is It?

Text by **Yoshiaki Ushiro**

Illus. by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**



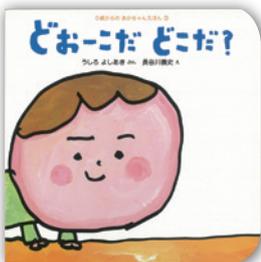
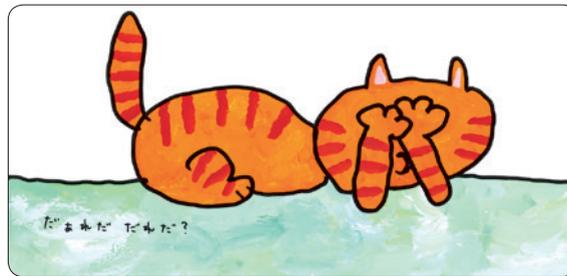
Ages 0+
165 x 165 mm
20 pages
Boardbook
ISBN 978-4591120361
Rights sold:

Here's a book based on peekaboo, every baby's favorite game to play. A cat covers up its face with its paws and asks, "Who is it?" The answer on the next page: "A cat! Meow, meow." The second "Who is it?" is from a dog, and the third and last, an elephant. Short, rhythmical sentences and clearly delineated pictures filled with fun and humor make this an excellent play tool for babies to enjoy with their caretakers. Read it with your baby, and then play "Who is it?" together yourselves, too!

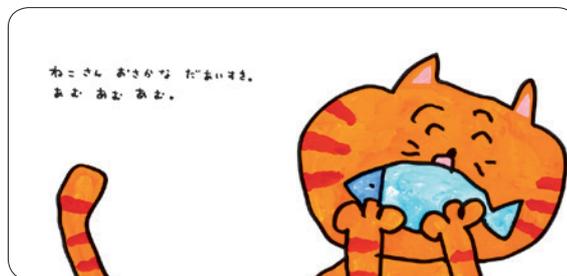
The series also includes *What Is It?*, which is designed to foster shape recognition in infants, and *Where Is It?*, intended to stimulate physical activity.



What is it?



Where is it?



About the Author

Yoshiaki Ushiro (1940–) is an editor and picture-book author. His published works include *Pop, Pop, Smack: Onomatopoeia and Mimesis in Picture Books* and *The Baby's Coming* (illustrated by Mari Kasai), *All Smiles Already* (coauthored with Kayoko Yasuoka and illustrated by Mari Kasai), and *Little Piglet Loves to Play* (illustrated by Yu Tominaga).

Yoshifumi Hasegawa (1961–) has written and illustrated many picture books. Known for the warm humor of his illustrations and for texts rich with simple puns, Hasegawa also writes song lyrics and designs book covers. He won the Japan Picture Book Award and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *When I Was Eating Ramen*.

Smile Baby! Series

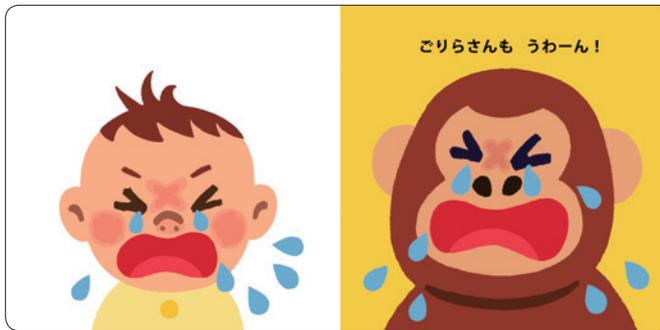
Koji Ishikawa



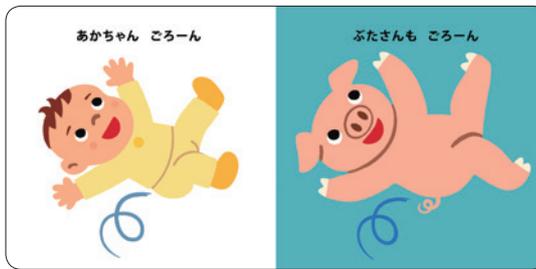
Smile, Baby!

A baby smiles, and then a bear smiles. A baby is surprised, and then a lion is surprised. A baby and animals show various expressions in turn in this colorful picture book. The series has three titles: the first title introduces expressions, the second shows movements, and the third presents communication between a baby and a mother.

Ages 0+
 140 x 145 mm
 22 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591108253 (Vol.1)
 Rights sold:



Hello, Baby!



Mom, Let Me on!



About the Author

Koji Ishikawa, born in 1963, is the author of more than 30 picture books. His work was selected at the Illustrators' Exhibition of the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2004.

The Puffy Series

Akinori Matsu



What do you like, Puffy?

Puffy likes biscuits. He also likes yellow: a sunflower, an egg, and a yellow balloon. He likes hide-and-seek as well. Can you find him? And what he loves most is his mom! Children will love this cute character, Puffy, and it would be a perfect book for small children who just started reading picture books.

Ages 0+
165 x 165 mm
24 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591135686
Rights sold: China



Let's Play, Friends!

Puffy gets up early and wants to play with his friends badly. He goes to see his friends. But Cat is eating breakfast, Monkey is in a toilet and Dog is brushing his teeth. Everyone is busy and doesn't play with Puffy. He gets bored and upset, but at the end, everyone gathers and plays together!



Let's Play, Hide and Seek!

Ready or not, here I come. I'm ready. Then, where is Puffy? You must laugh looking for Puffy hiding in strange place. This is 3rd series.

About the Author

As a graphic designer, Akinori Matsu designs more than 300 books annually. The Puffy series are his first books.

I Love You a Lot!

Mamoru Suzuki



When you feel lonely, come see me at any time. When you can't sleep, I'll sleep with you. When you are sad, I'll hold you tightly. When you are in trouble, I'll go help you. With gentle-touched illustrations, this long-selling picture book conveys warm feelings of loving and being loved.

Ages 0+
 150 x 165 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591072325
 Rights sold: China and The United States



Happy Birthday

About the Author

Mamoru Suzuki, born in 1952, is an illustrator, as well as a researcher of bird's nests. He won the Kodansha Publishing Cultural Award for Picture Books for "Boku no Torinosu Nikki" in 2006. He's drawn illustrations for more than 150 books.

This Is Round

Text by **Hiroataka Nakagawa**

Illus. by **Tupera Tupera**



Ages 0+
170 x 170 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591144978
Rights sold:

Have you ever taken something round and said it looks like the sun, or a face, or something good to eat? There are countless things around us that are at least roughly circular in shape, so one round object can easily transform into another in our minds, and it can be fun to imagine what else a round object—or several together—could be. That’s the concept behind this picture book. Playing the starring roles are round things you might find around you anytime and anywhere—a grapefruit, some stones, a whole pile of buttons.

“This is round,” says the text across from the picture of a grapefruit. “And if you do this . . .” it continues overleaf, where we see strawberries being arranged around the grapefruit with their tips pointing outward. “It’s the sun!” it says on the third page, with a smiling face added to the grapefruit. Similarly, three round stones in a row become skewered dumplings, and a bunch of white buttons becomes a flurry of snowflakes that pile up on the ground. The grapefruit reappears at the end—this time as the moon, shining down on the buttons of snow. Young readers and parents can have fun guessing what each of the round objects will become as they read the book together.



About the Author

Hiroataka Nakagawa (1954–) is a singer-songwriter as well as a picture-book author. His songs *Minna tomodachi* (*Let’s All Be Friends*) and *Sekai-jū no kodomo-tachi ga* (*The Children of the World*) have become favorites among children throughout Japan, who respond to his unaffected, rhythmical narratives. He won the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 2004 for *Naita* (*I Cried*; illustrated by Shinta Chō). His other major works include the *Piiman-mura* (*Green Pepper Village*) series and *Satsuma no o-imo* (*Sweet Potatoes*), both illustrated by Yasunari Murakami, as well as *Sumōman* (tr. *Sumo Boy*, 2006; illustrated by Yoshifumi Hasegawa).

Tupera Tupera is the pseudonym adopted by Tatsuya Kameyama (b. 1976 in Mie Prefecture; graduate of Musashino Art University) and Atsuko Nakagawa (b. 1978 in Kyoto; graduate of Tama Art University), who have been working as a creative team since 2002. In addition to producing humorous, colorful, and highly original picture books and illustrations, they spread their talents across a wide variety of creative fields, including crafts, workshops, set design, animation, merchandise, and children’s television. They have won a series of awards for their work, including the 2012 Japan Picture Book Awards Readers’ Prize and the 2014 Prix du Livre Jeunesse Marseille for *Shirokuma no pantsu* (tr. *Polar Bear’s Underwear*). Among their other titles are *Shimashima-jima* (tr. *Stripe Island*), *Kao nōto 1 & 2* (tr. *Make Faces and Make More Faces*), and *Panda sentō* (*Panda Bathhouse*). Many of their works have been translated into multiple languages.

Chomp!

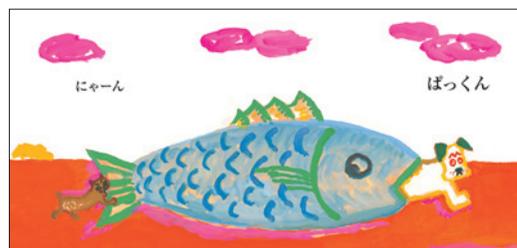
Shinta Cho



Ages 0+
170 x 180 mm
17 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591144688
Rights sold:

A dog is walking along the edge of a pond when a great big fish leaps out of the water and—*chomp!*—latches onto the pooch's hind end with its mouth. In an effort to escape using his unfettered front legs, the dog drags the fish out of the water and along the ground. Then a cat appears and—*chomp!*—clamps its jaws down on the tail of the fish! The dog is dragging the fish and the cat along when a huge bird swoops down and—*chomp!*—grabs the cat in its beak. Flapping its wings, it lifts all three animals into the air. Then suddenly, for no discernible reason, they all fall to the ground. But that's okay: everybody gets up and says good-bye, calling out to each other that they'll play *Chomp!* again another day.

To see the animals apparently trying to eat one another puts readers on edge, wondering how things will turn out, but the nonsensical story comes to a happy end that's sure to elicit smiles. Along the way the book features a variety of fun-to-say onomatopoeias for dragging, laboring hard, flapping, falling, hitting the ground, and so forth—in addition to the hearty, repeated *pakkun!* = *chomp!*



About the Author

Shinta Cho (1927–2005) was a native of Tokyo and landed a job at the Tokyo Nichi Nichi newspaper by winning a cartoon contest in 1948. The following year he made his debut as a manga artist, which subsequently led him to leave the newspaper and strike out on his own as a freelance illustrator. In 1959 he won the Bungei Shunju Manga Award for *Oshaberi na tamagoyaki* (*The Talkative Omelet*), which also received an honorable mention in the Hans Christian Andersen Awards for 1974. In 1977 he garnered the Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *Haru desu yo, Fukurō Obasan* (*Spring Is Here, Auntie Owl*). Among his many other honors are the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Kyabetsu-kun* (*Cabbage Boy*) in 1981, for *Sakasama Raion* (*Upside-Down Lion*) in 1986, and for *Naita* (*I Cried*) in 2005, as well as a Japan Picture Book Award for *Gomu-atama Pontarō* (*Rubber-Headed Pontarō*) in 1999. In recognition of his body of work as an artist and illustrator, he was decorated with Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon in 1994. His tremendous versatility and skill as an artist lent charm to a great many picture books, and his solo works in particular are much loved for their nonsensical fun and highly distinctive linguistic skill.

Masks

Text by **Kotomi Wada**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**



When opened, this book is round like a face, with two large eye-holes near the middle, and slots to serve as hand-holds on each side so that it can be used like a mask. Atop the left half of each spread is the question, “Who am I? Who am I?” On the right page is text for the animal or other item pictured, as in “Oink, oink, I’m a pig.” Just turn the pages to open other masks: apple, monkey, panda, dog, lion, elephant, and watermelon. Children can play with the masks themselves by putting the book to their faces, or parents can delight their children by putting the book to theirs. Though simple in concept, this delightful work has proved to be an endless source of fun, selling over 700,000 copies since it first appeared.

Ages 0+

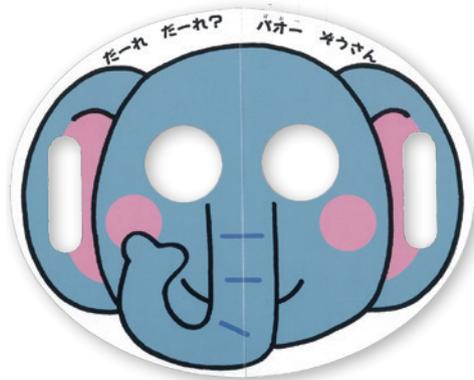
190 x 120 mm

16 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591058206

Rights sold: China



About the Author

Kotomi Wada (1958–) is a specialist on early childhood education and an author of picture books. She developed interest in creating picture books through her own child-rearing experiences. She has authored numerous picture books and books of drills intended to stimulate children’s minds, as well as a variety of moveable, sound-producing, and other interactive works. She also serves as an advisor in the production of children’s television programs and educational toys.

Yoko Sasaki (1952–) has long collaborated closely with children’s author Eiko Kadono on such works as the “Little Ghosts” series and the “Hop and Skip Picture Books” series. Her own picture book titles include the “Baby Bear’s Picture Books” series, *Mimi’s Day*, *Nighty-night Pajamas*, *Maru’s Towel*, and many others. Her works are targeted mostly at the infant to pre-school age.

Mischief Book : Punch!

Chiharu Sakazaki



Ages 0+

160 x 160 mm

10 pages

Boardbook

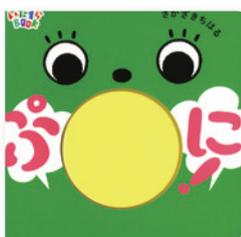
ISBN 978-4591141809

Rights sold: China

This book has an interactive element that stimulates the child's imagination and playfulness. Every page including the cover has a large square hole cut out of its middle; on the last page, a piece of sturdy fabric has been glued across it with two corner-to-corner slits cut into it to form an X. The idea is for young readers to punch their fist through this fabric and out the back of the book to enjoy the sensation of tearing or smashing the item featured on each page.

"Punch the popcorn!" says a page where the hole sits in the center of a huge cup of popcorn. "Punch the newspaper!" says another with Daddy holding up his morning paper. The pages continue with "Punch the big round balloon!"; "Punch the yummy-looking cake!"; and "Punch the lion in the mouth! (Do you dare?)" The lion's mouth looms wide open around the hole.

A sequel in the same series is *Mischief Book: Squish!* which is designed to let young readers have fun with their sense of touch. As they turn the pages, they press on the soft sponge in the middle and imagine they are touching a cat's paw, some custard pudding, a penguin's belly, and so forth.



Mischief Book: Squish!



About the Author

Chiharu Sakazaki (1967–) worked as a designer for a stationery company before turning freelance as an illustrator and children's book author. She designed the penguin for JR East's Suica prepaid fare smartcard, the Kakukaku Shikajika mascot for the Daihatsu Move Conte car, and many other well-known commercial characters.

The Little Girls' Room

Illus. by Jinco

Editorial Supervision by Koto-ku Minamisuna Sakura Nursery School



This is a book designed to help little girls learn how to use the bathroom. Some pages include interactive features, such as toilet paper you can pull and toilet lids that lift up. Tips are provided for specific situations—how to wipe, how to handle a skirt, and so forth. With helpful advice for parents as well, such as when and how to prompt their little ones to head to the bathroom, it's an ideal toilet training guide.

There is also a companion volume for boys, *The Little Boys' Room*. As with the book for girls, tips are provided for specific situations—how to pee sitting down, how to pee standing up, and so forth.

Ages 1+

140 x 140 mm

20 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591140437

Rights sold: China, Taiwan and Vietnam



The Little Boys' Room



Greetings

About the Author

Jinco established herself as a character creator by launching a website featuring original characters. Since February 2001 she has worked as an independent character creator and planner. She has designed a wide variety of characters, including “TAMAGOTCHI.”

Who is Hiding ?

Satoru Onishi



Colorful cut-paper figures of 18 different animals line up on the first spread, each identified by its name: dog, tiger, hippopotamus, zebra, bear, reindeer, and so forth. From the next spread, the same animals are shown again, with one of them crying, angry, hiding, or standing with its back to the reader.

At the top of the page is the simple question, “Who is crying/angry/hiding/looking the other way/etc.?” Very young readers will enjoy the guessing game, searching for the animal prompted by each question.

Ages 2+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591012574

Rights sold: Australia, China, France, Germany, Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Poland, Russia and Vietnam



About the Author

Satoru Onishi (1955–) graduated from Tama Art College. He works as a professional illustrator, and is the author of *Who Is Hiding?* He produces illustrations and craft projects for magazines.

Guess Who?

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**

Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**



Ages 2+

160 x 160 mm

20 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591139769

Rights sold: China

Yoshio Nakae and Noriko Ueno, the author-and-illustrator duo behind the picture book *Little Mouse's Red Vest* and its “Little Mouse” series of sequels, join forces once again in this board book starring Little Mouse for infants and up. The cheerful colors and repeating rhythms will captivate the eyes and ears even of children who might be a bit too young for the original series.

Little Mouse is walking along when . . . Oops! he bumps into someone. Guess who? At first we can only see what Little Mouse sees looking up from his tiny point of view—just a part of the other animal's head—before the picture pulls back on the next page to reveal the entire figure. Mouse keeps coming across one big animal after another in this way until he finally meets up with Nemi, the girl mouse who's his best friend. “We're just the same size! How wonderful,” he exclaims as the two touch noses in a heartwarming hello. Readers of all ages will have fun as they turn the pages and ask one another, “Guess who?”



Greetings

“Good morning!” Little Mouse announces brightly as he gets out of bed, followed by “I'm off now!” as he walks out of the house with a gift in hand. “Hi” he says to one after another of his animal friends, who gather with him to celebrate the birthday of Nemi the mouse: “Congratulations!” Other greetings important to daily life—“Thank you,” “Goodbye,” “Good night”—are also introduced in this story following Little Mouse over the course of his day from waking up to falling asleep again at night.

The delightful back-and-forth between Little Mouse and the other animals makes this book perfect for reading aloud to children who are just learning their first words.

About the Author

Yoshio Nakae and Noriko Ueno began producing picture books together while still in school. Among their most best-known works are *Little Mouse's Red Vest* (Kodansha Award for Picture Books) and the series of sequels that followed; and *Mischievous Rara* (Japan Picture Book Award). In 2005, Nakae and Ueno received the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award for the body of work they had produced together.

I Was Just Minding My Own Business, When...

Taro Gomi



Ages 2+
160 x 160 mm
22 pages
Boardbook
ISBN 978-4591142783
Rights sold: China

A boy is just minding his own business, not doing anything in particular, when a patch of green grass sprouts on his head. This is followed by a brick wall, a surge of waves, a ship, cooked noodles, and even Mount Fuji!—One nonsensical thing following the next. And while it's all happening right there on top of his head, he shows no particular panic or surprise at these strange occurrences. Finally, a bright blue bowler hat appears, and it fits just right. The boy looks pleased as punch. Readers find themselves eagerly turning the pages, wanting to know what will come next in the utterly unpredictable sequence.

In another volume in the series, *I Was Just Daydreaming, When . . .*, a little girl is letting her thoughts wander, and her eyes and mouth begin turning into all sorts of incongruous things. Her face undergoes so many changes, and all them so imaginative, that in the end readers are prompted to turn back to the beginning again just to remember what she looks like. It is great fun whether one is reading them alone or to a group.



*I Was Just Daydreaming,
When . . .*



About the Author

Taro Gomi (1945–) has produced some 450 titles, over 50 of which have been translated in a dozen or so different countries. In 1978 he received the Sankei Children's Book Award for *Who Hid It?* and *Who Ate It?* and his drawings for *Spring Is Here* (Chronicle Books, 1999) won the Graphic Prize at the 1989 Bologna Children's Book Fair.

Watch Me, Mama

Text by **Nanami Madoka**

Illus. by **Tatsuya Miyanishi**



Ages 2+

195 x 175 mm

28 pages

Hardcover

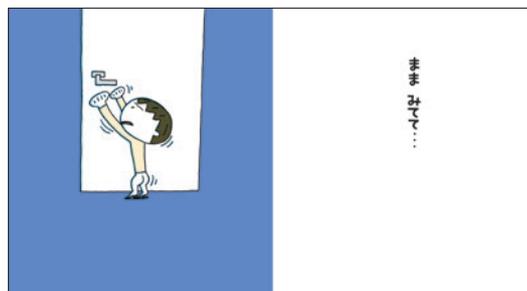
ISBN 978-4591134443

Rights sold: China and

Taiwan

Shin says to his mother, “I can do it all by myself, Mama.” His mother asks, “What can you do all by yourself?” “Watch me, Mama. I’ll show you.” The boy takes off his pants, takes off his underwear, sets the adaptor ring on the toilet seat, gets up on the toilet, and pees, repeating at each step along the way, “Watch me, Mama!” Looking proud as can be that she watched him do it all by himself, he says, “Watch me tomorrow, too, Mama!”

The “Watch me, Mama” phrase that is repeated like a mantra from beginning to end perfectly expresses the little boy’s pride in having learned to go to the bathroom all by himself. It also reflects every small child’s craving for his or her mother’s approving gaze. Says the author: “I dedicate this book to all mothers everywhere.”



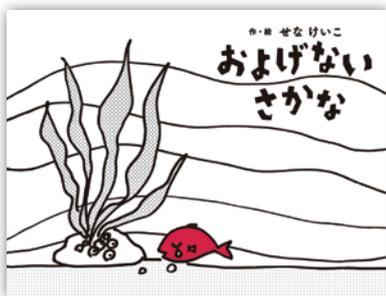
About the Author

Nanami Madoka studied children’s literature in college and became involved with picture-book production after graduation. In due course, she fell in love with picture books and began creating stories of her own. Her titles include *Yaita yaita* (*Roasted, Grilled, Fried*; illustrations by Tatsuya Miyanishi) and *Mama mitete* (*Watch Me, Mama*; illustrations by Tatsuya Miyanishi).

Tatsuya Miyanishi (1956–) graduated from the Nihon University College of Art, and worked as a doll artist and graphic designer before becoming a picture-book author. His works for children include storybooks as well as kamishibai picture-panel stories, and he is also active as an essayist. His distinctive use of bright colors and endearingly drawn characters, together with his signature themes of friendship and family love, have earned him a passionate fan base. A series with 13 titles to date featuring a tyrannosaurus has been particularly popular. He won the 1999 Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *Kyō wa nante un ga ii n darō?* (*It’s My Lucky Day!*), the 2007 Japan Picture Book Awards Readers’ Prize for *Fushigi na kyandī-ya-san* (*The Marvelous Candy Store*), and the 2010 Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Chū-chū* (*Squeak Squeak*). His other works include *Oppai* (*Breasts*), *Nyāgo* (*Meowga*), *Otōsan wa Urutoraman* (*My Daddy Is Ultraman*), and *Omae, umasō da na* (*Oh, Yummy!*).

The Fish That Couldn't Swim

Keiko Sena



Ages 2+

185 x 245 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591145791

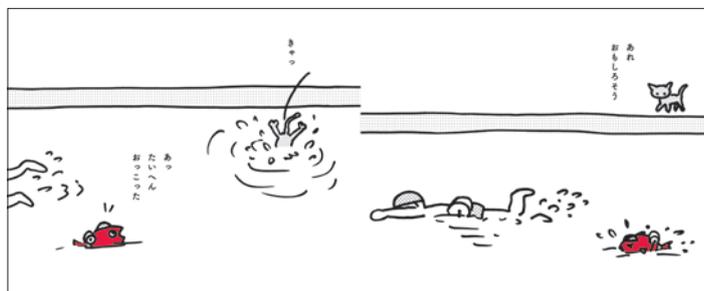
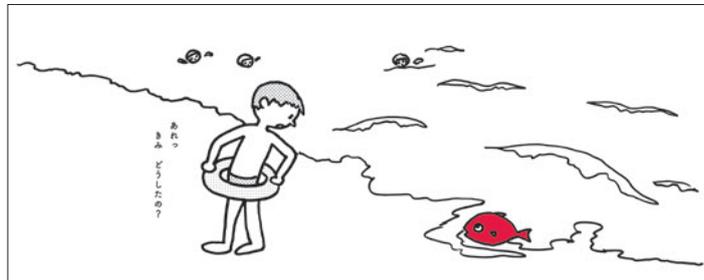
Rights sold:

A whole bunch of baby fish hatch at the bottom of the ocean, but one of them can't swim. He has to crawl along the sea floor instead.

Eventually he crawls all the way to a beach, where he meets a little boy. When he tells the boy that he can't swim, the boy says he can't swim either. So they decide to go to swimming school together.

At the swimming school, the baby fish is practicing hard, when a little kitten comes by, and thinks it looks like fun. But then he inadvertently falls into the pool. The fish promptly swims over to rescue the kitten and takes him back to his mother. The grateful mother says she'll never forget the fish's kindness, and vows never to eat fish again. The baby fish realizes he can swim now, and has the boy take him back to the ocean, where they say goodbye.

This is a heartwarming tale of friendship and overcoming weaknesses. The black and white line drawings, with only the baby fish shown in red, are striking precisely for their simplicity.



About the Author

Keiko Sena (1932–) was born in Tokyo. She studied under the well-known printmaker and children's artist Takeo Takei (1894–1983), and is active as an illustrator of children's books as well as in book design and the creation of kamishibai picture-panel stories. She is a member of the Japan Children's Book Artists Society. In 1970 she received the Sankei Children's Book Award for her four-volume *Iya da iya da no ehon* (*I Won't Do It!*) series. Her other titles include the *Ān ān no ehon* (*Wah! Wah!*) and *Ōkiku naritai* (*I Want to Grow Up*) series, both with four volumes; *Bakemono zukai* (*Ghost Driver*); *Obake no tenpura* (*Ghost Tempura*); and many more.

Rin and Green

Text by **Hiroyuki Aihara**

Illus. by **Nami Adachi**



Ages 2+

180 x 235 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591105757

Rights sold: China

Rin is a red girl-apple, and Green is a green boy-apple. Born on the same day, they've become the best of pals, eating together, going for walks together, bathing together, napping together. They both like to lift heavy weights, and both love to get made up, primped, and dressed in fancy clothes. Since they also both have the same competitive streak, things can sometimes get a little crazy.

They go to the Delicious Academy, where their friends include a watermelon, a banana, some kiwis, a strawberry, and other fruits. On the school's field day, they are in a race together, and of course neither Rin nor Green wants to come in second. As the race begins, they're off to a good start ahead of the rest of the field, but then they get off track and find themselves in a dark forest. At first they're still competing fiercely, but after they encounter a snake and a bear and other scary animals they both burst into tears. Then they decide to take each other's hand, and suddenly their courage returns and soon they are back on track for the goal line.



Rin and Green's Restaurant



Rin and Green Go on a Picnic



Featuring personified apples as the central characters, the story touches on such themes as the importance of being your own person, consideration for others, and gender. Two sequels have also been published: *Rin-chan to Ao-kun no resutoran* (*Rin and Green's Restaurant*), and *Rin-chan to Ao-kun no odekake* (*Rin and Green Go on a Picnic*).

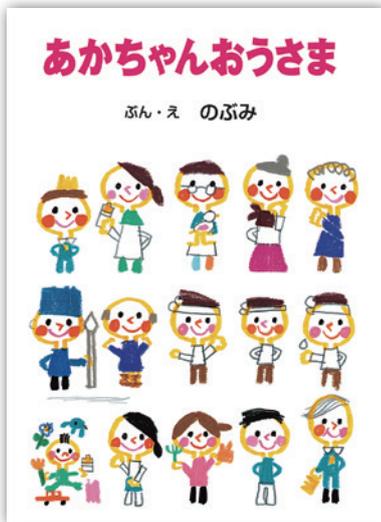
About the Author

Hiroyuki Aihara (1961–) was born in Sendai and graduated from Waseda University. In addition to picture books, he writes broadly on the subject of child rearing, and he also has a hand in developing characters for anime and toys. His tremendously popular *Kuma no gakkō* (*Bear School*) series, illustrated by Nami Adachi, has grown to 19 titles and combined sales of over two million; a number of volumes have been published in translation overseas, including in France and Korea. Other titles on which he has collaborated with Adachi include the *Kuma no ko Min* (*Min the Bear Cub*) series, the *Furanī to Meranī* (*Franny and Melanie*) series, *Usagi-chan to yukidaruma* (*Bunny and the Snowman*), *Ohisama-mura no kodomo-tachi* (*Children of Sun Village*), and the *Rin-chan to Ao-kun* (*Rin and Green*) series.

Nami Adachi (1974–) was born in Gifu Prefecture and graduated from Tama Art University with a degree in graphic design. She worked for a toymaker before launching a career as a picture-book artist in 2003. She collaborates with Hiroyuki Aihara on the tremendously popular *Kuma no gakkō* (*Bear School*) series, which has grown to 19 titles and combined sales of over two million; a number of volumes have been published in translation overseas, including in France and Korea. Other titles on which she has collaborated with Aihara include the *Kuma no ko Min* (*Min the Bear Cub*) series, the *Furanī to Meranī* (*Franny and Melanie*) series, *Usagi-chan to yukidaruma* (*Bunny and the Snowman*), *Ohisama-mura no kodomo-tachi* (*Children of Sun Village*), and the *Rin-chan to Ao-kun* (*Rin and Green*) series. In addition to illustrating picture books, she designs stuffed dolls and their outfits for dress-up play.

The Baby King

Nobumi



Ages 2+
263 x 188 mm
24 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4882642312
Rights sold:

A baby becomes king as soon as he is born. Naturally, he has a staff that sees to his every need—a meal attendant, a potty attendant, and not just one but three attendants who do nothing but heap praises on him even when he hasn't done anything special. He quickly learns to take all these people for granted. But then as he grows a little older, his attendants take their leave from the palace one after another, declaring that the king doesn't need them anymore. When he grows older still, the king himself is turned out of the palace: he's all grown up now, and should be able to manage on his own.

Having no idea what to do, he cries himself to sleep in front of the palace. Three laborers come along and invite him to come work with them, so he goes along. He works hard, finds a pretty woman to marry, and in time they have a child. After years of working hard as a laborer, the king falls ill and becomes bedridden. But he has a loving wife who makes sure he has good food, and a devoted child who helps him with going to the toilet, and three laborer friends who have nothing but good things to say about him for all his hard work over the years. He is happy.

It is a book that prompts readers to think about the true meaning of happiness.



About the Author

Nobumi (1978–) was born in Tokyo. Before he made his publishing debut, he'd already amassed enough picture-book manuscripts to reach the ceiling when stacked in a pile, and he now has over 120 published titles ranging from picture books like *Akachan ōsama* (*The Baby King*), the *Boku Kamen Raidā ni naru!* (*I'm Going to Be Kamen Rider!*) series, and the *Shinkansen* (*Little Bullet Train*) series, to books of essays like *Jibun no rūru de ikō* (*Follow Your Own Rules*). He also has a hand in producing anime and song lyrics for the NHK children's television program *Okāsan to issho* (*Together with Mom*). Following the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant disaster of March 2011, Nobumi became active in efforts to offer support for the victims. He has contributed to the magazine *Pray for Japan*, published cooperatively by a group of manga artists and other creatives to benefit victims of the disaster.

Little Mouse Series

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**

Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**



Ages 2+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

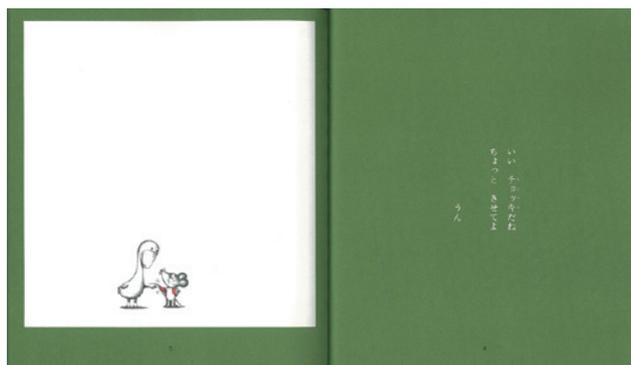
ISBN 978-4591004654

Rights sold: China, Korea,
Italy, Romania, Spain, Taiwan
and Vietnam

Little Mouse's Red Vest

Mama knits Little Mouse a bright red vest, and he is happy as can be. But along comes a duck and asks to try it on. It turns out to be a bit tight. Next comes a monkey, followed by a seal, then a lion and even an elephant. By this time, the cute little vest has gotten stretched all out of shape, and Little Mouse is utterly despondent.

The problem of bigger and bigger animals trying on the tiny vest is clear even to small children, and they are pulled along by the anticipation of what will happen next. With the visual appeal of the bright red vest and the highly expressive and amusing pencil drawings, the book has been a perennial bestseller. The series of sequels this first volume spawned has grown to 32 titles, a clear measure of Little Mouse's popularity.



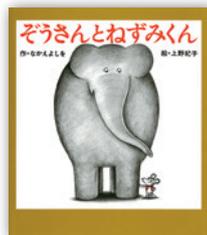
Little Mouse and Pancakes

Nemi, Little Mouse's best friend, is going to make pancakes. Friends gather at her place, but they want to have their favorite dish; Squirrel says she wants a walnut dish while Rabbit says he wants a carrot dish. What kind of dish will she make?

About the Author

Yoshio Nakae and Noriko Ueno began producing picture books together while still in school. Among their most best-known works are *Little Mouse's Red Vest* (Kodansha Award for Picture Books) and the series of sequels that followed; and *Mischievous Rara* (Japan Picture Book Award). In 2005, Nakae and Ueno received the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award for the body of work they had produced together.

The authors describe the friends, such as Cat, Duck, Rabbit, Pig, Lion and Elephant, making the most of each animal's characteristics, and write humorous and charming stories. "Little Mouse" series won four awards, including the Kodansha Award for Picture Books, and has sold more than 4.85 million copies.



- Little Mouse Wants to Eat Apples Again!
- Little Mouse's Red Vest
- Little Mouse and his Best Friend
- How much do You Weigh, Little Mouse?
- Little Mouse's Birthday
- Once Again! Little Mouse's Red Vest
- Little Mouse Breaks a Glass
- Little Mouse and Elephant
- Little Mouse Plays on a Swing
- Little Mouse and a Concert
- Let's Swap! Little Mouse's Red Vest
- Little Mouse and a Snowman
- All Over Again! Little Mouse and Pancakes
- Little Mouse's Christmas

- Little Mouse's Present
- Little Mouse Plays Hide and Seek
- Little Mouse Plays on a Seesaw
- What do You Want to be, Little Mouse?
- That's Why! Little Mouse's Red Vest
- Little Mouse Goes to the Sea
- What's the Matter, Little Mouse?
- Here is a Treat, Little Mouse
- Little Mouse has Lied
- Let it Rain! Let it Rain!
- Little Mouse wants to Transform!
- The Really Little Mouse
- Little Mouse and Monster



Bunny with Glasses

Keiko Sena



Ages 2+

245 x 210 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

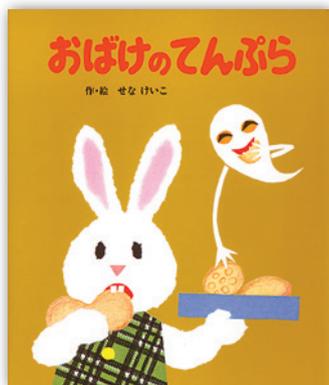
ISBN 978-4591004692

Rights sold: China, France and
the United States

Bunny can't see very well anymore, so she decides to get some glasses. But after playing in the woods one day, she realizes while getting ready for bed that her glasses are missing! She heads straight out to look for them in the woods, where a bored ghost is lurking in the darkness, waiting for someone to scare.

Ghost sees Bunny coming and chortles with glee. But when Ghost tries to startle her, Bunny doesn't act the least bit frightened. Not only is she too intent on locating her glasses, but without them she can't see Ghost well enough to be scared. Wanting her to see him better so she'll be frightened, Ghost earnestly helps in her search. He finally finds the glasses and hands them to Bunny, but just then his archenemy the sun comes up, and he vanishes.

Bunny is grateful to have her glasses back, but she never sees Ghost and is left wondering where the kind soul who found them for her has gone.



Ghost Tempura

When Bunny walks by, a kitten, her friend, is eating tempura for lunch. Bunny asks for some, and it's very tasty. The kitten tells Bunny how to cook tempura. When Bunny is cooking tempura, Ghost comes to her house from a mountain, attracted by the good smell. Ghost secretly enters her house and eats the tempura, but he accidentally falls into batter. Bunny wonders why one of the vegetables, which is actually Ghost, is jumping around in the batter, but she put it into the oil anyway!

About the Author

Keiko Sena (1932–) writes picture books using collages of colored paper. She received the Sankei Children's Book Award for her four-volume "I Won't Do It!" series. Her other titles include the "Wah! Wah!" and "I Want to Grow Up" series, both with four volumes; *Ghost Driver*; *Ghost Tempura*; and many more. Her books have been loved for decades in Japan.

Mr. Toothbrush

Keiko Sena



Mr. Toothbrush comes out every morning. Lion and Rabbit brush their teeth, but Crocodile is crying because his tooth hurts. We can eat anything if we keep our teeth healthy. But we shouldn't bite a friend when we get into a fight! With collages of colored paper, the book humorously tells children the importance of brushing teeth.

Ages 2+

210 x 210 mm

27 pages

Hardcover

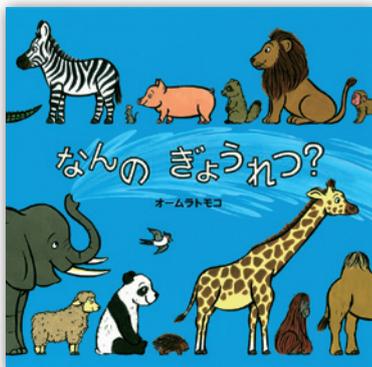
ISBN 978-4591134481

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



Long, Long Line

Tomoko Ohmura



Ages 2+

230 x 230 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591110799

Rights sold:

Australia, Canada, China,

France, Germany, Italy, Korea,

New Zealand, Poland, Russia,

Spain, Sweden, Thailand,

Taiwan, the Netherlands, the

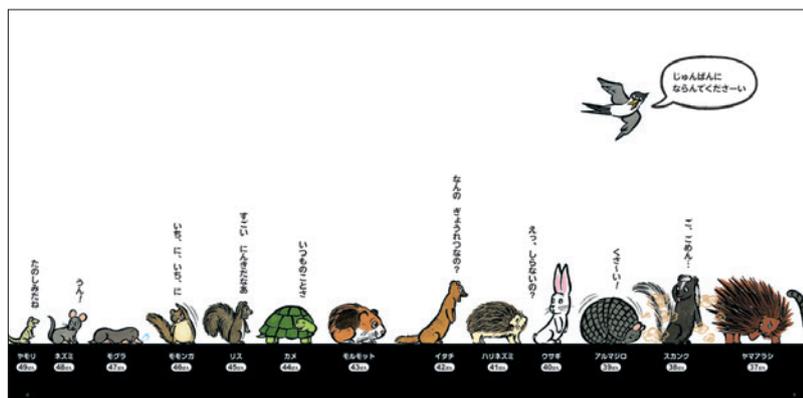
United Kingdom, the United

States and Vietnam

When Frog joins the queue, he is the 50th one in line. In front of him are Lizard and Mouse and Mole . . . and way up ahead at the front is Elephant. From Elephant to Frog, the animals are lined up in order of their size, large to small, all waiting for something to begin.

It turns out that they are all standing on the back of a whale, waiting for a giant “whale-coaster” ride. Monkey and Dog find themselves next to each other and, predictably, are having trouble getting along. Sheep sees Wolf ahead of him in line and hangs back, too scared to move ahead. Some of the animals get tired of waiting and start playing a word-chain game. Then finally the giant whale-coaster heaves into motion . . .

This enjoyable story also serves as an illustrated guide for young readers to learn what each of the 50 animals looks like. As each position in line is numbered, the pages also offer a fun way to learn numbers. In addition, the last thing visible on each spread is the tail of the first animal illustrated on the next page, enabling readers to make a game of guessing which animal comes next. In all, this highly entertaining picture book elicits smiles not just from children but from older readers as well.

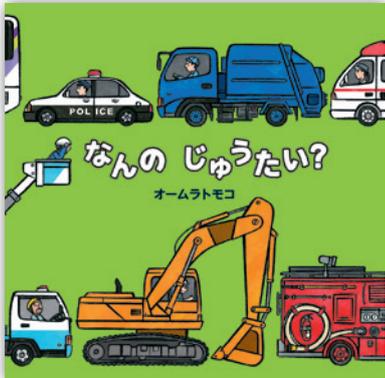


About the Author

Tomoko Ohmura (1973–) graduated from Palette Club School on her way to becoming an illustrator. Her solo picture books include *The Most Amazing Shopping Trip* (winner of the Pinpoint Picture Books Competition in 2002), and *What're We Lining Up for Tonight?* Her collaborations with other authors include the “Cook Your Troubles Away” series, the “Captain Ship” series, the “Food Power” series, and *Field Day*.

What's the Hold-Up?

Tomoko Ohmura



Ages 2+

230 x 230 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

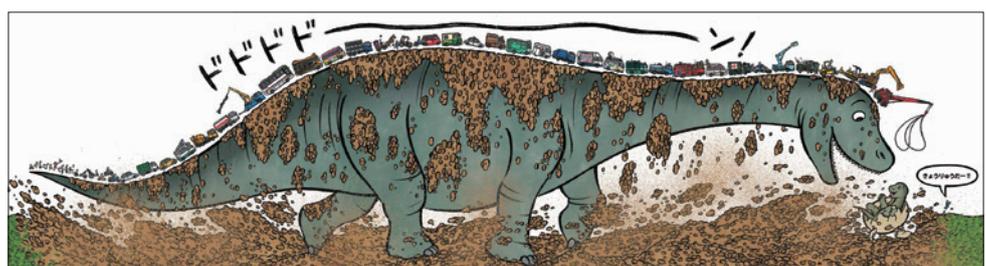
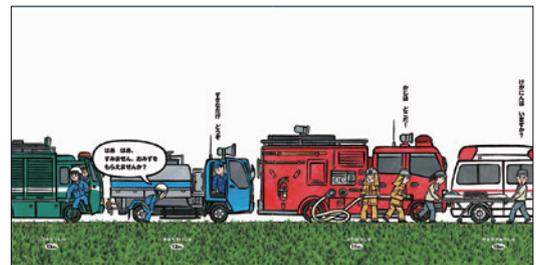
ISBN 978-4591142288

Rights sold: China, France,
Italy, Korea, Russia, Spain,
Taiwan and Vietnam

A boy goes for a ride on his tricycle and finds a long back-up of people, cars, service and construction vehicles, and more. There is a fire engine, a police car, an ambulance, a crane truck and a digger, a bus, a truck, a bookmobile, a passenger car, a street sweeper and so forth—36 different vehicles in all! Lined up behind them are people on motorcycles and scooters, someone in a wheelchair, a mother pushing a stroller, a child on a skateboard, and on and on—14 additional wheeled conveyances and their operators and/or riders.

What's the hold-up? Way up front, a dinosaur baby is hatching from its egg. And to everyone's astonishment, it turns out that the entire string of vehicles is stretched along the mother dinosaur's back. Thankfully, they're all able to get safely down from there, and they can see how happy the mother and newly hatched baby are. The people who were delayed by it all are happy for them, too, as they watch mother and baby dinosaur heading back underground where they live.

Whether by oneself or in a group reading, it's great fun to follow the parade of beautifully drawn, special-function vehicles and conveyances that stretches from one spread to the next and the next. The book is a sequel to the author's *The Long, Long Line*, which has been translated into 12 languages and won awards in France and Sweden, and *What're We Lining Up for Tonight?*



Kuu and Maa's Learning Books: What's on the Menu?

Koshiro Hata



Ages 2+
200 x 195 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591139455
Rights sold: China, France and
Taiwan

The Kuu and Maa's Learning Books series features twin bear cubs—Kuu, a boy, and Maa, a girl—in storylines that help small children learn colors, shapes, body parts, modes of transportation, types of stores, proper greetings, and the names of foods.

In *What's on the Menu?*, Kuu and Maa pretend they are running a restaurant. Their first customer is Mama Bear. They begin by serving her a hamburger platter and rice omelet. When she says she's still hungry, they prepare some potato croquettes, beef stew, curry rice, shrimp gratin, and a beefsteak platter, one after the other. These are followed by ramen noodles, soba noodles with tempura topping, and spaghetti.

Their next customer is Papa Bear. He asks for fish, so they make him some sushi—tuna, squid, octopus, salmon, salmon roe, sweet omelet, and so forth. They also serve him a roasted fish, some miso soup, and pickles. Then it's time for dessert, including pudding, donuts, chocolate cake, cream puffs, black tea, and lemon squash. And suddenly, Papa Bear's stomach begins to growl. Kuu and Maa's stomachs growl, too. The lunches Mama Bear is preparing for them are starting to smell mighty good . . .

Mouth-watering images of the various dishes fill the pages and give small children a chance to learn what each dish is called.



What is this Color?



What is this Shape?



What is this Part of
My Body?



What is this Vehicle?



What is this Shop?



What is this Greeting?



What is this Weather?

About the Author

Koshiro Hata (1963–) writes picture books, draws illustrations, and designs books. His solo-production picture books include *A Summer Day* and *How Many Animals?* He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books “as if it’s a present to my five-year-old self.” Hata shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations.

How Many Animals?

Koshiro Hata



Ages 2+

230 x 230 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591066218

Rights sold: Taiwan

The book opens with a wide, empty field stretching across a two-page spread. A little bear comes along. That's one bear in the field. Two giraffes come along. Now there are one bear and two giraffes in the field. Then three tigers come along, and the field contains one bear, two giraffes, and three tigers. Next, four sheep arrive, then five foxes, and so on, one species after another in incrementing numbers until finally ten mice join the crowd. The field now teems with activity. Then a single ghost appears, and scares all the animals off. The ghost is left alone in the field. But before long the 55 animals return, and everyone plays happily together until the end of the day. When the sun goes down the daytime animal playground is once again an empty field, with zero creatures in sight.

The pleasing lilt of rhythmic repetition, and the fun of trying to guess what animal will show up next, keep young readers eagerly turning the pages. As they read, little ones will naturally absorb the concept of numbers from zero to ten, and also learn the names of ten animals. On the pages where all the animals are congregated, readers can also enjoy locating where all the members of each type are.



Ten Little Monkeys: You Can Do It!

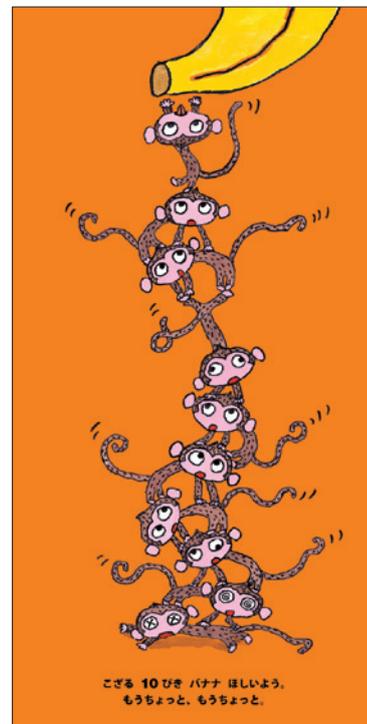
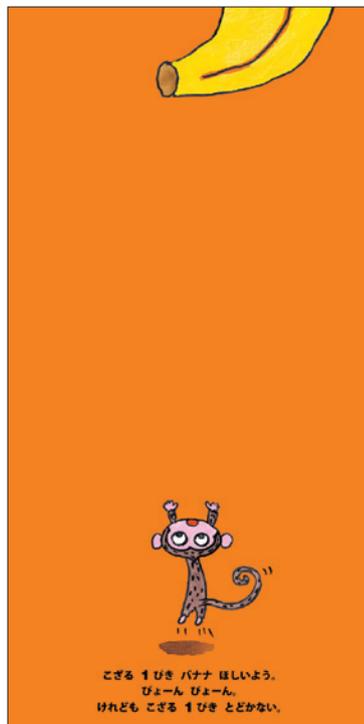
Michael Grejniec



Ages 2+
230 x 230 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591119815
Rights sold: China and Korea

A little monkey comes along and sees a huge banana overhead. “I want that banana!” he says, and strains to reach as high as he can, but he doesn’t even come close. Another little monkey comes along, and they decide to work together; one climbs on top of the other, but they still can’t reach it. A third and a fourth monkey soon join them, and so on, until there are ten little monkeys trying to reach the banana together, but they can’t quite make it. Then a big shadow looms: It is Papa Monkey! The ten little monkeys all pile on top of their daddy and finally get to sink their teeth into that yummy fruit.

Seeing the monkeys stretching their arms and trying so hard, young readers will invariably find themselves cheering, “Just a little more! You can do it!” As they enjoy the simple but suspenseful story, they are also introduced to the concept of addition.

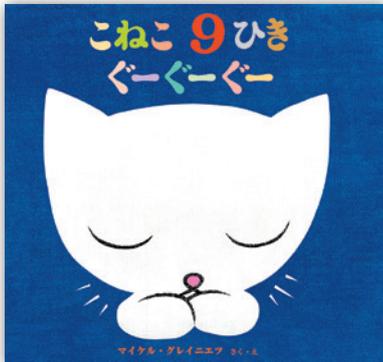


About the Author

Michael Grejniec (1955–) was born in Poland. Working as an illustrator in Europe, he produced posters for theater, film, and anime before becoming a picture-book author. In 1985 he moved to the United States. In 1996 he won the Japan Picture Book Award for Translation for *A Taste of the Moon* (tr. 2013). His other titles include *Rainbow-Colored Flowers*, *Fiabo: the Bright Red Fish Who Loved Stories*, and many others.

Nine Sleeping Kittycats

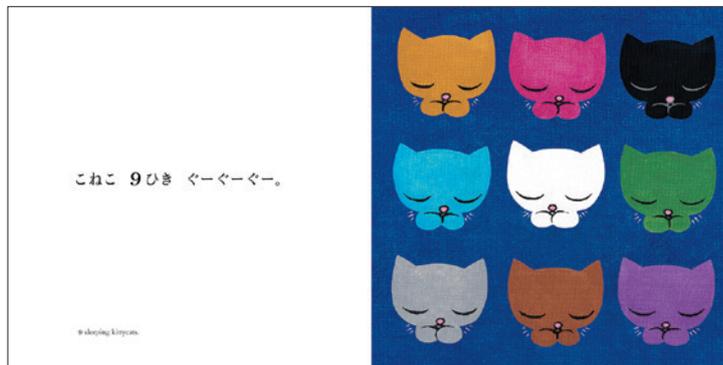
Michael Grejniec



Ages 2+
 230 x 230 mm
 27 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591111673
 Rights sold:
 China, Colombia, Ecuador,
 France, Korea and Taiwan

Nine little kittycats are fast asleep. One of them opens her eyes. How many kittycats are still sleeping? This simple question begins a dialogue between the pages and the young reader, who counts the remaining kittens each time the next two, then three, then two again, and one more open their eyes. And where do they go when they wake up? To Mama! Nine little kittycats plus Mama makes ten cats in all. In a heart-warming final scene on the last page, the nine siblings are lined up together, suckling milk from their mother.

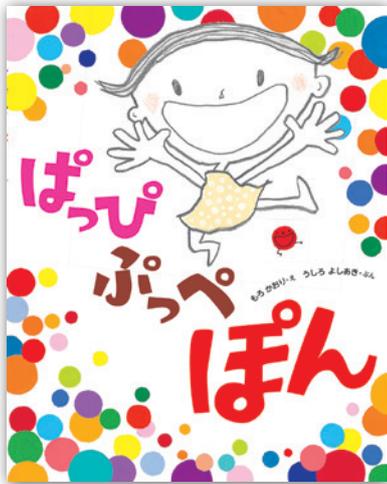
The rhythmical Japanese text is accompanied by a simple English translation. Each of the cats is a different color, enabling young ones to learn their color names. Also introducing the concept of subtraction, the book responds to children's love of learning in multiple ways.



Pappi Puppe Pon

Text by **Yoshiaki Ushiro**

Illus. by **Kaori Moro**



Ages 2+

220 x 275 mm

31 pages

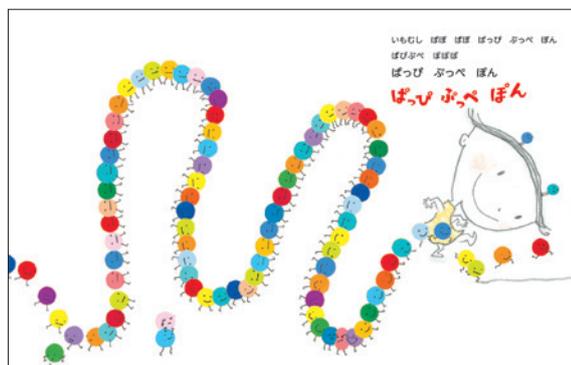
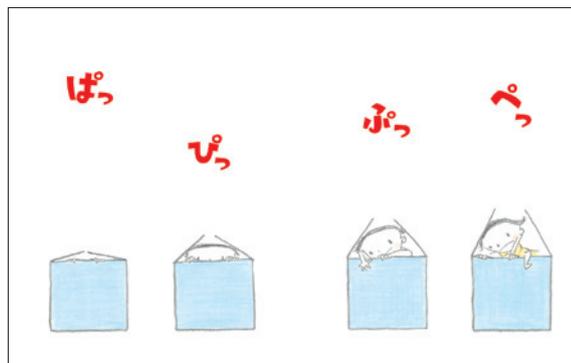
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591140871

Rights sold: China

With a *pappi puppe pon!*, a little girl and a profusion of multicolored M&M-like rounds are tossed from a light blue box. The little girl declares, “We’re going out to play the shape-shifting game! *Pa-pi-pu-pe po-po-po, pappi puppe pon!*” and soon the colorful rounds are arranging themselves into a caterpillar, a horse, a car, and so forth, all having the greatest of fun. But when they get to the top of the mountain, a mighty blast of wind blows by and carries them away. Finally they return to their light blue box and the story is over.

Each of the small rounds has a face, and each face is unique. Readers are sure to notice something new about them every time they read the story. Young children who are just beginning to talk love the bilabial plosives *pa-pi-pu-pe-po* because they are easy sounds to make. And because they can join in and make the sounds themselves, they will take readily to this book, too.



About the Author

Yoshiaki Ushiro (1940–) is an editor and picture-book author. His published works include *Pop, Pop, Smack: Onomatopoeia and Mimesis in Picture Books* and *The Baby's Coming* (illustrated by Mari Kasai), *Who Is It?* (illustrated by Yoshifumi Hasegawa), and *Little Piglet Loves to Play* (illustrated by Yu Tominaga).

Kaori Moro was a preschool teacher before becoming a self-taught illustrator. Picture books she has illustrated include the onomatopoeic titles *Pittsun tsun* (story by Etsuko Bushika). She also creates felt dolls and accessories, and has shown her work in solo exhibitions.

Let's Make a Fruit Cake!

Shimako Okamura



Are you ready? Did you wash your hands? Now let's make a fruit cake! First, spread fresh cream on a sponge cake. Then, put strawberries, kiwis, oranges and bananas. After decorating the cake, you have a delicious-looking fruit cake! Children can enjoy making a cake by simply turning the pages. It's a charming novelty book.

Ages 2+

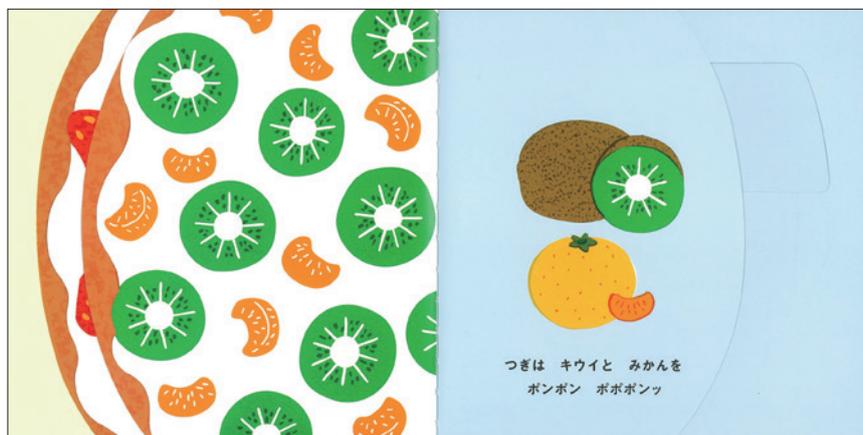
190 x 190 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135921

Rights sold: China



Let's Make a Sandwich!

Are you hungry? Now let's begin! First, spread butter on bread. Then, place lettuce, ham, cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers and eggs. You now have tasty sandwiches. Let's eat them together!

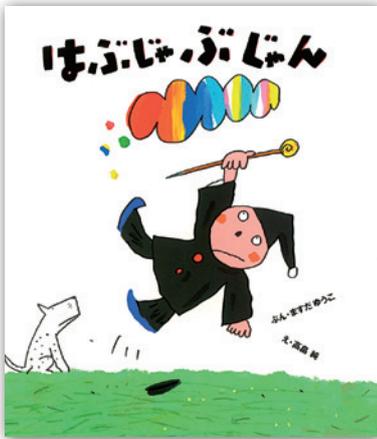
About the Author

Shimako Okamura works as an illustrator and a designer after working at an advertising agency. She's published picture books in Japan and Switzerland.

Habu Jabu Jan!

Text by Yuko Masuda

Illus. by Jun Takabatake



A boy wizard, who is still in training, tries to turn away black clouds, saying a magic spell “Habu Jabu Jan!” But it starts raining, and his stick becomes an umbrella! Strong winds then start blowing. What’s going on? Children will enjoy the book’s rhythmical words and delightful illustrations.

Ages 3+

228 x 196 mm

30 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882644194

Rights sold: China

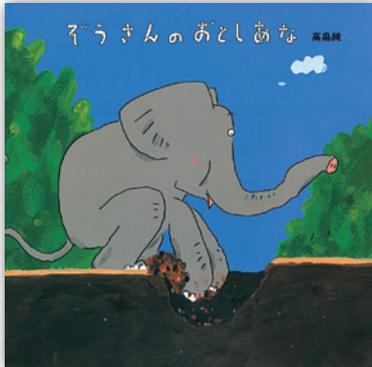


About the Author

Yuko Masuda, a musician, holds concerts for children and writes songs as well as picture books.

The Elephant's Trap

Jun Takabatake



Ages 3+

230 x 230 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591125335

Rights Sold: China, France,
Korea and Taiwan

A mischievous elephant digs a pit trap and covers it up, hoping to give a surprise to the other animals. A troop of ants is the first to walk by, but they are too light to fall in. Next comes a rabbit who goes hop, hop, hop right on over the hole and down the road. A dog follows, and two ducks, but still the trap remains un-sprung. Then to the elephant's dismay a passel of moles scrambles out from beneath it, totally ruining his ploy. Not only that, but it rains, so all that's left is a huge pool of mud—which a pig and her piglets find and start wallowing in to their hearts' content. Soon other animals join in the fun, until finally the elephant decides to take a dive, too. Oh, what a great time!

What the elephant planned as a prank unexpectedly ends up making everybody happy; what could have been a nasty surprise is turned into a joyful one. The pictures alone are worth a good laugh in this book packed with pure delight.



About the Author

Jun Takabatake (1948–) has a knack for capturing the essence of an animal or person and expressing the character's feelings in bright and humorous illustrations filled with motion. His *Whose Bicycle?* was awarded the Graphics Prize at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. He received a Japan Picture Book Award in 2003 for *It's Sour!* (text by Tamio Koshino), and the Kodansha Award for Picture Books in 2011 for *Two Lazybones*.

Block Girl and Block Boy Series

Koji Ishikawa



Block Girl and Block Boy Go to a Park

Block Girl and Block Boy go to a park together. When they swing a seesaw, a dog comes and says, “It’s mine.” When they go on a slide, the dog comes again and says, “It’s mine.” Block Girl and Block Boy decide to transform themselves into a big monster! The dog is surprised and falls into a fountain pond. In order to help the dog, the two will turn themselves into... With colorful illustrations, the book delivers a joyful story.

Ages 3+

260 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591124925

Rights sold: Korea



Block Boy Goes on a Trip

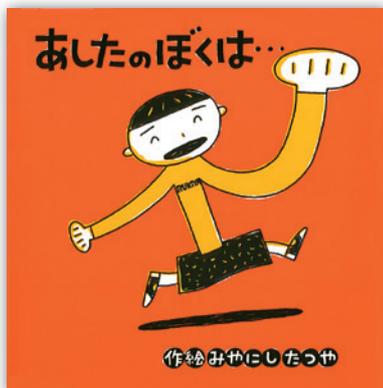
It’s a special day today. Block Boy leaves a block factory and starts walking. When Block Boy reaches the ocean, he transforms himself into a ship and crosses it. When Block Boy sees a kitten on a tree, he helps her climb down the tree by turning himself into stairs. At the end, he reaches a house and turns himself into a birthday present for a little boy!

About the Author

Koji Ishikawa, born in 1963, is the author of more than 30 picture books. His work was selected at the Illustrators’ Exhibition of the Bologna Children’s Book Fair in 2004.

Tomorrow I'll...

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 3+
 190 x 185 mm
 28 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591093689
 Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

I love hamburgers, but I can't stand peppers or carrots. Tomorrow, though . . . maybe I'll have no trouble at all gobbling up my vegetables. And I'm afraid of dogs—even a tiny puppy makes me cringe. Tomorrow, though . . . maybe I'll be able to go near a huge dog without getting scared one bit. I can't put on shampoo without help. Tomorrow, though . . . maybe I'll be able to wash my head all by myself. I love it when my mom hugs me. Tomorrow, though . . . nope, tomorrow I'll still love her hugs just as much!

Many things don't come as easily for children as they do for adults. This book gives young readers the hope that even if today they seem to be no good at something no matter how hard they try, tomorrow might be different. The pages ring with the author's loving message to children reassuring them that all they need is a little time, and that they're perfectly fine right now just the way they are.



About the Author

Tatsuya Miyanishi (1956–) won the Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *It's My Lucky Day!* and the Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Squeak Squeak*. His distinctive use of bright colors and endearingly drawn characters, together with his signature themes of friendship and family love, have earned him a passionate fan base. A series featuring a tyrannosaurus with 13 titles to date has been particularly popular.

Let's Walk

Taro Gomi



Ages 3+
190 x 190 mm
25 pages
Novelty Book
ISBN 978-4591137314
Rights sold: China and Taiwan

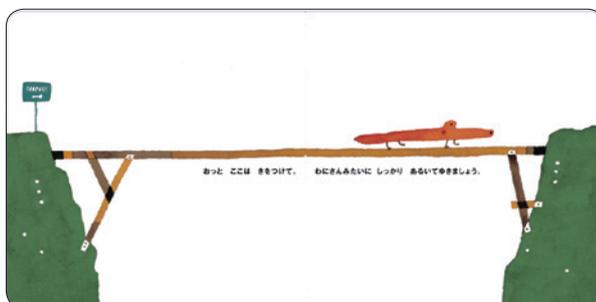
Detach the boy and girl dolls from the cover and hold them by their sticks to have them walk across the pages as you make up your own stories to go along. The scenes show a green pasture, a field of grass, a bridge, and so on, each with animal friends to join the two on their walk—a cow at the farm, a grasshopper in the field, and on the bridge an alligator! Brief sentences expand the tale . . .

Let's walk nice and slow, just like a cow.
Let's pretend to be a grasshopper, hoppity hop.
Oh, watch out! Let's move along with quick steps,
like an alligator!

. . . But in practice, readers can let the dolls walk any way they dream up, creating new stories about the adventures each time. Parents can tell their stories aloud to their children, or children can make-believe as they like on their own. The series also includes *Let's Play*, featuring different settings for the dolls to play in.



Let's Play



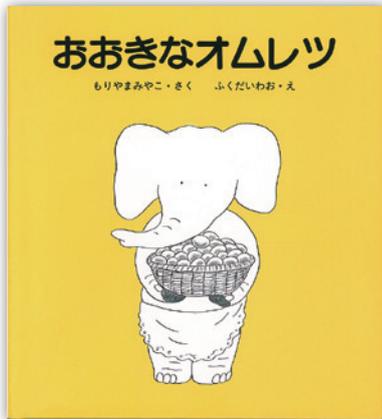
About the Author

Taro Gomi (1945–) has produced some 450 titles, over 50 of which have been translated in a dozen or so different countries. In 1978 he received the Sankei Children's Book Award for *Who Hid It? and Who Ate It?* and his drawings for *Spring Is Here* (Chronicle Books, 1999) won the Graphic Prize at the 1989 Bologna Children's Book Fair. Gomi also writes essays and lyrics for children's songs, and has designed characters for wrapping paper and commercials.

The Big Omelet

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Iwao Fukuda**



Ages 3+

190 x 210 mm

24 pages

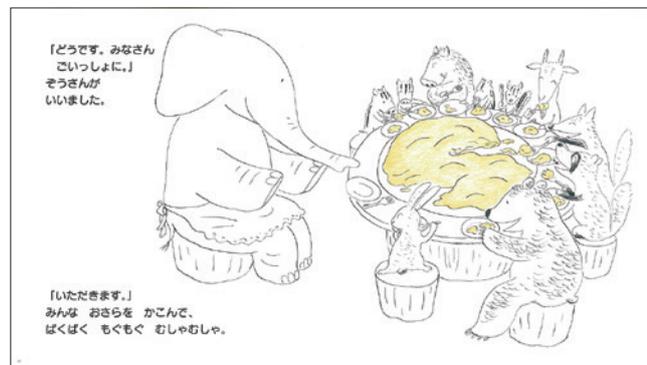
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591061596

Rights sold: Korea

Elephant cooks up a huge omelet using lots of eggs. A delicious aroma wafts through the woods, and before long a *tanuki* racoon dog, a rabbit, some boars, and other animals have gathered round. They all dig into the giant omelet with relish. Because it got divided among so many animals, there's only a little left for Elephant himself. But when he gets up the next morning and goes outside, he finds many baskets of eggs as well as fruit, vegetables, and other food sitting by his doorstep, left there by the animals to thank him for his generosity. He makes another great big omelet, and this time he eats it all by himself.

The work belongs to a series of books by the Moriyama–Fukuda writer and illustrator duo featuring black and white line drawings highlighted with a single color related to the subject of the story—in this case, yellow. The books nurture both the imaginations and the aesthetic sensibilities of the youngest readers.



Who Wakes Up?



A Girl Rabbit
Loves Her Pants



Animals
Compare to Each
Other



My Treasure
Chest



Passing By



Come to My
House



Warm Presents



Little Monkey
Goes to the Sea

About the Author

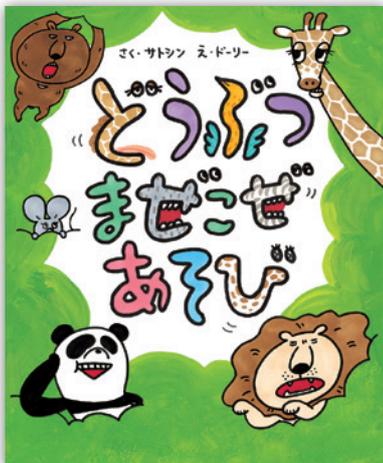
Miyako Moriyama (1929–) is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her works include the “Little Fox” series, which won the Robo-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989, and *Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*, winner of the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature in 1996, and *Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*, which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Iwao Fukuda (1950–) has garnered many fans for his simple but warmhearted artwork. He won the Japan Picture Book Award Grand Prize in 1989 for *Clickety-Clack*. Among his many other works are *Hooray for Farts*, *Teacher’s First Visit*, and *Bullet Train Runabout*.

Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+

216 x 282 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645535

Rights sold:

A strange-looking animal clings to a tree branch. “I’m a koalion,” he says. Beneath him on the page is the question, “Can you tell what two animals I came from?” The answer is a koala bear and a lion: the koala bear wanted to be stronger, and the lion wanted to be able to relax high up in a tree. The *sealter* is a mix of seal and sea otter: the seal wanted to be able to crack open seashells; the otter wanted the seal’s smooth skin. Next comes a *pandaroo*, then a *giracoon*, and so forth, one after another. Finally comes the striped *zebear*, which turns out not to be a cross between a zebra and a bear but between a polar bear and a black bear! The polar bear says he got tired of being forever white, and the black bear says he got tired of being forever black.

Satoshin, an author well known for his bestselling picture book *Poop!*, developed this story over the course of readings conducted around the country. The unique and highly expressive animal drawings perfectly complement the silly story line to heighten the fun quotient.



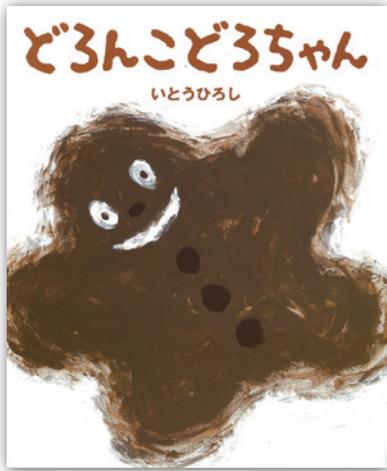
About the Author

Satoshin (1962–) worked in ad production, as a homemaker, and as a freelance copywriter before launching a career as a picture-book author. His picture book *Poop!* won the 2010 Kenbuchi Picture Book Bibakarasu Prize as well as the MOE Picture-Book Seller Grand Prize. www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s

Dolly (1986–) works as an illustrator and manga artist, and also as a cut-paper artist. *Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!* is her first picture book.

Muddy Mudkin

Hiroshi Ito



This book taps irresistibly into children's universal love of playing with mud.

From a broad expanse of muddy brown stretching across the pages pops a pair of eyes. They rise lumberingly from the mud to reveal . . . Muddy Mudkin! Anybody can make a Muddy Mudkin. Just mix some dirt and water together, knead it into the right consistency, and you're done. The free-and-easy artwork throughout is almost exclusively in shades of brown and painted by finger, beckoning child and adult alike to engage in their own mud creations. The pages overflow with the playful energy of children doing what they do best, offering parents a chance to relive their childhoods.

Ages 3+

220 x 270 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591077696

Rights sold: China and Korea

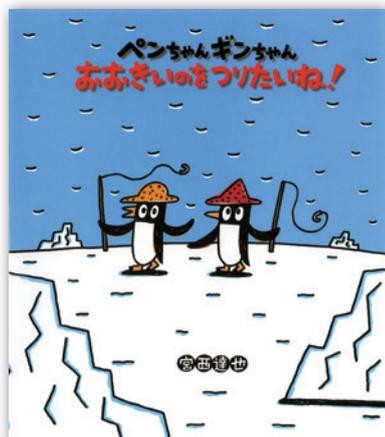


About the Author

Hiroshi Ito (1957–) received the Japan Picture Book Award in 1990 for *Mr. Ruraru's Yard*. In 1992 he won the Robo-no-Ishi Literary Award for *A Day in a Monkey's Life* and *A Monkey's a Monkey*. In 2003 *The Monkey Forest* garnered the Noma Prize for Children's Literature. Versatile in writing as well as illustrating, Ito conveys life's important messages in works that feature direct, easy-to-understand drawings.

Pen and Guin Go Fishing for Something Big

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 3+

260 x 225 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

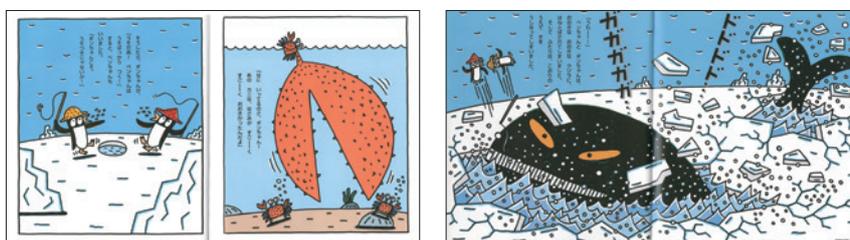
ISBN 978-4591086070

Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

The penguins Pen and Guin are the best of buddies. One day they decide to go fishing. “Wouldn’t it be great if we caught something really big?” they say. They dangle their lines through a hole in the ice, and soon Pen’s fishing rod starts bobbing up and down. “I got one!” he says, and pulls hard on his rod. Just as the fish’s head comes to the surface, his line breaks. “Rats! It was a big one, too,” he says with chagrin. “No, it wasn’t. It was little,” Guin puts in. “What’re you talking about? You just couldn’t see how big its belly was,” retorts Pen, as the illustration shifts to an underwater view showing a huge fish with only its tiny head peeking through the ice hole.

Just then Guin’s line starts to bob, and he pulls on his rod. “It’s an octopus!” he says when he sees some tentacles breaking the surface. He pulls harder, but then somehow the octopus slips off his line and gets away. “Darn! And it was a big one, too,” says Guin. “No, it wasn’t. It was little,” says Pen. “What’re you talking about? You just couldn’t see how big its head was down below,” retorts Pen, as the illustration shifts to an underwater view showing a huge octopus head with only its tiny tentacles jutting above the surface.

The story continues as Pen and Guin argue over the size of other sea creatures that get away—an eel, a squid, a crab, and so forth. But then, lo and behold, Guin’s final catch turns out to be a whale, which bursts through the ice, sends the two penguins flying, and knocks them out cold. When they come to, they are in complete agreement about how big their last catch was—and agree that next time, they’ll go fishing for something small.



About the Author

Tatsuya Miyanishi (1956–) graduated from the Nihon University College of Art, and worked as a doll artist and graphic designer before becoming a picture-book author. His works for children include storybooks as well as kamishibai picture-panel stories, and he is also active as an essayist. His distinctive use of bright colors and endearingly drawn characters, together with his signature themes of friendship and family love, have earned him a passionate fan base. A series with 13 titles to date featuring a tyrannosaurus has been particularly popular. He won the 1999 Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *Kyō wa nante un ga ii n darō?* (*It’s My Lucky Day!*), the 2007 Japan Picture Book Awards Readers’ Prize for *Fushigi na kyandī-ya-san* (*The Marvelous Candy Store*), and the 2010 Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Chū-chū* (*Squeak Squeak*). His other works include *Oppai* (*Breasts*), *Nyāgo* (*Meowga*), *Otōsan wa Urutoraman* (*My Daddy Is Ultraman*), and *Omae, umasō da na* (*Oh, Yummy!*).

Ribbit Goes Ribbit

Hiroshi Ito



Ages 3+

220 x 265 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591103340

Rights sold: China and Korea

Ribbit the tadpole has a very impressive tail. It propels him through the water as quick as an arrow. One good whack of his tail might crumble the crayfish's pincers to dust. Thanks to this appendage, Ribbit is convinced he'll be king of the pond some day. But then the tail he's so proud of begins to shrink! All it really means is that he's turning into a frog, but suddenly unsure of himself, Ribbit retreats into a hole in the ground.

Soon summer arrives. One day he hears a great commotion coming from somewhere. Drawn by the sound, he emerges from his hole to find a large number of frogs raising their voices in chorus. They seem to be having so much fun, Ribbit decides to try it too. "Ribbit," he goes. The other frogs sing for him to join them, and their chorus goes on and on as they all enjoy sounding their voices together. The tadpole who used to strut about convinced he would be king blends right in with all the rest.

The book offers a humorous take on how we must all learn to accept the changes that we go through as we mature.



About the Author

Hiroshi Ito (1957–) received the Japan Picture Book Award in 1990 for *Mr. Ruraru's Yard*. In 1992 he won the Robo-no-Ishi Literary Award for *A Day in a Monkey's Life* and *A Monkey's a Monkey*. In 2003 *The Monkey Forest* garnered the Noma Prize for Children's Literature. Versatile in writing as well as illustrating, Ito conveys life's important messages in works that feature direct, easy-to-understand drawings.

Mr. Ruraru's Yard

Hiroshi Ito



Ages 3+

235 x 250 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591069424

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

This volume belongs to a series of picture books featuring grouchy old Mr. Ruraru and his humorous interactions with animals.

Mr. Ruraru works hard to keep up his yard every day, and he is especially proud of his big green lawn. When anyone approaches it, he chases them off with a slingshot. One morning he finds a big log lying on the grass. Angered, he goes to give it a kick, but all of a sudden the log opens its big wide jaws: what had looked like a log is actually an alligator! Too scared to try to chase it away, Mr. Ruraru just watches it for a while. To his surprise, the alligator beckons to him.

“Hey, mister,” the alligator says, “you should try lying on the lawn like this. You’ll never believe how good it feels. I just love how the prickly grass scratches my tummy.”

Mr. Ruraru decides to do as the alligator suggests, and lies down on the grass in his pajamas. Indeed, he finds the feel of the grass on his stomach most delightful.

After that, Mr. Ruraru stops chasing anyone away from his yard. Now, the hippo and the rhino and the monkey and the dog and the cat and the giraffe and the lion and the snake and the rabbit and the tortoise and the frog and the chicken and all sorts of different animals come to lie on the grass and enjoy that wonderful sensation.

Soft colors and simply drawn characters appeal to the eyes of children, while boldly designed pages keep their interest as the story progresses. The series has 7 titles.



Mr. Ruraru's Treat



Mr. Ruraru's Violin



Mr. Ruraru's Bicycle



Mr. Ruraru's Bookshelf



Mr. Ruraru's Birthday



Mr. Ruraru's Telescope

Ages 3+

235 x 250 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142608

Rights sold:

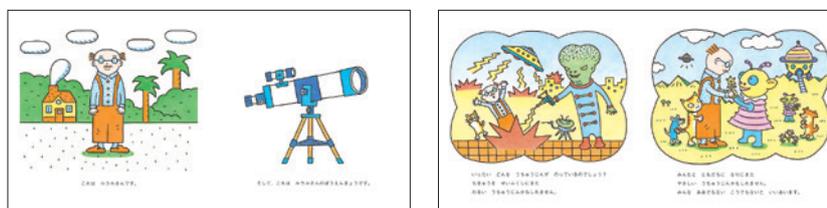
This is the seventh installment in author Hiroshi Ito's tremendously popular Mr. Ruraru picture-book series, which now spans a full quarter-century.

Mr. Ruraru lives in a house with a nice yard, which he shares with a cat, dog, alligator, frog, pig, and several other animals. They like to spend time in the yard on starry nights looking at the sky through their telescope. One night they are observing some spectacular meteor showers, when they suddenly see a scary face looking down the scope at them. It's a space alien! One of those shooting stars must have been its spaceship!

Mr. Ruraru and his animal friends decide to see if they can meet the aliens. Unsure whether these beings will be friendly or hostile, they arm themselves with tennis rackets and frying pans and such just in case, and head up the hill where they think the spaceship landed. They search everywhere, but find no trace of flying saucers or extraterrestrials. Did the aliens hurry back to space when they saw an armed posse coming?

They look down over their town from the hilltop and see a scene of complete tranquility. Everybody is proud that they helped preserve the peace. Returning to their home, they celebrate with a midnight party. They protected the Earth from an alien invasion; they are all heroes.

Then Mr. Ruraru notices a spider web stretched across the legs of the tripod holding the telescope. On a sudden hunch, he catches the spider, dangles it in front of the lens, and looks through the scope. Just as he suspected, the scary face they'd seen was only a spider! But he decides not to say anything to the others. And he hopes that maybe real aliens will visit someday, so they can all become friends.



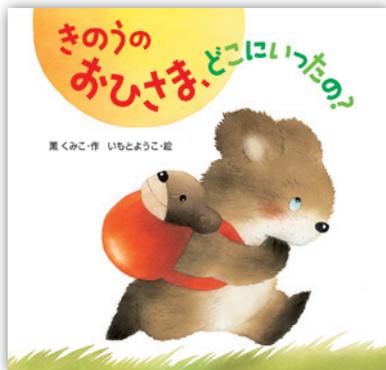
About the Author

Hiroshi Ito (1957–) is a native of Tokyo. One of the finest picture-book authors in Japan, he received the Japan Picture Book Award in 1990 for *Ruraru-san no niwa* (*Mr. Ruraru's Yard*). In 1992 he won the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award for *Osaru no mainichi* (*A Day in a Monkey's Life*) and *Osaru wa osaru* (*A Monkey's a Monkey*). He took the Sankei Children's Book Award in 1994 for *Osaru ni naru hi* (*When a Monkey Becomes a Monkey*) and in 1995 for *Neko to tomodachi* (*Friends with a Cat*). In 1996 his *Daijōbu daijōbu* (*Everything's Fine*) won the Kodansha Award for Picture Books, and in 2003 *Osaru no mori* (*The Monkey Forest*) garnered the Noma Prize for Children's Literature. Versatile in writing as well as illustrating, Ito conveys life's important messages in works that feature direct, easy-to-understand drawings. His distinctive style harks back to his university days, when he produced his first works while still a student.

Yesterday's Sun, Where Did You Go?

Text by **Kumiko Kun**

Illus. by **Yoko Imoto**



Ages 3+

230 x 230 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591092804

Rights sold: China and Korea

Little Bear loves sunshine. Not only does it make him feel toasty warm, but it lets him play shadow tag. Soap bubbles glisten with pretty colors when the sun is shining, too. But when evening comes, the sun goes down on the other side of the mountains and disappears. That's where yesterday's sun went, and the day-before-yesterday's sun as well. It occurs to Little Bear that there must be a lot of suns on the other side of the mountains, so he asks his mother to make him a nice big lunch, stuffs it in his rucksack, and sets out to find them.

Along the way he meets Rabbit and Monkey, who join him on his trip. They walk a long way, then stop to eat Little Bear's lunch together . . . after which they grow sleepy and doze off. When they awake—*Oh, no!*—the sun is on its way down beyond the mountains. Little Bear feels sad and begins to cry, but Rabbit and Monkey console him with a big hug. Then they promise to play together again the next day and all go home. Little Bear didn't find a sun to bring home, but he did find some warmhearted new friends.



About the Author

Kumiko Kun (1954–) received the Japan Juvenile Writers Association New Writer Prize in 1982 for *Words to Live By at Twelve Years Old*, and the Sankei Children's Book Award in 1994 for *The Wind, the Summer, the Eleven-Year-Old*.

Yoko Imoto (1944–) taught school for a time before becoming a picture-book author and illustrator. Her work is distinguished by soft lines and warm colors. She received a Critici in Erba Prize two years running at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, for *The Picture Book of Cats* in 1985 and *The Day the Buckwheat Flowered* in 1986. The following year she won the Bologna Fair Graphics Prize for *Best Loved Children's Songs from Japan* (tr. 1996). She has authored or collaborated on over 300 titles.

Let's Go, Little Fire Truck!

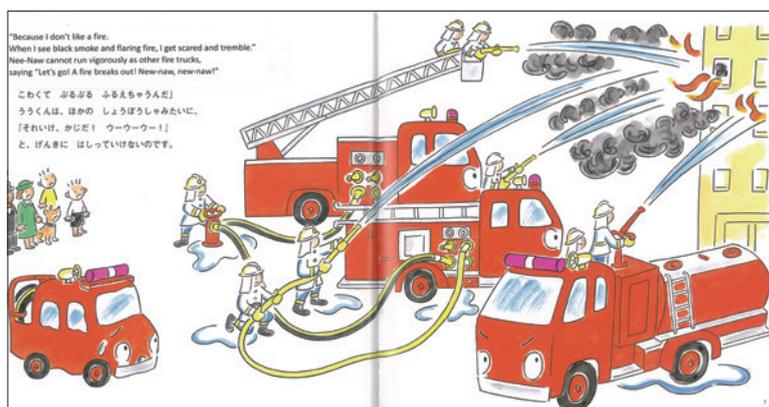
Text by **Kazuyo Toda**

Illus. by **Osamu Nishikawa**



The Little Fire Truck is scared of fire, so every day he prays no fire will break out. One day, a fire breaks out! He goes off to the scene, but he feels scared and gets out of its way. But, a street leading to the scene is so narrow that only the Little Fire Truck can go through. Can he successfully put out the fire? Readers will enjoy a warm and charming story of this cowardly but kind little fire truck.

Ages 3+
 230 x 225 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591134054
 Rights sold: China and Taiwan



About the Author

Kazuyo Toda won the Japanese Writers Association of Children's Literature Newcomer Award for "Nai Nai Neko no Nakushimono." She is the author of more than 20 books, including picture books and fiction.

Osamu Nishikawa won the Bologna Children's Book Fair Erva Award for "Obake to Kodomo no Osamu." He writes picture books, as well as draws illustrations for books.

Daddy, Daddy!

Text by **Hiroataka Nakagawa**

Illus. by **Yoshiko Misumi**



This picture book portrays a father and his daughter at play. “Daddy, daddy! Be a . . .” she calls out, and he says “Sure!” to her every request—turning into an alligator who tumbles around on the floor, a horse who takes her for a galloping ride on his back, and then a slide, and a swing, and an airplane, and . . . In the end the two, all tuckered out, lie down for a nap side by side.

When fathers aren’t sure how to play with their young ones, a good way to start is to ask what they want to do. Meet their demands creatively, and they’ll have a great time—while the dads can enjoy something of a workout!

Ages 3+

230 x 200 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591139837

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



About the Author

Hiroataka Nakagawa (1954–) is a singer-songwriter as well as a picture-book author. He won the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *I Cried* (illustrated by Shinta Cho).

Yoshiko Misumi is the illustrator of *I Want to Be Bad!* (text by Kotaro Sawaki), among other picture books. Her animated and video works as well as kamishibai storytelling panels have also been received with high acclaim.

Da-da-da-da Daddyman

Tatsuya Miyanishi

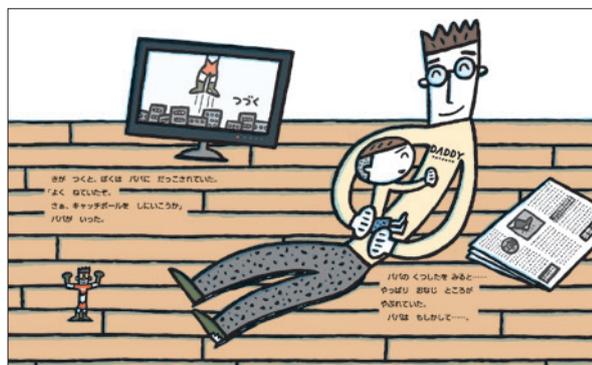


Ages 5+
220 x 270 mm
40 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591141434
Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

The little boy who narrates this story in the first person idolizes Daddyman, the defender of justice. Daddyman is strong and cool and can defeat any monster. By comparison, Papa is definitely not cool, wearing holey socks and given to scratching his butt. If only Papa were more like Daddyman!

One day the boy falls into the clutches of the monster Gabara. “He-e-elp!” he cries. Racing to the rescue is Daddyman, who quickly drives Gabara away. But wait a minute. Daddyman’s sock has a hole in the same place as Papa. Could Daddyman actually be . . . ?

Even dads who normally look like wimps can turn into strong and cool Daddyman when it comes to protecting their own children. Three fun-filled episodes portray Daddyman the hero in this humorous and endearing take on fathers from the perspective of a small boy.



About the Author

Tatsuya Miyanishi (1956–) won the Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *It's My Lucky Day!* and the Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Squeak Squeak*. His distinctive use of bright colors and endearingly drawn characters, together with his signature themes of friendship and family love, have earned him a passionate fan base. A series featuring a tyrannosaurs with 13 titles to date has been particularly popular.

How are You Doing, Mom?

Text by Ryuji Goto

Illus. by Miho Takeda



Today is Mother's Day, so I'm writing a letter to my Mom. I write what I have wanted to say to her: 1.) Please don't keep saying, "Do you understand?" 2.) Please don't clean my room without telling me. The story depicts the relationship between a child and a mother, and it touches children's hearts as well as adults'. The book won the Japan Picture Book Grand Prize.

Ages 5+

230 x 230 mm

30 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591092101

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan



About the Author

Ryuji Goto (1943-2010) was a well-known children's writer. He won the Japanese Writers Association of Children's Literature Award twice, and the Noma Children's Literature Award for "Yashin Aratamezu."

Miho Takeda, born in 1959, won the Japan Picture Book Award for "A Little Ghost Under My Desk" and the Kodansha Publishing Cultural Award for Picture Books for "Masuda Sits Next to Me."

The Big Table

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Gen Hirose**



Ages 5+

230 x 230 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591068687

Rights sold: China and

Taiwan

Granny Rabbit has a great big table that Grandpa Rabbit made for her many years ago. Until last year, she and Grandpa sat down to eat at this table together, but now he is gone. Up to three years ago, her youngest son also shared their table; before that, her middle boy and twin daughters dined with them as well, and six years back so did her eldest daughter and son. But all of the children in their turn have left home to work or study or get married. In the days when the whole family of eight still lived together, they used to do all sorts of things at this table. In their early years, the children spent endless hours under the table playing, and when they were in school they often sat there to do their homework. Granny used the table when she was cooking, or to do her ironing.

One day Granny happens to look under the table and discovers for the first time the many scribblings that are there. As she reads them, she can hear the voices of her children in them—some laughing, some crying. Just then her youngest son drops in for a rare visit. Sitting in his usual place at the table seems to bring back fond memories, and soon he is proposing that the whole family should get together for Granny's birthday the following month. Granny quickly grows excited as she envisions her clan sitting around the table once again.

As the focal point of the rabbit family's life, the big table is a repository of countless memories, which the story illustrates and describes in the fondest of terms. The final scene in which the children and grandchildren gather for Granny's birthday creates a warm and fuzzy glow that stays with the reader long after the story is through.



About the Author

Miyako Moriyama (1929–) is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her works include the “Little Fox” series, which won the Robo-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989, and *Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*, winner of the Noma Prize for Children's Literature in 1996, and *Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*, which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Gen Hirose (1968–) is a picture-book author and illustrator who is highly acclaimed for his striking originality and skill at giving shape to humorously unique characters. His picture books include *Tat-chan the Dreamer*, and *Liar Rabbit*. Among his illustrations for children's stories are *the Tales of the Heike*, and *Myth to the Sky* (text by Yoko Tomiyasu), which received the Sankei Children's Book Award in 2001.

Yours for Free

Keiko Hamada



Ages 5+
230 x 230 mm
36 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591140888
Rights sold: China, Korea
and Vietnam

Doted on by a loving mother, father, grandmother, and grandfather, the little boy was happy as can be. Then “this weird new thing” that suddenly dominates everybody’s attention comes into his house—a baby sister—and his life plunges into crisis. Wanting to get his former happiness back, he swings into action. He decides he will give his little sister away and draws up a flier with her picture on it that says, “A cute baby. Yours for free!” When he fails to get any takers, he dresses her up so she looks even cuter, he offers to throw in his toy robot as an extra, he practices with her every day until she learns to do a new trick, and so on . . . and in the process ends up becoming quite attached to his little sister.

The arrival of a little brother or sister can generate both positive and negative feelings—in either case, they are real feelings that cannot be denied. This story treats those complex emotions with humor. The author continues her tradition of portraying happy relationships between children and grown-ups, filling her pages with children whose faces fairly burst with a rich range of expressions under the tender gaze of their elders.



About the Author

Keiko Hamada (1947–) worked at the Ikkō Tanaka Design Office for a time before she began creating books for children. Some of her best-known titles include *The Day When a Baby Was Born*, *Yours for Free*, and *My Annoying Little Sister*, among many others. She has also published illustrated essays, such as *To the Andes: Travel Sketches from Peru and Bolivia*.

My Annoying Little Sister

Keiko Hamada



Ages 5+

225 x 260 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591088074

Rights sold: Korea and

Taiwan

This is the story of a boy who regards his little sister as a pest—all the more because she so adores him—and the underlying love that binds them as siblings.

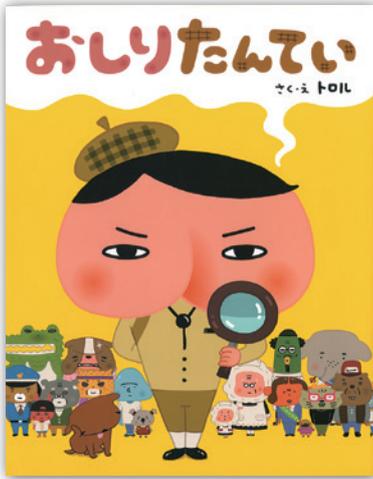
Kōta is in the second grade, his little sister Maho in the first. Kōta gets annoyed with Maho because she's so talkative and constantly butting in. She comes looking for him during recess at school and shouts out his name. She brags about her big brother to her friends and to the school principal. When Kōta's on lunch duty, she raises a cheer. Kōta finds it all quite embarrassing. At home, she'll ignore the fact that he's trying to do his homework and pester him to read her favorite picture book, *My Cute Little Sister*. At Kōta's birthday party she says mean things about the presents his friends have brought him. His friends have little sisters who are quiet and sweet, little brothers who listen, older sisters who are pretty and kind, older brothers who are great soccer players. And one of his friends is an only child, which seems like it would be just perfect. Kōta laments that he's the only one who has to put up with such an annoying little sister.

When Kōta comes down with the mumps, his sister worries for him. Then Maho gets the mumps, too, and it's her turn to stay in bed. With his sister out of commission, he can walk as fast as he wants; there's no one to bother him at recess; he gets his homework done quickly. It's so nice to have some peace and quiet for a change. But Kōta also feels like something's missing. When he gets home, he volunteers to read *My Cute Little Sister* to Maho. Several days later, his sister is over the mumps, and she returns to her former unrestrained, talkative self. And once again Kōta can't help thinking how annoying she is . . .



The Bum Detective

Troll



The Bum Detective behaves like a perfect English gentleman, except that his face looks like a butt, and he blows farts from his face! He is very kind to ladies and likes tea and sweet-potato cakes. He often says, “This is the curious incident,” and solves the mystery. In this first title of the series, the Bum Detective tries to find a thief who stole all of the sweets at a shop. Young readers can enjoy labyrinths and quizzes as well as the story, which has them trying to figure out the truth together with the Bum Detective.

Ages 5+
270 x 210 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591130902
Rights sold: China, France,
Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam



The Bum Detective:
Find the Rainbow-
Colored Diamond



The Bum Detective:
The Little Police
Chief's Big Problem



The Bum Detective:
The Mystery of
Missing Lunch



The Bum Detective:
The Case of the
Brazen Thief

About the Author

Troll is a team consisting of writer Yoko Tanaka (1976–) and illustrator Masahide Fukasawa (1981–). Together they produce picture books, illustrations, and application graphics for the iPhone, iPad, and Android. Their first picture book, The Bum Detective, has expanded into a four-volume series.

Wayward Bear

Text by **Shoichi Nejime**

Illus. by **Nao Takabatake**



Ages 5+

187 x 245 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882642473

Rights sold: Korea

Even though it's high time for him to hibernate, a wayward bear continues to roam the mountains and countryside. The other animals of the forest grow concerned. They try to figure out what they can do to encourage him to hibernate. Going into the bear's den with him, the wild boar gives him a relaxing shoulder rub, the rabbit sings him a lullaby, the squirrel strokes his back, the mole cleans his ears for him, and they all make sure he has fallen asleep. But the next morning they find him out of his den and up in a tree again.

The boar challenges him to a race, hoping it will wear him out and make him fall asleep. It works, and the animals carry the bear to his den. But when they go to check on him the next morning, he is already out in front of his den, warming up for a rematch with the boar, determined to win the race this time. Beneath the humor of the story, readers can sense the genuine concern the bear's friends have for his welfare.



About the Author

Shoichi Nejime (1948–), a poet and novelist, won the Naoki Prize in 1989 for *Kōenji's Unassuming Shopping District*. His other titles for the general reader include *Wasteland Romance* and *The Boy Who Worshiped Nagashima*. Among his titles for children are *A-i-u-e Riceball*, *So Many Sisters*, and *The Flying Blackboard*.

Nao Takabatake (1978–) made his publishing debut after receiving an honorable mention in the 2003 Kodansha Award for a submission later released as *Moobow the Dog: I Like It, I Like It*. Some of his other best-known works are *Frog Goes Out*, *Mystery Tour*, *A Christmas Miracle*, *The Banana Incident*, and *Birthday Dog*.

Can We Be Friends?

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Young Snake just wants to be friends, and he greets everybody in a genial manner as he asks if they'd like to play, but for some reason the tadpoles, frogs, mice, birds, and a little boy and girl all recoil in fear. So he decides it might help if he offered to do nice things for them.

He coils his long body into a spiral sliding board, offers himself as a jump rope, and becomes a seesaw. Everybody has lots of fun, but by the time he's done all that, Snake is so worn out that he collapses limply to the ground. The other animals gather round to show their concern, and tell him he's their friend.

Ages 5+

230 x 230 mm

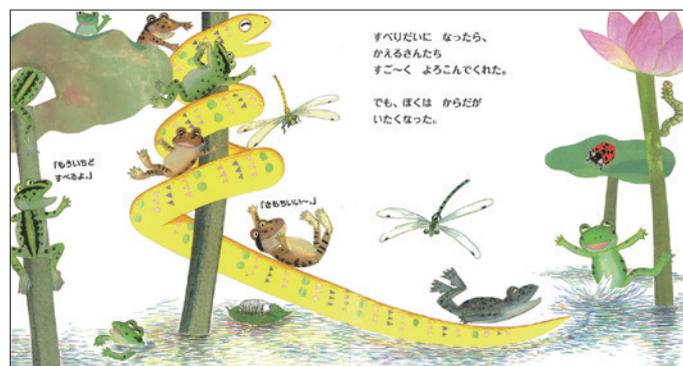
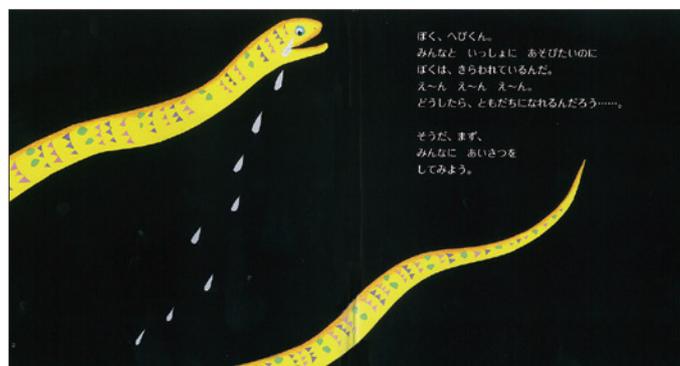
32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591098721

Rights sold: China, Korea,

Taiwan and Vietnam



About the Author

Tatsuhide Matsuoka (1944–) has been one of Japan's foremost illustrators specializing in the natural sciences. He won the Japan Picture Book Award in 1981 for *The Neptune Beetle of the Amazon* (text by Yoshitake Suzuki); the Japan Science Book Award in 1993 for *Jungle*; and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award in 2009 for *Illustrated Guide to Woodland Fun*.

When I was a Dinosaur

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 5+

240 x 260 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591124956

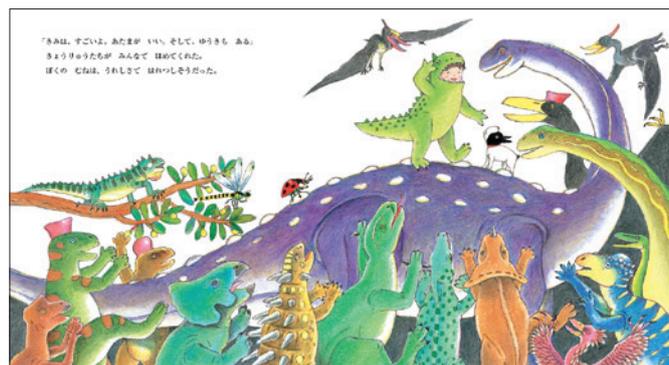
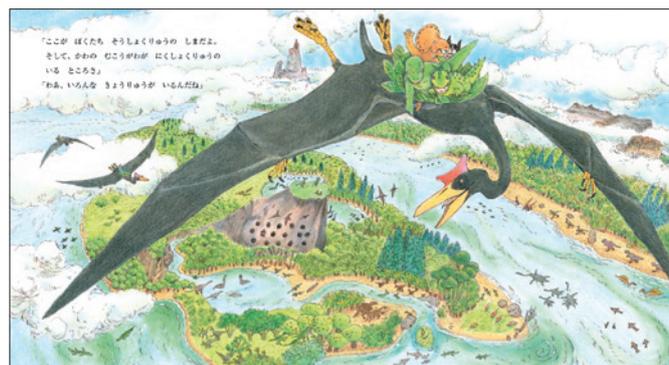
Rights sold: Canada, Korea,

Taiwan and the United States

On his birthday, a boy receives a package from his grandfather. Inside is a pair of pajamas cut in the shape of a dinosaur. The delighted boy dons the outfit immediately and heads for the park. Not recognizing who he is, his friends are scared of him and run away. He is playing on the swings all by himself, feeling a little forlorn, when he hears a voice: "Let's play!" To his surprise, he turns to find a pack of young dinosaurs—*real* dinosaurs—eager to play with him.

When he goes with them through a tunnel in the playground equipment, he finds himself in a land filled with their kin. Riding on the backs of Quetzalcoatlus taxis, they tour the Isle of Herbivorous Dinosaurs. They eat sweet fruit, play games together, and get to be great friends. But as they are enjoying themselves, the Lambeosaurus standing guard sounds an alarm. Several Tyrannosaurus are headed for the island to feed on their herbivore cousins. The boy and his young dinosaur pals ride the Quetzalcoatlus taxis out to meet the attackers, dropping rock bombs on them and sending them into retreat. "You're amazing," the young dinosaurs tell the boy. "So smart and so brave." His chest swells with pride.

Evening comes, and the boy goes back through the playground tunnel with his young dinosaur friends—and discovers that they are all other children wearing dinosaur pajamas just like him. A trip to the park turns into a grand and fanciful adventure to an imaginary world.



Timothy & Sarah: The Homemade Cake Contest

Midori Basho

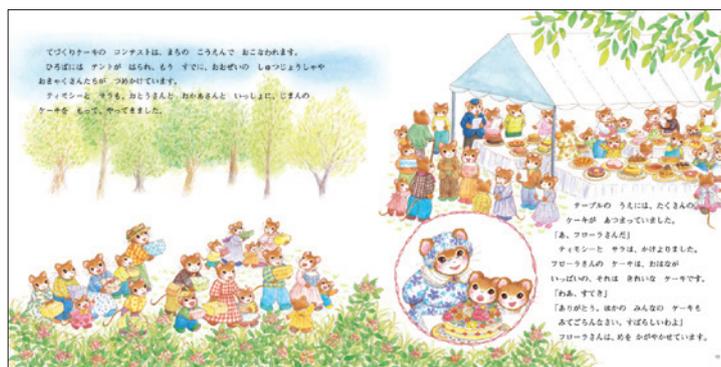


Ages 5+
 245 x 250 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591121092
 Rights sold: China, the
 United States and Vietnam

The mouse twins Timothy and Sarah are at home one day when a woman from the neighborhood named Flora comes to see their mother. She mentions an abandoned house on the edge of town that used to be a café, and says she wants to restore it as a place where people can go to relax and socialize. The two women decide they will hold a cake-baking contest to raise money for the restoration. Numerous fancy cakes are submitted.

Arriving late is a young man named Rick, who proffers an elaborately crafted confectionery house. It wins the gold medal, and brings an amazingly high price from the gentleman who buys it. He explains that it reminds him of the house he and his ailing wife used to live in, and he wants to give it to her to cheer her up. Thanks to the proceeds from the baking contest, repairs can begin on the dilapidated property. The image everyone has in mind is a house like the one Rick made for the contest. Soon the restoration is completed, and the town has a wonderful new place at which everyone can gather.

The work belongs to author Midori Basho's *Timothy & Sarah* series, loved by readers for its endearingly detailed illustrations and heart-warming stories. The mouse twins Timothy and Sarah are shown learning about their world and its ways through interactions with their father, mother, friends, and neighbors. One of the delights of the present volume is the eye-catching and mouth-watering assortment of unique cakes the characters create.



Let's Swap Clothes!



A Treasure Map



Timothy, Sarah and
 a Fairy of Woods



Timothy, Sarah and
 Ms. Daisy



A Thank-you Present



A Letter from a
 Florist



A Small Library

Timothy & Sarah Series: The Seven-colored Candies

Midori Basho



Ages 5+
 190 x 135 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591081167
 Rights sold:

Beloved for their subtly rendered illustrations, the stories in the “Timothy & Sarah” series follow a pair of brother and sister mice as they learn and feel and grow in their daily interactions with their mother, father, and mice friends and neighbors. *The Seven-colored Candies* is the ninth in the series.

Little Sarah takes some strawberry jam she made with her mother over to their neighbor Flora, who thanks her with seven pieces of candy, each a different color. Right away Sarah gives the white one to her mother. “The flavor of milk! So nice and mildly sweet,” her mother says happily. The sunny orange one Sarah hands to her father. “Takes me right back to the time I was a boy,” he says. For her twin brother, Timothy, she picks purple grape because it looks a little wistful, and she knows that even though they sometimes fight, deep down inside he misses her when they’re apart. Her friend Susan gets the bright bouncy yellow lemon and the postman blue soda, the color of the sky. Green melon goes to Rick, who’s handy at making all sorts of things, and then there’s only one pink candy left. From the start, Sarah’s decided that she’ll save the last one to enjoy when something happens that makes her feel really good. She can’t tell why, but she’s feeling really good right now, so she goes ahead and pops the piece into her mouth—ooo, strawberry!



About the Author

Midori Basho was born in Tokyo and took a job in graphic design after graduating from Waseda University. Now a freelance illustrator, she authors and draws her own picture books, most notably the “Timothy & Sarah” series, in addition to contributing artwork to such titles as *When I Grow Up* by Miyako Moriyama.

My Thumb Speaks to Me!

Sanae Kuse



I am going to be a first grader soon, so I want to stop sucking my thumb. But when I feel sleepy, I suck my thumb before I notice. I develop a callus on my thumb, and it speaks to me one day! The callus has a face and says, “Keep sucking me and let me grow bigger!” I wrap my thumb in bandages and stop sucking it. The callus becomes small, and it’s finally gone!

Ages 5+

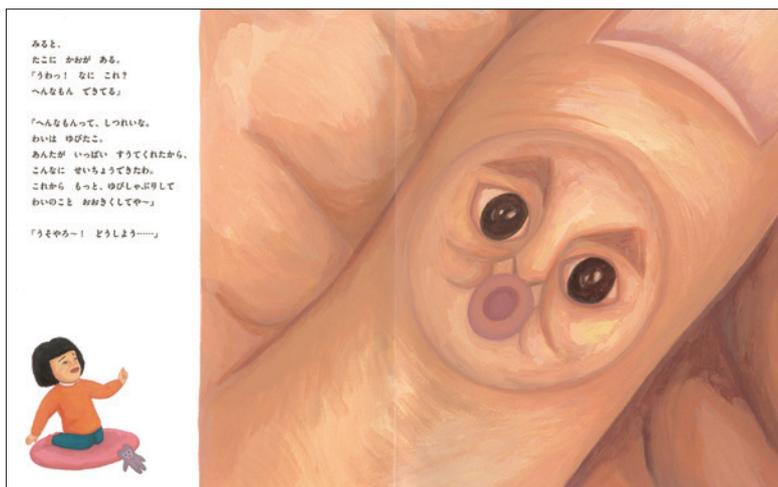
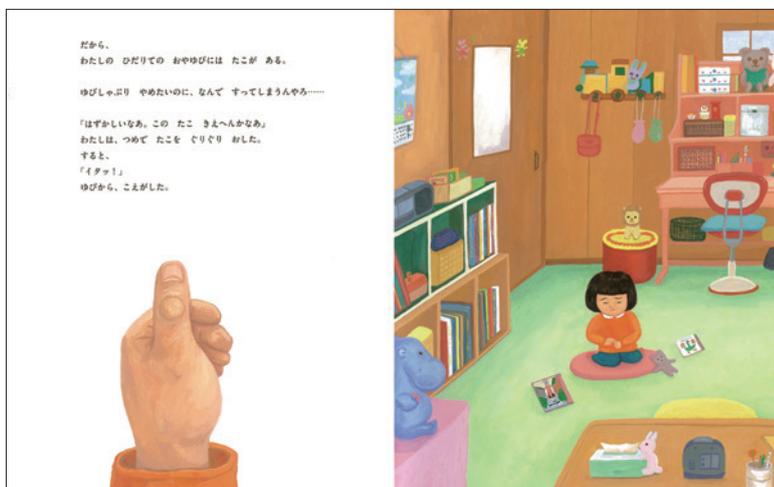
270 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591131961

Rights sold: China and Korea



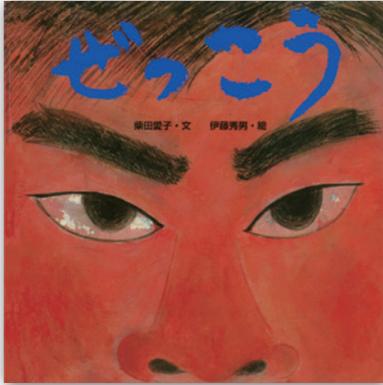
About the Author

Sanae Kuse started working as an illustrator after working at a textile design company. She is the author of several picture books.

No Longer Friends

Text by **Aiko Shibata**

Illus. by **Hideo Ito**



Ages 5+

250 x 245 mm

32 pages

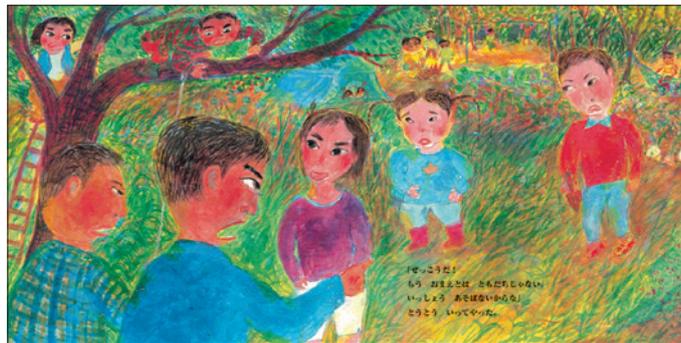
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591073018

Rights Sold: China

Gaku and Shuntaro are good friends, at least until Gaku suddenly announces, “I’ve had it! You’re not my friend anymore!” For two whole months the boys don’t say a word to each other, and Shuntaro grows more and more dejected. It’s eventually revealed that Gaku is angry because when they were playing hide-and-seek Shuntaro left off looking for him midway to go eat lunch instead. Although Shuntaro says he’s sorry, Gaku refuses to forgive him. Their teacher Aiko is concerned and intervenes, but Gaku still won’t budge. “Would you be ready to forgive people for anything, even if they steal?” he shoots back, and when Aiko says yes, he adds, “Then what if they kill?” Aiko replies, “No, not if they kill, no matter what happens I wouldn’t be able to forgive anyone for taking someone else’s life.” After this exchange, Gaku, with tears in his eyes, tells Shuntaro he wants to make up.

Gaku hadn’t really wanted to keep fighting with Shuntaro for so long, but he had become trapped by his own angry words and had lost sight of the chance to reach out. While it’s generally best to leave children to resolve their own fights, when the situation spins out of their control, as it does here, an honest face-to-face with a grownup can often show children responding with surprising insight. This story is based on an actual incident, giving it a powerful sense of reality.



About the Author

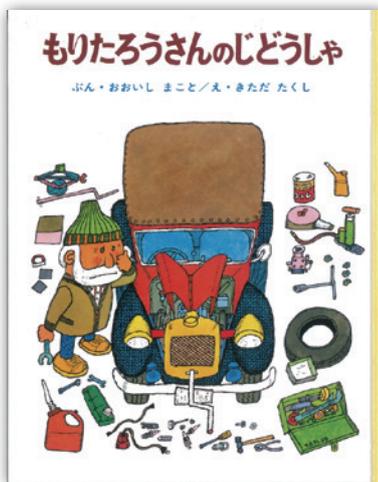
Aiko Shibata (1948–), a childcare specialist, lectures and contributes articles to magazines on childcare and early education. Her aim is to promote childcare focused on “drawing near to the hearts and minds of children.” In 2002 she received the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Feelings after a Fight*.

Hideo Ito (1950–) received the Shogakukan Award for Art for his *Umi’s Summer* in 1992. *Feelings after a Fight* won him the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 2002. In 2010 *Ushio* appeared on the IBBY Honor List and won the JBBY Award.

Moritaro's Car

Text by **Makoto Oishi**

Illus. by **Takushi Kitada**



Ages 5+

235 x 185 mm

52 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591013489

Rights sold:

This charming picture book has been a favorite of readers in Japan for decades. Moritaro, an old mailman, walks around delivering letters every day. He always complains to his wife that it would be a lot easier if he had a car. When he retires at age 60, he decides to learn how to drive, and goes to a driving school and gets a driver's license. Although cars are very expensive, Moritaro finds a rickety old car he can afford. He paints, fixes and washes it, and it turns into a handsome red car!

One day, Moritaro is invited to his granddaughter's birthday party. He drives off to his son's house, but it's not easy for his car to climb a hill. While Moritaro lets the car rest, a stray dog appears. The dog has injured his left leg, so Moritaro wraps his leg in bandages. He then puts the dog in his car and resumes his journey. Suddenly the car starts making a strange sound. Moritaro stops again and goes to get some water from the river, thinking the car is probably running short of water.

At that moment, two bank robbers come out of a bank and find Moritaro's empty car. The robbers get in the car and one of them tries to step on the accelerator, but he steps on the dog's leg by mistake! The dog bites the robber, and he is unable to turn the steering wheel. The car goes into the river, and the police come and arrest the robbers. People thank Moritaro, but he is very sad because his car is broken again. Next morning, Moritaro is surprised to see a brand-new red car, a present from the bank. Moritaro happily drives off to show his wife his shiny new car.



About the Author

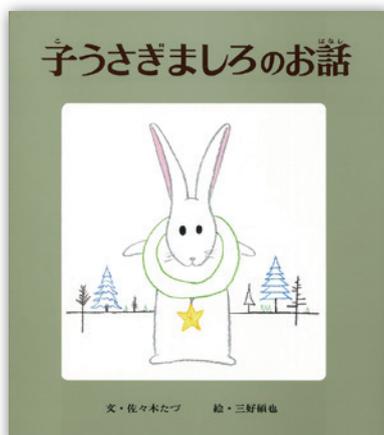
Makoto Oishi (1925-1990) was an author of books for young children. His *Kuro Is Lost* won the Shogakukan Prize for Literature in 1963, and *The Child Who Couldn't Sleep* received the Noma Prize for Children's Literature and the JAWC Special Award in 1990.

Takushi Kitada (1921-1992) was an illustrator of numerous works of children's literature, many of them featuring vehicles, such as *Moritaro's Car*, written by Makoto Oishi, a frequent collaborator. Kitada was especially fond of taxis, which figure prominently in such hits as the series *A Car the Color of the Sky*, written by Kimiko Aman.

Little Bunny Mashiro

Text by **Tazu Sasaki**

Illus. by **Sekiya Miyoshi**



Ages 5+

215 x 245 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

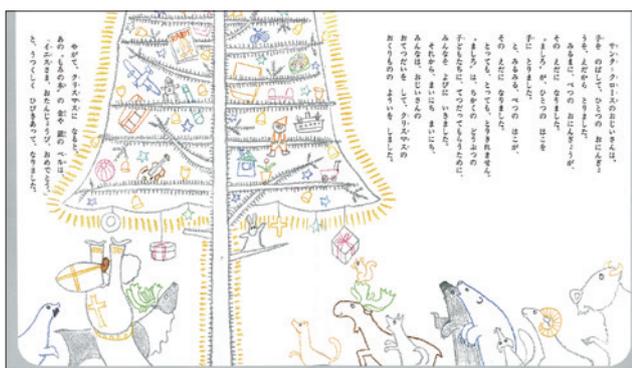
ISBN 978-4591005309

Rights sold: China and

Taiwan

On Christmas morning, the little white bunny Mashiro receives a present from Santa Claus. Hoping to get another, he goes looking for Santa again after disguising himself as a black bunny by rubbing charcoal all over his fur. Santa recognizes him in spite of the charcoal, but says nothing; he gives Mashiro one small seed. On his way home through the forest, Mashiro regrets lying to Santa, and decides to return the seed to God by digging through the snow and burying the seed in the ground.

Winter advances to spring, and the seed sprouts into a fir tree. When December comes around again, Mashiro hears beautiful bells ringing somewhere in the distance. When he goes to see what it is, he finds the tree that grew from the seed he planted covered with bells, toys, picture books, candy, ribbons and such. He hurries to tell Santa about it. When Santa comes and plucks a doll from one of the branches, another doll quickly grows in its place: it is a tree that produces Christmas presents as its fruit! Mashiro gathers his animal friends from the forest, and they all pitch in to help Santa prepare the gifts he'll give to children around the world on Christmas. Every year since then, Mashiro has hurried to help Santa as soon as he hears the bells ringing. The story has long been on the School Library Association's list of recommended picture books and continues to win the hearts of new generations of young readers.



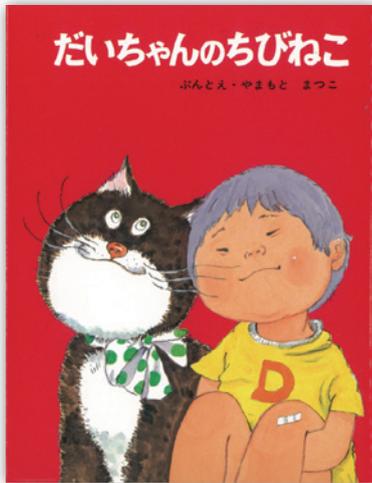
About the Author

Tazu Sasaki (1932–1998) first published the collection of children's stories *On the White-Capped Hill*, which received the Minister of Health Child Welfare and Culture Award. She received the Nihon Essayist Club Prize in 1965 for *Ready, Roberta? Let's Walk*, and the Noma Prize for New Writers of Children's Literature in 1969 for *I Kept a Diary*.

Sekiya Miyoshi (1924–1997) studied architecture as well as the theatrical arts and painting. For his training as a painter, he was mentored by the well-known artist and muralist Genichirō Inokuma. After working in architectural design for a time, he began creating picture books for children. His original titles include *The First Story in the World*; among the titles he illustrated is the long-selling picture book *Little Bunny Mashiro*.

Dai's Little Kitten

Matsuko Yamamoto



Ages 5+

235 x 185 mm

52 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591013588

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

This long-selling picture book humorously depicts a unique friendship between a boy and a cat. Dai, a little boy, finds a tiny kitten on a rainy day. From then on Dai and the kitten are always together, sharing snacks and meals. But the kitten becomes selfish and starts to eat everything by himself. He grows bigger and bigger, finally becoming the biggest cat in the world!

Dai's mother takes the kitten to a zoo, where he becomes very popular, appearing in newspapers and on TV. But then the kitten starts missing Dai and loses his appetite. He stops eating and gets smaller and smaller. When he shrinks to the same size he was before, he escapes from his cage at the zoo and returns to Dai's house. Dai and the kitten are together again, happily sharing everything.

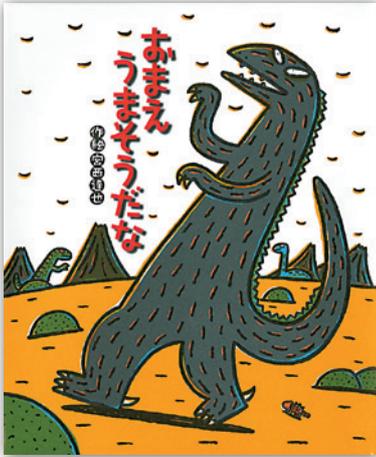


About the Author

Matsuko Yamamoto (1925–) is a picture-book author and illustrator. Her titles include *Dai's Little Kitten* and *Chibi the Cat*. One of the many books she has illustrated is *Totchi's Curry Day* (written by Hisako Madokoro). She is fond of cats.

Tyrannosaurus Series

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 6+

265 x 215 mm

40 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591076439

Rights sold: China, France,
Korea, Taiwan and the United
States

Oh, Yummy!

Long, long ago, as a volcano erupts with a great roar and the ground below quakes, a baby ankylosaur hatches from his egg. As the little ankylosaur begins wandering about all by himself, a big, bruising tyrannosaurus comes along. “Oh, yummy! Eh heh heh heh heh,” he exclaims in delight, and is about to pounce when the baby ankylosaur cries out, “Daddy!” and grabs onto his leg. In surprise, the tyrannosaurus realizes that the little one has misunderstood and thinks he was being called “Yummy” as a name.

And so it is that a tyrannosaurus takes on the task of raising a baby ankylosaur. Yummy looks up to the tyrannosaurus in everything he does, and says repeatedly, “I want to be just like you, Daddy!” Although the tyrannosaurus feels a little guilty for hiding his real self and perpetuating a lie, the two develop ever stronger bonds of love. But then comes the day when they must part . . .

The tale highlights the importance of family and of the love between parent and child by showing that bonds can grow just as strong even in a case of mistaken identity as they do between actual relations—possibly even stronger. The book is the first in a tremendously popular series featuring a tyrannosaurus in 13 titles to date, with combined sales in excess of 2 million. In 2010 and 2015, the series became an animated film.



About the Author

Tatsuya Miyanishi (1956–) won the Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *It's My Lucky Day!* and the Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Squeak Squeak*. His distinctive use of bright colors and endearingly drawn characters, together with his signature themes of friendship and family love, have earned him a passionate fan base. A series featuring a tyrannosaurus with 13 titles to date has been particularly popular.

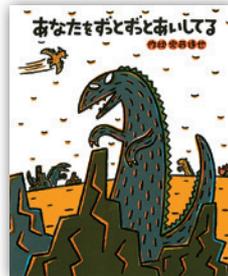


You are My Best Friend

There is a mean, violent tyrannosaurus on land, and everyone hates him. One day, a cliff falls apart, and the tyrannosaurus falls down into the ocean. An elasmosaurus, who lives in the ocean, helps him, and the tyrannosaurus says “thank you” for the first time in his life. They become friends, and the elasmosaurus thinks the tyrannosaurus is very kind. When the elasmosaurus asks if the tyrannosaurus knows about the violent dinosaur on land, he can’t tell the elasmosaurus the truth. With vivid illustrations, the book delivers a moving story of friendship.



I am the Tyrannosaurus!



I'll Love You Forever



Could I also have some of that love?



I Love You



Thank You for Loving Me



I'm so Happy I Met You



I am the One most Loved



I Believe You



We'll be Together Forever



To Love and to be Loved



Gentleness and Consideration

Precious Red Apples

Text by **Hiiragi Nonaka**

Illus. by **Keiko Matsumoto**



A black and a white rabbit receive a letter that tells them a tree is bearing a lot of apples. They excitedly run to the tree, as they do every year. With other rabbits, they pick a lot of apples and bake apple pies. With beautiful illustrations, the story depicts a precious time in everyday life and the beauty of a season.

Ages 6+

195 x 270 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882642480

Rights sold:



About the Author

Hiiragi Nonaka, born in 1964, writes more than 20 novels, as well as picture books.

Keiko Matsumoto studied illustration in New York City. She draws illustrations mainly for book jackets and posters.

The Pirate Falls in Love

Seizo Tashima



There is a pirate living in the ocean. His friend Octopus comes and greets him by touching his cheek with his suckers, and flying fish jump over his ship. One day, he sees a beautiful mermaid and immediately falls in love with her. They become close before long, but she leaves him behind, telling him by a letter she can't live any longer because the poisonous water of the ocean has made her sick. With beautiful illustrations, the book delivers a love story, giving readers a chance to think about the environment as well.

Ages 6+
 260 x 260 mm
 40 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591135037
 Rights sold: Korea



About the Author

Seizo Tashima, born in 1940, is a well-known picture books' author in Japan. He won the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava Golden Apples Prize for "Chikarataro," the Kodansha Publishing Cultural Award for Picture Books for "Fukimanbuku" and the Japan Picture Book Award for "Okami no Osama."

My Jump Rope and the Little Foxes

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Komako Sakai**



Ages 6+

230 x 230 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591079539

Rights sold: China, France,
Taiwan and the United States

Rie left her jump rope at a park, so she and her little brother Ken go back to get it. They can't find it, but then they hear someone's laughter in the wind. Rie and Ken see ten little foxes playing with a jump rope, but they keep getting their tails caught in it. Rie and Ken watch quietly, but when the foxes spy them, they end up teaching the foxes how to skip rope the right way, and everyone has a good time.

Rie then notices it's her jump rope, but one of the little foxes says, "It's mine. God gave it to me when I asked for it. And it even has my name, Rie, written on it!" Ken starts to tell the fox that Rie is his sister's name too, but Rie stops him. Without saying anything, she leaves her rope with the foxes. On the way home, Rie recalls the happy look on the face of Rie the fox.

With beautiful illustrations, the book delicately depicts the natural impulse to be kind and thoughtful that every child is born with. Winner of the Japan Picture Book Prize, this touching story will bring a smile to every reader.



About the Author

Kimiko Aman (1931–) received the Japan Association of Writers for Children New Talent Award in 1968 for *A Car the Color of the Sky*, a collection of eight fantasy stories. She has received numerous other awards, including the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for the picture book *Chii-chan and the Shadow Figures*.

Komako Sakai (1966–) has continued to produce hits, many of which have been picked up for overseas editions. Her *Friday Sugar* was awarded a Plaque at the 2005 Biennial of Illustration Bratislava. In 2006, *Mad at Mommy* received the French Pitchou and Dutch Zilveren Griffel Prizes. Her drawings of children and animals are delicate and endearing, yet also carry a note of sadness that seems to draw out readers' sympathies.

My Room in the Fields

Akiko Miyakoshi



Ages 6+

265 x 190 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

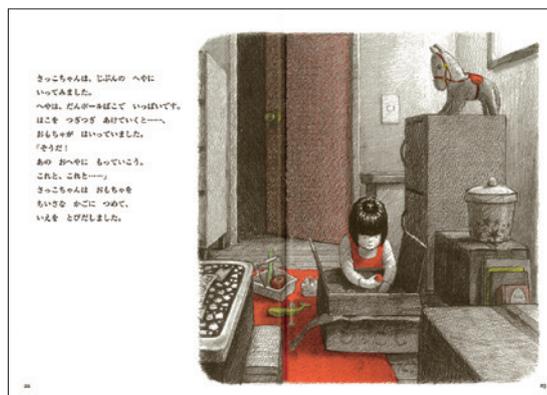
ISBN 978-4591125311

Rights sold: China, Korea and Mexico

Sakko and her family have just moved to a new home, and she can hardly wait to meet the little girl who lives next door. Unfortunately, the neighbors are out. As she explores the surroundings of her new home, she finds a place in the shrubbery where the branches of a tree form a roof overhead. “Wow, it’s like a little room in here,” she says. To her delight, at the foot of the tree she also finds a basket filled with a set of toy dishes for playing house.

Sakko decorates the basket with dandelions and clover, then goes inside to get some of her own toys. When she gets back, the toy dishes have all been laid out, and she’s greeted by a girl holding a wreath made of dandelions and clover. It is her neighbor, Yoko.

The book glows with the excitement and joy of two little girls meeting each other for the first time.



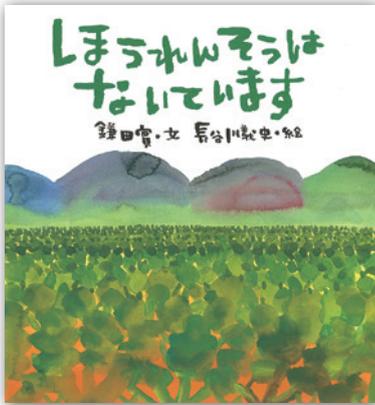
About the Author

Akiko Miyakoshi (1982–) won the Nissan Children’s Storybook and Picture Book Grand Prix for *Typhoon Comes* in 2009, and her *The Tea Party in the Woods* garnered the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 2011. Her other works include *Piano Recital* and *Whose Is This?*

The Spinach Is Weeping

Text by **Minoru Kamata**

Illus. by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**



Ages 6+

260 x 235 mm

32 pages

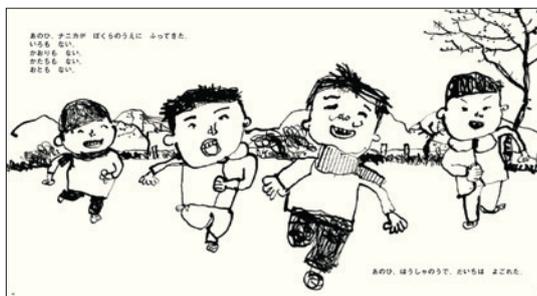
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591139394

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

Driven by their shared desire to protect children from danger, and by a deep sense of responsibility that grownups must tell children the whole truth about the effects of the nuclear accidents that followed the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, a medical doctor and a picture book author have joined forces to deliver this book.

The nuclear accidents have brought immeasurable sadness and suffering to all forms of life. The spinach in the fields, the rice in the paddies, the cows raised on the dairy farm for their milk, the flounder in the ocean—they were all awaiting the day when they would serve their purpose of providing people with precious nutrients. But all that changed on that fateful day when a colorless, formless, odorless, soundless thing called “radiation” contaminated the land and sea. Now the spinach, rice, cows, and flounder are weeping, the trees and flowers are weeping, the animals are weeping, and the people are weeping. They all share the same wish—that they won’t have to weep anymore . . .



About the Author

Minoru Kamata (1948–) is director emeritus at Suwa Central Hospital. Since 1991 he has been involved with sending medical teams and supplies to radiation-contaminated regions of Belarus. Since March 2011 he has also been active in areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant disasters. His publications include *No Trying Harder*, *Town Cloaked in White*, *the Warmth of the Snow*, and many others.

Yoshifumi Hasegawa (1961–) has written and illustrated many picture books. Known for the warm humor of his illustrations and for texts rich with simple puns, he won the Japan Picture Book Award and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award for *When I Was Eating Ramen*.

Professor Tree Frog: A Late-Night Concert Surprise

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 6+
240 x 240 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591129241
Rights sold: China and
Taiwan

One day, Pill Bug receives an invitation from Professor Tree Frog for a late-night concert. Pill Bug rounds up his friends Grasshopper, Goldbug, and Snail, and they head for the Tree Frog Institute together in a plastic-bottle boat. At the institute, they are gathered on a balcony facing the pond at ten that night, waiting for the concert to start, when about 30 tree frogs of another species appear and begin climbing a nearby tree. A number of the male frogs gather around a large female and raise their voices in chorus. After they have serenaded her for a while, the males pounce on the female, and she begins laying eggs in a cloud of white foam. The late night concert the professor had invited them to turns out to be a spawning ritual!

On a rainy day some ten days later, the eggs hatch to produce tadpoles. But when the tadpoles fall from the tree into the pond below, newts and catfish are lying in wait for them and gobble them right up. Pill Bug is there to see it all unfold, and he is terribly disappointed, but the professor explains that it is the way of nature that no creature can survive without feeding on something.

Through the anthropomorphized figures of Professor Tree Frog and other creatures, the story stimulates children's imaginations as it teaches them about the workings of nature. The precise drawings that are author Tatsuhide Matsuoka's trademark can even serve as a field guide to the creatures and habitats depicted.

This is the first in Matsuoka's *Professor Tree Frog* series. The companion titles to date are *Oh No! Professor Tree Frog to the Rescue on Midori Pond*, in which the professor hurries to help creatures left high and dry after an earthquake and scorching sunshine leave the pond with no water; *Professor Tree Frog: Let's Go Find Some Wild Berries to Eat!*, in which the professor and a mouse family go to pick wild berries and use them to make yummy treats; and *Professor Tree Frog's Year in Pictures*, in which the professor guides young readers through the cycle of the seasons, commenting on the creatures and plants that flourish in each.



Oh No! Professor Tree Frog to the Rescue on Midori Pond
(Rights sold: France)



Professor Tree Frog: Let's Go Find Some Wild Berries to Eat!



Professor Tree Frog's Year in Pictures



About the Author

Tatsuhide Matsuoka (1944–) has been one of Japan's foremost illustrators specializing in the natural sciences. He won the Japan Picture Book Award in 1981 for *The Neptune Beetle of the Amazon* (text by Yoshitake Suzuki); the Japan Science Book Award in 1993 for *Jungle*; and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award in 2009 for *Illustrated Guide to Woodland Fun*.

Mr. More and Grandma Woody

Text by Machiko Fuji

Illus. by Yoko Koba



People in a country called Forever believe that Grandma Woody, the God of Woods, lives on the biggest tree in the woods. They value the woods and live happily. There is a country called More across the sea from Forever. Everyone tries to make money in More. Mr. More comes to Forever and he carves out the woods, makes a ranch, and opens restaurants. He makes a lot of money, but, after a while, it starts raining heavily and a massive flood occurs in Forever. With beautiful illustrations, the story gives children a chance to think about the environment.

Ages 6+

225 x 225 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591086834

Rights sold: China, Korea and

Taiwan



About the Author

Machiko Fuji is an author of children's books. As a volunteer, she has planted trees for more than 10 years.

Yoko Koba started her career as an illustrator after working as a designer. She draws illustrations for picture books.

Happy Al's Upside-Down Day

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illus. by **Koshiro Hata**



Ages 6+

230 x 225 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

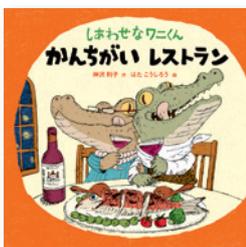
ISBN 978-4591135020

Rights sold: China

Tomorrow is a special day for Al the alligator. He's going on his first date with Momoko, and he's so eager for it to arrive that he goes to bed in the early afternoon. When he awakens, the sky is still dim. It isn't until after he's gotten dressed and had a nice breakfast that he notices the sky is getting darker rather than lighter. *Well, he thinks, it's a special day when everything's upside down*, and without realizing that it's actually still the night before, he proceeds to the park where they are supposed to meet.

Momoko fails to show up no matter how long he waits, and then snow begins to fall from the darkened sky. At ten the following morning, Momoko finds him encrusted in a shell of snow. When she gives him a shake, his heart leaps back to life and the snow falls away in chunks. Al has waited all through the night thinking it was his special upside-down day. Momoko is deeply touched when he tells her how long he's been waiting. And so their happy date begins.

Author Toshiko Kanzawa's delightfully humorous take on someone so excited over a first date that he gets his days and nights turned around is perfectly complemented by Koshiro Hata's colorful and expressive artwork, resulting in a story filled with laughs. The two have subsequently collaborated on a sequel as well: Happy Al's Restaurant Mix-Up.



Happy Al's Restaurant Mix-Up



About the Author

Toshiko Kanzawa (1924–) brings her background to stories that are rooted in the culture of the north, or that draw from her own childhood spent close to nature. She has published poetry, nursery songs, picture books, nursery tales, novels, and essays. She won many awards, including the Noma Children's Literature Award.

Koshiro Hata (1963–) writes picture books, draws illustrations, and designs books. His solo-production picture books include *A Summer Day* and *How Many Animals?* He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books "as if it's a present to my five-year-old self." Hata shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations.

Shiba Becomes a Deer

Text by **Rika Fujiwara**

Illus. by **Reika Nakayama**



Ages 6+

220 x 305 mm

47 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591141069

Rights sold:

One night, the strains of a marvelous song coming from afar lure the boy Shiba to set out on a journey. Then, all of a sudden, he finds himself transformed into a deer by the unseen owner of an eerie voice in the darkness. The only sounds to emerge from his mouth now are deer cries. Walking on, he falls into a pit, then before he knows it he is gliding through the sky under a parachute and falling back to earth. Landing in a tree, he meets Bukubu the quetzal. Since Bukubu can't fly, Shiba gives him his parachute. In return, Bukubu gives Shiba his prettiest feather.

Next Shiba meets Uncle Watsin the manatee. Since he can't see very well, Shiba gives him his glasses. Uncle Watsin is overjoyed, and shows Shiba around a gorgeous sea world. When Shiba meets Ahau the jaguar, who has hurt himself with a cactus thorn, he gives him his sneakers. Ahau gives Shiba a spotted skin in exchange.

At Tran, the holy mountain, the Stone God has lost track of time and doesn't know what to do, so Shiba gives him his watch. The god reciprocates by giving Shiba some imposing horns. The god also invites Shiba to a party. With much singing and dancing and making merry, the time flies by, and then as soon as the party is over, Shiba turns back into a little boy. He can speak human language again, but no longer speaks the language of deers. He finds a shiny blue rock in his hand, and when he puts it to his ear he can hear the marvelous song as well as the joyful laughter of all the creatures he met on his journey. Holding this treasure of the heart in his hand, he steps eagerly through the door to tomorrow.

Characters who differ in both appearance and language meet, get to know each other, and form lasting bonds. Through brilliantly colorful artwork and humorous text, the story portrays the joys of living with others in a diverse world.



About the Author

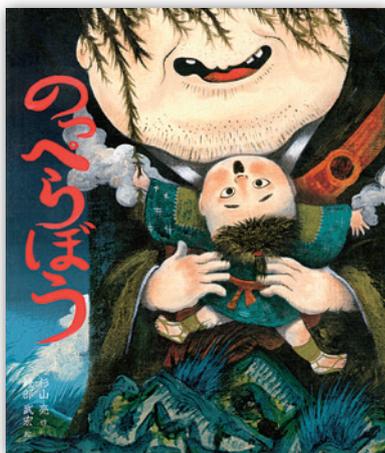
Rika Fujiwara (1966–) travelled to Guatemala and Mexico, where she acquired a strong interest in Mayan, Aztec, and other pre-Columbian cultures of Latin America. After returning to Japan she worked at an advertising agency and as an editor for a magazine publisher before turning to freelance writing in 1993.

Reika Nakayama (1974–) studied printmaking in the graduate program at the National Autonomous University of Mexico under a fellowship from the Mexican government. She actively exhibits in both solo and group shows, and teaches in the Leading Edge Art Department at Kobe Design University. She is considered a rising star in the world of contemporary art.

The One with No Features

Text by Akira Sugiyama

Illus. by Takehiro Karube



A boy goes to the mountain to gather firewood. His mother tells him to come home immediately after he gathers it because ghosts will appear when it gets dark. But, after the boy sees a rabbit on the mountain, he runs after it and gets lost. He then runs into a mother and baby, but when they turn around, he sees their faces with no features! The boy is so scared and runs away. At the end, he manages to get home, and his mother holds him in her arms. This is a well-known classic ghost story in Japan, and the book won the Japan Picture Book Award.

Ages 6+

260 x 225 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591119426

Rights sold:



About the Author

Akira Sugiyama, born in 1954, writes children's books. He won the Sankei Children's Publication Culture Award for "Sora wo Tonda Pochi."

Takehiro Karube, born in 1969, draws illustrations for picture books. He holds solo exhibitions.

Thunder Kid Comes Tumbling Down

Katsuhiko Shigeri



Ages 6+

220 x 260 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591118368

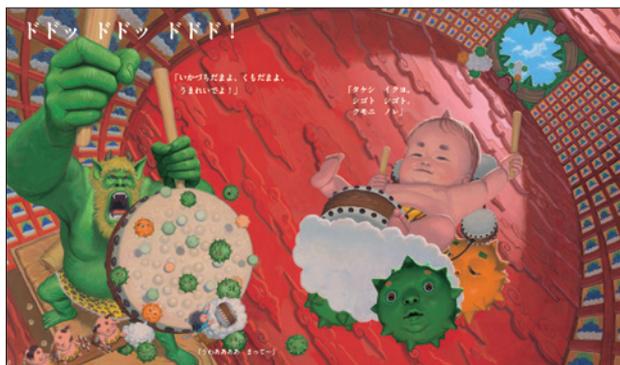
Rights sold: Korea

Caught in a sudden shower on his way home from school, Takeshi takes shelter under a tall cedar tree. With an ear-shattering *BOOM!*, a thunderbolt strikes. Takeshi's hair turns frizzy and stands on end, and to the foot of the tree in front of him tumbles Thunder Kid, an oversized baby. After that, Thunder Kid begins following Takeshi everywhere he goes. Oddly, no one but Takeshi can see him.

Thunder Kid goes to school with Takeshi but gets bored and pounds on his drum, *BOOM!* Suddenly everyone's hair is frizzy and standing on end. Alarmed, Takeshi decides he needs to send Thunder Kid home and takes him back to the tree. "That's my home!" says Thunder Kid, and begins climbing. Takeshi follows and soon finds himself in an unknown world, where he meets Thunder Kid's dad, Mr. Thunder.

Takeshi rides about loosing thunderclaps from a rain cloud Mr. Thunder arranges for him to use. Spotting a bully, he hurls thunderbolts his way to teach him a lesson, only to get taken to task by Mr. Thunder and sent tumbling back to earth because he used the powers for his own interests. "Never take nature's powers lightly," he is told. Thunder Kid thanks Takeshi for the time they shared and returns to his home up in the sky.

Author Katsuhiko Shigeri's dynamic artwork brings Thunder Kid and the other characters to life with intricate, meticulously detailed drawings.



About the Author

Katsuhiko Shigeri (1962–) is an author and illustrator of picture books, and he also works as a freelance illustrator for book covers. He made his publishing debut in 2010 with *Thunder Kid Comes Tumbling Down*, which quickly won fans for its eye-popping artwork with finely drawn, lifelike detail. The same distinctive style is on display in his *Thank You for Traveling with Us Today* of 2012.

Thank You for Traveling with Us Today

Katsuhiko Shigeri



Ages 6+
225 x 260 mm
36 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591129777
Rights sold: China

Yūta is taking the bus by himself to Grandma's house during summer vacation. Grandma keeps a picture of his dead Grandpa on the family Buddhist altar, which he finds scary, and he never knows what to talk about with her, so he's not really looking forward to the visit. On the bus, he gets so wrapped up in a handheld video game that he misses the Fujimichō stop where he's supposed to get off, and rides all the way to the end of the line. Looking for a way back, he finds a strange bus with a small boy for a driver, who says he'll deliver Yūta to Fujimichō if he'll serve as conductor. Yūta's not quite sure what to make of this, but he gets on.

The bus begins driving along roads unlike any Yūta has ever seen, and he soon notices that the passengers aboard are all *yōkai*—supernatural creatures from Japanese mythology and folklore. The route takes the bus through hell, under the river, and even into outer space. The end of the line is the far side of the moon. There, the bus driver tells Yūta about how he got his bus driver's cap many years before from a man known for being an especially good driver. Yūta realizes the hat is just like the one his grandpa wears in the picture on the altar.

As they are on their way back to earth, they encounter a space storm, and a meteorite smashes into them, knocking the driver to the back of the bus. Taking over the wheel, Yūta puts on the driver's cap, and all of a sudden he can hear Grandpa talking to him. With Grandpa's voice as his guide, he is able to bring the bus safely back to Fujimichō, where Grandma is waiting to meet him. It's time for Yūta to say goodbye to the boy driver — but he will have no shortage of things to talk about with Grandma now.

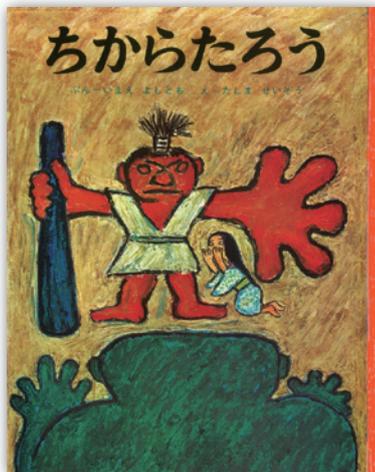
The intricate and vivid detail with which the ogres, long-nosed goblins, shape-shifting cats, moon rabbits, and other supernatural passengers are drawn makes them come alive on the page, allowing readers to share in the adventure as if they are on the bus right alongside Yūta.



Strongman Taro

Text by **Yoshitomo Imae**

Illus. by **Seizo Tashima**



Ages 6+

265 x 210 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591003787

Rights sold:

Simple yet dynamic illustrations accompany this retelling of a Japanese folktale. To fully savor its powerful magic, read it aloud and listen to the rhythmic cadence of the words.

Once upon a time, a poor elderly couple were taking their first bath in a long while. Off came all the dirt, in heaps and heaps. The couple shaped the dirt into a little doll they call Konbi Taro (konbi meaning “grime”) and raised it with loving affection. Konbi Taro ate and ate and grew to be a strapping young fellow.

Renaming himself Chikara Taro—“Strongman Taro”—he sets off into the world to see what good he might do, carrying a hefty metal club in one hand as he thunders down the trail, stomp-stomp-thump, stomp-stomp-thump. Along the way he is challenged by two other powerful men, one carrying an entire chapel on his back and another rolling a huge stone; when he beats them, they are so impressed by his strength that they decide to join him on his travels. The companions soon come to a large town where not a soul is in sight except for the wealthiest man’s daughter, who is weeping in front of her house. Learning that an evil monster has been terrorizing the neighborhood, the three men do battle to chase it away. Chikara Taro marries the rich man’s daughter, the other two find brides as well, and they call the old couple to come live with them happily ever after.



About the Author

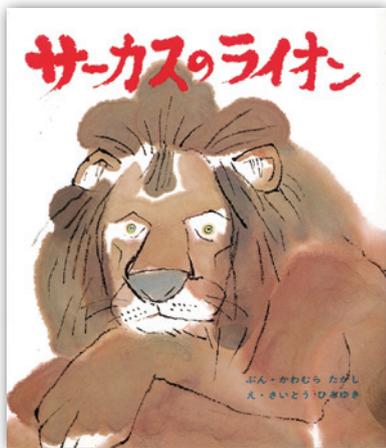
Yoshitomo Imae (1932–) is one of the pioneers of contemporary children’s literature in Japan. Known for the humor and pathos that fill his works, Imae received many awards, including the 1977 Noma Prize for Children’s Literature for *Brother*. For his body of work, he has been decorated with Japan’s Medal with Purple Ribbon and Order of the Rising Sun.

Seizo Tashima (1940–) is one of Japan’s most prominent and prolific picture-book authors. Among his many picture books are *Strongman Taro* (1969 Biennial of Illustration Bratislava Golden Apple) and *Jump, Grasshopper* (1989 Bologna Children’s Book Fair Graphics Prize and 1988 Japan Picture Book Award).

The Circus Lion

Text by **Takashi Kawamura**

Illus. by **Hiroyuki Saito**



Ages 6+

245 x 215 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005439

Rights sold:

Jinza the lion jumps through a flaming hoop each day at the circus that has set up at the edge of town. One evening the aging lion borrows his tamer's clothes to dress up as a person and go for a walk. He meets a boy, who asks him about the circus lion. Never realizing that the man he spoke to was actually the lion himself, the boy begins visiting Jinza at the circus grounds every day.

One day he tells the lion that he has finally saved up enough money to come and see the show. Weary old Jinza is greatly cheered by the boy's promise to come. But that night, a fire breaks out at the apartment house where the boy lives. Leaping into the flaming building, Jinza manages to find the boy and save him. But at that moment the lion himself becomes blinded by the smoke billowing around him. The people looking up from the ground shout for him to jump, but he is engulfed by the fire, and the next thing they see is a mass of flames in the shape of a lion leaping high into the sky, turning a bright, shiny golden color, and racing off into the darkness.

The next day is the last day for the circus. The lion act is a lonely affair. The tamer cracks his whip, but there is no Jinza. Even so, the crowd offers thunderous applause. The whole town knows why Jinza is missing. The author offers a stirring portrayal of the deep friendship between Jinza and the boy, and of the aging lion's sense of pride.



About the Author

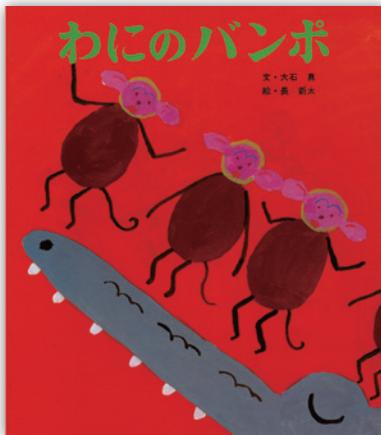
Takashi Kawamura (1931–2010) received the Noma Prize for Children's Literature in 1978 for *The Cow that Goes to the Mountain*, the JAWC Award in 1981 for *Between Day and Night*, and both the JAWC Award and the Sankei Children's Book Award in 1989 for *New Tales of Totsukawa* (10 volumes), and many other prizes.

Hiroyuki Saito (1919–1987) was a painter and a picture-book author. He received the Kodansha Award for Picture Books in 1971 for *Sea Fires*, and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Arts Award in 1972 for *Gawappa: Tale of a Water Imp*.

Banpo the Alligator

Text by **Makoto Oishi**

Illus. by **Shinta Cho**



Ages 6+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005378

Rights sold: China and Korea

As is his custom after a hearty meal, Banpo the alligator is lying in the sun with his mouth open, letting his friend the plover clean his teeth. The warm sunshine feels so good that he soon dozes off. In his dreams, he is startled by a man with a gun coming at him through the underbrush, and he instinctively clamps his jaws shut.

When he awakens and realizes he has swallowed his friend, he hurries to find the wise parrot who lives deep in the forest. The parrot tells him to chew three leaves from a bitter wormwood plant and swallow their juice, then lie still in the sun with his mouth open. The plover may then come out.

Doing as the parrot instructed, Banpo lies waiting for the plover to emerge. He remains still when some tiger cubs see him lying motionless and come to bother him, when five monkeys climb up to dance on his back and head, and even when men carrying guns approach like the man in his dreams. Just when it appears all will be lost, the plover comes rushing out of Banpo's mouth, and Banpo quickly scoots back into the river. This is a heartwarming story about the strength, caring, and courage that allow us to consider another's welfare above our own.



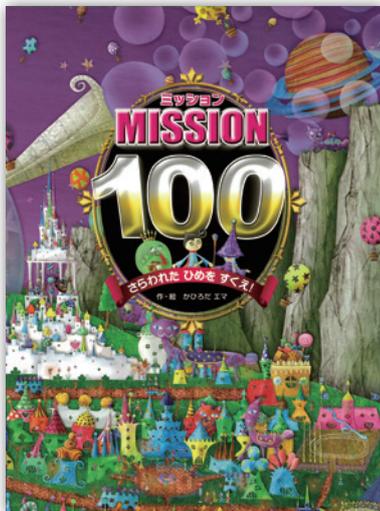
About the Author

Makoto Oishi (1925-1990) was an author of books for young children. His *Kuro Is Lost* won the Shogakukan Prize for Literature in 1963, and *The Child Who Couldn't Sleep* received the Noma Prize for Children's Literature and the JAWC Special Award in 1990.

Shinta Cho (1927-2005) won the Bungei Shunju Manga Award for *The Talkative Omelet*, which also received an honorable mention in the Hans Christian Andersen Awards for 1974. Among his many other honors are the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Cabbage Boy* in 1981, for *Upside-Down Lion* in 1986, and for *I Cried* in 2005. In recognition of his body of work as an artist and illustrator, he was decorated with Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon in 1994.

Mission 100 Series

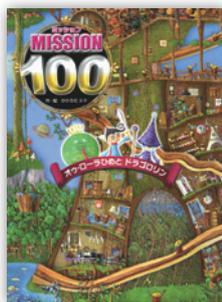
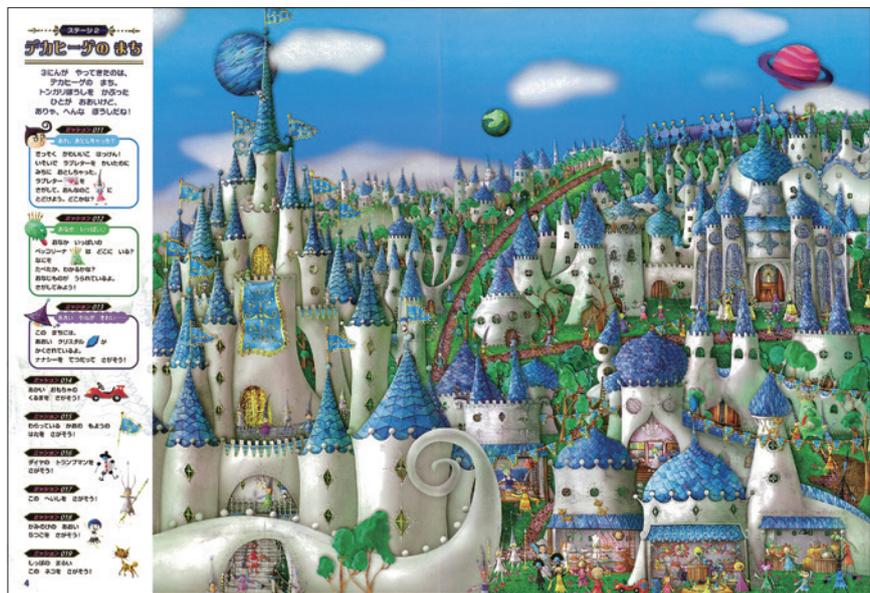
Emma Kahirola



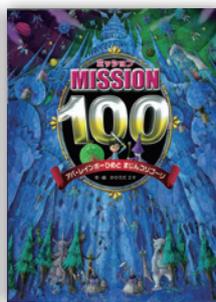
Ages 6+
310 x 230 mm
34 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591131398
Rights sold: China and Taiwan

Mission 100 Save a Kidnapped Princess!

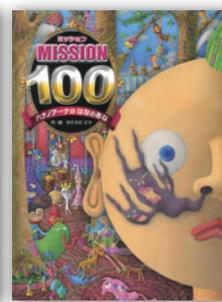
By searching for a particular picture amidst beautifully illustrated pages, Emma Kahirola offers the reader 100 different missions to save a beautiful princess from a devil. This is the first in this popular look-and-find series.



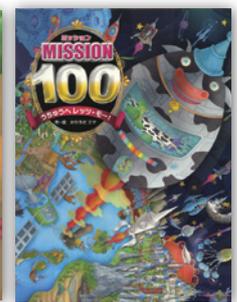
Mission 100
Princess Aurora and
Dragon



Mission 100
Princess Rainbow
and Devil



Mission 100
Devil's hole of the
nose



Mission 100
Let's go Space

About the Author

Emma Kahirola, born in 1973, draws illustrations and makes digital content. His elaborate and magnificent illustrations invite readers to a mysterious world. This is his first picture book.

The Tokyo Skytree Picture Book

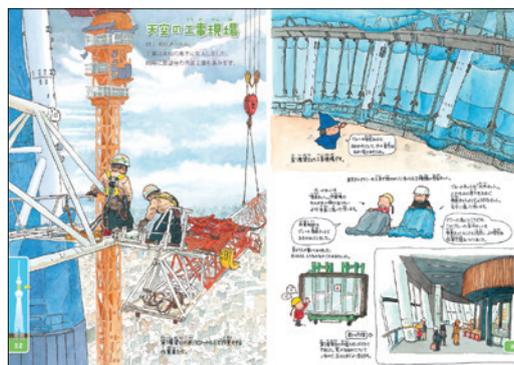
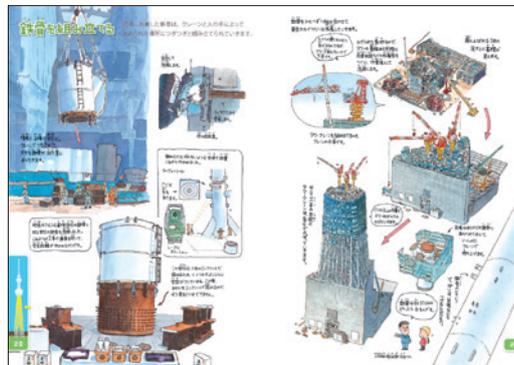
Yoh Morinaga



Ages 6+
305 x 210 mm
52 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591128602
Rights sold:

The world's tallest freestanding communications tower, the 634-meter Tokyo Skytree, opened to visitors on May 22, 2012. This book provides an illustrated description of the construction process, from when the building site was still an empty lot through to the completion of the tower. Author Yoh Morinaga gained access to the site to observe the progress of construction from close at hand, and was able to interview individuals engaged in every aspect of the project. He then poured what he saw, heard, and experienced into the drawings and text laid out on these pages.

What's it like to be on a construction job 400 meters up in the air? How exactly do they get the last working crane at the top of the edifice back down? Although building the tallest communications tower in the world is a feat of staggeringly specialized know-how, Morinaga breaks the information down into simple terms that even young children can understand. At the same time, there's plenty here to hold the interest of older readers as well.



About the Author

Yoh Morinaga (1966–) has carved out a niche as a journalist who reports by means of intricately drawn artwork. His picture-book titles include *Bullet Train and Rail Yard*, *Fire Engines and the Hyper Rescue Team*, and *Jet Planes, Airports, and Control Towers*, among many others.

The POP Wonderland: Cinderella

Text by **Michiyo Hayano**

Illus. by **POP**



A leading creator of anime characters provides the illustrations for this stylized retelling of *Cinderella*. The glamorous tale familiar to all unfolds in a world depicted in gorgeous translucent pastels.

The volume belongs to a series of similarly illustrated picture books of some of the world's most beloved stories and fairy tales, including *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Thumbelina*, *Snow White*, and *The Little Mermaid*.

Ages 6+

265 x 220 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591100431

Rights sold: France, Spain and the United States



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



Little Red Riding Hood



Thumbelina



The Little Mermaid



Snow White

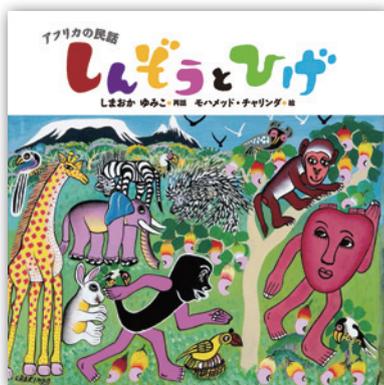
About the Author

Michiyo Hayano (1952–) has written numerous stories and biographies for children, including *Watch Out when Mom Gets Pretty*.

POP first attracted attention as the illustrator of the *Moetan* series, in which cute anime-like illustrations boost the fun quotient of studying English vocabulary and grammar, and is otherwise known as a designer of characters for manga and anime.

Heart and Beard

Text by **Yumiko Shimaoka**
 Illus. by **Mohamed Charinda**



Ages 6+
 270 x 270 mm
 43 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591144718
 Rights sold:

Once upon a time there were a heart and a beard. Because they were poor, they were often hungry. They had both gone without food for 21 days, filling their bellies with nothing but water, when they happened to run into each other. Heart suppresses his hunger and offers a greeting, but the famished Beard lunges at him and tries to eat him. Heart takes to his heels, but he can barely muster the strength to run. As he flees, he meets a man coming from the other direction. “I’m running away from Beard,” says Heart. “If he catches me, he’ll eat me. Please swallow me and hide me inside your body.” The man says, “Sorry, but my stomach is full today,” and sends him on his way. Soon Heart sees another man coming. He repeats his request, and this time the man agrees. He has just gulped Heart down when along comes Beard. Hearing a thump thump coming from the left side of the man’s chest, Beard says, “Please swallow me and let me inside your body.” The man says, “I’m too full now to swallow anything more.” “Then maybe I can hang around your mouth until Heart decides to come out,” says Beard. “Sure,” says the man, sticking Beard to his chin. And so it was that men came to have beards, as well as to have hearts thumping in the left side of their chests.

This fanciful just-so story comes from the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania. The illustrations are in that country’s Tingatinga style, which originated in the second half of the 20th century. Tingatinga paintings traditionally depict the African landscape, wild animals, and village scenes in the brilliant, highly saturated colors of bicycle paint on Masonite. Here the style serves as the perfect complement to a delightfully charming African folktale.

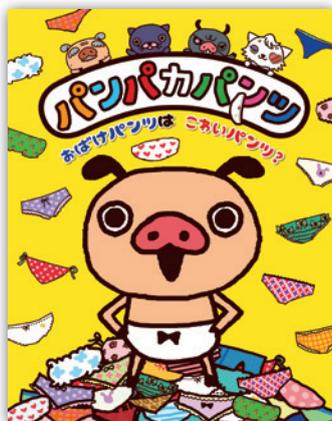


About the Author

Yumiko Shimaoka (1961–) was born in Nagoya and graduated from the Faculty of Letters at Aichi Prefectural University. She participated in a folklore study group while in college, where she learned the joys of collecting folktales and developed a deep appreciation for the close links between them and the cultures from which they emerge. She moved to Africa in 1987, where she lives in Zanzibar, the semi-autonomous group of islands off the coast of Tanzania, and is engaged in a variety of self-reliance initiatives and cultural activities. She has made it her life work to gather folktales from around Africa. Her publications include *Waga kokorozashi Afurika ni ari* (*My Aspirations Are in Africa*, 2003) and *Afurika no minwa* (*African Folktales*, 2012).

Mohamed Charinda (1947–) was born in Nakpanya village in southern Tanzania. He has been painting in the Tingatinga style originated by Tanzanian painter Edward Tingatinga (1932–72) since 1975, and is known for his paintings of wild animals, village scenes, and *shetani* (*semi-animal devils*). His highly distinctive artwork for Yumiko Shimaoka’s *Afurika no minwa* (*African Folktales*) brought him to the attention of the Japanese reading public in 2012.

Panpaka Underpants: Are the Ghost Pants Scary Pants?



Ages 2+
230 x 185 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591144343
Rights sold:



Vol.2

This is a picture-book spinoff of the highly popular children's television series Panpaka pantsu o-New! (Panpaka Underpants, Spanking New!), launched in April 2015. An animated piglet named Panpaka, who is particularly fond of underpants, performs a cute dance to the beat of music. His endearing antics have captured the hearts of viewers not just in Japan but in Taiwan as well.

Panpaka makes it his mission to collect underpants from all over the world—especially those of unusual design. His grandfather, who is an expert underpants hunter, declares that he has found some ghost underpants and gives Panpaka a map. Panpaka hops into his brand-new gyrocopter—painted, of course, to look like his favorite article of clothing—and off he goes, bubbling with excitement over what he may find.

He tries to imagine what kind of underpants a ghost might wear, but when he arrives at the spooky house indicated on the map, what he finds instead is an “underpants ghost.” The terrified Panpaka tries to flee, but the ghost eventually corners him. As Panpaka cowers in fear, the ghost speaks up—but his voice is pleading rather than threatening: “Please put me on,” he implores. He explains that his former master, a lion, decided to stop wearing underpants before ever getting around to trying him on. Having never been worn, he has become a wandering ghost, looking for someone to help him fulfill his purpose. Panpaka feels sympathy for the ghost and dons the pants—though still with considerable trepidation. “I also need you to say how good it feels to have me on,” the ghost adds. When Panpaka obliges and then continues to assuage the ghost by following his several comical pleas for attention, the specter thanks him and then vanishes with a smile, saying he doesn't need to be a ghost anymore. “I think maybe I did a good deed,” says the much-relieved Panpaka. But there turn out to be many more underpants ghosts in the house, and when they start coming after him, he takes to his heels. He's had enough underpants ghosts for one day.



Acchi the Little Ghost Series

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**



Acchi and Dorara

From the author of “Kiki’s Delivery Service” comes the story of Acchi, a cute little ghost, who is a cook at a restaurant. Acchi goes on the road to think of a new recipe and meets Dorara, Dracula’s granddaughter, on his way. She is cooking ‘Green Caterpillar Gratin,’ which Acchi finds delicious. Acchi asks her how to cook it, but Dorara replies that Acchi should think of a recipe on his own. What kinds of dishes will Acchi make at the end? Children will enjoy a joyful story of friendship, as well as the unique and delicious dishes described in the story.



Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

80 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591119501

Rights sold: China and Vietnam



Acchi and Dracula's Soup

Acchi turns down Dorara’s offer to have her cook at his restaurant. Soon after that, the restaurant starts to move back and forth. When Acchi tries to make a soup, vegetables roll around. Some think Dorara might be the one doing this, but Acchi thinks she isn’t because she is his friend. This is the latest title in the series.

About the Author

Eiko Kadono is the author of “Kiki’s Delivery Service,” on which Hayao Miyazaki, Japan’s best-known animator, made a film by the same name. She won the Noma Children’s Literature Award and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award

Yoko Sasaki, born in 1952, writes and illustrates picture books and also draws illustrations for fiction.

Since the first volume was published in 1979, the “Acchi the Little Ghost” series has been popular for decades in Japan. The series started up again with a new character, Dorara, in 2010. Eight volumes have been published so far.



Acchi Makes a Delicious Dish



Acchi and Docchi the Little Brother



Acchi, Bon and Dorara



Acchi and Dorara's Curry



Acchi and the Secret of a Castle



Acchi, Bon and a Mysterious Cook



Socchi and Mysterious Candies



Socchi wants to become older sister



Acchi and Pancake



Kocchi and Barbar shop

Oof, the Bear Cub

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illus. by **Yosuke Inoue**



This collection of nine stories centers on the bear cub Oof and his animal friends. His name derives from his favorite word, “Oof.” He’s a playful cub who’s fond of eating, licking, and musing over all sorts of interesting things.

In *Is Oof Made of Pee?*, Oof considers hens who lay eggs every day, and concludes with a bit of a swagger, “They’re made of eggs!” When Little Fox retorts, “In that case, since all you ever produce is pee, you must be made of pee!” they get into a fight. It gets Oof to thinking about what he could be made of. When Oof falls down and feels the pain, he cries and sheds tears, and when he rolls over the ground and enjoys it, he realizes; it’s Oof that do that, not pee.

Ages 6+
220 x 180 mm
134 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591069479
Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

In *Why Does This One Butterfly Make Oof Cry?*, Oof is oblivious when other insects die, but when a butterfly that wanders into his room dies, he breaks down in tears; the story is about the preciousness of life. *Is One Bear Worth a Hundred Mice?* makes readers think about how different kinds of living things can coexist. While young readers are entertained by the interactions between Oof and the other animals, parents are struck by how deep some of Oof’s questions go, giving the book an appeal across generations.



Hello, Oof!



Oof, Little Fox and Little Bunny



Text by Sachiyo Hosoe

About the Author

Toshiko Kanzawa (1924–) brings her background to stories that are rooted in the culture of the north, or that draw from her own childhood spent close to nature. She has published poetry, nursery songs, picture books, nursery tales, novels, and essays. She won many awards, including the Noma Children’s Literature Award.

Yosuke Inoue (1931–) produces original paintings and prints as well as illustrating children’s books and creating picture books of his own. His solo titles include the picture books *Around the Corner* and *Wacky Rail Rides* (winner of the 2000 Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize.) He is loved for his humorous and warmhearted drawings.

Rila the Little Gorilla

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illus. by **Hiroshi Abe**



Rila the Little Gorilla loves her father. He is a big gorilla and makes nice sounds by pounding his mighty chest. Rila pounds her chest, but Mako the Parrot teases her, saying “you sound very different from your father.” She gets upset and climbs a tree to run after Mako. Getting on the tree, Rila finds delicious-looking nuts on its branch.

When her father comes, Rila asks him to climb the tree so they can have the nuts together. But he is too heavy for the tree, so Rila drops some nuts for him. And she says, “I’ll drop something nicer” and jumps down into his arms! The story depicts precious moments in daily lives and a warm family relationship.

Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591078075

Rights sold:



About the Author

Toshiko Kanzawa, born in 1924, won the Noma Children's Literature Award for “Inai inai baya,” the Sankei Children's Book Award for “Taran no Hakucho,” and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for “Shikayo Oreno Kyodaiyo.” Her books have been read for decades in Japan.

Hiroshi Abe, born in 1948, won the Shogakukan Children's Literature Award for “Gorilla Nikki.” Before he started his career as a picture book writer, he worked at a zoo for 25 years.

Jump, Jump, and Another Jump!

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Ken Kuroi**



Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

71 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591140123

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

One evening, Little Bear begins jumping rope under the tree where Grandpa Squirrel lives. No matter how hard he tries, he can never jump more than five times in a row without tripping up. He comes back the next evening to do it again, and each evening after that, until finally, after much practice, he succeeds in jumping ten times in a row. Little Bear shouts “Ten!” and without even thinking, Grandpa Squirrel calls out, “You did it! Good for you!” But Little Bear thinks it is the tree that spoke.

After that, Grandpa Squirrel takes to talking to Little Bear as if he is the tree, but then one day he catches a cold and loses his voice. An owl who comes to look in on him reveals to Little Bear that a squirrel lives in the tree, and that the voice he has been hearing, talking to him and cheering him on, belongs to that squirrel, not the tree. Little Bear looks up at the tree and dejectedly turns toward home. Watching him go, Grandpa Squirrel feels awful for having deceived Little Bear, and he decides to leave his home to find a new place to live the next morning. But then Little Bear comes back and looks up into the tree again. “Get well soon, Grandpa Squirrel,” he says. “So you can watch me jump rope again.” Little Bear gives the tree a great big hug and turns homeward once more, waving goodbye as he disappears into the darkness.



About the Author

Miyako Moriyama (1929–) is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her works include the “Little Fox” series, which won the Robo-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989, and *Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*, winner of the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature in 1996, and *Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*, which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Ken Kuroi (1947–) worked as a children’s book editor with a major publisher before turning freelance as an illustrator. In 1983 he was awarded the Sanrio Art Prize for a series of illustrations he produced for the magazine *Poems and Märchen*. Picture books he has illustrated include *Gon the Fox and Buying Mittens* by Nankichi Niimi; *Mother’s Eyes* and *Willow Street in Amano* by Kimiko Aman; and *Night Boat* by Haruo Yamashita. He has also published many art collections, including *Mississippi*, *Monaural*, and *Cloud Signals*.

Where are you going, Little Bear?

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Kazue Takahashi**



Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

71 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591083291

Rights sold:

One sunny day, Little Bear decides to go see a tree far away from his house because no one has been there before. Little Pig wants to join him, but Little Bear says, “You’re too small to walk all the way there.” Little Bear starts out walking by himself, but when he turns around, Little Pig is still looking at him and waving his hands.

When Little Bear gets to the tree, he sees an old gentleman, Grandpa Rabbit, talking to someone in a garden. But Little Bear doesn’t see anyone there, and soon finds out that Grandpa Rabbit is in fact talking to the flowers. Seeing how the old gentleman cares for the flowers gives Little Bear a good feeling, and he asks Grandpa Rabbit if he can bring his friend next time.

On his way back home, Little Bear sees Little Pig and tells him about the great place he visited, saying, “Next time let’s go there together with our friends.” “But I don’t think I can walk that far,” says Little Pig. Little Bear hoists Little Pig on his shoulders and says, “Then I’ll carry you piggyback, like this!”

The story lovingly depicts how people come to care about each other, and how meeting other people helps children grow.



About the Author

Miyako Moriyama (1929–) is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her works include the “Little Fox” series, which won the Robo-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989, and *Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*, winner of the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature in 1996, and *Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*, which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kuma-Kuma-chan the Little Bear* in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyako the Cat*, *The Squirrel Telephone System*, *Little Bear Sees In the New Year*, and *Rainy Day Bear*.

I Know! I'll Write a Letter!

Text by **Wakako Nariyuki**

Illus. by **Satoshi Iriyama**



Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142318

Rights sold:

In this heartwarming tale based on the author's own experience, Aya enters the first grade. At the welcoming ceremony on the first day of school, everyone else is chattering away, catching up with each other. But Aya has no friends because she missed most of kindergarten to be with her father, who was slowly dying in the hospital. As the experience has left her unsure of how to play or interact with children her age, she becomes increasingly isolated, and they regard her as a misfit.

Aya's teacher, Mr. Koyama, reminds her of the father she lost. It is he who teaches her how to be friends with her peers. Instead of scolding the other children or trying to change Aya's behavior, Mr. Koyama simply seeks to give Aya a place in the class where she can feel at home. Since she loves to draw, he spends time with her on her drawing. By talking to him about what she is drawing, she begins to shed some of her stiffness.

One day when her classmates are mean to her and she bursts into tears, Mr. Koyama asks her to draw on the blackboard in front of the class. Although she's very tentative at first, once she gets started, she can feel her classmates' interest growing, and the atmosphere in the room completely changes as everyone is enthralled by Aya's work. The next day a girl comes to Aya and asks her to draw something for her in her notebook.

When the new term begins after summer vacation, Mr. Koyama must quit his job and return to his hometown. He tells Aya to write at any time—just as if she were writing to her father in heaven. After he is gone, simply knowing that she can write to him gives her strength when she is feeling lonely. Then at the end of the story, she wins an award for a poster she draws, and says, "I know! I'll write a letter!" In the end, this book itself seems like something she may have written.



About the Author

Wakako Nariyuki (1954–) branched out into picture books and stories for children after first establishing herself as a manga artist. Her titles include *Chiwao the Chihuahua*, *Adorable Kitten Needs Loving Home*, *Hanako: The Kitten I Adopted on August 7*, *I Know! I'll Write a Letter!*, and others.

Satoshi Iriyama (1958–) worked as a greeting-card artist and character designer before becoming an illustrator and picture-book author. Including such titles as *Where's Your Mother?*, *Piyo?* and *Piyo Plays Hide-and-Seek*, the many volumes in his *Piyo-chan* series have sold a combined total of over 1.7 million copies.

Adorable Kitten Needs Loving Home

Text by Wakako Nariyuki

Illus. by Mako Taruishi



Ages 6+

205 x 155 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591099384

Rights sold: Korea and

Taiwan

On her way home from school one day, Chii-chan finds a kitten in a cardboard box trembling in fear at the crows that are threatening it. She screws up her courage and chases the crows away, then carries the box home. But her family lives in an apartment where pets aren't allowed. "I'm sorry," her mother tells her after taking the kitten to be examined by a vet. Since she can't keep it herself, Chii-chan decides to look for someone at school who can. But none of her friends are willing to take it. When the kitten meows, it sounds to Chii-chan almost as if it's calling to her, "Chii, Chii," and it pulls on her heartstrings. Refusing to give up, she draws up a flier to post on telephone poles and hand out to people—the cover art of the Japanese edition is this flier—but day after day goes by with no response.

The kitten is growing, and its voice is, too. Soon neighbors begin to complain, and the landlord says he'll give them one more week to find a home for the kitten, but after that it'll have to go to the shelter. Chii-chan knows what happens to kittens that go to the shelter. She tries harder than before to find a home for the kitten, persisting in her efforts even when the other kids at school make fun of her, but the fateful day arrives and she still has no taker. She picks the cat up and dashes out of the house without knowing where to go or what she can do . . . Then the school nurse stops her and says she's found someone who'll take the kitten. Chii-chan is both relieved and sad when she gives the kitten to its new caretaker.

Through the figure of a little girl who does everything she can to save an abandoned cat, the story speaks to the immeasurable value of life.



About the Author

Wakako Nariyuki (1954–) branched out into picture books and stories for children after first establishing herself as a manga artist. Her titles include *Chiwao the Chihuahua*, *Adorable Kitten Needs Loving Home*, *Hanako: The Kitten I Adopted on August 7, I Know! I'll Write a Letter!*, and others.

Mako Taruishi (1952–) graduated from Tama Art University and worked as a designer at a company before becoming a freelance illustrator and picture-book author. Her picture books include *One Day before Winter*, *Hot Hot Hot*, and *Lion and Me*.

Kuma the Bear and Tiny Tatan: Visitors from the Blue

Text by **Kyoko Hara**

Illus. by **Koshiro Hata**



Ages 6+

200 x 155 mm

72 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591123652

Rights sold: Taiwan

This volume belongs to a series of books telling of events in the life of Kuma, a bear, and Tatan, a caterpillar-like bug, who live together.

One autumn night, they both make a wish on a falling star, but neither of them reveals their wish. The next day, they are working in their flowerbed, listening to a radio hanging from a branch of an apple tree, when the music stops. Kuma goes to fix it, but the radio slips from his hand and falls to pieces on the ground. Just then, two bugs who look just like Tatan descend from the treetop—Poran and his daughter Pomu. They have journeyed to Earth from another planet, but their spaceship has broken down. Kuma gives Poran the damaged radio to use for parts to repair his ship. While he's working on the repairs, Pomu goes to Kuma and Tatan's house.

Tatan is irritated by how nice Kuma is being to Pomu. Trying to think of something fun for them all to do together, Kuma suggests they go to a field where cosmos are blooming. On the way, Pomu says to Tatan, "When tiny creatures like us go traveling, we encounter all kinds of dangers. I envy you for having big strong Kuma to look out for you." When they reach the field with the cosmos, Tatan searches hard for a four-leaf clover, and when he finds one, gives it to Pomu for good luck.

Pomu asks Tatan if he wouldn't like to go back with them to their planet. But Tatan says he wants to stay with Kuma until the flowers they planted in their flowerbed bloom. Since Kuma's wish on the falling star was for him and Tatan to be able to stay together, he couldn't be happier.



About the Author

Kyoko Hara graduated from Wako University with a degree in art. Among her many titles are *We Found Spring*, *Tell Me a Story*, the "Kuma the Bear and Tiny Tatan" series, and the "Ishishi and Noshishi's Tall Tales" series.

Koshiro Hata (1963–) writes picture books, draws illustrations, and designs books. His solo-production picture books include *A Summer Day* and *How Many Animals?* He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books "as if it's a present to my five-year-old self." Hata shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations.

Becoming Friends

Text by **Ippei Mogami**

Illus. by **Akiko Miyakoshi**



Ages 6+

205 x 155 mm

80 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591131640

Rights sold:

This story of two little girls who slowly but surely get to be friends sends the message that it's okay to take your time when you start a new friendship.

Sato, the main character, is a shy, quiet girl. In the seat next to her at school is Juju, who is lively and outgoing. Although they are opposites in personality, they begin to get to know each other. Little by little, as they share secrets, walk together in the rain, and look up at the stars together, they become better and better friends.

Then Sato goes to Juju's house for the first time. Juju lives alone with her mother. "Mommy and I came from the Happy Planet to look for happiness on Earth," she tells Sato. She takes an old, broken music box from her box of treasures and gives it to Sato to keep. "Even though it's broken," she says, "people like us can hear it playing Träumerei."

A number of days later, Juju asks Sato to help her find a good luck charm. It's for her mother, she says, because she's scheduled to take a certification exam. When they fail to find a shrine nearby that has talismans for sale, they choose a pretty white stone on the grounds of a shrine to use as a charm instead.

That night, Sato takes the broken music box in her hand and says a little prayer for Juju's mother to pass her exam, and at that moment, for the first time, she thinks she can hear the music box playing Träumerei . . .



About the Author

Ippei Mogami (1957–) won the JAWC New Talent Award in 1985 for *The Silver Rabbit*, and both the JAWC Award and Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award in 2001 for *The Fox of Mt. Nukui*. His other titles include *Becoming Friends*, *Monster Grasshopper*, and *Grow Up in your Own Sweet Time*.

Akiko Miyakoshi (1982–) won the Nissan Children's Storybook and Picture Book Grand Prix for *Typhoon Comes* in 2009, and her *The Tea Party in the Woods* garnered the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 2011. Her other works include *Piano Recital* and *Whose Is This?*

Africa, it's Secret but True

Text by **Fumiko Takeshita**

Illus. by **Jun Takabatake**



Ages 6+

220 x 155 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591078723

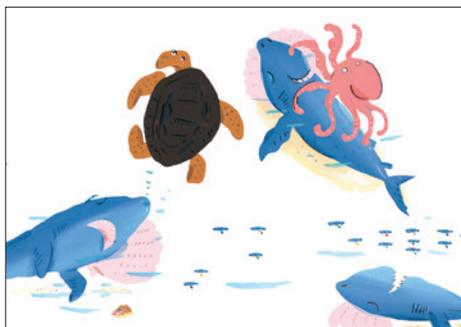
Rights sold: China and Taiwan

The book has five joyful stories about animals in Africa: an alligator who likes bananas, a lion who hates brushing his teeth, a zebra who has lost his tail, a snake whose body is too long, and an elephant who is good at skipping. Each story is short and easy to read, so children can enjoy these humorous and charming stories by themselves.



The Sea, it's Secret but True

The book has five happy stories about fish in the sea: a shark, which sleeps late in the morning; a dolphin, which is bad at singing; a hasty flying fish; a shy wolffish; and a mischievous prawn.



About the Author

Fumiko Takeshita, born in 1957, has won several awards, including the Japan Picture Book Award for “Mugiwaraboshi.”

Jun Takabatake, born in 1948, won the Bologna Children’s Book Fair Graphic Award for “Dare no Jitensha.” He also received the Japan Picture Book Award for “O Suppa” and the Kodansha Publishing Award for Picture Books for “Futari no Namakemono.”

Can I Watch?

Text by **Miyuki Iso**

Illus. by **Koshiro Hata**



Ages 6+

205 x 155 mm

79 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591121993

Rights sold: Korea

Fox, who lives alone in the woods, loves to make mischief, and it never even occurs to him that he might want to become friends with anyone. One day he comes upon Duck giving a swimming lesson. Seeing Duck correct Rabbit for not getting it right, he thinks it'll be a good joke on the teacher to jump into the pond and disrupt the lesson. Though Fox only dives in to make things difficult for the teacher, Rabbit thinks it is to rescue her. From then on, Rabbit follows Fox everywhere he goes. "Can I watch?" she says, and pays close attention to everything Fox does as he teases Pig, digs a pitfall to surprise Tanuki and Wildcat, and so forth. At first Fox considers Rabbit a pest, but as time goes by he starts to enjoy the fact that Rabbit is always there as an audience to his antics.

One day, Fox sees Weasel proudly wearing a white shirt his mother gave him and throws a mud pie at him. This isn't so much a joke as an act of jealousy, and he wishes Rabbit weren't watching. He throws a stone at Rabbit to chase her away. But when Rabbit catches it, it turns out to be a bird's egg. The following day, Rabbit doesn't show up to follow Fox around—nor the day after that, or the day after that. Soon a full week has gone by, and Fox becomes worried—Is she sick? Did she get lost? Did she move away? He races all over the woods looking for her, and finally finds her shoes at the foot of a large tree. Thinking someone has eaten her, he flies into a rage and leaps into a hollow in the tree—where he discovers Rabbit keeping the bird's egg warm in her tiny little hands. Now it's Fox's turn to ask, "Can I watch?"



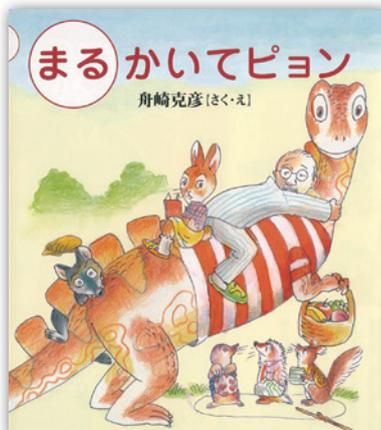
About the Author

Miyuki Iso worked as a plastic artist and dancer before becoming an author of picture books, children's stories, and kamishibai picture-panel stories. Her titles include the "Why I Don't Like —" series, "the Little Polar Bear Prince" series, and many others.

Koshiro Hata (1963–) writes picture books, draws illustrations, and designs books. His solo-production picture books include *A Summer Day* and *How Many Animals?*. He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books "as if it's a present to my five-year-old self." Hata shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations.

Ring around a Hopsie

Yoshihiko Funazaki



Ages 2+

217 x 187 mm

48 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645542

Rights sold: Korea

A children's author who wasn't making progress on his writing in Tokyo has come to a friend's vacation cabin in the mountains. Unfortunately, the change of scene has failed to clear his writer's block. Then one day a little girl bunny knocks on his door and asks if he'd be willing to look over a story she's written. He tries to brush her off, but she thrusts her open notebook at him and insists, so he is soon offering her pointers. When he tells her that a story needs to have a title, she promptly decides on "Ring around a Hopsie"; when he notes that her opening line doesn't say who the main character is, she says, "It's me, of course," and inserts "Hopsie the bunny." The story is about Hopsie going for an outing on a sunny day, and the significance of her title becomes clear when the tale has her picking up a stick, drawing a circle on the ground, and plopping right down in the middle of it to eat her picnic lunch.

Before long a wolf enters the picture to provide tension, but the human author thinks something else is missing. He urges Hopsie to add some friends for her main character to interact with, and finally manages to send her away so he can get back to his own writing. But he barely has time to turn around before she is back with a revision.

The suggestion-followed-by-rewrite process repeats several times in the course of the day to produce the following story: As Hopsie is eating her lunch, a squirrel, hedgehog, and mole appear one after another to join her. They all happily share a meal together even as a wolf lurks in the underbrush preparing to make a meal of them. Then with a thunderous roar, a dinosaur appears and asks if she can join the party. The four animals are so terrified that they pass out cold. The wolf growls menacingly, but his voice quavers, and the dinosaur pays no attention. Instead, she draws a gigantic circle around the small one where the four friends are passed out, and sits down inside it; a swipe of her tail sends the wolf flying off to who knows where. When the four friends regain consciousness, they realize the dinosaur isn't a threat, and they all happily share in the fruit she has brought.

The author with writer's block realizes he's completed a story, and puts in a call to his editor . . .

About the Author

Yoshihiko Funazaki (1945–) was born in Tokyo. A novelist, poet, and illustrator, he teaches at Shirayuri College, and is known for playful works that blend fantasy with botany. His books for young readers include *Koko ni iru* (*I'm Here*), *Ame to dōbutsuen* (*Rainy Zoo*), and *Gekkō no Kopan* (*Copan in the Moonlight*). He has also written the stories for such picture books as *Ano ko ga mieru* (*I See That Kid*; illustrated by Keiko Ajito), *Aishiteiru* (*I Love You*; illustrated by Tarō Okamoto), and *Mamono no okurimono* (*The Demon's Gift*; illustrated by Akira Uno).

Read Me a Story

Text by **Kyoko Hara**

Illus. by **Kazue Takahashi**



Ages 6+

205 x 155 mm

80 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129005

Rights sold: Taiwan

Through her interactions with some animals in the woods, a little girl sees good come out of something she does, and gains new self-confidence and maturity in the process.

First-grader Yuka loves to have her mother read to her. But these days, ever since Yuka got a new baby brother, Mama's always too busy. Yuka asks the grandma next door and an older girl across the street to read to her, but they don't seem to have time for her either. So she gets a book and walks into the nearby woods, where she begins reading aloud to herself. Though she was never especially fond of her own voice, here among the trees she's surprised to discover that it has a nice ring to it. As she reads on, wrapped up in the sound of her voice and the story, some animals begin to gather around her—a squirrel, a pheasant, a rabbit, a cat, a monkey, a fox, a tanuki, a dog, a wolf, a boar, and a bear. At their request, she reads another, then another, enjoying herself more with each story.

One Saturday as autumn is nearing an end, Yuka takes a book into the woods and reads to the animals again, but this time they ask her for a story in which they appear. After thinking about it for a week, the following Saturday she reads them an adaptation of *The Musicians of Bremen*, in which she has included each member of her audience. The animals are delighted.

Rumors begin to circulate around town that the woods will be cut down to make way for a condominium, but then a short while later the project is canceled. It seems that the animals joined forces to scare the workers away—much as the Bremen musicians sent the robbers running. Yuka's adaptation of the story has ended up serving a real purpose. Yuka can hardly wait for the animals to come out of hibernation in the spring.

About the Author

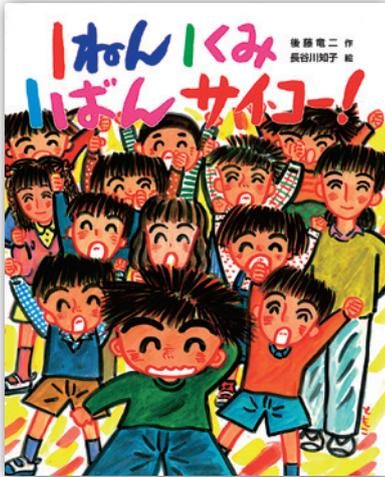
Kyoko Hara was born in Tokyo and graduated from Wakō University with a degree in art. In 1978 she won the Children's Literature Prize in the Kodansha Famous Schools Contest. Among her many titles are *Haru ni aeta yo* (*We Met Spring*), *Nē, ohanashi kikasete* (*Read Me a Story*), the *Kuma no Beāru to chiisana Tatan* (*Kuma the Bear and Tiny Tatan*) series, and the *Ishishi to Noshishi no suppoko peppoko henteko banashi* (*Ishishi and Noshishi's Tall Tales*) series.

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) was born in Kanagawa Prefecture and graduated from Tokyo Gakugei University. She made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kumakuma-chan* (*Kuma-Kuma-chan the Little Bear*) in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyāko-chan* (*Nyāko the Cat*), *Risu denwa* (*The Squirrel Telephone System*), *Kuma no ko no toshikoshi* (*Little Bear Sees In the New Year*), and *Ame no hi no Kuma-chan* (*Rainy Day Bear*). Titles she has illustrated include *Nē, ohanashi kikasete* (*Tell Me a Story*; text by Kyoko Hara) and *Dareka-san no kaban* (*Somebody's Canvas Bag*; story by Miyako Moriyama).

We are First Graders Series

Text by **Ryuji Goto**

Illus. by **Tomoko Hasegawa**



Ages 6+
235 x 190 mm
71 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591111741
Rights sold: China and Korea

Our Class is Great!

When I got to school this morning, I didn't see my friend Kurosawa in our classroom. My teacher told us that he moved to another city. He came to my house every day—even though I didn't invite him. But, he didn't tell me he was moving! We had fights sometimes, and I kind of wished he would transfer to another school. But, I feel so sad now.

My class decides to write letters to Kurosawa, but I don't know what to write. I don't want to say goodbye. He doesn't need to be cheered up by me. The girl who sits next to me writes to him, "I love you!" I'm surprised at first, but I think it's great to write your true feelings. I'll do that, too!

The series, which is popular in Japan, depicts children's delicate feelings precisely and warmly.



I Jump the Highest!



Who Loves to Eat the Most?



You have the Warmest Hands!



We have the Noisiest Day



Who has the most Selfish Mind?



I am the Greatest Person in our Class!

About the Author

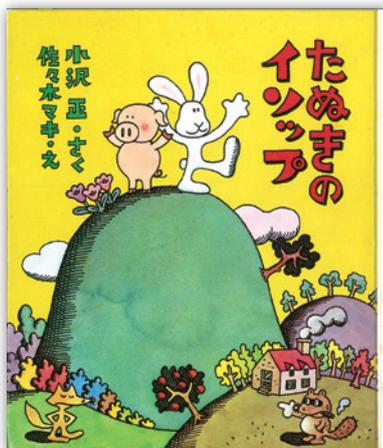
Ryuji Goto (1943-2010) was a well-known children's writer. He won the Japanese Writers Association of Children's Literature Award twice, and the Noma Children's Literature Award for "Yashin Aratamezu."

Tomoko Hasegawa, born in 1947, won the Sankei Children's Publication Culture Award for "Hitsujigumo no Mukoni." She writes picture books, as well as draws illustrations for fiction.

The Tanuki Aesop

Text by **Tadashi Ozawa**

Illus. by **Maki Sasaki**



Ages 6+

230 x 200 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591062906

Rights sold:

A tanuki racoon dog has made up three Aesopian stories, complete with his own humorous morals, and shares his tales with a man who comes to visit him. The first is Little Pig and Rabbit Go Hiking.

Little Pig and Rabbit get lost while hiking across the countryside. They spread their map open between them, but cannot figure out where they are. As they wander around in circles they begin to wonder if their excursion is only a dream in which they are really searching for themselves. Tanuki concludes: “Better to have no map at all, if you don’t know how to read it.”

Next comes Five Little Pigs and a Little Pig Bomb. A wolf moves in next to the house where five little pigs live. Since they don’t want to be eaten, the pigs decide they’d better find out whether he’s a good wolf or a bad wolf. They ask the fox to create a fake little pig for them—one with a bomb in its belly, set to go off if the wolf takes a chomp—and they send the fake pig to call on the wolf. The pig returns to tell them that the wolf is a good wolf, and the delighted pigs all join hands and dance in a circle. But when their dance is over, they realize they no longer know which one of them is the fake pig with the bomb! Tanuki’s moral: “No matter how you look at it, foxes are trouble.”

The last tale is The Little Bunny Who Hid Too Well. One day when Papa Rabbit has to go to work and Mama Rabbit also needs to step out, they leave their seven little bunnies at home by themselves. Before going, they warn the little ones that a wolf could show up at the door in disguise, so they are not to open the door to anyone. After both Papa and Mama are gone, a hen, a mouse, and a lizard come calling, but the bunnies refuse to let any of them in. When Papa comes home, the door won’t open, so he breaks it down to get inside. The children are nowhere to be seen. Then Mama comes home. When she calls out to them, the little bunnies begin to emerge from various hiding places around the house. But one of them remains missing no matter how hard everybody searches! Tanuki says: “Those who hide too well might want to think twice!” Then he promptly falls into a deep, snoring slumber.

About the Author

Tadashi Ozawa (1937–2008) was known for slipping surprisingly weighty themes into otherwise light and humorous stories. Among his many works are *Wake Up*, *Toragoro* and *The Easygoing Pig and the Restless Rabbit*.

Maki Sasaki (1946–) works as a manga artist, picture-book author, and illustrator. Among his best-known works are the titles in the “Monsieur Meunier” series and the “Very Sleepy Mouse” series. His works are noted for the highly distinctive worlds and characters they present, drawn with firm, steady lines.

The Easygoing Pig and the Restless Rabbit

Text by Tadashi Ozawa

Illus. by Shinta Cho



Ages 6+

230 x 200 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591062876

Rights sold: Korea

An easygoing pig and a restless, meddlesome rabbit live happily together in a house on the outskirts of Animan, a city where people and animals reside side by side. One morning, Pig is having a pleasant dream about cabbages, his favorite food, when Rabbit wakes him up. Rabbit lectures Pig that if he wants to stand shoulder to shoulder with people, he needs to have highbrow dreams about musical concerts and grand balls and such. That night, Rabbit produces a small box with cords that can be hooked up to each of their beds and says it will let them both have the same dream. The dream they share that night is of a dance being held in a grand palace, but the ballroom is filled with cabbages dancing to music from an orchestra that is also made up of cabbages. In the morning, Rabbit glares at Pig with disapproval.

So Pig suggests that the next night they should share Rabbit's dream. This puts Rabbit on the spot: he's been dreaming about carrots night after night. He goes to see Dr. Fox and gets some medicine that is supposed to produce dreams about finding treasure. That night, Pig and Rabbit go to sleep with the box hooked up to their beds again. In Rabbit's dream, the two arrive on Treasure Island and follow their map to the location of a treasure chest. When they open the chest, it is filled to the brim with sparkling, shiny carrots.

Rabbit is so embarrassed when he wakes up in the morning that he decides he must simply leave. At the gate he turns back to look at the house, and sadly thinks of how much he will miss Pig. But Pig is already waiting outside with a rucksack on his back, saying he will go with Rabbit on his journey. He has filled the rucksack chock full of cabbages and carrots for them to enjoy along the way.



About the Author

Tadashi Ozawa (1937–2008) was known for slipping surprisingly weighty themes into otherwise light and humorous stories. Among his many works are *Wake Up*, *Toragoro* and *The Easygoing Pig and the Restless Rabbit*.

Shinta Cho (1927–2005) received an honorable mention in the Hans Christian Andersen Awards for *The Talkative Omelet*. Among his many other honors are the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Cabbage Boy* in 1981, for *Upside-Down Lion* in 1986, and for *I Cried* in 2005. In recognition of his body of work as an artist and illustrator, he was decorated with Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon in 1994.

Bulbul the King

Text by **Yoshihiko Funazaki**

Illus. by **Ikuo Nishimura**



Ages 6+

230 x 200 mm

64 pages

Hardcover

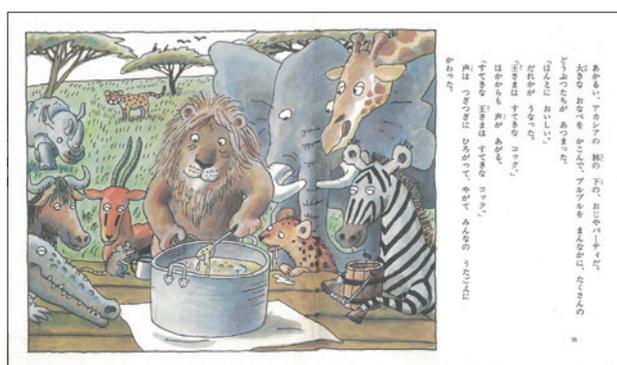
ISBN 978-4591062944

Rights sold: Korea

This humorous and charming picture book tells the story of a lion who learns to appreciate the little joys in life. Bulbul the Lion is the king of the grasslands. But as he grows older, he can't run as fast, see as well, or eat without his false teeth. This is his big secret.

When Bulbul goes out he tries to look scary, roaring and running after the other animals, even though he knows he can't catch them anymore. The animals begin to notice that no one is caught by the lion these days, so they send a baby mouse to Bulbul's house to see how he is doing now. When the mouse knocks on the door, Bulbul, who is eating porridge, is very surprised because no one has ever come to his place before. When he opens the door and roars, trying to look scary, his false teeth fall out! The mouse, he is sure, will tell the other animals about it. The lion is convinced that they will all laugh at him.

But then, the other animals of the grasslands all come and ask if they can have some of his porridge. Bulbul doesn't know what kind of look he should put on, but without thinking he smiles. Then Bulbul and the other animals eat porridge together. Bulbul doesn't need strong legs, good eyesight, or sharp fangs any more, because he feels good from the "little joys" of sharing life with friends.



About the Author

Yoshihiko Funazaki (1945–) teaches at Shirayuri College, and is known for works that blend fantasy with botany and a playful spirit. His books for young readers include *I'm Here*, *Rainy Zoo*, and *Copan in the Moonlight*.

Ikuo Nishimura (1939–) became a full-time illustrator after working as a magazine journalist and a design studio artist. He has illustrated many works, including the children's books *Bulbul the King*, *The Tiger Kitty*, and *The Baby Sorcerer*.

The Little Ghost's Apartment Series

Kayo Murai



The Little Ghost Comes to My Apartment

There is a tree called Tree of Ghosts in the garden of an old apartment. Momo, the princess of Ghost Country, goes to protect it. While there, Momo meets Rui, a little boy who can see and speak with Momo. As Momo and Rui try to carry out missions, the king of Ghost Country orders Rui—who used to get scared easily—become more confident. With a lot of illustrations and comics, the book humorously conveys the importance of being kind to others and loving living things.

Ages 6+
 220 x 155 mm
 79 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591073940
 Rights sold:

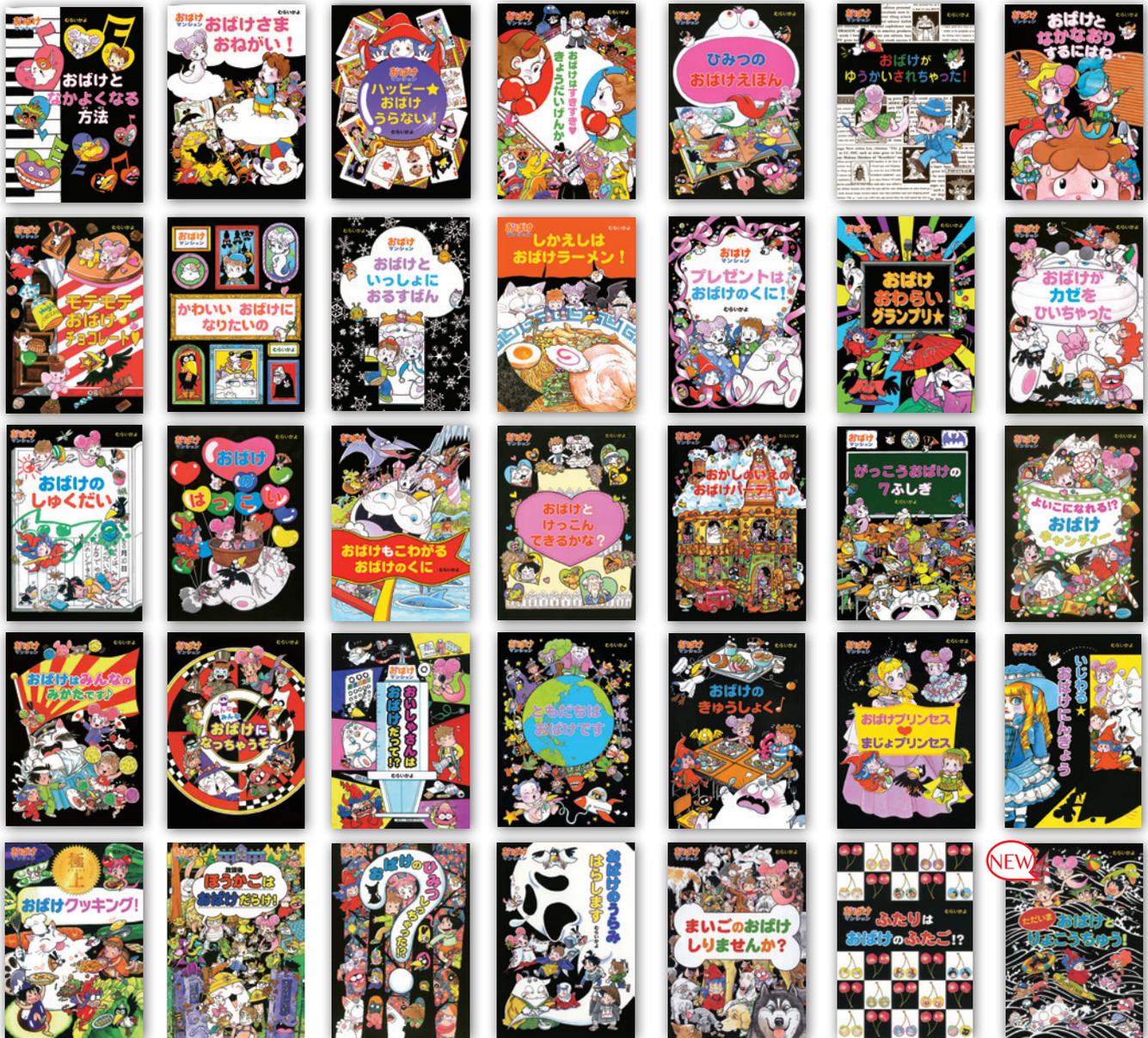


About the Author

Kayo Murai, born in 1953, started her career as an illustrator. She writes books for children, as well as translates picture books.

The Little Ghost's Apartment Series

The Little Ghost's Apartment Series conveys messages, such as being honest and caring about others, in humorous ways. With a lot of illustrations and comics, children, who don't usually read books, can enjoy the series as well. More than 30 titles have been published so far.



The Way to Make Friends with Ghosts

Run a Race with Ghosts

Ghost's Fortune-Telling

A Fight between Siblings

I want to be a Cute Ghost

House-Sitting with Ghosts

Ghosts' Ramen Noodle

Going to Ghost Country

Ghost Country even Ghosts are Sacred of

Can I Marry a Ghost?

A Ghost Party at Sweet House

Seven Mysteries of Ghost School

My Friend is a Ghost

Ghosts' School Lunch

Ghost Princess

Ghosts and a Doll

A Mysterious Ghost Book

A Ghost is Kidnaped!

Let's Make up with a Ghost

Ghosts' Chocolate

Ghosts' Comedy Contest

A Ghost Catches a Cold!

Ghosts' Homework

Ghost's First Love

Ghosts' Candies

Ghosts are on Your Side

Ghosts' Halloween Party

A Doctor is a Ghost?

Ghost Cooking

Ghosts' After School Hours

I've got to know a Ghost's Secret!

I inflame the grudge of the Ghost

Do you know a lost Ghost?

They are twins

Currently, I'm Traveling with Ghosts

Magic Garden Tales

Yasuko Ambiru



Ages 8+

205 x 155 mm

143 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591097496

Rights sold: China, Indonesia,
Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam

The Magic Garden and Mysterious Herb Recipes

With a violinist father and pianist mother, Jarett long lived out of a suitcase, traveling from city to city around the world wherever her parents performed. Always staying in hotels, the family never had a place to call home. Jarett's friends thought she was lucky, because she always had people waiting on her and taking care of things for her; but she longed for her own home, where she would have to do her own cleaning and could have a pet to take care of.

Then the herb witch Topaz, a distant relative, leaves her a small cottage in her will. Against her parents' initial opposition, Jarett takes up residence there, together with six kittens. Following the recipes in a book left by Topaz, she mixes herbs from the garden, and when she gives these mixtures to her neighbors as medicines, they are a big hit. A continuing theme of the series to which this story belongs is the many different efficacies of herbs and aroma essences. The series has been highly popular in Japan, with 17 volumes published so far.



About the Author

Yasuko Ambiru specializes in fantasies for young girls. Her major works include *The World's Best Restaurant*, the "Lulu and Lala" series, the "Everything Witch Trading Company" series, and the "Magic Garden Tales" series.



Herb Tea Party
 The Magic of Peppermint
 A Village Festival with Three Little Witches
 Magic Tea with a Winter Fairy
 A Piano Lesson at the Magic Garden
 The Witch of Rose Valley
 Three Little Witches and Potpourri
 Magical Night with Seven Fairies
 A Willful Princess and Magic Roses

Queen's Purple Magic
 Witch's Getting Ready for Winter
 The Magic of Perfume
 Rosemary and Magic of Venus
 Happy Recipes at a Cafe
 Magical Effect of the Herb
 Jarett's Brilliant Magic
 April and Present of the Magic
 Teatime of the Witch

Herb Lessons from the Magic Garden



Vol.1 Tea Party

With a lot of illustrations, photos and main characters, the book demonstrates how to make various kinds of herb tea and sweets for a tea party. It also introduces many kinds of herbs.



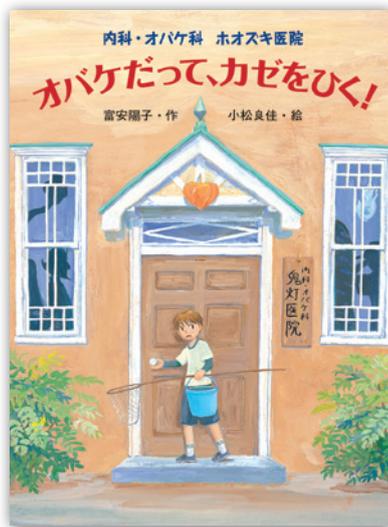
Vol.2 Christmas



Hozuki Clinic of Internal and Monster Medicine 1

Even Monsters Get the Flu!

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu** Illus. by **Yoshika Komatsu**



Ages 8+

210 x 155 mm

143 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591090299

Rights sold: Taiwan

One Saturday Kyohei, a fifth-grader, wanders into an unfamiliar back alley and up the front steps of Hozuki Clinic—which he’s amazed to learn is the only specialist in monster medicine in the entire world. Rushing out on an emergency house call, its head physician, Dr. Kyojuro Hozuki, presses Kyohei into looking after things at the office, and the boy must deal with a constant stream of frightful monster patients, from Hundred-Eyes to Two-Mouths to No-Face. Not only that, but Kyohei is soon called away to Mt. Suzaku to help with the doctor’s errand. As it turns out, there’s an ogre hiding in a cave who needs to get a shot to prevent the horrid Ogre Flu from spreading to the other monsters and causing total mayhem. Dr. Hozuki lures the wild child-eating ogre out with Kyohei’s tasty scent, and then—just when Kyohei’s about to be snatched up—sticks the needle right into the monster’s arm. Success!

As a reward for his work, the doctor hands Kyohei a mysterious bell shaped like a hozuki, or Chinese lantern plant, which serves as the key to the way between the boy’s own world and that of the Hozuki Clinic. Ring it, and it’ll bring him here again. Despite his scare, Kyohei decides that he does want to come back to see Dr. Hozuki so he can continue being the only assistant to the only monster doctor in the world.

Yoko Tomiyasu, who has captivated countless fans with her masterful works of fantasy, does so again in the opening volume to her popular series about the mysterious Dr. Hozuki, his inquisitive young assistant Kyohei, and the monster-related troubles they set out to solve. Boys and girls alike enjoy this series filled with bright humor and skillful storytelling.



About the Author

Yoko Tomiyasu (1959–) won the Shogakkan Children’s Literature Award for *The Rustling Oak Lodge*; the Niimi Nankichi Children’s Literature Award in 1997 for her *Little Princess Suzuna* series; the Sankei Children’s Book Award in 2001 for *The Sky Myth*; the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature for *Bon Invitation*.

Welcome to Dream Shop Series

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**

Illus. by **Tomoko Hirasawa**



The Greatest Present in the World

Shiragikumar, a big old cat, is the owner of Dream Shop, where customers can get whatever they want. Dream Shop has the most delicious cake, the most comfortable sofa, a cloak that will make one invisible and many more interesting objects. Only stray cats know the way to the shop, which has two rules: 1.) You can only buy one thing and 2.) The item will cost all of the money you have with you.

Today a young man comes to the shop, looking for “the greatest present.” What will he get there? Readers will enjoy five stories in the book. This is the second in this fantasy series.

Ages 8+

205 x 155 mm

125 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135709

Right sold: China



Welcome to Dream Shop!

A boy, who is looking for running shoes, comes to Dream Shop by accident. Shiragikumar, the owner, shows him special shoes, saying the boy will be able to run like a bullet train with these shoes. But there are some conditions. The boy shouldn't give the shoes to anyone, and it'll be effective only for a week. The book has four other stories. This is the first in the series.

About the Author

Yoko Tomiyasu, born in 1959, has won many awards, including the Noma Children's Literature Award for “Bonmaneki.”

Tomoko Hirasawa, born in 1982, started working as an illustrator after graduating from Musashino Art University. She draws illustrations for fiction.

Ghost Art Museum Series

Text by **Sachiko Kashiwaba**
 Illus. by **Takako Hirai**



Welcome to Ghost Art Museum!

Mahiru, a fifth grader, is asked to work at an art museum as a director! The museum is owned by her father's company, and the mother of the president established the museum. According to her will, the director should be a girl younger than 10 years old. That's why Mahiru is selected, and she is excited to work there.

But, the museum is very mysterious. In fact, figures in paintings, such as an old lady, a knight and angels, come to life—though only children can see them. Young readers will enjoy warm and humorous stories in this series.

Ages 8+
 205 x 155 mm
 143 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591093320
 Rights sold: Taiwan



Fairies' Cake is Mysterious?



A Mysterious Train doesn't Stop!

About the Author

Sachiko Kashiwaba, born in 1953, won the Sankei Children's Publication Culture Award twice for "Miracle Family" and "Botansan no Fushigina Mainichi," and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for "Tuduki no Toshokan."

Takako Hirai, born in 1954, publishes picture books and books of paintings. She also draws illustrations for books and book jackets.

A Witch Sends me on an Errand

Text by **Sachiko Kashiwaba**
 Illus. by **Nobuko Tsuchida**



Mayu, a little girl, feels worried in a park because her little bird flew away. She whispers, “What should I do?” At that moment, she hears someone also say, “What should I do?” Mayu sees a lady, who wears a black cloak and a long hat, sitting on the bench next to her. The lady smiles and nods to Mayu, looking at her empty cage. She says, “I’ll catch your bird, so can you do me a favor?”

The lady asks Mayu to go to a shop and say, “she can’t come.” The moment Mayu says it, she is standing in a different world. A gentleman leads Mayu to a room where an old lady is in bed. Mayu and the old lady drink hedgehog peach juice, sing a song with mice and read a huge mysterious book together. The story humorously and warmly describes the interaction between a little girl and a witch.

Ages 8+
 205 x 155 mm
 103 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591129302
 Rights sold: Korea



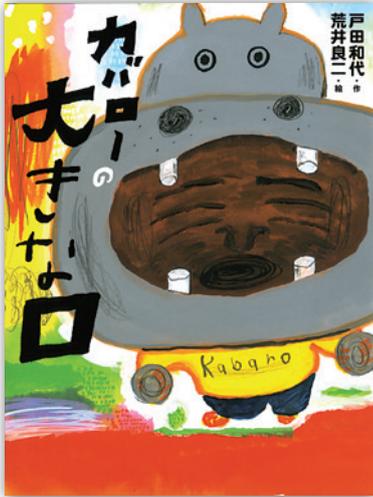
About the Author

Sachiko Kashiwaba, born in 1953, won the Sankei Children’s Publication Culture Award twice for “Miracle Family” and “Botansan no Fushigina Mainichi,” and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award for “Tuduki no Toshokan.”

Nobuko Tsuchida writes picture books and draws illustrations for fiction.

The Little Hippopotamus with a Big Mouth

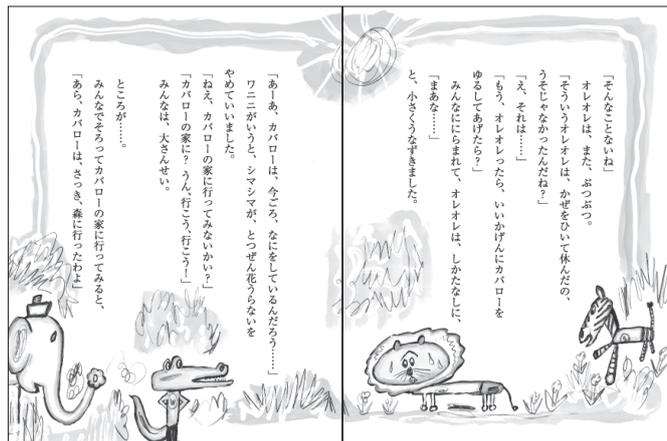
Text by **Kazuyo Toda**
 Illus. by **Ryoji Arai**



Kabaro the Little Hippopotamus has a big mouth, and he's proud of it. But, he hears someone saying his mouth is so big that he can't keep secrets. He instantly says, "That's not true! Ah, Zibra probably said that. He wet the bed this morning, but he blamed it on his sister. In addition, Lion skipped school, saying he had a cold, but in fact, that was because he didn't do his homework." Ah, he revealed their secrets!

So Kabaro tries, in many ways, not to talk any more. After a while, friends who are worried about Kabaro come to see him and ask him to tell an interesting story—after all, Kabaro loves to talk! With brilliant illustrations by Ryoji Arai, the book delivers a charming story of friendship.

Ages 8+
 205 x 155 mm
 112 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591098158
 Rights sold:



About the Author

Kazuyo Toda won the Japan Children's Literature Association's Newcomer Award for "Nai Nai Neko no Nakushimono."

Ryoji Arai has won several awards, including the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. He is popular in Japan and abroad.

My Precious Chick

Text by **Miyuki Iso**

Illus. by **Yuki Sasameya**



Ages 8+

205 x 155 mm

151 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591134665

Rights sold:

Hinako, a fourth grader, is asked to write about herself at school, but she doesn't have much to write. She can't think of anything she is good at doing, and she doesn't know what she wants to be in the future. And, her classmates don't seem to care much about her.

One day, Hinako bought a chick at a night market. She loves the chick, which comforts her when she's sad. Hinako tells her classmates about her chick and lets them take turns holding it. The chick looks tired and Haruko, her only friend in the class, says they should stop taking turns holding it, but Hinako ignores her. The chick dies the next day.

Should she keep smiling if she wants to make and stay friends with her classmates? At the end, Hinako courageously says what she really thinks. The book depicts the delicate feelings of a girl who wavers between reality and who she ideally wants to be.



About the Author

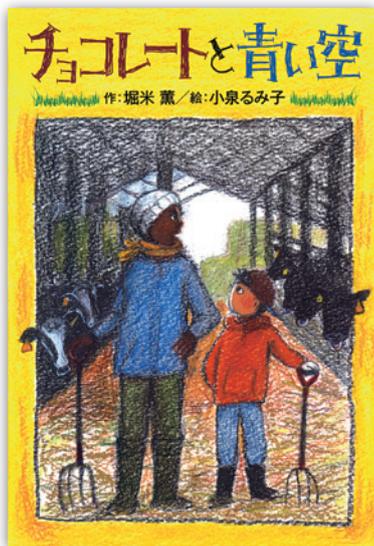
Miyuki Iso started writing fiction and picture books after she worked as an artist and dancer.

Yuki Sasameya, a popular illustrator in Japan, has won many awards, including the Japan Picture Book Award for "Ashita Uchi ni Neko ga Kuruno."

Chocolates and Blue Sky

Text by **Kaoru Horigome**

Illus. by **Rumiko Koizumi**



Ages 8+

195 x 135 mm

175 pages

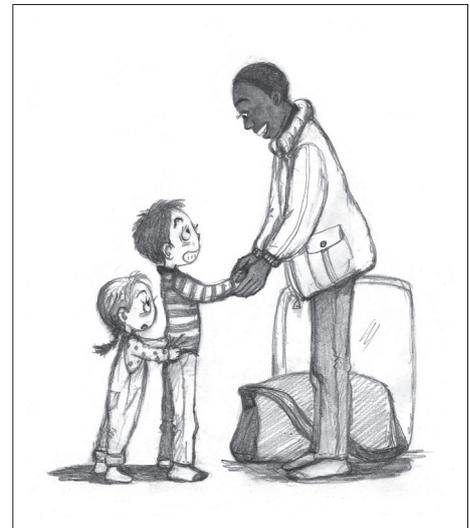
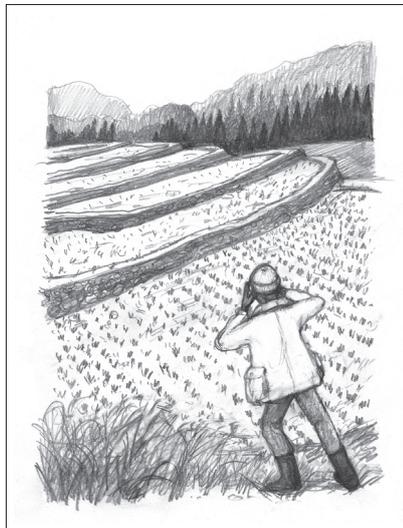
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882644477

Rights sold: Taiwan

Shuji's parents are full-time farmers. His older brother, who gets irritated easily these days, doesn't like farming, so only Shuji is asked to help their parents. One day, Eric comes to their house from Ghana to learn farming. When they have chocolates together, Eric tells Shuji that he never had chocolates until he was an adult even though Ghana produces a lot of cacao—the seed used to produce chocolate. Eric shows Shuji a lot of photos, and Shuji learns that many children in Ghana have to work in cacao fields and can't go to school.

Eric, who is proud of his family and his country, brought about several changes in Shuji's family. His older brother starts smiling again, and his mother buys fair trade chocolates. This is an engaging story of a young boy who starts seeing the world from different perspectives.



About the Author

Kaoru Horigome, born in 1958, works as a farmer and writes stories about farming.

Rumiko Koizumi, born in 1950, draws illustrations for picture books and fiction.

A Car the Color of the Sky: The White Hat

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Takushi Kitada**



Ages 8+

220 x 180 mm

128 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591064429

Rights sold: China



A Passenger in Spring



Star Taxi

About the Author

Kimiko Aman (1931–) received the Japan Association of Writers for Children New Talent Award in 1968 for *The White Hat* and Special Award in Akaitori Award for Children's Literature in 2001 for *A Car the Color of the Sky* series. She has received numerous other awards, including the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for the picture book *Chichan and the Shadow Figures*.

Takushi Kitada (1921-1992) was an illustrator of numerous works of children's literature, many of them featuring vehicles, such as *Moritaro's Car*, written by Makoto Oishi, a frequent collaborator. Kitada was especially fond of taxis, which figure prominently in such hits as the series *A Car the Color of the Sky*, written by Kimiko Aman.

Goro Matsui's taxi is sky blue, and he always keeps it clean and shiny. Numerous heartwarming stories about the mild-mannered driver and his sometimes rather unusual passengers have been collected in three volumes under the series title *A Car the Color of the Sky*. The present volume, *The White Hat*, contains eight such tales.

The title story is about Matsui and a white butterfly. One day Matsui is driving along when he sees a small white hat on the side of the road. When he stops the car and picks it up, a white butterfly flies out from underneath. Imagining that the little boy to whom the hat must certainly belong will be disappointed at losing the butterfly he had caught, Matsui places a summer citrus from a box of fruit his mother had sent him under the hat. When he gets back into his car, he finds a little girl in the back seat who says she is lost. After learning that she wants to go to Blossom Lane, he begins driving in that direction, but then he realizes the girl has disappeared, and when he looks out the window he sees lots of white butterflies fluttering over a field in front of an apartment house.

In *Third Block of Sycamore Street*, Matsui picks up a woman who appears to be about 40. When he nears the address of the title, on a street he's never been on before, the woman asks him to wait while she goes into a small house. When she returns, she tells him that she had lived in that house until the end of World War II, and it was 22 years ago on this day that she lost her three-year-old twin boys in an air raid. Each time she thinks of them, she feels as if she has gone back in time to the age she was then. Matsui delivers the woman back to the train station, but the passenger who alights from the car is an elderly grandmother.

Filled with warmth and evoking much nostalgia, these tales continue to win the hearts of succeeding generations of readers as they are passed down from parent to child.



I Pretend not to Know

Shunsaku Umeda & Yoshiko Umeda



Ages 10+

250 x 245 mm

220 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591054253

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

Don, my classmate, was bullied again today, but my friends and I ignored it, and pretended we were absorbed in our drawing. I thought that if I said something, I would be bullied too.

One day, Don challenges one of the bullies to a fight right on the stage on Theater Day. He looks like he feels better after that. But only two weeks later, Don transfers to another school. I feel bad because, even though I didn't bully him, I didn't help him either.

I can't keep pretending I don't know anything about bullying. At the rehearsal of our elementary school graduation ceremony I stand up on my chair, and, before I realize it, I start talking about bullying . . .

Winner of the Japan Picture Book Grand Prize, this story addresses the problems of bullying in a way that touches children's and adults' hearts alike.



Taiyo Marks a New Step

Taiyo, an elementary school student, is bullied at school, so he starts going to another school in a small fishing village. He meets unique local figures and gains new experiences in fishing. As Taiyo makes new friends and regains his zest for living, he becomes able to talk about himself and his past experiences. The story conveys a message that we all have inner strength and can find ways of living happily.

About the Author

Shunsaku Umeda (1942–) is an artist and picture-book author. His many picture books include *Mouse Sumo*, and *Rumors*. He has co-authored many books with his wife, Yoshiko Umeda (1947–). Several of these are full-length picture books on the theme of bullying, including *14 Years Old with Tautau-san* and *I Pretend Not to Know*, which won the Japan Picture Book Grand Prize in 1997.

He Said He'd Get His Revenge

Text by **Yoko Asahina**

Illus. by **Emma Sky**



Ages 10+

190 x 135 mm

207 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591126028

Rights sold:

Emoto is the new kid in the class. When his classmates start messing with his glasses to taunt him, they end up breaking them. Then, because he can't see without his glasses, he falls, breaks a leg, and has to go to the hospital. His classmates don't tell their teacher the truth. The only boy who feels sorry about what happened is the story's narrator, who goes to see Emoto at the hospital.

Emoto tells him, "You guys may think you've fooled the teacher and you're off the hook, but don't expect me to just let this go. I intend to get my revenge."

Thus begins an unusual relationship between Emoto and the narrator. Emoto orders him to go buy him a manga magazine or ice cream, to bring him something left behind at school, to take his dog for a walk, and so forth. The narrator doesn't like being treated like a servant. But he soon realizes that no one is ever at home at Emoto's place, and that Emoto's only friend is his dog, Vanilla.

Time goes by, and the narrator helps Vanilla when he's choking on something. He rescues Emoto when he gets locked in the bathroom. As summer vacation progresses and they continue to see each other every day, he gradually comes to understand Emoto better . . .

With the start of the second semester, Emoto returns to school. He gets up in front of the class and says, "While I was in the hospital, I spent my time either plotting revenge or swearing never to come back to this school. But I've changed my mind about both." He has learned that there are things more important than revenge.

Although they got off to an awkward and rocky start, the two boys come to spend a great deal of time together in this rather unusual story about friendship.



About the Author

Yoko Asahina received the Misesu Children's Story Grand Prize Excellence Award in 1988, and the Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Excellence Award in 1996. Her works include *Flowers for a Difficult Dad* and *Photo Show in a Tatami Room*.

When Grandpa Forgets...

Text by **Atsuko Otsuka**

Illus. by **Mihoko Cocoro**

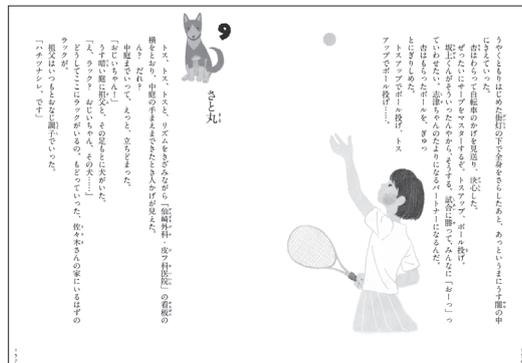


Ages 10+
 190 x 135 mm
 222 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591122037
 Rights sold: Taiwan

Fifth-grader Momo lives in Kyoto with her parents, younger brother, and grandfather, who is retired from a private medical practice. She's in the tennis club at school, and is crazy about the sport. Grandpa, who she loves dearly, got her started on it.

But Grandpa suffers from Alzheimer's-type dementia, which is slowly but surely depriving him of his faculties. Increasingly, he finds himself unable to do things he could do before, and there've been more times lately when he hasn't even recognized his own family. He went all the way to Yokohama to attend a conference that didn't exist.

Then he goes missing on the day before an important tennis tournament. Momo's mother happens to be away at the hospital, looking after her brother Rui, who has appendicitis. Momo goes searching for Grandpa with her father when he gets home from work, but they can't find him anywhere. Her father has to go to work again the next morning, and her mother is still away at the hospital with her brother, so Momo cancels her tennis match and continues the search alone in this stirring tale of how a young girl copes with the unpredictable effects of her beloved grandfather's dementia. The book won the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize.



About the Author

Atsuko Otsuka (1942–) received the JAWC New Talent Award and the Japan Juvenile Writers Association New Writer Prize in 1990 for *The Secret of the Cottage by the Sea*. Her other titles include *Iruru Runs* and *Dream in the Wind—An 11-Year-Old's Journey to the Himalayas*.

Daisuke Lie-suke

Text by **Natsumaru Abe**

Illus. by **Yutaka Murakami**



Ages 10+

220 x 155 mm

279 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591087206

Rights sold: Taiwan

The story follows events in the lives of three boys and a girl during the summer of their final year in grade school in Toyota, near where the Yashita River runs through the city.

One day Kenta sees a classmate named Daisuke throwing bread crusts into the river from atop the levee. Daisuke moved to town from Nagano when he was in the third grade. He's considered an oddball because he isn't interested in the games everyone else is playing, and for some reason he has earned the nickname of "Daisuke Lie-suke." Mystified, Kenta watches Daisuke for awhile, but then Daisuke notices him, and they end up fishing for carp together. After that, the two boys make it part of their routine to go to the river together when school lets out each day. During the day in school, they mostly act like they hardly know each other, but when class favorite Natsuha catches them at a practical joke they play, it ultimately leads to her joining them in their daily visits to the river.

Then honor student Keiichi wins the top prize in a city-sponsored contest for a report in which he concluded, "Based on an analysis of water quality, there are no fish living in the Yashita River." Outraged, Kenta and his friends take Keiichi to the river and show him that fish are indeed present.

Keiichi declares he will turn the prize down. Since the winning school is to receive a large fish tank from the city, the four children make plans to fill it with fish from the river. On the day of the awards ceremony, Keiichi admits to the audience that the conclusion his study reached was wrong, and tells them that the fish in the water tank are all from the Yashita River, caught by Kenta, Daisuke, Natsuha, and himself. The four get quite a tongue lashing from their teacher, but they have no regrets.

After events have settled down, Daisuke tells Kenta that it was because of him (Kenta) that people had started calling him "Daisuke Lie-suke"—the result of some word play, not any ill will. Kenta is taken aback, because he always thought Keiichi was to blame. But he also recognizes that hanging out with Daisuke has made him look at himself in new ways, and he feels he has begun to find his true self.

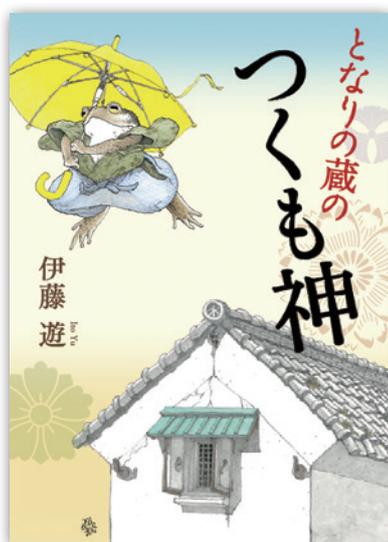
Daisuke's big heart, and the way the children relate to the creatures of the river, bring readers a refreshing shot of energy and inspiration for their own doings.

About the Author

Natsumaru Abe (1960–) worked as a kindergarten art teacher and as a bookstore manager. He received the 1995 Tsubota Jōji Literature Award and the 1996 Muku Hatojū Children's Literature Prize for *Fish Can't Cry*. Among the numerous children's stories he has written since then are *Oguri's Foal*, which was made into an NHK television drama, and *The Tadpoles' Field Day*, which won the Hirosuke Children's Book Award. Known in particular for stories that engage children with rivers, he is favored for the clear perspectives he offers on nature, and for writing about living things and their condition in a strong and lively prose style.

The Spirits from the Storehouse Next Door

Yu Ito



Ages 10+

150 x 105 mm

254 pages

Paperback

ISBN 978-4591134917

Rights sold:

In a story reminiscent of Mary Norton's *The Borrowers*, author Yu Ito ushers readers into a parallel world that exists right next to our everyday lives.

Fifth-grader Honoka lives with her parents and big brother Yūichi in a rundown condominium where the residents are at odds over whether to rebuild or make do with repairs. Yūichi has started hanging out with a rough crowd since advancing to middle school, a constant source of stress for their mother. It distresses Honoka, as well, to see discord within her family. One of her few comforts is looking out the window at the garden next door as it changes from season to season. The neighbor's house is occupied by an elderly woman who lives alone, and there is an old, earthen-walled storehouse in its yard that has a certain mysterious aura about it. Honoka and Yūichi used to play inside it and in the old lady's yard when they were little.

One day there is an arson incident in the neighborhood, and soon after, a number of very strange things—a doll with a fearsome face, a tiny person who looks like a frog, a bird resembling a wrapping cloth that follows Yūichi around, and a little man with a smoking pipe stuck in his sash—begin appearing. Honoka and Yūichi conjecture that these events are somehow related to the storehouse.

As a matter of fact, the storehouse has indeed become home to a variety of tsukumogami—treasured objects that have taken on spirits and become animated in the course of being used by people over many long years. The frog person is the tsukumogami of a carved netsuke in the shape of a frog that Honoka had been fond of as a small child. The bird is the tsukumogami of the wrapping cloth Yūichi had used as a cape when he was a little boy. The scary-faced doll is the tsukumogami of Shōki, a guardian statue. The man with the pipe is the tsukumogami of exactly just such a pipe. Because of the arson incident and talk of the condominium building being torn down, the spirits have emerged from the storehouse in order to protect their home.

The spirits come to visit Honoka and her brother, whom they remember fondly from the days the siblings played in the storehouse. As they interact with the free-spirited tsukumogami, the two both gain new confidence in themselves. Yūichi drops out of the gang he's been running with and tries to get his best friend to drop out, too. When he and the friend get into a fight over it, the wrapping cloth and the pipe come to his aid, but end up getting hurt. As animated objects, tsukumogami lose their ability to move about freely when they are injured. Meanwhile, tsukumogami efforts to stop the hardline rebuilding proponents bear fruit, and talk of destroying the condos comes to an end.

When things have finally settled down, Honoka, Yūichi, and the woman next door return the tsukumogami to the storehouse. "Perhaps someday a tsukumogami that's good at repairing his mates will appear," says the old woman as the story comes to a close, giving Honoka and her brother hope that the injured tsukumogami will one day be made whole again.

About the Author

Yu Ito (1959–) won the Fantasy Award for Children's Literature for her debut work, *A Bridge to the Other World*, in 1997. After garnering critical acclaim for these two richly detailed fantasies set in the medieval Heian period, she cemented her reputation as a powerful and versatile writer with her third book, *Something about Yuhki*, concerning children in today's world; the book received the 2004 JAWC Award. Ito also won the 2013 Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *Sasuke the Guardian Dog Goes Missing*.

Yumemino Station Lost and Found

Mikie Ando



Ages 10+

195 x 130 mm

206 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142363

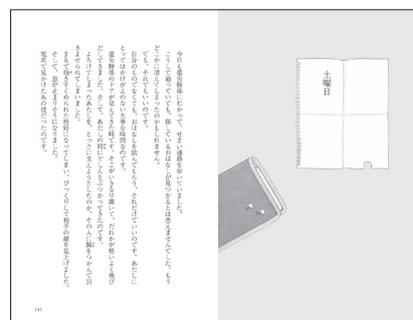
Rights sold:

The narrator is a girl who has only recently entered middle school when family circumstances force her to transfer to a new school. In effect retreating into her own private shell, she makes up her mind to expect little from her new school so she won't have to be disappointed, and convinces herself that she needn't feel lonely as she hadn't yet made friends at her last school anyway.

One day on her way home on the train, she meets an unusual old woman. When the girl mentions that she has lost something, the woman urges her to check the Lost and Found at Yumemino Station. She goes there as suggested, and as she is trying to answer questions about the lost item—how big it is, how heavy, and so forth—she realizes that what she has lost is a story. On cue, the attendant brings out a thick notebook labeled “Found Story Register” and begins asking for details about what kind of story it is. “Is this the story you lost?” he asks, reading aloud one of the lost tales that had been delivered there.

That day's story is not the one the narrator lost, but she comes back to the Lost and Found each day for a week, and listens to a different story each day. In the course of listening to them, she begins bit by bit to emerge from her tightly closed shell. When she still hasn't found the story she lost after seven days, it suddenly dawns on her: maybe she never lost a story line at all; maybe the missing tale is the one she is supposed to create and live herself proactively, each day.

Telling of the power and significance that stories have in our lives, this is a volume to savor.

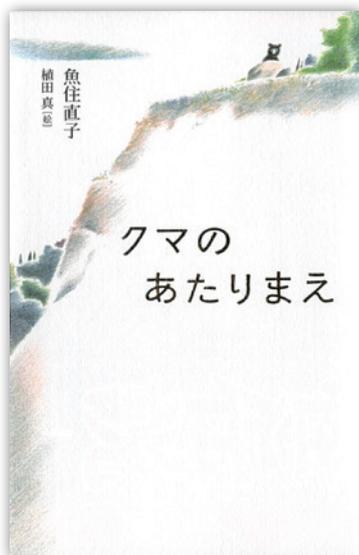


About the Author

Mikie Ando (1953–) was born in Yamanashi Prefecture. She received the Muku Hatojū Children's Literature Prize in 2001 for *Ten no shīsō* (*Heavenly Seesaw*). Her other titles include *Atama no uchidokoro ga warukatta kuma no hanashi* (*The Bear Who Took a Bad Knock on the Head*), which became a bestseller; *Yūgure no magunoria* (*Magnolias at Dusk*); and *Yonde mita dake* (*Just Called You*).

A Bear's Lot

Naoko Uozumi



Ages 10+
 195 x 130 mm
 135 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591125397
 Rights sold:

Seven short stories pose questions about the meaning of life and how it should be lived. *Beppin-san (Hot Stuff)* features a plover whose vanity about her looks prevents her from fitting in and getting along with others in her flock. The story shows the benefits of shedding one's pride and setting one's heart free. In *Shōto katto (Short Cut)*, a mother monkey who aspires to be human turns her back on her own nature and the mountain where she grew up to move into town. Her son descends from the mountain to look for her, and when he finally tracks her down he discovers that she has adopted the manner of a human being and is working at a bar. With nowhere to go, the son meets a kindly fortune-teller on a street corner and moves in with him. The tale leaves one pondering just how much difference there is between humans and monkeys. *Amenbo rīsu (Water Strider Wreaths)* is about a delicate young woman prone to anxiety who shares her troubles with some water striders at a remote pond, first when she is in college, and again as a working woman when she meets the man of her dreams. Each time, the water striders help her overcome her worries, and she ultimately learns to live with confidence and build a happy family life. *Asa no hanabi (Morning Fireworks)* centers on a rat snake, who sees all other creatures only as prey to be killed. He meets a blind girl who shows complete faith in him, and learns to trust and love humans as a result. *Sora no ao wa (The Blue of the Sky)* is about an argumentative koi, or ornamental carp, named Kuroe. Because the other koi avoid her, she passes the days swimming around by herself. As time goes by, however, she realizes that while an attitude of "I am who I am" is all well and good, making a genuine effort to understand others is essential as well. In *Hikaru chiheisen (Light on the Horizon)*, a young lion who has always been dependent on others and given to wallowing in self-pity is going through a rough patch of loneliness, hunger, and despair when he meets an elderly lion who freely shares his meat with other animals. As he follows this elder about, the young lion finally comes to understand life, and he turns over a new leaf, determined to stand on his own four feet. The volume closes with the title story, in which the sight of an elderly bear's corpse causes a young bear cub to develop a fear of death. "I need to become something that doesn't die," he decides. "I know, I'll become a rock." But a rock then tells him that in order to become a rock, he'll have to lie perfectly still all the time, without moving a muscle, without singing, without sleeping, without speaking, without letting his stomach growl no matter how hungry he gets—and the bear cub realizes that would be the same as death. Giving up on the idea of becoming a rock, he learns to savor the joy of life and of being able to do so many different things. Long after the final page is turned, each story continues to resonate in the reader's mind, prompting deep thoughts about a life well lived.

About the Author

Naoko Uozumi (1966–) won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for her 1995 debut novel *Hi-baransu (Non-Balance)*, achieving overnight fame when a film version came out in 2001. Subsequent works of young-adult literature such as *Chō-hāmonī (Ultra-Harmony)*, *Zō no dansu (Elephant's Dance)*, and *Ri-setto (Reset)* have become best-selling paperbacks. *Tū toreinzu (Two Trains)* won the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award, and *Engei shōnen (Gardening Boys)* the JAWC Award. *Engei shōnen* has been turned into manga, earning it an even broader audience. Uozumi's unsentimental but sympathetic portrayals of teenagers dealing with pain and insecurity as they try to find their way in the world have earned her a large and devoted following of young readers.

Wonderbar the Talkative Cat Series

Text by **Rio Kuboshima**

Illus. by **Miho Satake**

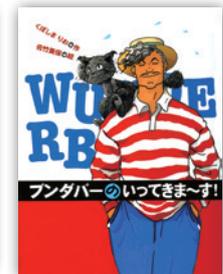


Wonderbar and his Beloved Momo

There is a little black cat called Wonderbar in a small seaside village. He looks like an ordinary cat, but he can talk! Wonderbar lives with a couple who own an antique shop, and he loves his friend Momo, a lively girl who lives nearby. But, she looks different these days. Wonderbar is shocked to find out that's because she has fallen in love with one of her classmates.

However, Momo can't express her feelings, so in the end, Wonderbar tells Momo's crush that she likes him! The series depicts how someone can relate with others and begin to see the world in a new light. Nine titles have been published so far.

Ages 10+
205 x 155 mm
173 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591095133
Rights sold:



- Wonderbar's Best Friend
- Wonderbar Wants to Work
- Wonderbar and a Puppy
- Wonderbar Goes Abroad
- Wonderbar Finds a Stolen Statue
- Wonderbar Forms a Team with Other Cats
- Wonderbar Hunts for a Treasure
- Wonderbar Meets New Villagers



About the Author

Rio Kuboshima, born in 1966, writes junior fiction and picture books, as well as draws illustrations for books. Her mother is the author of "Kiki's Delivery Service."

Miho Satake, born in 1957, draws illustrations for a wide range of books, from classics to fantasy.

Reader of the Winds

Nobuyuki Mitamura



Ages 10+

190 x 130 mm

383 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591099063

Rights sold:

This four-volume work imaginatively portrays, from his early childhood until he became the most important diviner in the land, the life of Abe no Seimei, a real-life yin-yang diviner who was active in the late Heian period (794–1185). He battles supernatural entities possessing mysterious powers, and faces off repeatedly with a powerful rival, uncovering plots and schemes in the capital and elsewhere as he is called upon to protect the imperial court and its city from danger. Providing a rich emotional counterpoint to such intrigues are portrayals of the loves he knew—that of parent and child, deep friendships with peers, and an unfulfilled, secret ardor.

Given birth by a fox, Seimei is raised by his father in the capital (today's Kyoto), but after his father's death, he goes to the forest of Shinoda to find his mother. There he discovers the marvelous, magical world of the foxes. After a time he leaves his mother again to begin training as a yin-yang diviner with the monk Chitoku, and quickly demonstrates his remarkable gifts. Seimei's coming-of-age tale begins to unfold through a variety of encounters with childhood friend Kamo Yasunori, with the brother and sister thieves Tajōmaru and Sae, with the nobleman's daughter Sakuyako, and with rival Ashiya Dōman. (Book 1: "Born of a Fox")

One day, a black snow falls, and soon the capital is wrapped in a deep darkness. Meanwhile, Seimei is shaken to learn that Sakuyako, with whom he is secretly in love, has been spoken for by the emperor and will soon go to the court. But Sakuyako falls under a spell cast by a mysterious diviner named Kuronushi, putting her into an endless slumber from which she does not wake. Will Seimei be able to rescue his beloved Sakuyako and the capital from doom? (Book 2: "The Sleeping Princess")

When Seimei returns to the capital after some time away to heal his broken heart, he discovers that Kuronushi has been advancing a nefarious plot. The aim is to restore to life the vengeful spirit of a prince who died while still young, and to have him seize control of the court and the country. Seimei's rival Dōman has thrown in his lot with Kuronushi by casting a spell on the emperor. Meanwhile, the dark and threatening shadow of a mysterious god named Mashura falls on the forest of Shinoda, where Seimei's mother lives . . . (Book 3: "Demon on the Prowl")

Sakuyako dies, and Seimei considers joining her in death, but then a warrior who has amassed great power in the east, Taira no Masakado, requests his services, so Seimei travels to his domain. Here, too, he encounters a plot by Kuronushi, who is on a drive to subdue the eight eastern provinces by manipulating Masakado. Well aware of Kuronushi's intent, Seimei throws his support to Masakado's forces. But the greatest danger he has ever faced comes when Kuronushi's identity is finally revealed . . . (Book 4: "Roving Wind")

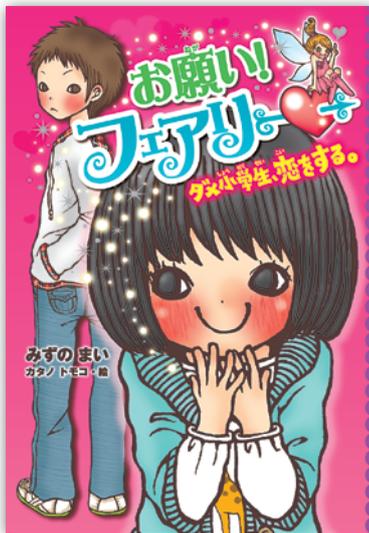
About the Author

Nobuyuki Mitamura (1939–) writes stories for children of all ages, from nursery tales to epic novels. His four-volume "Reader of the Winds" series was awarded the 2009 Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award and the 2010 JAWC Award. His other works include *Lots of Daddies*, retellings of Chinese and Japanese classics such as *Sangokushi* (Records of the Three Kingdoms), *Account of the Genpei Wars*, *The Crescent Moon, a New Version*, the "Locksmith Fox" series, and the "Hoofing It Along the Monster Highway" series.

Please Fairy! Series

Text by **Mai Mizuno**

Illus. by **Tomoko Katano**



Iruka's First Love

Iruka, a fifth grader, is bad at studying and playing sports. She is the smallest and skinniest in her school, and she sometimes misses school because she has asthma. When she can't go to school, her classmate, Yanagida, brings her homework.

One day, a fairy suddenly appears when Iruka is about to throw away her medicine. The fairy has been with her since then and says one of the most important things is to be true to herself. The series delivers engaging stories of first love and friendship. Fifteen titles have been published so far.



Ages 10+
190 x 130 mm
248 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591116937
Rights sold: Taiwan

- Iruka Goes on a First Date!?
- Iruka's Valentine's Day
- Friends Forever
- A New Classmate is a Prince?
- The Secret of a Rival in Love
- A Cooking Contest for Love?
- A Love Mission on a Beach
- Iruka Participates in a Fashion Show?
- How can I tell him my Feelings?
- Iruka Goes on a School Trip
- Iruka Experiences an Occupation
- Iruka Goes out an Audition
- Iruka Tries Climbing a Mountain
- Iruka Does a Baseball Game



About the Author

Mai Mizuno writes junior fiction. The "Please Fairy!" series is her first book.

Tomoko Katano started her career as an illustrator after working as a designer. She is a popular illustrator of children's books in Japan.

Mysterious Ghost Story Series

Text by **Seiji Midorikawa**

Illus. by **Miho Takeoka**



Ages 10+

175 x 115 mm

206 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591119631

Rights sold:

Black Book

I borrow a book titled “Black Book,” a collection of ghost stories, at a school library. As I read the book, mysterious things—similar incidents described in “Black Book”—start to happen.

When I see a little boy running to the front of a car, I dash into the street to help him. I am lying on the street when I notice that the little boy is looking at me. A lady comes across the street, and I tell her what I saw. She tells me that her son died in a car accident here 10 years ago. What is real? What is fiction? Many stories are based on oral traditions, and this is the first in this popular series. Twelve titles have been published so far.



Red Book



White Book



Green Book



Blue Book



Purple Book



Gold Book



Silver Book



Yellow Book



Book without
Color



Book of
Darkness



Book of
Curse

About the Author

Seiji Midorikawa won the Japanese Writers Association of Children's Literature Newcomer Award for “Haretahi ha Tsoyokan he Iko.”

Miho Takeoka draws illustrations for children's books.

The Klutzy Witch Series

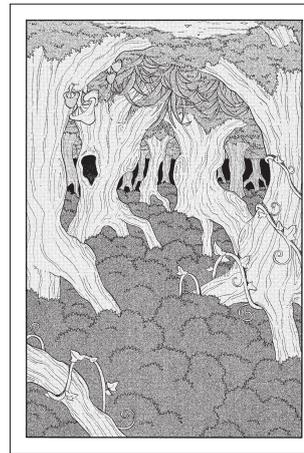
Text by **Satoko Narita**

Illus. by **Enaga Senno**



The Klutzy Witch is a Princess

Fuka, a little witch, is training to be a better witch like her mother, a queen of Silver Castle. She is a lively girl and cares about her friends, but she gets into trouble sometimes. Karin, a princess of Green Castle, is Fuka's best friend; and Chitose, a prince of Blue Castle, is her friend from childhood. Fuka goes to the Wood of Wolf to look for a tunnel with them, but they find a hole instead. This is an exciting story of adventure and friendship. It's the first in the series.



Age 10+

175 × 115 mm

190 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591094648

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

NEW



The Klutzy Witch and Dark Palace

Fuka hears that her mother had an accident at an ancient monument. A letter is delivered to Fuka. It reads "Don't worry," but different characters soon appear on the letter, saying "Don't get out of the castle." Fuka doesn't know what the letter really means. And then a mysterious figure, Kotori, comes and tells Fuka that she should go meet a person who knows a way to help her mother. It's the latest title in this popular series.

About the Author

"The Klutzy Witch" series is Satoko Narita's debut work. It's sold more than 1.4 million copies so far.

Enaga Senno draws illustrations for children's books.

The Klutzy Witch series delivers exciting stories about adventure, first love, friendship and a family secret. Eighteen titles have been published, with sales totaling more than 1.4 million copies in Japan.



- The Witch of Devildom
- A Promise with the Prince
- A Sweet Party
- The Ghost Island
- The Princess of Water Country
- The Labyrinth of Treasure
- The Last Fort
- Going to the Woods After School
- The Ring of the Other World
- The Phantom of the Kingdom of Mirror
- The Circus of Devildom
- A Promise with a Fairy
- The Knight of Randall
- The Klutzy Witch's First Love
- The Mission for a Successful Date



The Klutzy Witch and Friends

This is the first collection of short stories in the series. Each story tells how Fuka met her friends for the first time.



Miku Hatsune's Story Book Series



All is well on the Cherry Blossom Front

Text by **Ren Minami** Illus. by **Tama**

Miku Hatsune is a virtual idol, popular around the world. Stories in this series are inspired by her songs. In “All is well on the Cherry Blossom Front,” Miku is in fifth grade and decides to participate in a relay road race. But, she makes a mistake in a preliminary race and creates tension within her team. It’s a story of friendship and first love.

The series has eight titles, and the ninth title will be published in the fall of 2015.

Ages 10+
175 x 115 mm
238 pages
Softcover
ISBN 978-4591136966
Rights sold:



A Bandage in my Pocket



Although Songs don't have Shapes



The First Sound



To solve a mystery



A Legendary Witch



Phantom Thief Peter and Jennie



Letter Song

The Scoop on Poop: Germs to the Rescue

Text by **Shiho Sakamoto**

Illus. by **Mimirō Tara**



Ages 8+

220 x 190 mm

63 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142936

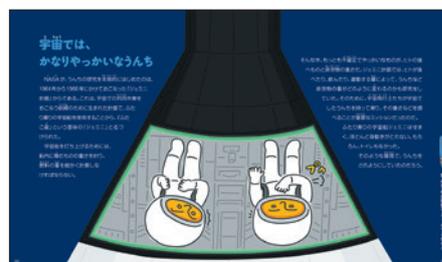
Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

They may not be anybody's favorite things, but few would deny a certain degree of curiosity about poop, farts, and belly-button crud. A close look at these waste products of the human body show them to be teeming with bacteria. In order to throw light on the nature of these microorganisms, this book presents a number of funny but true stories in which they played a key role, such as how some researchers made cheese out of belly button crud, and how a "poop explosion" stank up the air aboard a NASA spaceship.

The primary focus is on showing just how significant the bacteria living in our gut are to our overall health, both physical and mental.

Numerous scientific studies have confirmed that having the proper balance of bacteria in our bellies is crucial to maintaining our well-being. The profound effects these germs have far outweigh their infinitesimal size.

The light, humorous tone adopted by author Shiho Sakamoto holds readers' interest as she unveils the intricate relationship between human waste and microorganisms based on up-to-date research. Colorful and amusing illustrations help make the information easy to grasp.



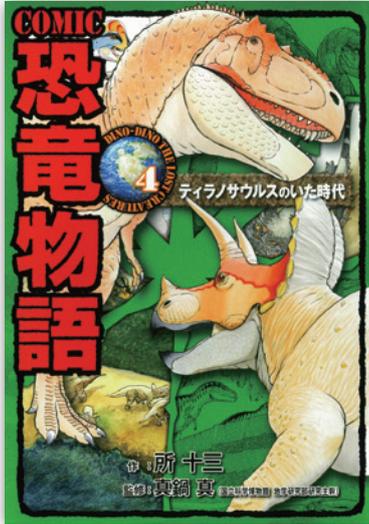
About the Author

Shiho Sakamoto was born in Tokyo and graduated from Japan Women's University. Prior to striking out on her own as a freelance writer, she had stints as a researcher at the National Institute of Health (now the National Institute of Infectious Diseases), an assistant at the Tokyo University Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, and an editor of the science magazine *Nyūton* (*Newton*). In addition to her own writing, she helps develop science programs for NHK television, and has had a hand in producing programs on the giant squid, deepwater sharks, and human body cells, among others. Her recent publications include *Dokumento: Shinkai no chōkyodai ika o oe!* (*Chasing the Giant Squid of the Deep*), *Dokumento: Nazo no kaitei same ōkoku* (*Mysteries of the Deepwater Shark*), and *Jintai: Mikuro no bōken: Bijuaru-ban saibō no mirakuru wārudo* (*The Miraculous World of the Human Body Cell: A Visual Adventure*).

Mimirō Tara (1969–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Osaka Designers' College. He worked in computer paste-up before going independent as an illustrator in 2000. Since then he has provided illustration and design services for both print and web media, and has maintained an active schedule of solo exhibitions. He is the prime mover behind the Hinode Factory and the group exhibitions for illustrators known as hinodetaraXentateXnt, which tap into the youthful culture of backstreet Harajuku in Tokyo.

Dinosaurs Comic Series

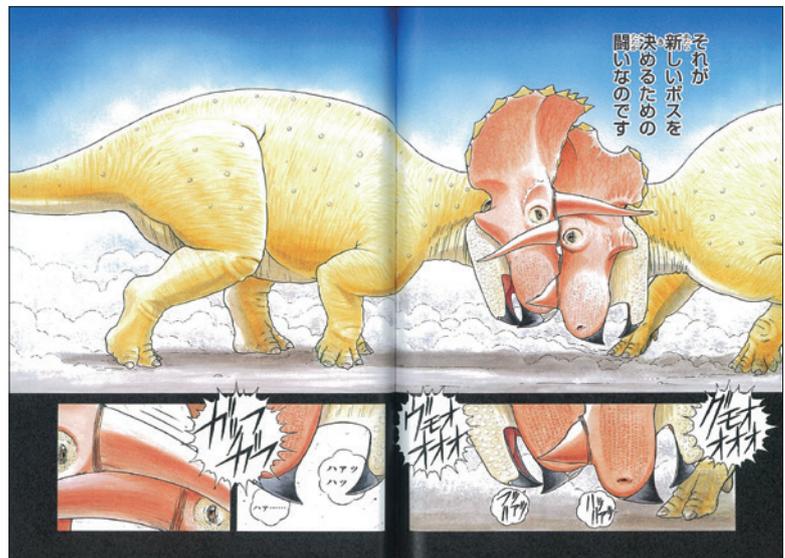
Comic by **Juzo Tokoro**
 Editorial Supervision by **Makoto Manabe**



Ages 8+
 220 x 155 mm
 159pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591135204
 Rights sold: China and Taiwan

Tyrannosaurus

This comic series explains how various dinosaurs lived one hundred million years ago. This is the fourth title in the series, which features Tyrannosaurus. The books will fascinate readers with engaging stories and precise illustrations. It's a perfect introductory book with which children can easily learn about the biology of dinosaurs. The series has four titles.



Allosaurus



Rhamphorhynchus



Velociraptor

About the Author

Juzo Tokoro, a comic artist, mainly writes comics of dinosaurs.

Swans in Space 1

Lunlun Yamamoto



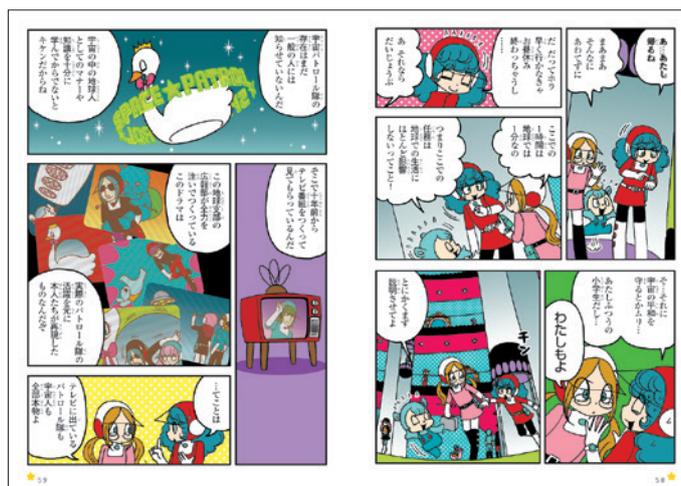
Ages 8+
185 x 130 mm
151 pages
Paperback
ISBN 978-4591094907
Rights sold: Canada, France
and the United States

This space comedy manga originally appeared in the Asahi Elementary Student Newspaper, where it captured a huge fan base among Japan's grade school students.

Honor student and athletic standout Korona Hoshino is the sixth-grade class president at Cosmos Academy, and well-liked for her kind and caring nature. By contrast, Ran Tsukishima is something of a loner. Preferring not to draw attention, she spends her time reading by herself; because she is always snacking, she has a reputation for being lazy. But she's also a huge Space Patrol enthusiast, and she manages to persuade Korona to join the patrol as her partner.

The job of the Space Patrol is to solve conflicts among all sorts of alien races on any number of different planets. Through a variety of unusual incidents, in many cases with the more laid-back Ran covering for honor-student Korona's miscues, the two gradually cement their relationship and learn to work together as a team.

Adding interest along the way are a host of memorable characters, including a teacher who is even lazier than Ran, several capable rivals and senior members of the patrol, and a variety of highly unusual aliens. Also among this work's highlights are its unique artwork—in full color, though with quiet tones—and its fashions that are the perfect balance of retro and space age.



About the Author

Lunlun Yamamoto (1973–) made her publishing debut in the alternative manga magazine *Garo*. She has published a number of manga series in the Asahi Elementary Student Newspaper, including the *Marshmallow Times*, *Orion Street*, and *Swans in Space*. Her other manga titles include *Miss Poppysseed's Fairy Tale Lane* and *Citrus Academy*. Fans are drawn to her distinctive artwork and the unique worlds she creates.

World's Heroes & Heroines Comic Series



Ages 8+

230 x 160 mm

126 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135181

Rights sold: Taiwan and

Vietnam

Cleopatra

Comic by **Natsumi Mukai**Editorial Supervision by **Nozomu Kawai**

This comic series features scientists, doctors, masters of invention, and those who worked for ordinary people. The comics tell their childhood stories, as well as well-known episodes from history. Children can easily understand how these people lived, and it serves as a great start to reading biographies. The series has 32 titles so far.





Nobel



The Wright
Brothers



Queen Elizabeth I



Favre



Galileo



Gandhi



Joan of Arc



Christopher
Columbus



Beethoven



Mother Teresa



Madame Curie



Edison



Anne Frank



Nightingale



Helen Keller

Cute Origami

La Zoo



Ages 2+
210 x 185 mm
127 pages
Paperback
ISBN 978-4591105122
Rights sold: China and Spain

Origami is the art of folding a sheet of paper into various objects. With this book and a pair of scissors, children can easily make animals, airplanes, sweets, clothes, and more. They can even make a room or a town! The book includes a set of paper sheets.

A companion volume, *Cute Paper-Cutting Crafts*, shows children how to make attractive paper cutouts of dinosaurs, fish, flowers, jewels, food—even a restaurant and a zoo.

Both books offer children several ways to have fun—not only by making the paper objects, but playing and decorating their rooms with them.



Cute Paper-Cutting Crafts



About the Author

La Zoo is a team of artists who edit, illustrate, and design picture books. They won the Bologna Children's Book Fair Grand Prize for "King of Play" series. In addition to *Cute Origami* and *Cute Paper-Cutting Crafts*, they have produced the "Roly-Poly Maru-chan" series. Their books have been translated into many languages. In America, LaZoo's works have inspired the Lazoo lifestyle brand, which offers mobile apps, clothing, and other quality products for children.

I Did it! String Figures for One

Teruhisa Arika



Ages 2+
 170 x 185 mm
 35 pages
 Softcover
 ISBN 978-4591125960
 Rights sold: China

The book contains instructions on how to create 53 string figures, including such well-known standards as witch's broom, elastic band, and Jacob's ladder. The compact book is designed to stay open for easy reference as you play, and comes with string included. The carefully drawn, easy-to-grasp instructions for each move are perfect for the beginner.

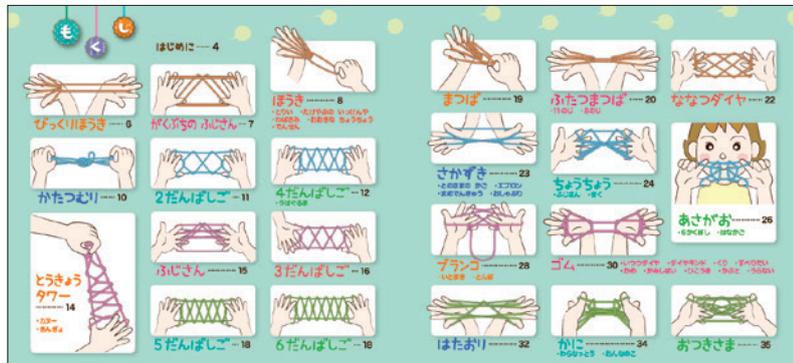
The volume belongs to the *String Figure Mini-Books* series, which includes *Let's Make Them Together! String Figures for Two*, featuring figures to be created with another person; and *Watch This! String Figures with a Surprise*, showing magic tricks you can perform to delight your friends.



Let's Make Them Together!
 String Figures for Two



Watch This!
 String Figures with a Surprise



About the Author

Teruhisa Arika (1942–) is director of the Japan Children's Play Research Center. Building on a foundation of the traditional games and activities Japanese children have engaged in for generations, he experiments with and creates new games, string figures, homemade toys and such for today's children to amuse themselves with.

Folding Fun! Origami Creations You Can Play With

Mariko Ishikawa



Ages 2+
170 x 185 mm
59 pages
Softcover
ISBN 978-4591125946
Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

This is a book of instructions and diagrams for easy-to-fold origami toys, along with suggestions for how to play with them. From paper airplanes and throwing stars, to animals that move and wearable accessories, the pages are full of ideas that will appeal to both boys and girls.

The volume belongs to a growing series of craft books by author Mariko Ishikawa titled *Fun with Your Kids Mini-Books*.

In *So Cute! Origami Food* the author shows readers how to fold a variety of different foods, from mouth-watering sweets to entire meals.

In *Easy! Useful! Cute Origami* she shows how to fold practical items such as letters and boxes, and offers ideas for using them.

In *Loads of Fun! Make Your Own Toys* she presents ideas for constructing delightful toys out of paper cups, plastic drink bottles, and other household items.

And in *Fold! Cut! Decorate with Cut-Paper Art* she shows how to fold and cut paper to create flowers, insects, animals, trains and buses, and so forth.



So Cute! Origami Food



Easy! Useful! Cute Origami



Loads of Fun! Make Your Own Toys



Fold! Cut! Decorate with Cut-Paper Art

About the Author

Mariko Ishikawa began her career at a toy maker, working in planning and design. Her current activities include overseeing creative production for the NHK children's craft show *Nosy's Inspiring Atelier*. She publishes craft, 3D-illustration, and doll-making projects in books, magazines, and video media, and also holds workshops for parents, children, and teachers.

Cooking Lessons for Love

Megumi Fujino



195 x 140 mm

286 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591137703

Rights sold: China and

Taiwan

On a quiet lane in Kyoto stands an old-fashioned townhouse where, each Saturday afternoon, Aiko Koishihara, once the grand matron of a well-known merchant house, conducts a traditional Kyoto cuisine cooking class “for men only.” The four linked stories in this volume tell how four students of different ages, occupations, and backgrounds are able to make a fresh start in their lives as a result of their participation in the aging instructor’s class and the recipes they master under her tutelage. The title story centers on budding architect Tomohisa, who enrolled in the class because the woman he is secretly in love with, Towako, once remarked that she thought men who can cook are hot. Unfortunately, he still can’t bring himself to confess his love to her. Vincent, a French patissier also enrolled in the class, asks him to be the architect for the new café he’s planning to open, but Tomohisa’s boss is opposed, and Tomohisa agonizes over what to do. Thanks to some advice from Aiko, he finds a way to persuade his boss, and is also finally able to open his heart to Towako.

Vincent is the central figure in the second story, *Deaimon* (Delights of the Season). Planning to quit his current job and go independent, he has begun remodeling an old Japanese house to be his new café, but then he runs into some flak from his landlord Yoshikawa. Through some things that are said during the cooking class, he realizes that Yoshikawa’s desire to nullify the rental agreement comes from his fear that the changes being made to the house will efface cherished memories of his aunt, who used to live there. Vincent invites Yoshikawa to the house and lays out a spread of sweets for him that will remind him of his beloved aunt’s cooking. In the third story, *Futari no daidokoro* (A Kitchen for Two), the main character is a 20-year-old college student named Miki who comes to the class dressed in drag. He lives with his sister Juria, who has become a deep-seated man-hater as a result of their father’s alcoholism, and it is in fact as part of her therapy that he dresses the way he does. They both suffered during their childhood from a neglectful mother as well, so Miki has never actually experienced “home cooking,” and has generally been content with surviving on a diet of junk food. But through his experiences in the cooking class, he realizes that while they will never have warm memories of their own mother’s cooking as other people do, he and his sister can create their own favorite family dishes. A metal engraver named Saeki is the protagonist of the final story, *Nichijō sahan* (Daily Meals). He has always left domestic matters entirely to his wife, but as soon as their two grown sons have moved out of the house, she presses him to enroll in a cooking class. He fears she might be contemplating divorce, but at Aiko’s suggestion, he decides to cook a meal for her with some of the new recipes he has learned—to thank her for all she does for him. As he is preparing to do this, however, she collapses: she had in fact been seriously ill for some time, and had pressed him to take cooking lessons so that he’d be able to fend for himself after she was gone, as well as to give him some new social contacts that would keep him from becoming isolated and lonely. More grateful than ever for his wife’s deep love, he vows to do everything he can to support her in her battle with illness.

Four savory and heartwarming tales unfold against the backdrop of lessons in Kyoto cuisine. Included in an appendix at the back of the book are seven of the recipes that play a role in the stories.

About the Author

Megumi Fujino (1978–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Osaka University of Arts. She writes for both children and adults, and across a broad range of genres. She made her literary debut in 2004 after her manuscript for *Nekomata yōkai den* (*The Ghost of Nekomata, Cat of Two Tails*) won the Junior Adventure Fiction Prize the previous year. Her other titles include *Haru-san* (*Haru*), a heartwarming tale of a single father and his daughter that became a bestseller; *Boku no uso* (*My Lie*); *Watashi no koibito* (*My Sweetheart*); and the *Kaitō Fantomu & Dākunesu* (*Master Thieves Phantom & Darkness*) series.

The End of the World

Masamoto Nasu



155 x 105 mm

271 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-591143056

Rights sold:

Ten short stories peer into the abyss that is the human heart, leaving an indelible impression on the reader.

In the title piece, war in the Middle East sparks a global nuclear conflagration. A boy in Japan is left an orphan when both of his parents die in the bomb shelter where they took refuge. He later hears the voice of a young girl calling for help over the wireless, and decides to leave the protection of the shelter and brave the radioactive environment outside to find her. In a car, the song *The End of the World* begins playing on the radio. It is a song his father often used to sing. He continues on his way, convinced he will be able to find the girl.

In *Yakusoku* (*The Promise*), a kindergarten class has a reunion six years after their graduation. As the children are catching up with each other, their conversation turns to one who is missing, a boy who has died. Now, who exactly was it who had always been bullying the boy? A disquieting chill fills the air. Unbeknownst to any of them, the deceased boy's ghost is watching the proceedings from off to one side.

In *Garasu no raion* (*The Glass Lion*), Tsuneo, a new boy in town who came from the city, suggests to the narrator and his friend Tatsu that they each choose a special treasure and bury them in a box on an island in the river. They make a treasure map so they can remember where the box is buried. When a typhoon comes, they become worried about how the box weathered the storm, so they go to dig it up and see, but the box is gone. Tsuneo says it must have been washed away. In time, Tsuneo moves away again, and they fall out of touch. Thirty years later the narrator runs into Tsuneo by chance. When he visits him at his house, he finds the glass lion he himself had put in the treasure box. "Oh, that's right," Tsuneo says fondly. "This was your parting gift to me when I moved away, wasn't it?" The narrator says nothing.

About the Author

Masamoto Nasu (1942–) was three years old and at his home three kilometers from the hypocenter when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. His family survived, and he remained in Hiroshima until the end of high school. After making his writerly debut with *Kubi-nashi jizō no takara* (*The Treasure of the Headless Jizō*), he earned renown for his children's-book series *Zukkoke sannin-gumi* (*The Hilarious Trio*), a collection of 50 volumes written over the course of 26 years which sold over 20 million copies and has been spun off into TV and manga serials. The series has won the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award and the Noma Prize for Children's Literature. *Sagishi-tachi no sora* (*Sky of the Swindlers*) won the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award, and the *Oedo no Hyakutaro* (*Hyakutarō of Edo*) series received the JAWC Award. Nasu has also coauthored prizewinning picture books with illustrator Shigeo Nishimura, including *Bokura no chizu ryokō* (*Our Map Adventure*) and *E de yomu Hiroshima no genbaku* (tr. *Hiroshima: A Tragedy Never to Be Repeated*). In 2007 Nasu became president of the Japanese Association of Writers for Children, Japan's premier professional association of juvenile-literature authors.

All in for the Boy Detectives Club

Osamu Fujitani



190 x 140 mm

251 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142486

Rights sold:

Edogawa Ranpo, whose adopted pen name closely mimics the pronunciation of Edgar Allan Poe in Japanese, is generally regarded as the father of modern Japanese mystery fiction. This book is the second volume in Poplar Publishing Company's homage to the author on the 120th anniversary of his birth. Among Ranpo's most popular works was the *Shōnen tanteidan* (Boy Detectives Club) series in which detective Kogorō Akechi is assisted in his sleuthing by a group of boys (and, in spite of the name, an occasional girl). In another of the author's popular series, Akechi is repeatedly pitted against an art and jewel thief and master of disguise known as *Kaijin nijūmensō*, or "The Fiend of Twenty Faces."

In this story that reproduces the style and flavor of Ranpo's writing (while also incorporating such 21st-century elements as cell phones), sixth-grader Genki Yoshida is the son of a Tokyo jeweler. His father hasn't been himself lately and seems depressed. One day when his father is out, a man in a mysterious-looking gray cloak visits the shop. He identifies himself as Kakui and tells Genki and his mother that his father is making a necklace out of jewels that carry a curse. Several days later, Kakui invites the Yoshida family to attend a violinist's audition. While they are listening to the beautiful Rumi Sakagawa play, the necklace Genki's father has brought along is lifted. Genki's father remains calm, and a group of children appear out of nowhere to surround Kakui and his cohorts and prevent them from getting away. Anticipating trouble, Genki had contacted members of the Boy Detectives Club beforehand, and had also arranged for Japan's greatest detective, Kogorō Akechi, to disguise himself as his father. Akechi exposes Kakui to be none other than the dastardly Fiend of Twenty Faces, who has gone in league with Rumi to steal the necklace. The would-be thieves manage to flee, but they have not given up on the necklace yet. On a day blanketed in deep fog, they kidnap Genki—except this kidnapping, too, has been anticipated, and the person nabbed is actually Akechi's young assistant Kobayashi disguised as Genki. Genki and the boy detectives worry about what might have happened to him, but then they find a message from Kobayashi hidden in a newspaper article. Leads in the article take them to a public bathhouse, which turns out to be Twenty Faces' hideout. Meanwhile, Akechi pays a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida, but is acting a little strange. Then a second Akechi arrives, as do the rescued Kobayashi and the boy detectives. Which Akechi is real and which is fake? The secret code word of the Boy Detectives Club becomes the key to uncovering the truth, and Twenty Faces is apprehended, bringing the incident to a close.

About the Author

Osamu Fujitani (1963–) was born in Tokyo and graduated from the College of Art at Nihon University. After working for a company he made his book publishing debut in 2003 with the novel *Andante Mozzarella Cheese* (Japanese title). *Ogata Q, to iu onna* (*A Woman Named Q Ogata*), which appeared in a magazine, was a candidate for the Shinchō Prize for New Writers in 2002. Subsequent works have also been listed for various prestigious literary prizes, among them the three-volume series *Fune ni nore!* (*Aboard Ship!*), a candidate for the Booksellers Award in 2010. Fujitani also operated the Ficciones bookstore in Tokyo, but closed it in 2014 to devote his time to writing.

The Restaurant of Love Regained

Ito Ogawa



195 x 135 mm

234 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591100639

Rights sold: China, France,
Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan,
the UK and Vietnam

Living in the city and working at a restaurant, Rinko's big dream is to open an eating establishment of her own with her live-in boyfriend, but one day she returns home from work to discover that he has moved out, taking with him all their furniture and joint savings. The shock of being abandoned by her mate and losing everything she owns causes Rinko to lose her voice on top of it all. Although she had left the town where she grew up ten years before in a fit of disgust at her mother, who ran a bar next to their house and was rumored to be carrying on with multiple lovers, Rinko now decides she has no choice but to return to her family home. Still running the same bar, her mother now also keeps a pet pig, and seems to have quite the busy life.

Rinko receives the okay from her mother to remodel an outbuilding into a small restaurant, which she names "The Snail." Her plan is to serve just a single table a day, offering no set menu but rather meeting with each party beforehand to assemble a customized meal just for them. For an elderly customer who has lived bleakly in mourning for many years after the death of the man she loved, Rinko plans a series of courses to enliven the senses and rekindle the joy of living. For a young couple on their first date, she prepares a soothing, warm soup that will go down easy no matter how nervous and tense they may be.

Rinko's ingeniously thought out and lovingly prepared meals gain a reputation for bringing about small miracles, but they also make her the brunt of jealousy. Overcoming this and other trials, she carries on with her tiny restaurant. Then one day her mother reveals that she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and has only a short time left to live. In the days that follow Rinko learns of the deep love her mother has for her.

To live is to eat. This heartwarming tale deftly explores the relationship between food and the human heart. It has sold 820,000 copies so far and been made into a film in Japan.

About the Author

Ito Ogawa (1973–) won Premio Bancarella della Cucina in Italy and Prix Eugénie Brazier in France for *the Restaurant of Love Regained*, which became a runaway bestseller in Japan and has been translated into a number of languages. It was also made into a film. Her other works include *Chatter and Jabber*, *Family Tree*, *The Tortoise and Crane Maternity Clinic*, and *Ribbon*.

Ribbon

Ito Ogawa



195 x 135 mm

318 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591134245

Rights sold: China, France,

Korea and Italy

Grade-schooler Hibari and her grandmother Sumire are the best of friends. When they find a bird's egg nearby, they take it home and keep it warm until it hatches. It turns out to be a cockatiel. They name it Ribbon, and take good care of it, but then one day Ribbon escapes from her cage and flies away.

Ribbon meets a variety of people, including a woman who is unable to move past her grief a year after giving birth to a stillborn son, a gay man who works at a bird shelter, and an elderly artist who's been told she has only a short time left to live. All those who meet and befriend the orange-cheeked Ribbon renew their zeal for living.

Twenty-some years pass from the day Ribbon fled her cage, and a great deal happens to Hibari's family in the interim. They move to a new house, where the grandmother dies. Hibari graduates from college and strikes out on her own as a working woman, but when a secret love affair she has ends badly, she gives up her full-time position to eke out an existence at lesser jobs.

As time goes by after her grandmother's passing, she decides to visit the area where they lived when she was a child. She finds the neighborhood completely changed, with a highrise luxury apartment building standing where their home used to be. Then she sees a bird perched in a large tree. "Ribbon," she calls to it, and the bird alights on her shoulder. "Hibari." Faintly, she hears Ribbon speak her name, recalling her grandmother's voice. She realizes Ribbon and her grandmother's spirit are trying to cheer her up. Having rekindled a zest for life in Hibari, Ribbon flies off again into the heavens.

Mourning Recipe

Yuki Ibuki



195 x 135 mm

263 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591115350

Rights sold: China, Korea and
Taiwan

Adapted into both a television miniseries and a feature film, this story offers fresh and warm-hearted portrayals of connections between people even as it addresses such difficult themes as the death of a spouse, infertility, and infidelity.

Retiree Ryohei Atsuta lives on the outskirts of Nagoya with his wife Otomi. Having always relied on Otomi to take care of all their domestic needs, he is helpless around the house without her. One morning when he leaves to go fishing, he got angry at Otomi and didn't take the lunch she has prepared for him. He returns to find Otomi dead of a heart attack, and his lunch still sitting on the table where she had placed it that morning. He spends the days after her funeral as if only half alive, assailed by regrets and sapped of the will or energy to do anything.

Ryohei's daughter Yuriko lives with her husband in Tokyo. In spite of seeking medical help for infertility, they remain childless. In the days following Otomi's funeral, Yuriko learns that her husband has long been carrying on an affair with another woman, and that the woman has now become pregnant. When her husband says he's unwilling to choose between the two women, she returns to her father's house leaving signed divorce papers behind.

That same day, an eccentric-looking 19-year-old woman with bright yellow hair named Imoto appears at the house saying Otomi had asked her to help Ryohei and Yuriko out in the event something happened to her. She tells the two about a collection of "Recipes for Life" that Otomi has left behind, and says she will stay to help out around the house until the 49th day after Otomi's death—that being the day when Buddhist tradition holds that the soul of the deceased attains full release. She also calls in a Japanese-Brazilian friend named Haru to help with any heavier lifting that's needed, bringing them to a household of four.

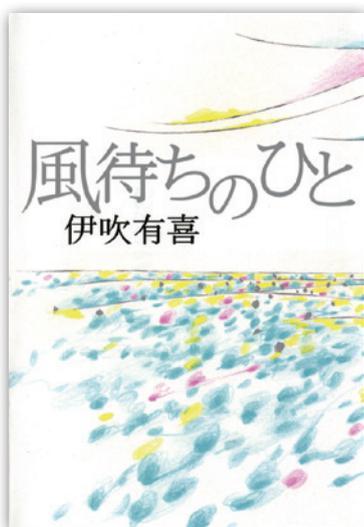
Otomi's recipes for Yuriko include recipes for meals and beauty tips; for Ryohei, instructions for simple housecleaning tasks and health tips. Also in her writings is a request that they hold a rousing party on the 49th day, instead of the traditional memorial service. At first, Ryohei and Yuriko balk at this suggestion, but they ultimately decide to honor Otomi's wishes. In the course of preparing for the party, they both have occasion to reflect on their past and gradually come to terms with the present. When the day comes, relatives arriving for the observances initially object to the unconventional preparations that have been made, but soon they, too, are caught up in the spirit of things as they recall times spent with Otomi and reflect on who she was and the life she led. The party becomes a congenial, happy, and moving celebration of her life.

About the Author

Yuki Ibuki (1969–) joined a publishing house after graduation and worked as a magazine editor before turning independent as a freelance writer. In 2008 she received the Poplar Publishing Prize for Fiction, Special Award, for *Waiting for Fair Winds*. Her second novel, *Mourning Recipe*, became a bestseller and was turned into both a miniseries for television and a feature film. Her most recent novel, *Midnight Bus*, has been nominated for both the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize and the Naoki Prize.

Waiting for Fair Winds

Yuki Ibuki



195 x 135 mm

351 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591110218

Rights sold: China, Indonesia
and Korea

Bank employee Tetsuji Suga, 39, is on a doctor-recommended leave of absence after falling into depression from overwork. There has also been growing friction at home with his higher-earning wife. When he discovers that she has been having an affair, he decides to spend the summer at the home where his late mother had lived, on the coast far from Tokyo. Once there he gets to know a cheerful, plain-spoken woman his own age named Kimiko. She is a longtime resident of this coastal town, but now spends most of the year away, supporting herself with her skills as a hairdresser as she travels from place to place. She returns only at this time of year, each summer.

Tetsuji asks Kimiko to help him sort through his mother's belongings. When he offers payment, she asks instead that he play music for her from his mother's extensive collection of classical CDs and LPs, giving him lists of titles, composers, and performers she wishes to hear. We learn that Kimiko lost both her son and her husband in quick succession, and the lists she brings are in fact those of her son's favorite music. Before drowning seven years before at the age of 12, the boy had commuted long distances to piano lessons in another city, with his sights set on becoming a classical piano player. Having never known anything about classical music herself, Kimiko says she wants to better understand the music her son so loved. It is in fact to remember her son that she returns to this town each summer around the anniversary of his death.

The two wounded souls find themselves gradually growing closer. Around the time they both realize they might be falling in love, Tetsuji's wife Rika suddenly shows up. It happens to be on the day after a typhoon, which had forced Kimiko to spend the night, so she finds them together. After showering them with vitriol, she returns to Tokyo. Tetsuji realizes there's no longer any chance of patching things up with Rika, and wants more than ever to be with Kimiko. At his invitation, she travels with him to Tokyo to see an opera, but the morning after the performance, she disappears. She has chosen to remove herself from Tetsuji's life because a photo of his family she had seen at the house on the coast persuaded her that their budding relationship can be nothing more than a passing summer interlude. Back at home in Tokyo, Tetsuji discusses the circumstances with his daughter and decides to file for a divorce from Rika.

When Tetsuji goes back to the coastal town the following summer, he learns that Kimiko has set a new course for her life. He tells her of his feelings for her as well as of his divorce, and asks her to come to the long-distance bus stop before the last Tokyo-bound bus of the day leaves. When she fails to show up, he watches the bus pull away and continues to wait. But soon the toll-road service plaza where the bus stop is located closes down for the night, and he must leave. As he trudges through the darkness, he sees a figure coming from the other direction. It is Kimiko . . .

You're a Good Kid

Hatsue Nakawaki



195 x 135 mm

319 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129388

Rights sold: China Korea and
Taiwan

This is a collection of five stories set in the same suburban town, with key elements transpiring on the same rainy afternoon.

The House where Santa Doesn't Come centers on Okano, a novice grade-school teacher, and a boy in his class who is being abused at home. Facing his first classroom as a teacher, Okano has difficulty maintaining control of all the different personalities among his charges and finds that his lessons don't go as planned. But even as his sense of inadequacy mounts, he realizes that one of his students is a victim of abuse. He learns that the boy has been told by his stepfather not to come home until after 5:00, and that he's not getting proper meals at home; there are also signs that he is being beaten. But the boy is convinced it's all because he's a bad boy; that's also why Santa doesn't come to his house, he says. Though he feels scarcely up to the task, Okano does everything he can to refute the boy's interpretation of what is happening to him, and to get him to stop blaming himself.

Pretty Girl is the story of a young mother who beats her daughter due to the lingering trauma of the abuse she suffered at her own mother's hand as a little girl. In Liar, a friend's father speculates about the state of mind of a boy who is being abused by his stepmother. Hello Goodbye portrays interactions between an elderly neighbor woman and a young mother struggling with the challenges of raising an autistic son. In Taking Granny Up the Mountain, a woman who was abused by her mother while growing up reflects on their long-ago history together in advance of her mother being admitted to a memory care facility.

In one way or another, all of the stories take up the troubling subject of child abuse, but in each case the author also leaves readers with a ray of hope.

About the Author

Hatsue Nakawaki (1974–) made her literary debut while still in high school, when she won the 1991 Botchan Literary Award for her story *Like a Fish*. Her collection of stories *You're a Good Kid* won the 2012 Tsubota Joji Literature Award, took first place in the 2012 Shizuoka Bookstore Grand Prize, and came in fourth in the 2013 Booksellers Award balloting. Set in the same suburban town as *You're a Good Kid*, her most recent novel *Finding Me* has been short-listed for the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize. Alongside her writing, she took up narrating traditional folk tales, and wrote stories based on them as well, including *Snow Maiden* and *Chinkororin*.

Finding Me

Hatsue Nakawaki



195 x 135 mm

257 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135365

Rights sold: Taiwan

A woman who had a difficult childhood finds a place for herself as a nurse, nearly loses herself in the effort to protect that hard-won ground, and then through key encounters and experiences is able to recover herself once again.

Yayoi was found abandoned shortly after being born, and grew up in an orphanage. It was at the orphanage that she was given her name. Since it is the old name for March in Japan, everybody assumes that's her birth month. But in fact it only means the month in which she was abandoned.

After leaving the orphanage, Yayoi becomes a licensed practical nurse—a certification she is able to earn while on the job. The doctors at the hospital where she works are arrogant and overbearing, with little respect for the nurses or sympathy for their patients. But Yayoi expresses no objections because she has finally found a sense of belonging.

Yayoi had been taken up for adoption when she was small, but her fear of being abandoned again had led her to repeatedly test her new parents' love for her by doing bad things, and in the end they had returned her to the orphanage. One consequence was that she missed a solid block of school right at the time multiplication was being taught, so she never learned her times tables. She also took away from the experience an understanding that she must always be a "good girl" if she doesn't want to lose what she has, so she now instinctively "goes along to get along," no matter how outrageously others may behave.

The hospital gets a highly capable new head nurse. She immediately recognizes the unhealthy dynamics and starts a campaign to improve them, expressing her opinions without reserve even to the doctors.

One day, a patient dies from complications following surgery. The head nurse realizes that the surgeon is at fault and tells Yayoi, who also assisted in the surgery. But when the time comes to explain the outcome to the patient's family members, Yayoi does as the surgeon asks and helps to make sure the head nurse is not present.

Around the same time, an elderly man Yayoi encountered on her way to work one day is admitted to the hospital. He had been out taking a walk when he heard shouting and the wails of a child coming from an apartment house he passed. Worried that the child was being abused, he had stopped Yayoi to ask if she was from the neighborhood and might know something about it. As he is being cared for by Yayoi in the hospital, the old man realizes that she is unable to do multiplication. One day when she is at his bedside, he quietly hands her a times table and says, "It couldn't have been easy, becoming a nurse when you never even learned to do multiplication."

Yayoi is assisting in surgery again when the doctor makes another mistake. This time the patient survives, thanks to the head nurse's quick thinking, but the fact that she took action without the doctor's permission becomes an issue, and she is forced to leave the hospital.

When it is the old man's turn for surgery, the doctor fails to order a transfusion even after it becomes clear that the patient is losing too much blood, so Yayoi takes action on her own, praying that it will save the old man's life. March might have been the month in which she was abandoned, she tells herself, but it was also the month when someone rescued her, and the only reason she is standing there now is because that person had prayed for her to make it then, just as she is praying for this old man now. The work was short-listed for the 2014 Yamamoto Shugoro Prize.

Mathman to the Rescue!

Shogo Mukai



195 x 135 mm

327 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591134948

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

This math-themed YA novel by an author who participated in the Japanese Math Olympics while in high school leaves every reader thinking, “If only I’d read this book sooner, I’d have learned to like math a whole lot more.”

Haruka is a middle-school girl who loves sports and hates math. The story begins when an unusual new boy named Sora joins her class as a transfer student. Sora declares that his dream is to “save the world with math,” and one day he opens shop as “Mathman,” saying he will use math to solve whatever problems his classmates bring to him—personal challenges, relationship issues, etc.—no payment necessary. Events conspire to make Haruka his assistant in the operation.

Mathman is asked how to resolve territorial disputes between the boys and girls on the playground during recess, how to light a fire under slacker members of the baseball team so they’ll show more spirit, how to afford a new mitt on a limited allowance, and so forth. In each case he applies mathematical formulas to arrive at a solution. As she sees how magnificently Sora solves their classmates’ problems, even the math-hating Haruka begins to see the joy of numbers.

One day the duo is presented with a far more difficult problem. An anonymous middle-schooler asks for advice on a matter of love. Of all human emotions, love is the most mysterious, and Haruka is convinced that there’s no way a mathematical formula can be applied. But one particular formula comes to light that is able to crack even the great enigma of love and bring about a successful resolution.

It is inspirational to discover that math can be such a romantic pursuit. The book is sure to charm math nerds and mathophobes alike, but it is especially to be recommended for the latter group.



About the Author

Shogo Mukai participated in the Japanese Math Olympics while in high school. He is particularly fascinated by number sequences. As a member of the kendo club while at the University of Tokyo, he advanced to the nationwide tournament of the University Kendo Federation. His publishing debut came with *Mathman to the Rescue!* in 2013 after his manuscript for the novel won the 2012 Poplar Fiction Prize for New Writers. Appealing to a broad cross-section of readers ranging from middle- and high-school age to adults, the book has enjoyed remarkably strong sales for a first novel, going through six printings in its first year of publication. Mukai’s second novel was *Kendo Team, Ready!* centering on a small, outmatched high-school kendo team.

The Nocturnal Bakery 1: A Recipe for Midnight

Noriko Oonuma



155 x 105 mm

319 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591124796

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

In a quiet corner of the city is Boulangerie Kurebayashi, a bakery that opens its doors only at night. It's run by the always-smiling owner, Yosuke Kurebayashi, and his foul-mouthed but good-looking young apprentice, Hiroki. Back in middle school Hiroki was racing down the path of delinquency until, at the age of 14, he met Miwako, 12 years his senior. Miwako helped Hiroki with his studies and set him straight; he became quite devoted to her, believing they had been brought together by fate. But six months ago, just as she was preparing to open a bakery, Miwako, now married to Yosuke, was killed in a traffic accident. Yosuke decided to quit his job with the United Nations PKO so he could bring his wife's plans to fruition.

One day, a teenage girl named Nozomi shows up claiming to be Miwako's half-sister, and asks to be put up. She was raised by her grandparents until the age of six because her mother couldn't be bothered with her, and even after her mother took Nozomi back, she would periodically leave her with friends and disappear. Nozomi compares her mother to a cuckoo.

The aromas wafting from the bakery draw a motley group of nocturnal characters to the shop—among them Orie, a single mother with sticky fingers, and Kodama, her grade-school-age boy; a gay cross-dresser who goes by the name of Sophia; and Madarame the scriptwriter, who has multiple telescopes set up in his eighth-floor apartment so he can peep into neighboring buildings. Each has his or her own set of problems, and effectively nowhere else to go. Then Orie disappears, and the people who gather at the bakery pitch in to look for her. In the course of the search, details emerge about their diverse pasts and the hidden burdens they all carry in their hearts.

This sweet and sour story, which is made into a TV drama, is very popular in Japan, selling over 1.2 million copies. The series has four volumes so far.

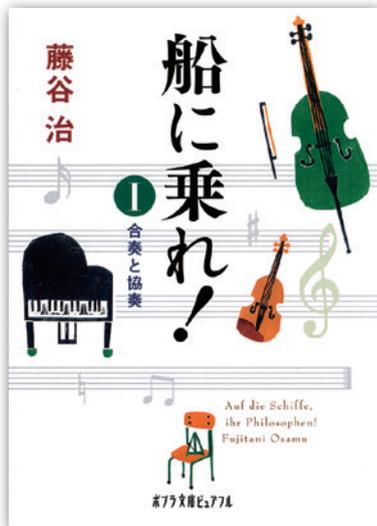


About the Author

Noriko Oonuma (1975–) worked as a scriptwriter before entering the fiction arena by winning the 2005 Botchan Literary Award with *Ringling Out the Old Year and Ringling In the New*. She is one of Japan's up-and-coming writers.

Aboard Ship!

Osamu Fujitani



150 x 105 mm

308 pages

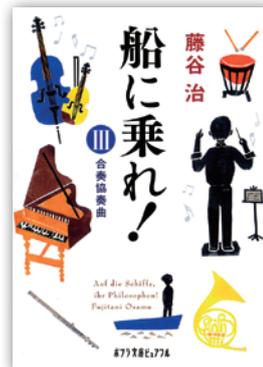
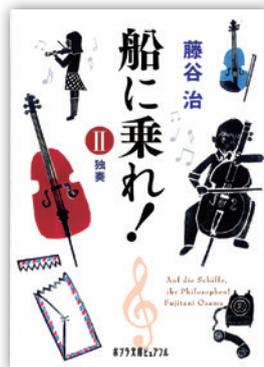
Paperback

ISBN 978-4591123997

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

Told from the viewpoint of Satoru as an adult, this is a coming-of-age story about a teenager who decides to choose another path rather than try to become a professional musician, as well as the story of a middle-aged man who is finally able to face a past about which he has some regrets. The author vividly conveys the beauty and brightness of youth, as well as the pain and regret that many of us feel when reflecting on our teen years.

Readers will enjoy this moving tale as well as the discussions of philosophy and classical music it contains. The title is taken from the words of the philosopher Nietzsche. The series has three volumes.



About the Author

Osamu Fujitani (1963–) made his book publishing debut in 2003 with the novel *Andante Mozzarella Cheese. A Woman Named Q Ogata*, which appeared in a magazine, was a candidate for the Shincho Prize for New Writers in 2002. Subsequent works have also been listed for various prestigious literary prizes, among them the three-volume series “Aboard Ship!,” a candidate for the Booksellers Award in 2010. Fujitani also operated the Ficciones bookstore in Tokyo, but closed it in 2014 to devote his time to writing.

Double Whorls

Yukiya Shoji & Natsu Miyashita



195 x 135 mm

278 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591130698

Rights sold: Indonesia

Two popular writers share authorship of this much talked about work, writing alternately from the perspectives of brother and sister. Yukiya Shoji writes from the perspective of Yūichi, an eleventh-grader who plays in a band, and Natsu Miyashita writes from the perspective of Yūichi's little sister Madoka, a fourth-grader who loves judo. The narrative centers on a certain family secret, the circumstances of which gradually come to light.

Brother and sister both have two whorls in their hair. Their mother does as well, and she has always told them that it's a mark of good fortune. One day when Madoka is at home alone, a phone call comes in from a woman she doesn't know. Later, her mother says she doesn't know the woman either, but there seems to be something a little strange in her manner.

Yūichi then discovers that the woman has attended a live performance of his band, Double Spin Round, and that his father knows her. As time goes on, a music producer expresses an interest in signing the band, but as soon as Yūichi says the producer's name is Ishigō, his mother is dead set against it.

Eventually Yūichi learns that his mother had once set her sights on becoming a professional singer, and the woman on the phone was her manager at the time. His mother had also gotten to know Ishigō during that period. Meanwhile, Madoka is increasingly distressed by the change that has come over their mother ever since the producer approached her brother's band.

Their mother finally gives her blessing for Yūichi's band to sign with Ishigō's office, and also reveals the secret she has been keeping from them until now. Yūichi and Madoka become aware of how their parents have been protecting them, and gain a new appreciation for family.

Miyashita delicately probes the psychology of ten-year-old Madoka, who is at that sensitive age when a little girl begins to turn outward and become more aware of the world around her, as master storyteller Shoji keeps the plot moving along. The authors' two distinct styles meld perfectly to produce a warm-hearted tale of family.

About the Author

Yukiya Shoji made his debut as a writer by winning the 2002 Mephisto Award for *Singing an Old Song about Looking Up at the Sky*. Among his many works published since then are the "Tokyo Bandwagon" series, *Cow House*, and *the Holy Man of Hanasaki Street*. He works at the entertainment end of the literary spectrum, in genres ranging from family novels to mysteries.

Natsu Miyashita made her literary debut after receiving an honorable mention from the Bungakukai Prize for New Writers jury in 2004 for her story *Quiet Rain*. Her first full-length novel, *School No. 4*, garnered a great deal of attention in 2007, and *Someone's Missing* was voted seventh in the 2012 Booksellers Award balloting. One of the most talked-about authors of our time, she deftly captures everyday scenes of earnest, ordinary people going about their lives in prose that is imbued with freshness and warmth.

The Winged Girl

Maha Harada



195 x 135 mm

286 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591137277

Rights sold:

Early on January 17, 1995, a devastating earthquake shook the Osaka-Kobe region of Japan and left 6,434 people dead, three missing, and 43,792 injured. In this story, first-grader Nike saw her parents burned to death right before her eyes in one of the countless fires that broke out as a result of the quake. She is taken in together with her older brother Ikki and younger sister Sanku by Koreaki Samotora, a doctor of psychosomatic medicine whose nickname is Dr. Zero. Nike herself has become permanently disabled by an injury to her right leg suffered in the quake, and she has difficulty making friends among her new classmates. But through her interactions with Dr. Zero and others from the neighborhood, she decides she wants to become a doctor who helps heal wounded hearts and mind.

Dr. Zero lost his wife in the quake when he was unable to rescue her from beneath the rubble that fell on her. His only son, Yuya, holds this against him, and the two have become estranged; a heart surgeon, Yuya soon takes a new job at a hospital in Tokyo and cuts off communications with his father altogether.

When Nike is in the sixth grade and gets her first crush on a boy, she discovers something strange: when she experiences strong feelings toward another person, sharp pangs of pain traverse her back. She has the same pangs when she is feeling especially sorry for her beloved little sister, and one day, to her astonishment, wings suddenly sprout on her back. But the wings quickly turn to sand and disappear.

When Nike is in the eighth grade, Dr. Zero's chronic heart condition catches up with him, and he requires immediate surgery. His son Yuya is considered the best man for the job. Together with Dr. Zero's assistant, Nike and her siblings head to Tokyo to ask Yuya to conduct the operation. Yuya is torn, but ultimately refuses—still unable to forgive his father.

That night at the hotel, having all but given up hope, Nike thinks back to the earthquake. Her mind fills with memories of how she'd been helpless to do anything but wail in anguish as she watched her beloved parents die. She can't bear the thought of once again losing someone she loves. The powerful emotions triggered by these memories cause wings to sprout on her back a second time. Flapping them, she flies back to Yuya. Moved by her repeated entreaties as well as by the miracle that has sprung from the intensity of her desire to save someone she loves, Yuya sets aside his ill feelings and agrees to wield the scalpel. The surgery is a success.

As if keeping pace with the reconstruction of the city around them, three children who lost their parents in the earthquake and an elderly doctor rejected by his son gradually bond as a new family. Underlying their heart-warming story is a message from the author that people all carry within them the strength to pick themselves back up no matter how hopeless their situation may appear.

The name of the story's young protagonist comes from the Winged Victory of Samothrace sculpture of the Greek goddess Nike, on display at the Louvre in Paris. Through the character's association with the goddess of victory and her powerful wings, the author expresses a prayer for both peaceful repose and vigorous regeneration.

About the Author

Maha Harada (1962–) worked in-house at a number of art museums before becoming a freelance curator. She made her literary debut in 2005 when her first novel *Waiting for Good News* won the Japan Love Story Award; the work sold over 370,000 copies and was adapted to the big screen. She has continued to produce entertainment fiction in the years since, and in 2012 won the Yamamoto Shugoro Prize for *Painting of Paradise*.

Geranium Garden

Masumi Oshima



195 x 140 mm
280 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591130759
Rights sold:

One New Year's Day when narrator Ruru is in her mid-twenties, her 80-year-old grandmother Toyose learns that Ruru has gotten a story published in a literary journal, and urges her to write about the major family secret she has related to Ruru in bits and pieces over the years. Toyose collapses that same day, and passes away two days later.

The secret has to do with Toyose's twin sister Kaei. The twins were born into a prominent family in Nihonbashi, Tokyo, near the end of the Meiji period (1868–1912). Toyose thrives and grows normally, but the family worries that Kaei's development appears to be delayed. As time goes on, however, they realize that she is in fact reaching all of the standard milestones, only at a far slower pace. When Toyose has matured into a young woman of marriageable age, Kaei is still a little girl. Because Kaei is obviously abnormal compared to her twin sister, the family moves to a newly built estate in the suburbs where she can be kept out of sight, and she is subsequently sent to seek treatment in England accompanied by her attending physician.

Fourteen years later, in 1944, Kaei returns to Japan from Manchuria, where she had gone after England. Toyose is by this time middle-aged, past her child-rearing years, but Kaei is a beautiful young woman in her prime. For a time she lives as if under confinement in the suburban residence the family had built to keep her out of sight, but a short while after the end of World War II, she moves out to live on her own.

Ruru's mother (Toyose's daughter) dislikes Kaei, who still comes to visit the family home from time to time. Then Kaei's visits stop. Ruru's mother does not tell her daughter about Kaei's secret, but she repeatedly finds occasion to note that it's best for people to age and die normally. When Kaei comes to Toyose's funeral, the woman who should be just as old as Toyose appears to be no older than the last time Ruru saw her. Ruru's narrative then comes to an end with a scene in which she is talking with Kaei in the family's backyard, where the geraniums are in bloom.

Several decades go by. Ruru's parents as well as Ruru herself are long dead, and even Ruru's son and daughter are getting on in years, but Kaei lives on. She picks up the story where Ruru's narrative had left off, revealing secrets that Ruru herself had no way of knowing, such as the fact that she had had an affair with one of the men Ruru was seeing. Her tale brings into relief the loneliness she feels as her life crawls on at its much slower pace, watching people born long after herself living full lifespans and preceding her in death one after another.

About the Author

Masumi Oshima (1962–) won the Bungakukai Prize for New Writers for *Spring Magician*. Her other titles include *Rainbow-Colored Sun Shower*, *Three Sisters*, *Battle Mates in Romance*, *Bitter Sugar*, *Pietà*, and many others. *Bitter Sugar* became a television series on NHK, and *Pietà*, a story set in 18th-century Venice and portraying the lives of girls at the Ospedale della Pietà, where Vivaldi taught music, became a publishing sensation and was voted third in the 2012 Booksellers Award balloting.

Untitled

Chisa Asukai



195 x 140 mm

333 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135488

Rights sold:

Author Chisa Asukai highlights both the universality and the fragility of family bonds in this portrayal of a woman who looks at things only from her own rigid perspective. Toko, 31, is scrupulous and strict in her ways. She unflinchingly follows the rules she has set for herself, and she judges all that goes on around her by those same rules. But then, a series of events causes her personal value system to crumble . . .

Father is on the board of a major corporation, Mother is always cheerful and full of energy, daughter Toko has a stable office job, and son Kenta works for a television production company. At a glance they appear to be the ideal happy family. But each member of the family has his or her own secrets, and as those secrets begin to emerge, the erstwhile harmony of the family unravels with surprising ease.

It all begins with the shocking appearance and behavior of Kenta's fiancée Masami when he first introduces her to the family. From the time they were children, Toko has never had a very high opinion of her younger brother, who had slovenly habits and was always causing trouble for the family. Now Masami's rudeness lowers her opinion of him further—in addition to turning her instantly against her future sister-in-law.

As it happens, Toko has long been carrying on an affair with a married man, and she is satisfied with the current state of their relationship. Though well aware that society considers the relationship immoral, she's convinced that it is sustainable so long as she makes sure not to cause trouble for her lover's family.

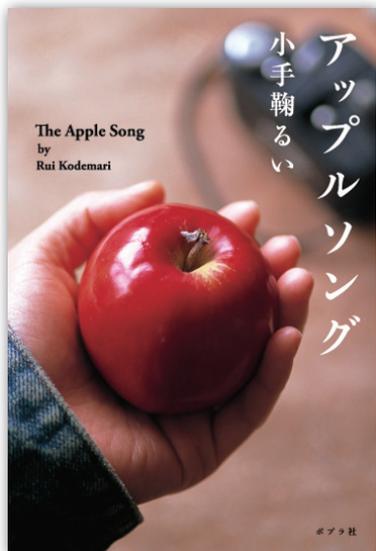
At about this same time, it comes out that her father has secretly resigned from his executive position and is now working as the caretaker of an apartment building; also that a handsome young dancer has turned her mother's head, and she has been giving him money. Toko regards her parents' behavior as a shameful betrayal, and lights into them when the whole family is present, but is severely shaken when their response is to hurl their own criticisms at her. With her pride in tatters, she turns to her lover for support, but he bluntly spurns her, and she realizes all too painfully that they had never been soul mates, only garden-variety illicit lovers. The person to whom Toko turns next is the last person in the world she'd have thought—Masami.

About the Author

Chisa Asukai (1979–) made her literary debut when she won the Shosetsu Subaru New Writers' Award in 2005 for *When Haru Dies*. In 2011 her pocket paperback original *Tiny Tiny Happy* topped 100,000 in sales and catapulted her into best-sellerdom. Her stories often focus on seemingly insignificant, mundane occurrences in the lives of ordinary people, and she shows a knack for bringing out the subtle yet telling movements of the heart that are so easily overlooked.

The Apple Song

Rui Kodemari



195 x 135 mm

367 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591140031

Rights sold:

As an infant, Marie Torikai is rescued from beneath the rubble following an air raid on the city of Okayama near the end of World War II. She is cared for by relatives until the age of ten because her mother had failed to recover her strength after childbirth, but then her mother comes to claim Marie back and they move to Seattle to live with her second husband. When her mother dies six years later, however, Marie is left an orphan at age 16. She moves to New York, where she works as a hotel maid while setting her sights on becoming an artist. Impressed by pictures a friend shows her, she joins the upstate apple harvest to earn some extra money and buy a camera of her own. A young Japanese cameraman traveling in the United States teaches her the basics of photography, and she begins submitting photos to publishers, dreaming of the day when she will be able to make a living with her camera.

Then comes a fateful meeting with Renji Iwai, a Japanese war photographer who has been documenting the War in Vietnam. They fall in love, and Marie sets her camera aside as she focuses on starting a family. But she happens to be back in Japan in February 1972 when the Asama Sansō (“Mountain Lodge”) hostage crisis takes place, and the incident prompts her to pick up her camera again. As she is covering that news she suffers a miscarriage, and at nearly the same time, Renji is killed in Vietnam. She decides to carry on his work as a photojournalist, and begins traveling to hot spots around the globe, documenting outbreaks of student unrest, plane crashes, civil wars, and the like. All the while she asks: Why do people fight? Is there anything that can save the world from all this conflict? The final event she photographs is the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York City on September 11, 2001. Torikai throws down her camera to help rescue children from a daycare center inside one of the buildings and ultimately fails to return, adding her name to the list of the missing.

The story is told in part by Marie herself, and in part by Miwako, a childcare worker whom Marie rescues from the World Trade Center. Miwako visits Marie’s relatives and acquaintances to learn about her life. The two points of view merge into a moving tale of a woman living in turbulent times who pursued her chosen mission with great passion and pride.

About the Author

Rui Kodemari (1956–) received the Shimase Award for Love Stories for *You’re the Only One I Want* in 2005. Since then she has produced numerous romances, which have gained her a steady following. Her fiction works include *Where Sea and Sky Meet*, *Greengrocer Mochizuki*, *Happiness in the Form of a Cat*, and many others. In 2014’s *The Apple Song*, she takes on a weightier storyline while still retaining the delicate charm of her established style. She has also published essay collections, including *My Beloved Cat*, *Purin*. She currently lives in Woodstock, New York.

The Dis-Ease Called Mother

Takashi Okada



190 x 130 mm

295 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591131466

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

A psychiatrist draws on examples from his many years of experience working with mothers and their children to discuss some of the destructive dynamics that can enter the mother-child relationship, along with advice on how to ultimately free oneself from them.

There seem to be a growing number of people troubled in some way by their relationship with their mother. Some contend with emotionally unstable or moody mothers, over-protective mothers, or mothers who neglect their children to pursue relationships with men other than their children's father. Still others find that they can't detach from their mothers no matter how dysfunctional the relationship. Even in cases where mother and child seem well adjusted to each other, the mother may be emotionally manipulating the child; or the child may simply be "playing good," or may be tormented beneath the surface by endless negative thoughts from the fear of Mother's disapproval. The relationship a child has with his or her mother is in many ways the foundation on which all other human relationships are built; if unhealthy, it can hamper one's ability to form healthy interpersonal bonds, or lead to depression, eating disorders, and other emotional difficulties.

Author Takashi Okada analyzes a variety of such cases that are commonly seen today, drawn from his own experience as a psychotherapist. He discusses the relationships a number of famous people had with their mothers, from John Lennon to Herman Hesse to Arthur Schopenhauer. Of Lennon, who was kept in constant turmoil by an undisciplined mother and raised by his aunt, he writes, "... Lennon's music and his psyche cannot be understood apart from the sadness and uncertainty he experienced, or the anger he felt at her lack of stability. Without those experiences, the world would most likely never have had his music."

Delving sharply into the influence mothers have on their children, the work became an immediate hit when it first appeared, with readers ranging from their teens to their seventies offering comments like, "It changed my life," "It gave me new confidence," and "It brought me such relief, I bawled my head off."



The Dis-Ease Called Father

About the Author

Takashi Okada (1960–) earned his M.D. at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine. A psychiatrist and author, he worked for many years at the Medical Detention Center for Juveniles in Kyoto before opening his own practice, Okada Clinic. He also currently holds a visiting professorship at Yamagata University. He is a leading authority on personality disorders and developmental disabilities, and, as a front-line clinician, works with patients to overcome mental and emotional challenges. His publications include *Personality Disorders*, *Children of Sadness*, *Intracerebral Pollution*, and *Asperger Syndrome*.

Please Don't Forget the Children

Masami Sasaki



220 x 155 mm
143 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591133859
Rights sold:

Do what gives the child joy. And make that your own joy. This alone will immeasurably improve the parent-child relationship . . . This book is a collection of “messages” about the joys and rewards of child rearing, written by a renowned child psychiatrist for parents and others who play a role in early childhood learning.

Unlike earlier eras when children were raised by extended families and even entire communities, child rearing today has become narrowly compartmentalized, and this places many new stresses on parents. Mothers are beset with uncertainties about how to interact with their children, whether their children’s social skills are developing appropriately, and so forth—sometimes to the point that there’s no longer any room for their own feelings. “The essence of child rearing is in always meeting the child face to face,” says the author as he gently discusses how to nurture the child’s natural abilities. It is a book that lets parents feel once again the joys and rewards of watching their children grow.

About the Author

Masami Sasaki (1935–), a child psychiatrist, has held positions at the Child Psychiatry Division of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine, the Pediatrics Department of Tokyo Women’s Medical University, and the Children’s Rehabilitation and Guidance Center, and currently holds a special professorship at Kawasaki University of Medical Welfare. His publications include *Eyes on the Child, Will You Be Grateful for the Life You Lived?*, and numerous other books related to child rearing and the rehabilitation of children with developmental disabilities.

Cellular Exercises to Awaken Your Body

Hiroyuki Kobayashi and Nobuhiro Suetake



210 x 150 mm
103 pages
Softcover
ISBN 978-4591134955
Rights sold:

The human body is made up of as many as 60 trillion cells, and our physical and mental health depends on nutrient-rich blood reaching all of them. One of the most important keys to good circulation is a well-conditioned autonomic nervous system. Based on medical evidence and developed by a specialist in sports medicine, the exercises in this book are designed for effective, efficient enhancement of the autonomic nervous system's many functions.

Requiring easy-to-perform movements free of undue stress, the exercises can be done anywhere, anytime, and are equally appropriate for small children as they are for adults, the elderly, and highly conditioned athletes. No special equipment is required. By promoting good circulation throughout the body, the exercises help to reduce or relieve such symptoms as constipation, headaches, lethargy, fatigue, and cold extremities. And because they induce a calm sense of presence, they help athletes perform at the top of their game when incorporated into workouts and warm-ups. Many of Japan's best athletes have already adopted the exercises into their routines and confirmed their efficacy.

Ample photographs help readers understand exactly how each movement is to be performed.



About the Author

Hiroyuki Kobayashi (1960–) is a professor at Juntendō University Medical School and holds Japan Sports Association certification as a sports doctor. In the course of over 20 years of research spanning such fields as surgery, transplant surgery, immunology, the internal organs, the nervous system, and water and sports drinks, he zeroed in on the importance of achieving and maintaining a proper balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. As one of Japan's leading experts on the autonomic nervous system, he has advised numerous top athletes and celebrities on how to improve their conditioning and performance. Among his many publications is the 2011 bestseller *Naze "kore" wa kenkō ni ii no ka (Why "This" Is Good for Your Health)*.

Nobuhiro Suetake (1962–), MD, was educated at the Juntendō University Graduate School of Medicine, and holds certification as a specialist from the Japan Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (JSAPS). He is director of the Sakae Clinic, where his practice centers on anti-aging diagnosis and treatment. He also conducts research in sports medicine as an adjunct faculty member of the Juntendō University School of Medicine. Certified as a professional boxing trainer by the Japan Boxing Commission, he has served as trainer to Olympic athletes, professional baseball players, professional golfers, combat athletes, and major performing artists as well.

Today's Stretches

Editorial Supervision by **James Shuichi Nakano**

Illus. by **Taiki Enomoto**



260 x 190 mm

31 pages

Hardcover + Calender

ISBN 978-4591126202

Rights sold: Korea, Italy and Taiwan

If you get little exercise, experience frequent back and shoulder pain, or have thought about starting jogging but aren't sure you're up to it, basic conditioning to strengthen and tone your muscles is a smart place to start. Author James Shuichi Nakano, a personal trainer for nearly two decades, maintains that the first step is as simple as proper stretching, and presents a simple 11-week program based on his experience helping countless people with basic strengthening and sports injury prevention in this two-volume set.

Just three minutes a day of stretching can lengthen and loosen your muscles, relieve fatigue, correct imbalances, and promote better posture. The benefits are not instantaneous, however, as it generally takes eight weeks or more of daily stretches to achieve the desired results. It is with this in mind that Nakano developed the 77-stretch program presented here. It begins with two weeks of "Starter Stretches," continues with eight weeks of "Basic Stretches" that cover all muscle groups in the body, and ends with a final week of more difficult "Challenge Stretches."

The shorter first volume offers a discussion of the underlying principles, while the second introduces the 77 specific exercises, one to a page. By doing just one stretch a day, the reader will complete the program in 11 weeks. Thereafter, they can sustain the feeling of well-being that comes with improved flexibility by continuing with the stretches that they have found to be most helpful to them.



About the Author

James Shuichi Nakano (1971–) is a personal trainer who offers his services at sports clubs throughout the Tokyo area. His private clients range from top athletes (pro tennis player Kimiko Date-Krumm, table tennis player Ai Fukuhara, and others) to professional models, whom he advises on both mental and physical fitness. His books include *Ten Habits that Will Create a Younger You*, *Today's Stretches*, and *Today's Exercises*. He frequently serves as supervisory editor for magazine articles on exercise, and maintains a busy lecture schedule as well.

Today's Exercises

Editorial Supervision by **James Shuichi Nakano**
 Illus. by **Taiki Enomoto**



260 x 185 mm
 31 pages
 Hardcover + Calender
 ISBN 978-4591129111
 Rights sold:

This two-volume set offers a program of daily exercises that can easily be fit into the busiest of schedules. The shorter first volume discusses the principles one must follow for building a well-conditioned and youthful body, and maintaining it over time. The second introduces 55 specific exercises, one to a page, divided by level of difficulty into “Starters,” “Variations,” and “Challenges.”

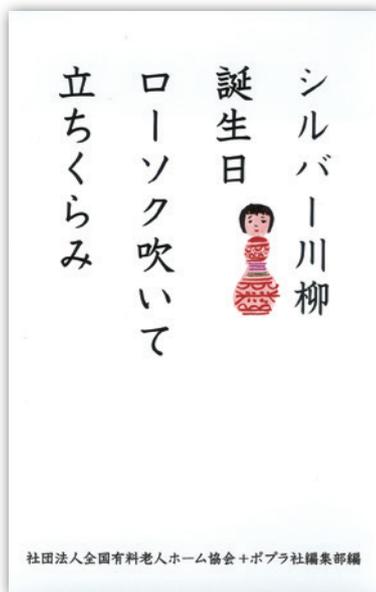
The program has been structured for maximum efficiency based on findings that it takes at least eight weeks to build new muscle to a level where you can really feel the difference. The two-month training plan prescribes one week for the “Starters,” six weeks for the “Variations,” and one week for the “Challenges.” Once you have completed the initial eight weeks of conditioning, you can maintain the benefits over the long term by selecting the particular exercises you most need and doing them for just five minutes per day.



Senior Senryu 1:

My Birthday Party / Blowing Out the Candles and / Nearly Blacking Out

Edited by The Japan Association of Retirement Housing



190 x 120 mm
126 pages
Softcover
ISBN 978-4591130728
Rights sold:

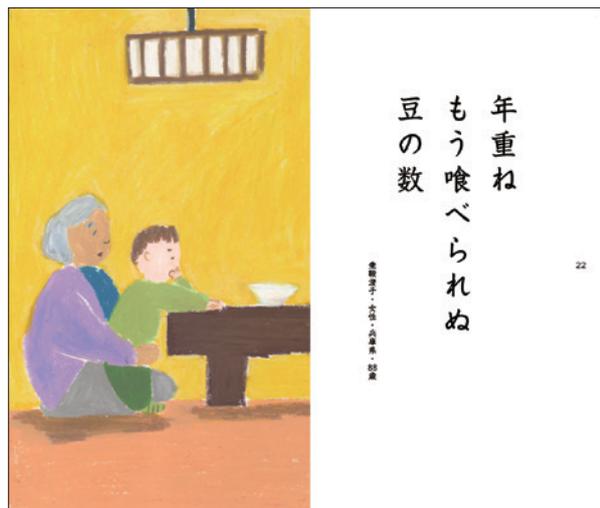
This book compiles 88 of the best senryu poems selected from among more than 10,000 submitted by golden-agers to an annual contest sponsored by the Japan Association of Retirement Housing. Each poem is accompanied by a warm-hearted illustration sure to bring smiles to readers' faces.

The senryu form is limited to the same 17 syllables as haiku, in lines of five, seven, and five. But whereas haiku require a seasonal word known as kigo, senryu do not, and instead of looking to nature, they usually poke fun at or satirize human behavior and society. These poems by veterans of all that life has to offer speak of memory loss, trips to the doctor, crotchety spouses, and other challenges of aging as if the best way to deal with them is to laugh them off. Yet even as the poems prompt laughs, they also inspire sympathy.

Pedometer count / Half the steps are from searching / For something I've lost

I'm in love, I thought / But the palpitations were / Just arrhythmia

Two additional volumes of Senior Senryu have appeared as of June 2014: *Senior Senryu 2: Please to Open Wide / Once It Was for Sweet Sweet Love / Now It's for My Nurse*, and *Senior Senryu 3: In Our Next Lives, Too / Let's Vow to Be Together / I Say to My Dog*.



About the Author

The Japan Association of Retirement Housing was established in 1982 for the protection and support of those living in retirement facilities, as well as to promote the healthy development of the industry. The association engages in a broad range of activities as the sole such body recognized in the Welfare Law for the Aged. Since 2001 it has sponsored an annual senryu poetry contest for seniors, with more than 120,000 submissions received to date.

Women's Senryu Circle 1:

How Are You Doing? / Spectacularly Fine, Thanks / At Least Till You Asked

Edited by City Living



190 x 120 mm

126 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591132067

Rights sold:

This book compiles 88 of the best senryu—poems that, like haiku, make use of syllable counts but in their content address human nature rather than mother nature—submitted to an annual contest sponsored by Cityliving, a free weekly paper targeted primarily at women who work in office jobs. In the span of 17 well-chosen syllables, the poets spill their true feelings about the entire gamut of challenges they face as women working within the Japanese corporate structure, from interpersonal frictions in the workplace to romance and marriage, concerns about the future, and more. Each verse is accompanied by a humorous illustration, and contains telling elements that draw readers' sympathy even as they elicit laughter.

The senryu form is confined to the same 17 syllables as haiku, in lines of five, seven, and five. But whereas haiku require a seasonal reference known as kigo, senryu do not, and instead of looking to nature, they usually poke fun at or satirize the human condition and society:

This body of mine / Feeling not quite up to par— / Until five p.m.

Past the big four-oh / Time to drop the husband hunt / For a grave-plot hunt.

Who is this geezer? / My first thought before learning / We are the same age.

A second volume has also appeared, under the title *Women's Senryu Circle 2: The Mess Never Clears / Neither on Top of My Desk / Nor within My Life*.

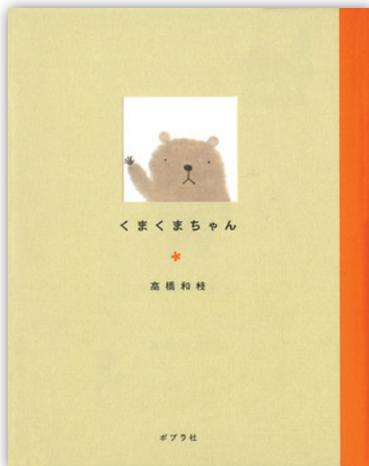


About the Author

City Living is a weekly free paper published by Sankei Living Shimbun Inc. and targeted at women office workers. Besides an online presence, 660,000 paper copies are distributed weekly in eight separate regional editions (Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka-Kobe, and Fukuoka). The paper first appeared in 1984, and since 1997 has sponsored an annual senryu poetry contest, to which some 75,000 verses have been submitted in 17 years.

Kuma-Kuma Chan, The Little Bear

Kazue Takahashi



175 x 135 mm

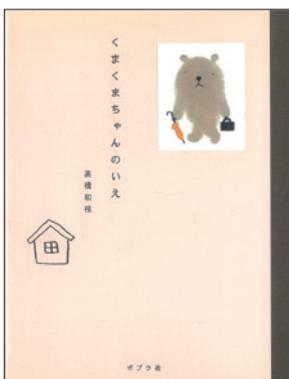
52 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591067963

Rights sold: Canada, China,
France, Spain and the United
States

This is the first of two books featuring Kuma-Kuma, an endearingly cute little bear (kuma is the word for bear in Japanese) who will make children and parents alike want to cuddle him in their arms. In this first book, the story of Kuma-Kuma's life is told from the perspective of a city boy, who speculates how Kuma-Kuma might be spending his days at his remote mountain cabin: Is he eating a nice salad made with greens and tomatoes from his garden out back? Is he practicing how to draw pretty patterns in his coffee with cream? Is he taking a lazy afternoon snooze? Is he lying on his roof watching the clouds move across the sky? . . . Readers see Kuma-Kuma making little discoveries, enjoying the changing seasons, and living a quiet, unhurried life. The story offers valuable food for thought to those who are so caught up in the hurly-burly of their days that they have forgotten how to take it easy. A giftworthy book for your favorite people, young or old.



Little Kuma-Kuma at Home

This is the second of two books featuring Kuma-Kuma, a cute and cuddly little bear. In this book that the boy travels by train, bus, and on foot to visit Kuma-Kuma at his cabin in the mountains. Kuma-Kuma welcomes him and serves him some “bear tea,” but the two aren't quite sure what to say to each other, so the boy spends his time reading the spines of the books on the shelf. Meanwhile, Kuma-Kuma urges him to eat some rice crackers, opens the window to let in some fresh air, and fusses with his fur. Finally, bit by bit, they get a conversation going. When the sun goes down, the boy eats the salmon dinner Kuma-Kuma prepares, and for dessert they share the chocolates the boy had brought with him.

Readers can see that in spite of their mutual awkwardness, the hearts of the two are in the right place, and so they are able to form a bond of friendship.

About the Author

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kuma-Kuma Chan The Little Bear* in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyāko the Cat*, *The Squirrel Telephone System*, *Little Bear Sees In the New Year*, and *Rainy Day Bear*. Titles she has illustrated include *Tell Me a Story* (text by Kyoko Hara) and *Somebody's Canvas Bag* (story by Miyako Moriyama). www.kumanekonikki.jugem.jp

Chiko in the Land of Doors

Text by **Kunio Iwaya** Directed by **Yoshio Nakae**
 Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**



290 x 250 mm

38 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591092828

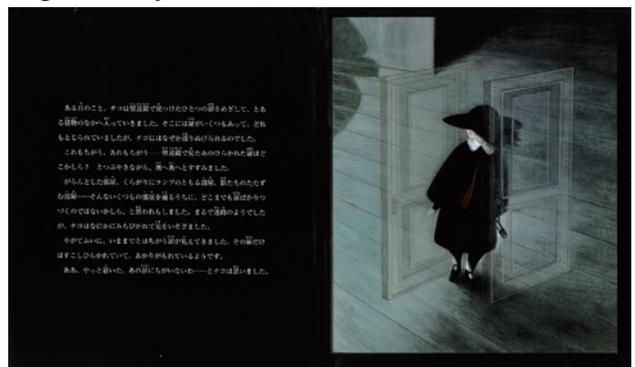
Rights sold:

Chiko is always alone. It's partly because of the trouble with her eyes—she doesn't have particularly poor vision, but she often sees double—which has made her subject to teasing by her peers. Then she receives a small telescope as a gift, and discovers that when she looks at things through the telescope, she can see them clearly. Now she becomes fonder than ever of looking at things, and carries the telescope with her wherever she goes.

One day she sees a door through the telescope and enters the building where it is. On the other side of the door is an old man with a cane. “Welcome. Please come right on in,” he says in a gentle voice. “I’ll show you a whole new way of seeing things.” He then begins escorting her through the Land of Doors. The doors open onto a world of surrealism. Chiko and her companion travel through the works of Marcel Duchamp and Max Ernst, going through one door after another. Her heart dances with excitement at everything she sees. Then they come to the final door, and the old man with the cane bids her farewell.

The following morning, Chiko is by herself again. But even if she is lonely, she is no longer miserable, for in her heart she will always have her memories from the Land of Doors.

This book was created as an homage to Japanese surrealist poet and artist Shūzō Takiguchi (1903–1979), who appears in the story as the old man with a cane. The artwork not only includes depictions of his study and items from his collection, but also incorporates a number of famous surrealist works, allowing the story to serve as an introduction to surrealism even as it takes the reader on a fairy-tale journey through a wondrous alternate world.



About the Author

Kunio Iwaya (1943–) is a scholar of French literature, as well as an author, critic, essayist, and translator. He has written on a broad range of topics as a general critic and essayist—from literature, film, and art to travel, gardening, and food; and he has also written modern fairy tales.

Yoshio Nakae and Noriko Ueno began producing picture books together while still in school. Among their most best-known works are *Little Mouse's Red Vest* (Kodansha Award for Picture Books) and the series of sequels that followed; and *Mischievous Rara* (Japan Picture Book Award). In 2005, Nakae and Ueno received the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award for the body of work they had produced together.

Kabuki Picture Book Series

Text by **Osamu Hashimoto**

Illus. by **Yoshio Okada**



Proper Upbringing of a Young Lady at Mount Imose

This is a popular story of Kabuki, a theatrical art that started in the 17th Century in Japan. It's a fantasy and love story based on a well-known historical incident, "Reformation of Taika" in the 7th Century during which everyone joined hands to defeat the vicious head of a powerful family. The story is told with simple wording and beautiful illustrations. It's a perfect introductory book of Kabuki, which children, as well as adults, can enjoy.

255 x 260 mm

54 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129265

Rights sold:



The Spirit of Sugawara



The Battles of Coxinga

About the Author

Osamu Hashimoto, born in 1948, is a well-known writer in Japan. He writes fiction and critical essays, as well as translates Japanese classics into modern Japanese.

Yoshio Okada, a popular illustrator, is known for his use of color and delicate illustrations.



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22-1 Daikyo-cho, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 160-8565 JAPAN

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