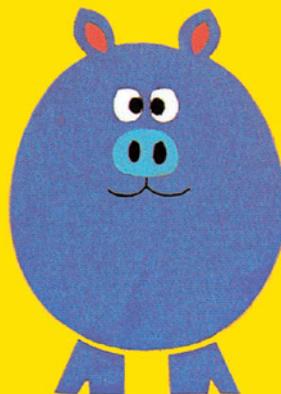


**POPLAR  
2016  
Fall  
Children**





## About Us

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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.



## Contact

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### **POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd.**

22-1 Daikyo-cho, Shinjuku-ku,  
Tokyo 160-8565 JAPAN

<http://www.poplar.co.jp/english/>  
[internationalrights@poplar.co.jp](mailto:internationalrights@poplar.co.jp)

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# Baby's Mini Picture Books Series

Koshiro Hata



Ages 0+

90 x 90 mm

30 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591145715 (Vol.1)

Rights sold:

This series of board books by well-known picture-book author Kōshirō Hata includes six individual volumes focusing on animals, conveyances, food, fruit and vegetables, everyday things, and the zoo. They have been published in a small format for easy portability. Each two-page spread presents a drawing of one item on the right and its name in both Japanese and English on the left (including the Japanese phonetic reading of the English word), so each 30-page book illustrates 15 items to introduce to little ones. Hand-drawn with simple, bold pencil outlines clearly discernible to even the smallest eyes, the brightly colored illustrations make learning new words as fun as playing with toys.

Volume 1, *Animals*, includes a dog, cat, hamster, butterfly, ladybug, and a variety of other creatures. Volume 2, *Rides*, shows a police cruiser, bulldozer, ship, airplane, and other conveyances kids love to identify. Volume 3, *Food*, features rice balls, bread rolls, soup, hamburger patties and other common meal items familiar to youngsters. Volume 4, *Fruits & Vegetables*, introduces strawberries, watermelon, tomatoes, potatoes, and other fruits and vegetables every mother wants her children to eat. Volume 5, *Living*, includes a shirt, spoon, toothbrush, crayons, stuffed toy, and a variety of other items young children frequently encounter in their daily lives. Volume 6, *The Zoo*, presents a lion, panda, elephant, giraffe, koala bear, penguin, and a selection of other animals that are especially popular at the zoo. It's a perfect series to collect as Baby's first books.



## About the Author

Koshiro Hata (1963–) was born in Hyōgo Prefecture and graduated with an art degree from Kyoto Seika University. Besides being a picture-book author and illustrator, he also works as a book designer. His solo-production picture books include *Natsu no ichinichi* (A Summer Day), *Kuu to Maa no Oboeru Ehon Series* (Kū and Mā's Learning Books Series) and *Dōbutsu nanbiki?* (How Many Animals?). Titles for which he provided illustrations include the *Shokora-chan* (Chocolat) series, with text by Hirotake Nakagawa, *Mahō no natsu* (Magical Summer; text by Kazue Fujiwara), and *Akachan ga yatte kita* (A Baby Is Coming; text by Eiko Kadono), among many others. He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books “as if it’s a present to my five-year-old self.” He shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations, and has experimented with design elements intended expressly for those reading the picture book to a group.

# Poko and Moko, the Lamb Twins

Jun Ichihara



Ages 0+

190 x 190 mm

38 pages

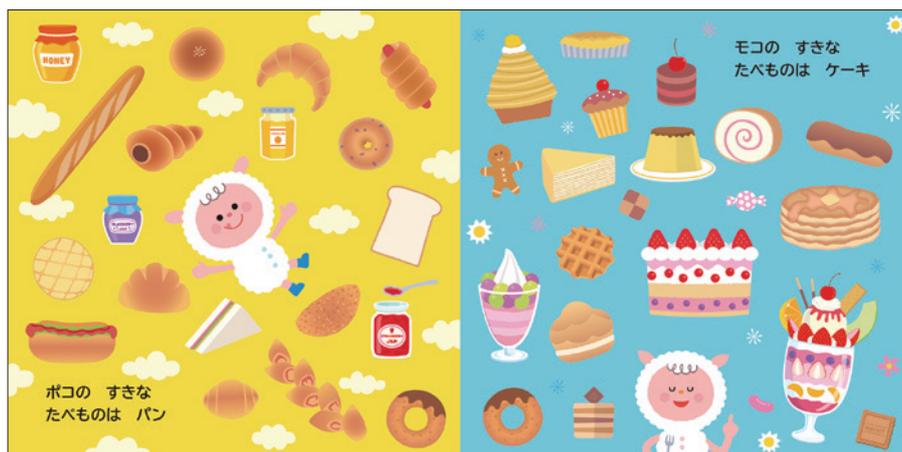
Hardcover

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).

# Gorillas Galore

Nao Takabatake



Ages 1+  
197 x 196 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591150559  
Rights sold:

A little boy whimsically imagines that everyone around him is a gorilla. Mama calls out, “Time to clean your room!” But when the reader turns the page, a cutout in the page frames Mama’s face on the previous page and turns her into a gorilla, who is now saying “Time to *ooh-ho ooh-ho*.”

Next to appear is Papa getting ready to leave for work. “No dallying for me. I’m off,” he says. Turn the page and another cutout has made him into a gorilla, and he’s now shown to be saying “*Ooh-ho ooh-ho*, I’m off.” In the same way, the boy’s pet dog, the lady next door and her cat, a shop clerk, a burglar, and a policeman all turn into gorillas, and finally the boy himself does the same, with *ooh-ho ooh-ho* the constant refrain after the transformation.

“My goal is always to make my readers laugh,” says author Nao Takabatake, and the clever cutouts and funny gorilla poses that appear one after the other are sure to have that effect on child and parent alike.



## About the Author

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*.

# What Do You Say ?

Text by **Minamisuna Sakura Nursery School**

Illus. by **jinco**



Ages 2+

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](http://www.minamisunasakura.com)

# Brush Brush Your Teeth

Text by **Kayoko Ogura**  
 Illus. by **jinco**



Ages 2+  
 140 x 140 mm  
 20 pages  
 Boardbook  
 ISBN 978-4591148082  
 Rights sold: China and Vietnam

This is a picture book for parents who wish to teach their child proper dental hygiene in a way that is both fun and memorable. How do you clean those hard-to-reach teeth at the back? What's the best way to rinse away the dislodged particles of food after brushing? The reader follows a boy who's just finished eating as he goes through the process of cleaning his teeth, learning the key concerns and correct techniques along the way with fold-overs and pop-ups to add interest. Sidebars provided by supervisory editor and practicing dentist Kayoko Ogura offer additional explanations and tips aimed to assist parents in establishing good brushing habits.



## 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, designing a wide variety of characters, including Tamagotchi creatures. Books she has illustrated include *Onna no ko toire* (The Little Girls' Room), *Nikkori goaisatsu* (What Do You Say?), and *Shaka-shaka hamigaki* (Brush Brush Your Teeth).

Kayoko Ogura (1969–) was born in Fukui Prefecture and graduated from the School of Dentistry at Nagasaki University in 1994. She is chief director of the Seiro-kai Medical Corporation's Shinjuku Gyoen-mae Sumire Dental Clinic. She has helped oversee the production of a number of dental hygiene books for children, including *Shaka-shaka hamigaki* (Brush Brush Your Teeth), *Hamigaki dekiru ka na?* (Can You Brush Your Teeth?), and *Nezumi-kun to issho: Ha ha ha ha* (Together with Little Mouse: All About Your Teeth).

# Kū and Mā's Learning Books: What's This Animal?

Koshiro Hata



Ages 2+

200 x 195 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591148099

Rights sold: China

This is the ninth volume in the *Kū and Mā's Learning Books* series featuring the twin bear cubs Kū, a boy, and Mā, a girl, in storylines that help small children learn colors, shapes, body parts, modes of transportation, types of stores, proper greetings, the names of foods and animals, kinds of weather, and so on.

Today, the twins are playing with clay. They each set to work shaping an animal, and when they're satisfied with what they've done, turn to each other and say, "What's this?" Their first creations are a giraffe and an elephant, shown first as blank clay figures for readers to guess what they are just from their shapes, and then shown again on the next page with their usual colors and markings identifying them clearly. Kū and Mā continue making more animals—a lion, a leopard, a gorilla, a hedgehog, an alligator, a tiger, a zebra, a panda, a hippopotamus—and asking "What's this?" Next come animals of the sea—a whale, a flying fish, a seal, a penguin, a dugong, a crab, a jellyfish, a shark, a squid, a dolphin, a sea turtle, a starfish, and a sea snake. Then they make clay figures of all their friends—a dog, a cat, a monkey, a squirrel, a bat, a swallow, a sheep, a deer, a badger, and a number of other domestic and wild creatures. Each time, the animals appear first as blank silhouettes before their identities are revealed in full vibrant colors on the next page, giving young readers a chance to match shapes with names and see how many they have learned.

Kū and Mā are playing with many of their friends when—*stomp stomp*—a giant bear comes along. It's their papa. "Play with us," the twins say, so Papa Bear says, "Okay, what shall we make?" Bears, of course!



## About the Author

Koshiro Hata (1963–) was born in Hyōgo Prefecture and graduated with an art degree from Kyoto Seika University. Besides being a picture-book author and illustrator, he also works as a book designer. His solo-production picture books include *Natsu no ichinichi* (A Summer Day), *Kuu to Maa no Oboeru Ehon Series* (Kū and Mā's Learning Books Series) and *Dōbutsu nanbiki?* (How Many Animals?). Titles for which he provided illustrations include the *Shokora-chan* (Chocolat) series, with text by Hiroataka Nakagawa, *Mahō no natsu* (Magical Summer; text by Kazue Fujiwara), and *Akachan ga yatte kita* (A Baby Is Coming; text by Eiko Kadono), among many others. He has said that he approaches drawing for picture books "as if it's a present to my five-year-old self." He shows a vibrant sense of color in his illustrations, and has experimented with design elements intended expressly for those reading the picture book to a group.

# Happy Birthday

## Mamoru Suzuki



Ages 2+  
150 x 165 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591146392  
Rights sold:

Everybody has a birthday once a year. On any given date, millions upon millions of people around the world celebrate their lives by marking the day of their birth. This picture book highlights what a precious thing it is to be born.

A baby spends many months inside its mother's womb waiting to be born. Then one special day it arrives, opens its eyes, nurses on mother's milk, and continues growing on its own. Soon it learns to crawl, then to stand, to walk, and to run, until eventually another person has taken flight into the big wide world. Author Mamoru Suzuki has drawn each stage of the baby's growth in soft, warm colors, accompanying the artwork with a minimum of words. One can feel in the drawings the all-encompassing love that fills parents' hearts as they welcome their children into the world and watch them grow.



### About the Author

Mamoru Suzuki (1952–) was born in Tokyo. He entered Tokyo University of the Arts to study ceramics, but withdrew without completing a degree. Thereafter he exercised his creative energies mainly through picture books and illustrations. His first published work as a picture-book artist was *Boku no ōkina ki* (My Big Tree), with a story by Masao Tsurumi, which came out in 1980. He won the Akaitori Award for Illustration in 1995 for his work on the series *Kuroneko Sangorō* (Sangorō, the Black Cat; text by Fumiko Takeshita). In 2006 he received the Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *Boku no tori no su enikki* (My Illustrated Diary of Birds' Nests). In 2015 *Niwashidori no Himitsu* (Secret of the Bowebird) won the Sankei Children's Book Award, JR Award. After moving to the Izu Peninsula in 1986, he became fascinated by the many forms that birds' nests take, and began studying and collecting them. His collection has since grown to some 230 varieties and over 550 specimens, and he has mounted exhibits all around the country that feature the nests together with his paintings. He has published many picture books and articles relating to nests, including *Tori no su monogatari* (Bird Nest Stories), *Tori no su no hon* (The Book of Birds' Nests), *Boku no tori no su korekushon* (My Bird Nest Collection), and *Tori no su kenkyū nōto* (Bird Nest Field Notes).

# My First Adventure 8: Whose Voice Is That?

## Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 2+

155 x 155 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149706

Rights sold: China, France and  
Taiwan

This is the eighth book in author Tatsuhide Matsuoka's *Hajimete no bōken* (My First Adventure) series, designed to help even the smallest children get to know the natural world around them. This volume focuses on animal calls.

A little boy named Aki hears someone calling his name and asks, "Whose voice is that?" On the next page readers learn that it's the neighbor girl, Rin. Together they hear a *meow*, and ask, "Whose voice is that?" On the next page readers learn that it's a cat. All three together perk up their ears when they hear a *ne-e-eiigh*, and ask, "Whose voice is that?" And so on. Following the horse comes a frog, dog, goose, dinosaur, and goat. And then, in a humorous twist, the final page reveals a critter without a voice: a snail. The book gives young readers a chance to guess the name of each animal from its call, and is designed to be easy for them to learn from by reading aloud with their parents.

The series began with *Pyōn* (Jump!), featuring animals that jump, and *Ana* (Holes), featuring a variety of nest holes, and has subsequently included volumes on animal footprints, animal droppings, animals expressing surprise, animals turning somersaults or rolling over, and animal names that start with the last sound of the previous name.



### About the Author

Tatsuhide Matsuoka (1944–) was born in Niigata Prefecture. He developed a strong interest in nature while in grade school, and spent much of his time observing and gathering specimens. For the last four decades he has been one of Japan's foremost illustrators specializing in the natural sciences. His extensive fieldwork has taken him throughout Japan as well as to Central and South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa, and he has channeled the fruits of those travels into a number of scientific picture books. He won a Japan Picture Book Award in 1981 for *Amazon no nepuchūn kabuto* (The Neptune Beetle of the Amazon; text by Yoshitake Suzuki); the Japan Science Book Award in 1993 for *Janguru* (Jungle); and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award in 2009 for *Noasobi o tanoshimu satoyama hyakunen zukan* (Illustrated Guide to Woodland Fun). Among his many other titles are *Kyōryū tanken zukan* (Dinosaur Expedition Illustrated), *Kusahara don* (Stamp the Grass), and *Dango mushi sora o tobu* (Pill Bug Takes to the Air).

# How Much Longer, How Much Longer?

Fumiko Takeshita



Ages 2+

200 x 195 mm

27 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149690

Rights sold:

This book focuses on times of anticipation when baby animals or children are waiting for their mother to come, wondering anxiously, “How much longer? How much longer?”—and on those special moments that follow when she finally arrives. Depicted in the story are kittens, a baby koala, a baby sea lion, some ducklings, and a little girl, as they wait for their mother to come play with them or pick them up. After each offspring wonders “How much longer?” for what seems like forever, the mother finally arrives, and the little ones burst into smiles. The mothers beam, too, and the joyful scenes radiate with warmth. There are many times in the course of an average day when a child must wait for a mother’s attention—whether to have some play time or just to get a hug. The bursting smiles from both when the wait is over express mother and child’s unwavering bond and love for each other.



## About the Author

Fumiko Takeshita (1957–) was born in Fukuoka Prefecture and graduated from Tokyo Gakugei University with a degree in education. She began writing for children while still in school. In 1979 she received the Noma Prize for New Writers of Children’s Literature for her collection of fantasy stories *Hoshi to toranpetto* (Stars and Trumpet). She subsequently won a Japan Picture Book Award in 1985 for *Mugiwara bōshi* (Straw Hat), and the Robō-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1994 for her *Kuroneko Sangorō* (Sangorō the Black Cat) series. Among her trademarks are easy-to-read text with memorable phrasings, and stories that reflect the playfulness of children. In addition to working as a translator, she often collaborates with her artist husband Mamoru Suzuki, as in *Senro wa tsuzuku* (The Tracks Stretch On) and *Ringo no ojisan* (The Apple Man). In 2009 she received the Sankei Children’s Book Fuji TV Award for her nursery tale *Hirake! nankin-mame* (Open, Peanut!). Takeshita lives in Shizuoka Prefecture.

# Stretchy Wolf

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 3+

190 x 185 mm

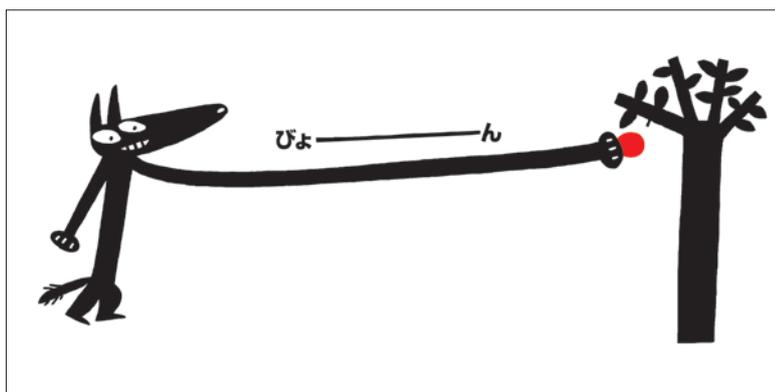
26 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150955

Rights sold:

Wolf is ambling along when he sees an apple hanging from a tree, seemingly well out of reach. Too bad, you think, but just then, *bwan-nng*, Wolf's arm stretches all the way across the page to grab the apple. Next he sees a bunch of bananas hanging from a tree. This time, *boyon-nng*, his leg stretches out and he knocks the bananas down with his foot. Whether he sees a fish in a pond, or a watermelon, or even a star high above, one part or another of Wolf's body stretches out to capture the objects of his desire, one after the other. Author Tatsuya Miyanishi keeps the artwork very simple—mostly black on white, with other colors used only for the objects Wolf reaches for. The dynamic sense of movement in both the fun-to-say onomatopoeias and the suddenly—and absurdly—stretched body parts make this a wonderful book to read aloud to even the smallest child.



## 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 tyrannosaur with 13 titles to date has been particularly popular.

# Kuri the Hamster Picture Books Series: Kuri and the Sunflower Seeds

Kaya Doi



Ages 3+  
190 x 190 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-44591150603  
(Vol.1)  
Rights sold:



Kuri and Her Cousins



Kuri and Her Neighbors' Tomatoes

This is a series of picture books featuring a cute little hamster girl named Kuri who likes to cook.

In *Kuri-chan to himawari no tane* (Kuri and the Sunflower Seeds), Kuri grows some sunflowers because their seeds are one of her favorite foods. When the seeds are ready, she asks her friends to help her harvest them. Afterwards she bakes a great big sunflower-seed cake, and they have a rousing party.

In *Kuri-chan to Pi to Na to Tsu* (Kuri and Her Cousins), Kuri's three little cousins come to play, and by the time she's read to them, drawn pictures with them, and played tag with them, she's all worn out. But then they give her a wonderful massage, and they eat the food and snacks she prepares for them with such obvious delight that it seems completely worth it and she feels happy.

In *Kuri-chan to E-me-san no tomato* (Kuri and Her Neighbors' Tomatoes), the goat couple living next door, who are master gardeners, end up with more tomatoes than they know what to do with. Kuri ponders the tomatoes for a while and then recruits some friends to help her cook up a storm of tomato dishes—tomato chips, tomato cookies, tomato cupcakes, tomato pie, tomato candy, tomato yogurt, chocolate tomatoes, and so forth. Mr. and Mrs. Goat are delighted.

Growing plants, making good food, sharing it with friends—Kuri's days are filled with excitement and pleasure. The meticulously drawn, warm-toned artwork rendered in colored pencil seems to exude the bounty and joy of her life from corner to corner. The reissue of these three titles originally published from 2004 to 2006 gives many readers their first opportunity to experience the charm of popular picture-book author Kaya Doi's early work.



## About the Author

Kaya Doi (1969–) was born in Tokyo and graduated with a degree in design from Tokyo Zōkei University. She got her start with picture books by attending the Atosaki Juku workshop conducted by editor Akifumi Doi and others under the auspices of Tom's Box, a Tokyo bookshop specializing in picture books. Her first published work was *Chippu to Choko no odekake* (Chip and Choc Go Out) in 1996. Since then she has produced numerous picture books featuring her softly styled, color-pencil drawings, including *Pan-chan no osanpo* (Panda Takes a Walk), *Itazura koyōte Kyū* (Naughty Coyote Q), *Mikeneko Kyarako* (Calico Cat Cally), *Koneko Pokarina* (Kitty Pokarina), *Karon to Koron—haru natsu aki fuyu yottsu no ohanashi* (Carrie and Corrie—Four Tales of Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter), and *Neko no kasan no asagohan* (Mama Cat Makes Breakfast). She has also authored a number of storybooks. She now lives in Chiba Prefecture and maintains a strong interest in environmental and animal welfare issues; following the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011 she was active in recovery and shelter efforts for abandoned pets.

# Little Friends

Text by **Reiko Katayama**

Illus. by **Takako Kawakami**



Ages 5+

189 x 262 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645504

Rights sold:

Michiko is sitting on a chair in her yard about to bite into a cookie when she sees a butterfly, frog, lizard, and brown-eared bulbul gathered in a flowerpot at her feet. The frog points to a small bottle filled with yellow powder. The powder is sweet when she tastes it, and the frog and his companions are all nodding at her to taste more, so she eats it all—and suddenly she discovers that she has shrunk to only three centimeters tall!

Now that Michiko is their own size, her new animal friends invite her to come to their yard to play, so she goes along. On the way a passing car startles her because it is so big, but the frog and lizard barely notice (the butterfly and the bulbul are on their way by air). They all arrive safely in a wide-open space where there are no cars, and Michiko enjoys exploring the forest of clover and dandelions and other plants that tower over her. Then the bulbul tells Michiko to hop on his back, and gives her a tour by air. When they are done, he lets her off on a weeping willow tree, and she slides down a branch to the ground. By this time they're all a little worn out, so they lie down on beds of grass to rest. After a snooze, Michiko is ready to go home. Back in her yard, they all share her cookie, and then Michiko takes some of the special brown nectar the frog brings her and returns to her original size. She asks if she can become small and play with them again sometime, and her new friends all look up at her and nod enthusiastically.

The highly polished text by picture-book author and poet Reiko Katayama and distinctive artwork by illustrator Takako Kawakami usher readers seamlessly into an imaginary world of adventure filled with vivid colors.



## About the Author

Reiko Katayama (1949–) was born in Gunma Prefecture. Known as a poet, children's author, and translator, she uses her finely-honed command of the language to warm readers' hearts. Her works include the poetry collections *Natsu no kanmuri* (Crown of Summer) and *Yuki to kēki* (Snow and Cake); the poetry-and-picture books *Buriki no onpu* (Tin Notes; illustrated by Yuki Sasameya) and *Chokorēto no yōsei* (The Chocolate Nymph; illustrated by 100% Orange); and the picture books *Mori ni meguru inochi* (The Life that Flows through the Forest; photos by Kazuma Anezaki), *Tanoshii fuyugomori* (Happy Hibernation), *Mori no tegami* (Letters to the Forest), and the series *Nousagi no ohanashi ehon* (Hare and Friends Picture Books; all illustrated by Ken Katayama).

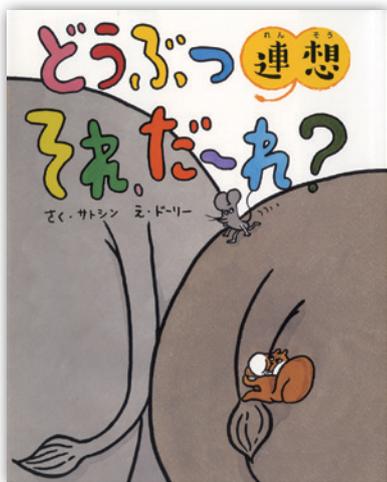
Takako Kawakami (1967–) was born in Tokyo, and is a graduate of the Setsu Mode Seminar design school. She is known for her cute and highly original illustrations, and for the distinctive sensibilities of her picture books. Her picture-book titles include *Watashi no o-he√√ya ryokō* (My Room Journeys), *Konbanwa Aoko-san* (Good Evening, Aoko), and the *Kii-chan no takaramono ehon* (Kii-chan's Treasures) series.

<http://tsubutane.exblog.jp/>

# Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+

282 x 216 mm

32 pages

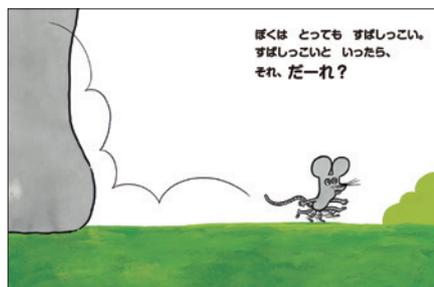
Hardcover

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 mazekoze 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.

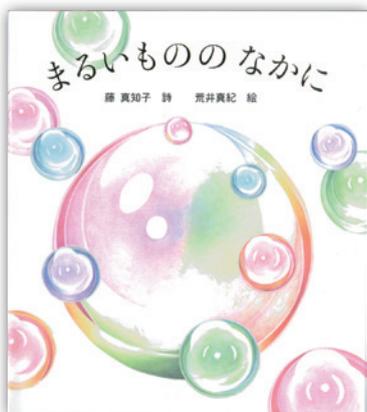
[www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s](http://www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s)

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 mazekoze 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).

# Inside Something Round

Text by **Machiko Fuji**

Illus. by **Maki Arai**



Ages 3+

190 x 170 mm

24 pages

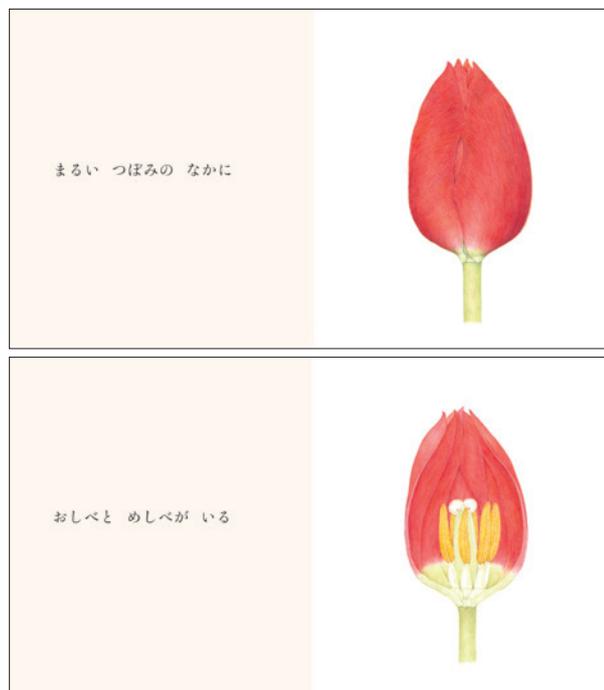
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149140

Rights sold:

Inside a plump, rounded tulip bud are stamens and pistils. Inside a juicy ripe peach is a pit that will one day sprout into a new tree. Inside the tiny round insect egg stuck to a leaf are the makings of a future butterfly. Inside the protective round walls of a bird's nest are newborn hatchlings that someday soon will take flight . . . Think of other round objects—the Earth, a pregnant woman's belly, soap bubbles—and you realize that they all contain wonderfully precious things.

The poetic language describing what these round things contain is accompanied by delicate and intricately drawn botanical artwork; together they express the beauty of life and the promise of the future. The book is highly recommended as a gift to celebrate a child's birth.



## About the Author

Machiko Fuji was born in Tokyo and graduated from Tokyo Woman's Christian University. She made her debut as a children's author in 1985 with *Majoko donna ko fushigi na ko* (Who Is Magical Majoko?), a series about a child witch. Targeted at lower elementary readers, it has now reached 58 volumes and continues to enjoy tremendous popularity. Among Fuji's many other works are the 50-volume *Watashi no mama wa majo* (My Mother Is a Witch) series, the *Himeko-hime* (Princess Himeko) series, and the picture books *Motto shachō to Moribāba no mori* (President More and Granny Woods's Woods) and *Nekkobā no okurimono* (Granny Nekko's Gift).

[www.machiko-fuji.jp](http://www.machiko-fuji.jp)

Maki Arai (1965–) was born in Tokyo and graduated from the Faculty of Buddhism at Komazawa University. When she was 16, she began studying under leading Japanese plant artist Chikabo Kumada (1911–2009), and for three consecutive years beginning in 1984 she received honorable mentions at the Japan Gardening Society's annual Botanical Art Exhibition. Picture books she has authored or collaborated on include *Himawari* (Sunflower), *Asagao* (Morning Glories), *Nettai urin o iku* (Through a Tropical Rain Forest), and *Azuki* (Adzuki Beans).

# Bashful Bunny White

Kaori Tajima



Ages 3+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150245

Rights sold:

Little Bunny White arrives with her older sister and mother at Grandma's house, to spend her summer vacation on the coast. But the shy bunny hides behind her mother when she sees her Grandma for the first time in so long, and at dinner she hides behind her again at the sight of all the strange seafood dishes on the table. Grandma runs a general store filled with interesting things she'd like to see, but Bunny White hides behind the doorpost, unable to bring herself to enter. Then she sees a cardboard box with a hand-hole in it and upends it over her head: now she can stay hidden while she explores the store by looking out the hole. Grandma suggests it might be more comfortable if she cuts additional holes for her ears and arms, and when Bunny White puts the box back on after that, she's now Bunny Robot. The little girl bunny's shyness gradually melts away as she adds more bells and whistles to the box to become Bunny Super Robot, then Bunny Super Robot Deluxe. With her shyness gone, she no longer hides when customers come, and she's ready to enjoy all the differences of life on the coast—learning the local dialect, names of fish, and so forth.

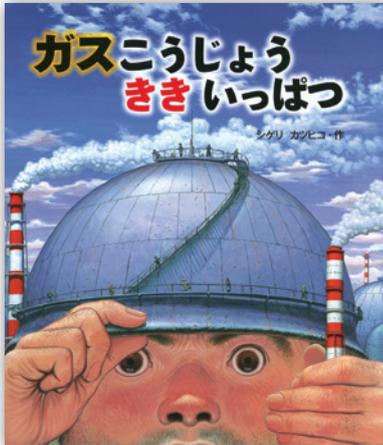


## About the Author

Kaori Tajima was born in Tokyo and graduated from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University. After a stint as an in-house designer, she attended Atosaki Juku, a long-running workshop for aspiring picture-book authors, on her way to becoming a picture-book author and illustrator herself. Her published titles include *Neige* (Snow), the picture book and picture-panel story (*kamishibai*) published in France in 2013, and the picture books *Obentō wa mama no otegami* (Lunch Is a Message from Mama) and *Papa wa mahō no kēkiya-san* (My Papa's a Cake Wizard).

# 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).

# Settle the White and Black of It, Good Zebra

Text by **Ikuko Nagai**

Illus. by **Junko Kusuhara**



Ages 4+

262 x 215 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645634

Rights sold:

This story is built on the association between a zebra's black and white stripes and the Japanese expression *shirokuro o tsukeru*, literally “determine white and black,” which idiomatically means to “settle a question once and for all.” The underlying concept is said to come from the game of go, where the superior player uses the white stones and the weaker player the black stones—so white means strong/correct/good/innocent and black means weak/wrong/bad/guilty.

Zebra is taking a walk on the African savannah and comes upon Lion and Rhinoceros arguing over who's the strongest. They see Zebra and say to him, in effect, “You're white and black, so you settle the white and black of it for us.” Not knowing what to say, Zebra simply walks on. Next he meets Gazelle at a watering hole. She has a tricolor chrysanthemum and a rose and wants to know which looks better on her. “Settle the white and black of it for me,” she says. Zebra walks on again without giving an answer. Soon he comes upon Sloth in a tree and Parrot fluttering nearby. Sloth thinks Parrot is too hyperactive and Parrot thinks Sloth is too lazy, and they too ask Zebra to settle who's right.

Zebra decides to go home, but then the other animals come to find him there, insisting on an answer. They accuse him of not living up to his stripes, of being a fraud, and tell him they want answers by the next morning. Zebra goes to bed and has a nightmare about his stripes melting away.

When he wakes up, he's relieved to see in the mirror that he still has his stripes. Then he looks out the window and sees a stork flying by, its plumage mostly white but with black feathers on its wings, and the answer comes to him. When the animals gather he tells them, “I don't have to choose between white and black. It's having both white and black that's special.”

The brightly colored illustrations of Africa's open landscapes and carefree animals add to the charm of the story.

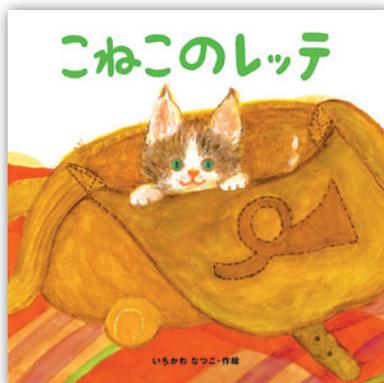
## About the Author

Ikuko Nagai (1955–) was born in Hiroshima Prefecture and graduated from Tama Art University with a degree in oil painting. She made her debut as a picture book illustrator in 1979 with the translated title *Pinocchio*. She subsequently collaborated on numerous books with text by Teruo Teramura, including the *Wakatta-san no okashi* (*Wakatta-san's Sweets*) series, the *Kaizoku Poketto* (*Pirate Pocket*) series, and the *Mahōtsukai no Reo-kun* (*Leo the Wizard*) series. Her first solo picture book was *Doragon-maru no bōken* (*The Adventures of the Dragon Ship*), which also became a series. In the *Oshare-san no chadō hajimete monogatari* (*Miss Chic's First Lessons in Tea*) series, a fashion-conscious little girl decides she wants to learn how to perform an old-fashioned tea ceremony, and readers learn the rudiments of the art along with her. Besides producing picture books, Nagai is heavily involved in presenting puppet plays, films, and other cultural enrichment programs based on children's stories all around the country. [www.nagai-ehon.com/](http://www.nagai-ehon.com/)

Junko Kusuhara was born in Osaka Prefecture and graduated from Osaka Shōin Women's University. She works as an illustrator for picture books and children's stories. Titles she has collaborated on as an illustrator include *Jūnishi no ohanashi* (*The Story of the Chinese Zodiac*), *Appuppu* (*First One to Laugh*), *Saru kani gassen* (*The Crab and the Monkey*), *Kujaku no Jakku no dai-dassou* (*Jack the Peacock's Great Escape*). Her solo titles include *Tōmei no sai* (*The Invisible Rhinoceros*).

# Little Kitty Lette

Natsuko Ichikawa



Ages 4+

230 x 230 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591103029

Rights sold:

Lette the kitten belongs to a postal carrier who lives in a third-floor apartment. The little kitty's favorite spot to rest when the mailman is away is in an old mail-carrier's bag that now hangs unused. It's warm inside, and Lette likes the way it rocks.

One day when Lette is snoozing, a honeybee buzzes by. The kitty leaps from the bag to give chase, rushing out onto the balcony, jumping from railing to railing down to the ground, and continuing the pursuit along the street. The bee leads Lette to the nearby school, where it disappears among some flowers. Then Lette sees some birds in a tree on the school grounds and decides to climb after them. The birds fly away, but Lette likes it up in the tree where the view is nice and the murmur of school-children's voices from below is soothing. Before long Lette has nodded off to sleep.

Suddenly there is thunder and a heavy rain begins to fall. Terrified, Lette clings to the branch and meows in distress. Then a little girl named Bell from Lette's apartment building recognizes the forlorn kitty. She was on the playground for gym class when the rain started. Bell's teacher climbs the tree to rescue Lette.

Teacher and children take the sodden Lette back to their classroom to dry out. Since gym was rained out, they have art class instead, and everyone paints a picture of the kitty. The children give Lette milk at lunch, and the rest of the school day seems to go by in a flash. When school is over, Bell takes the kitty home. Since the mailman hasn't returned yet, she posts a note on his door to let him know Lette is with her. When the mailman gets back, he is surprised to learn about Lette's unexpected adventure. He thanks Bell, and back in the third-floor apartment, Lette snuggles as usual into the old mail-carrier's bag and falls fast asleep.

Scenes from the daylong adventure of a slightly mischievous little kitten are portrayed in soft lines and glowing colors. The constantly changing surroundings as Lette hurries through town to the school gives readers the sense that they are on an adventure, too.

## About the Author

Natsuko Ichikawa (1974–) was born in Chiba Prefecture and graduated from Joshibi University of Art and Design. After college she worked for a photoengraving company and a bakery to pay the bills, but set her sights on becoming a picture-book author. Her publishing debut came in 2002 with *Ryukku no o-shigoto* (Lyuku's Jobs), a story based on a composite of her own two dogs. Being an animal lover, most of her works are about animals, including the picture books *Koguma no Mimo no jamuya-san* (Little Bear Mimo Helps Nanna in Her Jam Shop) and *O-tsuki-mi pikunikku* (Moon-Viewing Picnic). Ichikawa is also an illustrator of many children's books, including the *Kukkī no ōsama* (King Cookie) series by Fumiko Takeshita.

# The Small Town

## Shinsaku Fujita

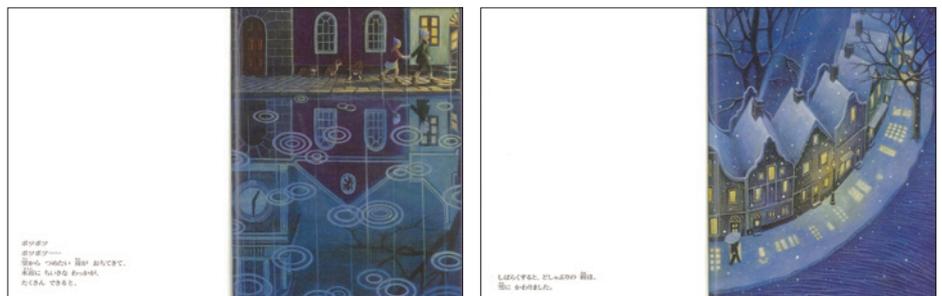


Ages 5+  
245 x 187 mm  
31 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4882642466  
Rights sold:

In a little town a little girl is sunning herself on the stoop in front of her house when her older brother comes to invite her on a walk. They start out hand in hand, going to their left. As they proceed, the edge of the walk to their right abuts on water, which brilliantly mirrors the figures of the two little children as well as the distinctively detailed houses behind them as they pass. They meet a man who is fishing and watch rings spread out on the placid water when he jiggles his bobber. They watch golden leaves falling on the water and creating ripples every which way. They see a duck gliding gently along the surface leaving a faint wake.

As they enjoy the sights along the water's edge, the sky begins to grow dark. Then rain starts to fall, peppering the water with countless small rings. The little girl is getting worried, but the boy hurries her onward, and soon they see their house come into view. When they reach the door, their mother welcomes them home. Before long, the rain turns to snow. The perspective that began to zoom out at the point where the children hastened their steps now shows the entire town blanketed in a soft layer of white: the buildings are arranged in a perfect circle, all facing out onto the water. Inside the house the children's mother brings out a round cake that seems to imitate the shape of the town—with five candles burning on top. Today is the little girl's birthday—another year has passed.

Through his utterly simple story and colorful, meticulously detailed artwork, author Shinsaku Fujita has captured the subtle beauties of an ordinary day across the seasons in a way that is sure to resonate with readers of all ages.



### About the Author

Shinsaku Fujita (1956–) was born in Shizuoka Prefecture and graduated from Musashino Art University with a degree in visual communication design. He has established himself as one of Japan's most popular and talented cover illustrators, with several thousand books to his credit, including numerous titles by such best-selling authors as Stephen King and Miyuki Miyabe as well as multivolume collections like Rampo Edogawa's *Shintei shōnen tantei: Edogawa Rampo* (The New and Revised Boy Detectives: Rampo Edogawa; 26 vols.) and Maurice Leblanc's *Shintei shirīzu kaitō Rupan* (The New and Revised Gentleman Burglar Lupan Series; 20 vols.). Fujita made his debut as a picture-book author in 2009 with *Chiisana machi* (The Small Town).

# 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.

# Bicycles, Creak Creak

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Tomomi Shimada**



Ages 5+

280 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

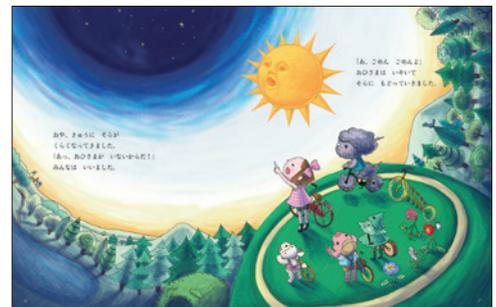
ISBN 978-4882645641

Rights sold:

Two new bicycles are delivered from the store. The larger one is for Little Pink, the smaller one for her dog Bonbon. Pink and Bonbon start out on a ride. Their bicycles make creaking noises as they pedal along the road headed into town. They enjoy being able to go so much farther on a bike ride than they can on a walk.

In town they go up a hill and then back down. As they emerge into the country again, their friend Pig calls to them: “Can I come with you?” He falls in behind them, and as the road winds on through the countryside, through a cedar forest, and through a tunnel, others join them, too: some flowers on a four-seat bike, Little Girl Cedar on a bike with wooden wheels; and Tunnel Boy, who looks like a cloud of smoke riding on wheels of smoke. The road then starts up the side of a mountain, and everybody must pedal hard. When they reach the top, Mr. Sunshine sees them and wants to join the fun, but he doesn’t have a bicycle, so Little Pink gives him a ride on the back of hers. The procession of bicyclers pedal around and around a loop that circles the summit. But with Mr. Sunshine gone from his usual perch, the sky grows dark, so he hurries back to where he belongs. Then the others decide it’s time for them to go, too. They coast down the mountain at top speed and say their good-byes as each rider drops out of the procession at his or her home.

The story conveys the excitement and exhilaration of going for a bicycle ride with friends. The onomatopoeic refrain *creak creak* that appears on nearly every page helps stimulate young imaginations.



## About the Author

Eiko Kadono (1935–) was born in Tokyo. She moved to Brazil for two years when she was 25, and wrote her maiden work, *Ruijinnyo shōnen, Burajiru o tazunete* (Brazil and My Friend Luizinho), a nonfictional story about a boy who loves to dance the samba, based on her experiences there. Seven years after its release she began writing and publishing children’s stories. Among the many accolades she has received are the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award in 1984 for *Watashi no mama wa Shizukasan* (My Mama is Shizuka) and *Zubon senchō-san no hanashi* (Tales of an Old Sea Captain). She won the Noma Prize for Children’s Literature, the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award, and a place on the IBBY Honor List in 1985 for *Majo no takkyūbin* (tr. Kiki’s Delivery Service), which was adapted into a wildly popular animated film by renowned director Hayao Miyazaki.

Tomomi Shimada (1975–) was born in Tochigi Prefecture and graduated from Tama Art University with a degree in oil painting. After college she established herself as a freelance illustrator for magazines, CD covers, and such. Her series of picture books featuring a playful and mischievous little girl named Iira have won wide popularity. Among her other titles are the interactive picture books *Doa o aketara* (When You Open the Door) and *Henshin ressha* (Shape-Shifting Train).

Website: <http://i-rachan.com/>

# Explained in Pictures: Construction Sites

Yoh Morinaga



Ages 5+

310 x 220 mm

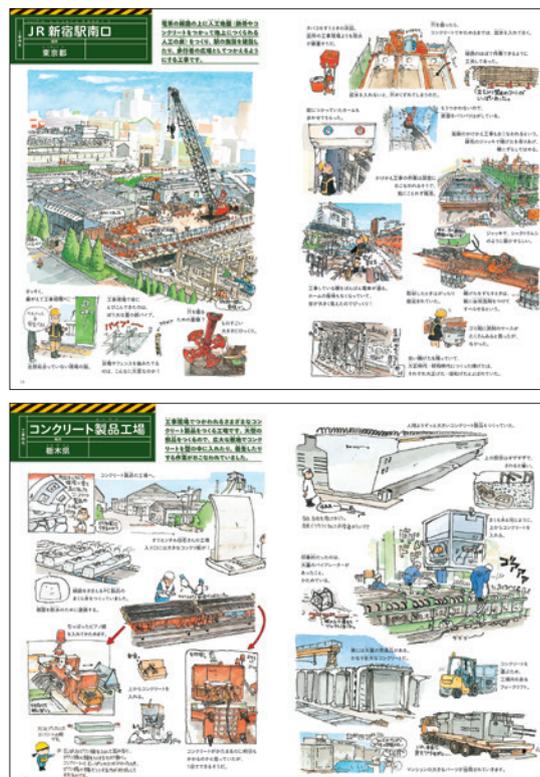
47 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147160

Rights sold:

Illustrator Yoh Morinaga, known for his intricate artwork geared to educational ends, here offers up illustrations of 14 major construction sites from real life: railways, train stations, expressways, a factory, a tunnel, an airport, dams, and more. Unfolding before the reader's eyes are scenes of the kind that few people generally have an opportunity to see firsthand, filled with unusual equipment and a tremendous variety of activity. All are accompanied by the author's uniquely styled explanations of what is going on, giving readers an inside view of the latest technologies and types of work involved in major building projects today. The featured sites range from Shinjuku Station and Haneda Airport, which are familiar even to visitors from overseas, to a bypass and underpass in remote Hokkaido, lesser-known rail and highway construction sites in Tokyo and elsewhere, and even a factory where few outsiders ever set foot. The work is based on the 2010 book *Morinaga Yo no doboku genba ni itte mita!* (Yoh Morinaga Visits Construction Sites!), which has been re-edited here with younger readers in mind.



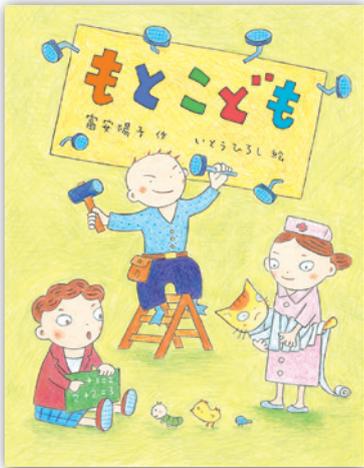
## About the Author

Yoh Morinaga (1966–) was born in Tokyo and graduated from the Waseda University School of Education. A Manga Study Circle member while a student, as an author he has carved out a niche as a journalist who reports by means of intricately drawn artwork. His picture-book titles include *Shinkansen to sharyō kichi* (Bullet Train and Rail Yard), *Shōbōsha to haipā resukyū* (Fire Engines and the Hyper Rescue Team), *Jettoki to kūkō, kanseitō* (Jet Planes, Airports, and Control Towers), *Tsukiji Ichiba: E de miru uo-ichiba no ichinichi* (The Tsukiji Market: A Day at the Fish Market in Pictures), and *Zukai ehon: Kōji genba* (Explained in Pictures: Construction Sites).

# Used to Be Children

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**

Illus. by **Hiroshi Ito**



Ages 5+

280 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149157

Rights sold:

My grandpa used to be a carpenter. I wonder what his life was like before that? My mom is now teacher. I wonder how she spent her time before that? The young woman who lives across the street from my house is now a nurse. I wonder what she was like when she was little? Butterflies, frogs, chickens, tigers, pandas, and seals—did they all used to be different, too?

A child now going through his childhood has realized, with some surprise, that his elderly grandpa and grandma used to have jobs that kept them and active every day; that his parents and every other adult he knows were once children; and that all animals and insects living in the world around him used to be younger, too. A child reflects on this and considers what he wants to grow up to be in the future.



## About the Author

Yoko Tomiyasu (1959–) was born in Tokyo and graduated from Wakō University. She made her writerly debut at 25, and received the JAWC New Talent Award and Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award in 1989 for *Kunugi-bayashi no Zawazawa-sō* (The Rustling Oak Lodge). She has gone on to win the Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award in 1997 for her *Chiisana Suzuna-hime* (Little Princess Suzuna) series; the Sankei Children's Book Award in 2001 for *Sora e tsuzuku shinwa* (The Sky Myth); and the Noma Prize for Children's Literature as well as the Sankei Children's Book Fuji TV Award in 2011 for *Bon-maneki* (Bon Invitation), about a girl who visits her grandparents in the countryside for the annual Bon festival and experiences something miraculous.

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, Itō 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.

# 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 yūbinkyōku* (Polar Bear Post Office).

# 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).

# Always Be Prepared Earthquake Notes: A Disaster Manual for Parent and Child

Text by **Jishin Itsumo Project** Illus. by **Bunpei Yorifuji**



Ages 8+

220 x 185 mm

47 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591125564

Rights sold:

In Japan, earthquakes are not a question of if but when—which means it is essential to always be prepared. The original *Jishin itsumo nōto* (Always Be Prepared Earthquake Notes), published in 2007, has sold more than 100,000 copies. This is a new condensed version of the book designed expressly for parents to use in educating their children about disaster preparedness. Both editions were put together under the auspices of the Jishin Itsumo Project, which has been spreading the “not if but when” disaster-preparedness message both through printed works and on the Web ([www.jishin-itsumo.com](http://www.jishin-itsumo.com)). The project’s *Jishin itsumo nōto* series of books began by giving voice to 167 victims of the Great Hanshin (Kobe) Earthquake of 1995, who described the effects of the quake as they personally experienced it, offering lessons learned as well as survival tips.

The book covers such basic questions as how earthquakes are caused, what it feels like when they occur, and what kind of damage they can cause. It then offers preparedness advice on how to prevent or reduce damage when an earthquake strikes as well as what to do under various conditions after the shaking stops. The voices of people who experienced the earthquake are woven in throughout, remarking on such things as how they escaped harm, how well this or that safety measure worked, and so forth. With young readers in mind, the language is kept simple, and copious illustrations aid understanding as well. The emphasis is on measures children can themselves play a role in implementing: e.g., “If you always carry a large handkerchief, it can be used as either a mask or a bandage in an emergency” and “Families should plan ahead of time where they will meet up after a major quake.” At the end of the volume is an illustrated list of emergency items families should consider acquiring, including suggestions for different purposes they can serve. Parents are urged to read the book together with their children and use it as a way to start conversations about what specific measures make the best sense for their family.

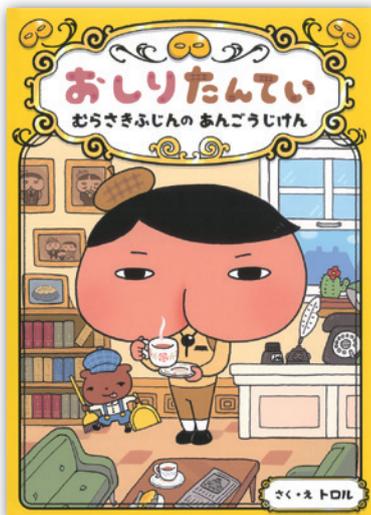


## About the Author

Bunpei Yorifuji (1973–) is a graphic designer and illustrator born in Nagano Prefecture. He illustrates for Japan Tobacco’s “Adult Smoking Manners” ads as well as for other ad campaigns, and also designs book covers. His publications include *Shini katarogu* (The Catalog of Death) and *Rakugaki masutā: Kaku koto ga tonoshiku naru e no kihon* (Master of Imagination and Drawing).

# 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.



Vol.2



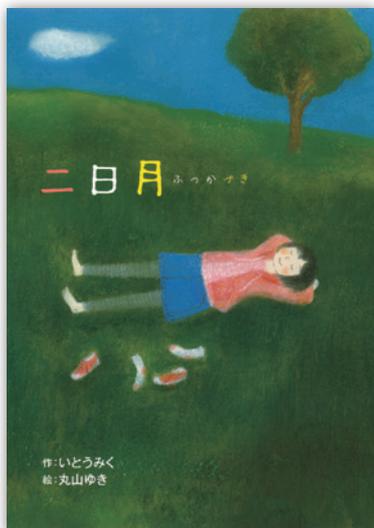
Vol.3

### 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.

# Second Day Moon

Miku Itō



Ages 8+

194 x 134 mm

207 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645375

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

The main character is An, a girl in fourth grade. Her long-awaited little sister has just been born, and Mommy and Daddy named her Mei. In the first family picture of the four of them together, everybody is beaming. But a month after Mei was born, Mommy and Daddy don't seem their usual selves, and her new little sister keeps spitting everything back up after nursing. It seems so serious, she's afraid to ask, but she finally screws up her courage. Her parents tell her that because of something that happened when Mei was being born, the doctor has said she might not live very long, and even if she does, she will probably be disabled.

Unable to keep her mother's milk down, Mei remains thin and small. She is very sickly, and must be rushed to the hospital by ambulance over and over. But each time she achieves something new, the whole family rejoices. Mei keeps trying with everything she has. Unfortunately, even as the family follows Mei's progress with love, they feel hurt by the doctor continuing to assume in everything he says that Mei will not live long, and by people who respond with pity or annoyance at the sight of a handicapped child. And for An, the worst part is feeling bad for being jealous of Mei, even though she loves her, for all the time and attention she gets from Mommy and Daddy.

The story helps young readers understand and gain empathy for people with disabilities by taking them along on An's journey of learning about her little sister's special challenges. As she learns what the family needs to do to support Mei so she can have the fullest life possible in spite of her handicap, she must also come to terms with her own changing feelings as well as the disturbing attitudes of people around her.

At the end, An and two friends see a sliver of a moon in the sky as they leave school late in the afternoon. When one of her friends comments on the cycles of the moon—how it goes into hiding but always comes back—An inwardly compares it to her own dark periods since her sister was born, and takes reassurance from the moon that even if the dark periods continue, they'll always be followed by returning light.

## About the Author

Miku Itō (year of birth unknown) was born in Kanagawa Prefecture. She is a children's author. In 2013 she won the JAWC New Talent Award for *Itoko no taijūkei* (Itoko's Scales), and in 2015 she took the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize for *Sora e* (To the Sky). Her other titles include *Kāchan toriatsukai setsumeisho* (The Mama-Owner's Manual), *Onēchan tte hōnto tsurai!* (It's So Hard Being a Sister!), and *Shafu* (Rickshaw Man).

# Mr. Fabre's Insect Class: The Brilliance and Foolishness of Instinct

Text by **Daisaburo Okumoto** Illus. by **Kohei Yamashita**



Ages 9+

200 x 200 mm

175 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150313

Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

This book is compiled from translated extracts of French entomologist Jean-Henri Fabre's *Souvenirs entomologiques*, originally serialized in the Asahi Newspaper Elementary School Edition between April 2014 and September 2015. The text is written in Fabre's voice, as if he is speaking to the reader about his own observations and discoveries regarding insects, and it is divided into easy-to-grasp, page-length sections focusing on what the various insects eat, their eggs, their stages of development, their habits, and so forth, accompanied on the facing page by colorful, often amusing, manga-like illustrations. Also included is a section titled "Mr. Fabre's Photo Album" presenting a large number of color photos. The book covers 14 species of insects: scarab beetles, stag beetles, cicadas, wasps, butterflies, and more. (Although stag beetles do not appear in *Souvenirs entomologiques*, they have been included here because of their interest to Japanese children.)

It is the perfect book for the child who is curious about insects but finds the author's full translation of *Souvenirs entomologiques* too daunting.



## About the Author

Daisaburō Okumoto (1944–) was born in Osaka, graduated from the Department of French Literature at the University of Tokyo, and subsequently completed his graduate studies in the same department. A specialist on French literature, he is now professor emeritus of Saitama University. He is also chairman of the Japan Henri Fabre Association. In 1981 he won the Yomiuri Prize for Literature (Essays & Travelogues) for *Mushi no uchūshi* (A Natural History of the Bug Universe). Among his many other titles are *Mushi kara hajimaru bunmeiron* (Civilization Begins with Bugs), and *Mushi no idokoro* (Things That Bug Me). Okumoto also continues to publish new volumes of *Kan'yaku Fāburu konchūki*, his planned complete translation of Jean-Henri Fabre's *Souvenirs entomologiques*.

Kohei Yamashita (1971–) graduated from the Fine Arts Department at the Osaka University of Arts and works as a graphic designer, character products designer, and picture book author under the design label "mountain mountain." He is a member of the Japan Henri Fabre Association and the Japan Graphic Designers Association. His picture books include *Kaeru-kun to Kera-kun* (Froggie and Mole Cricket) and the *Banana sensei* (Our Teacher, Mr. Banana) series, both with stories by Yukihiisa Tokuda; and the solo title *Sagasō! Maigonosaurusu* (Where's the Dinosaur?).

# Dinosaurs Still Live

Text by **Kyōichi Tomita**

Illus. by **Masakatsu Shimoda**



Ages 9+

220 x 185 mm

63 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.



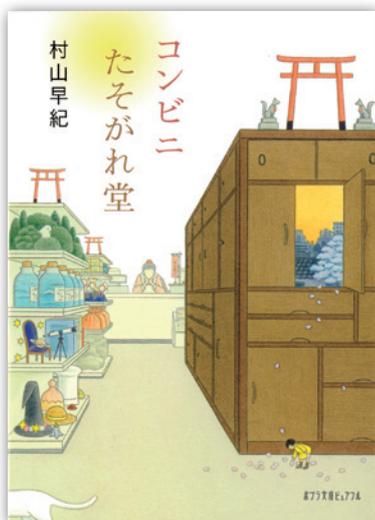
## About the Author

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.

# 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 tsunaido (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.

# Divination for All Your Needs: Welcome to the Yin-Yang Shop

Shōko Amano



150 x 105 mm

180 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591122372

Rights sold: Taiwan

This first volume in author Shōko Amano's popular *Onmyō-ya* (The Yin-Yang Shop) series for young adults contains four linked stories in the main narrative line, and two spinoff episodes.

In the basement of a building on a bustling shopping street in Ōji, a district in Tokyo's Kita Ward, is an establishment called "The Yin-Yang Shop," where a young and handsome diviner who goes by the name of Abe no Shōmei (just one character different from the name of the famous Heian-era [894–1185] diviner Abe no Seimei) offers his services. One day a ninth-grade boy and his mother come in the door. The mother explains that they have experienced a series of misfortunes of late and requests a reading. Dressed in full *onmyōji* (yin-yang master) attire, Shōmei conducts a water-basin divination ceremony followed by a purification rite and asks for an exorbitant payment—to which the boy responds that he is a fraud. While Shōmei feigns innocence, the boy declares that he could smell the special solution that Shōmei had surreptitiously added to the basin to make its surface foam up as if in ill omen. He goes on to uncover his ears and tail and identify himself as the abandoned child of a shape-shifting fox—which is why he has a far more powerful sense of smell and hearing than do normal people.

Shōmei is unfazed, and having learned the boy's true identity, ropes him into being his *shikigami*—a kind of spirit conjured by yin-yang masters as part of the ceremonies they perform. The title is in name only, however, and the boy, Shunta Sawazaki, has in effect been coerced into serving as Shōmei's all-purpose gofer.

Shōmei is actually a former "host"—which is to say, he worked at a nightclub that provides male drinking companions for its female clientele. Although his good looks made him extremely popular with the ladies in that role, he's actually rather ill-natured, sharp tongued, and decidedly lazy. Shunta, for his part, is innocent and artless, having been doted on to excess by his adoptive parents, the Sawazakis. Because he is of a nocturnal constitution due to his fox background, he is always falling asleep in class and does poorly in school. With Shōmei treating Shunta like a personal slave, the two go about solving a wide variety of troubles brought to them by people from the local area.

The worldly-wise Shōmei's methods are unique. He settles an intractable marital quarrel by attributing everything to a curse, for example, or he uses the charms he wielded as a host to soothe the feelings of female clients. He may sometimes appear to be a fraud, but he is always practical, and soon wins acceptance from the other merchants on his shopping street.

The series has reached eight volumes to date, with aggregate sales of over a million copies. In the course of the many episodes, Shunta advances to the tenth grade and gains new maturity, readers learn about the secret of his birth as well as his love interests, and his mother and Shōmei carry on an extended feud. The stories are comedies, but summon the occasional tear as well. The series was adapted to television in 2013.

## About the Author

Shōko Amano was born in Nagasaki Prefecture and graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies with a degree in German. She subsequently attended a novel-writing course, and made her publishing debut in 2005 with *Keishichō Yūrei-gakari* (Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Ghost Division). Her other titles include *Shōjo manga-ka ga neko o kau riyū* (Why Girls' Manga Artists Keep Pet Cats), *Shinshi no tame no esute nyūmon* (Introduction to Beauty Salons for Men), the *Tama no nekomata sōdanjo* (Tama the Split-Tailed Cat's Advisory Service) series, and the *Onmyō-ya* (The Yin-Yang Shop) series.

# Thread Them Together: Animal Fun

Kimika Warabe



Ages 1+

160 x 200 mm

10 pages

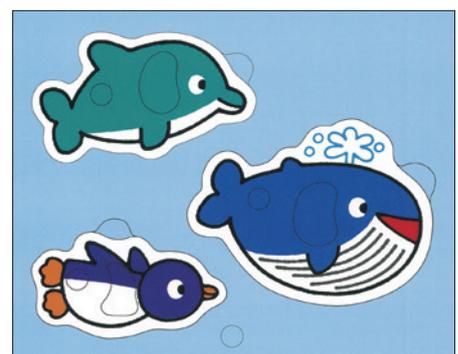
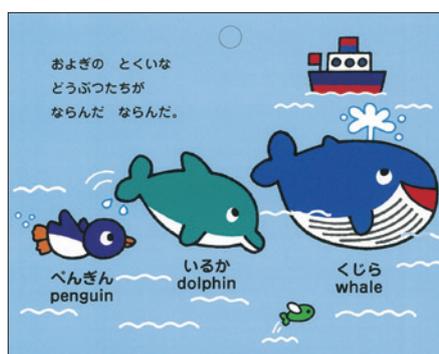
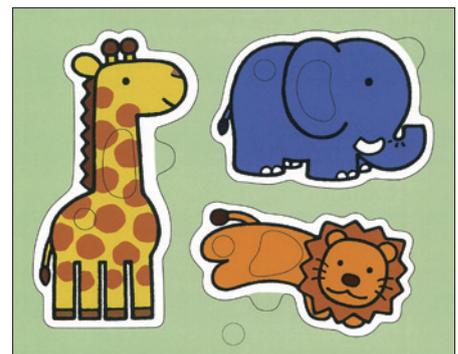
Boardbook

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).

# Four Seasons of Make-It-Yourself Fun

Sawako Marubayashi



Ages 3+

210 x 180 mm

127 pages

Softcover

ISBN 978-4591150573

Rights sold:

A book filled with make-it-yourself projects to last all year long, with ideas for every season and wherever you are that anyone can enjoy. From indoor projects using empty boxes and origami paper, to outdoor play with soap bubbles and flower garlands, the book suggests things you can do with what you're likely to have on hand—so you can get right down to having fun whenever you're looking for something to do. If it's a sunny day, it's the perfect time to go outside and make that flower garland or a grass whistle. If it's raining, then stay inside and entertain yourself folding origami sculptures or drawing pictures. On that sweltering mid-summer day, it's time for some water fun, going fishing for water-balloon goldfish or cooling off in a homemade squirt-gun fight. When the weather turns cold, get out the yarn to make cute little toys that are warm and fuzzy.

The projects are designed to be easy for children to make, but parents will have fun joining in, too, and some are sure to have Moms proudly putting their young ones' cute and chic creations on display. There are ideas for party decorations, too, and at the back of the book are six pages of cutouts and patterns to use in making the decorations.



## 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.

# Jam Packed Hidden Pictures

Kaori Hayashi



Ages 3+

215 x 190 mm

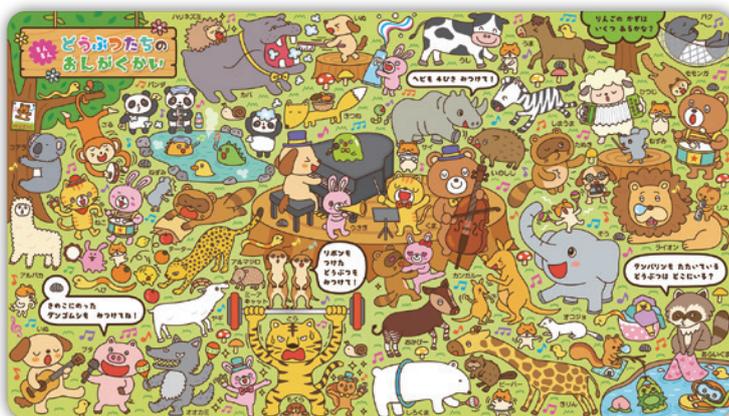
22 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591151723

Rights sold:

Every page of this board book is jam-packed with drawings of animals, insects, sea creatures, flowers, fruits and vegetables, favorite foods, vehicles, clothing and other things around the house, and fairy tales—nine categories of items small children can learn the names of as they follow instructions to “Find the jam-packed monsters Chūtan, Marutan, and Mimitan hidden on every page”; “Find the hamster dancing in a bathing suit”; “Where’s the monkey riding on a bicycle?”; “Where’s the squirt gun?”; “I lost my glass slipper. Will you find it for me?; and so forth. With items separated by category, the pages contain over 400 pictures, each labeled with its name, for young readers to discover as they pore over the pages trying to find the hidden items. The cute, smile-inducing illustrations will heighten the little ones’ awareness of their actual surroundings as well. At the end of the volume are two pages with some extra challenges and two pages of answer keys.



## About the Author

Kaori Hayashi (year of birth unknown) is an illustrator and designer affiliated with Kyōda Creation Co., Ltd. She takes on a wide variety of design and picture-book projects.

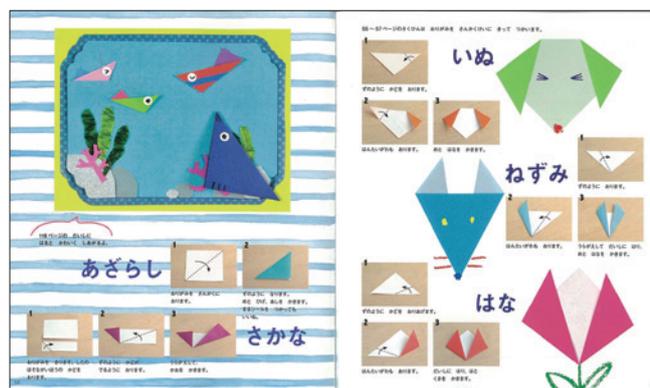
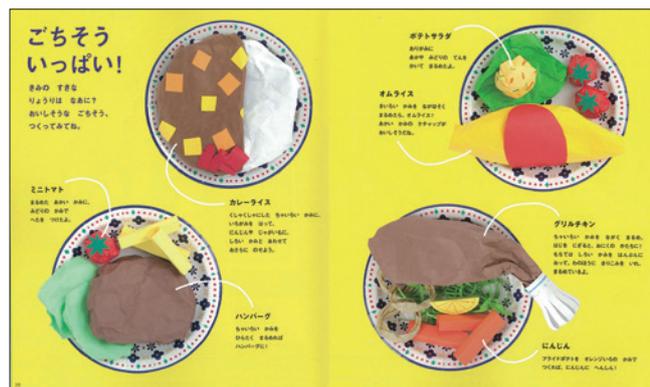
# First Crafts: Tearing, Crumpling, Folding, Drawing, Cutting

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

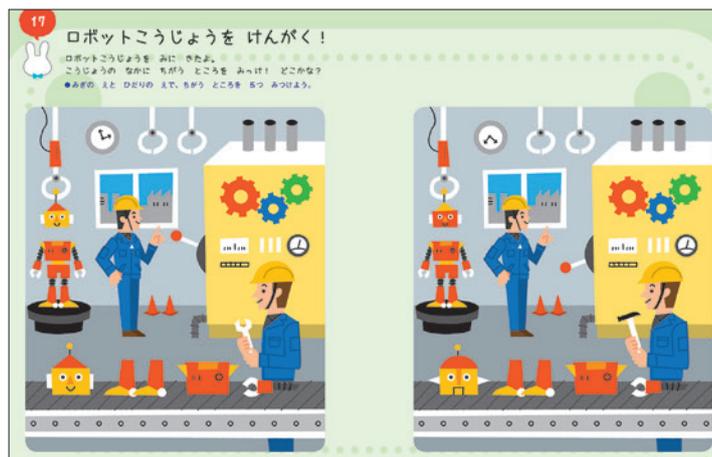
192 pages

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.”

# Girls' Coloring Book: The Charming Lives of Laura and Mary

## Yuka Satō



Ages 10+  
 220 x 230 mm  
 72 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4591149287  
 Rights sold: Arabia

Mary lives in the country surrounded by nature, while Laura lives in a bustling city. The two girls were born on the same day and will soon be 17. Although they live completely different lives, they are the best of friends.

Author Yuka Satō, a tremendously popular illustrator, has created a picture-book style coloring book of Laura and Mary's "charming lives" to be colored in with your own favorite hues. Their closets and bedroom suites, a dollhouse, a tea party, and more—the girls' activities and surroundings are all here. Since the progression of scenes develops a sense of story, you can let your imagination carry you along as you weave your own personal tale. Even the cover can be colored in. The book is the perfect gift for close friends.



### About the Author

Yuka Satō graduated from the Graphic Design Department of Tokyo Designer Gakuin College with a degree in illustration, and has been working as a freelance illustrator since 1997. Titles she has illustrated include the Japanese editions of the *Little Genie* series by Miranda Jones and the *Animal Ark* series by Lucy Daniels, and *Tsuyokute gomen ne* (Sorry I'm Strong) by Hiroko Reijō, among many others.  
[sato-yuka.wixsite.com](http://sato-yuka.wixsite.com)

# 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.



A series of horizontal wavy lines for writing.





A series of horizontal wavy lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.





A series of horizontal wavy lines for writing.



