POPLAR PUBLISHING



Foreign Rights Catalog 2024

About Us

Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd., a leading independent publisher of children's books in Japan, has been in business for more than 70 years. Starting as a children's books publisher, we have always tried to provide children with enjoyable and exciting books. Today, the company's goals remain unchanged: everything we publish should be enjoyable and enrich people's lives.

To date, Poplar has published many best-selling series, including "Butt Detective" series, "The Zorori" series and "Tyrannosaurus" series, which have sold millions of copies worldwide.

Furthermore, Poplar expanded its range of books by publishing books for adults, including fiction, non-fiction, essays, and business books. We have several award-winning books such as "The Lonely Castle in the Mirror" and "What You Are Looking For Is in the Library."

Poplar publishes around 400 titles annually and have licensed titles to more than 40 languages. We are always looking for new partners and further cooperation around the globe.

Contact

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Cover art: From *Butt Detective #1: The Lady in Purple and the Secret Code* by Troll

Contents

Butt Detective series 2
Baby Books 4
Picture Books 8
Children's Fiction 18
YA 33
Comics 36
Education 39
Shinsuke Yoshitake 40

Butt Detective series

Troll

Picture Book series



When you smell a case, Butt Detective is there to solve it.

Butt Detective behaves like a perfect gentleman, except that his face looks like a butt! He is very kind and likes tea and sweet-potato cakes. He often says, "I smell a case" and solves any mystery. In this first title of the series, Butt Detective tries to find a thief who stole all the sweets at a shop. Young readers can enjoy mazes and quizzes as well as the story.

Key selling points

- Two series total 10 million copies sold in Japan.
- Two series total 14 m copies sold in the world.

★English sample available.





Ages 3+
266 x 207 mm
32 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-13090-2
Pub month: Dec. 2012 - Present
Rights sold: Catalan, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, simplified Chinese, Spanish, Thai, Finnish, Bulgarian, traditional Chinese

Butt Detective 41 seconds promotion video (Japanese)



Vol.2



Vol.3



Vol.4



Vol.5



Vol.6



Vol.7

The File series



Ages 6+
216 x 155 mm
88 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-14618-7
Pub month: Aug. 2015- Present
Rights sold: Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, German, Finnish, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, simplified Chinese, Thai, traditional Chinese, Russian, Ukraine

★English sample available.

15 languages sold!



The File series, for further reading and fun.

An illustrated chapter-book series targeted at elementary-age children, this is the first volume in the series and contains two episodes. Butt Detective faces a mysterious code brought by the Lady in Purple.





File.2 File.3 File.4 File.5 File.6



File.7 File.8 File.9 File.10 Special Edition



Animation Comic series

Made from original animation/movie episodes.17 titles in total.



Troll : 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, Butt Detective, has expanded into a multi-volume series.

Which Do You Like? series

Koloro



The perfect book for communicating with babies! Urge the baby to point "This one!" with this fun picture book.

Content

This picture book offers a fun way for parents to communicate with their children around the age of 1, when they start pointing. For those children who cannot quite speak yet, they can happily express their feelings through pointing "This one!", making them want to read it over and over. Children will be fascinated by the way the pictures change when they flip the page they point to. *Which Do You Like?* contains a wide variety of children's favorite animals, foods, toys, and other motifs. *Which Food Do You Like?* concentrates on foods.

★English sample available.
★This book has gatefold pages.

Ages 0+
120 x 120mm
36 pages
Board book
ISNB 978-4-591-17548-4
Pub month: Feb. 2023

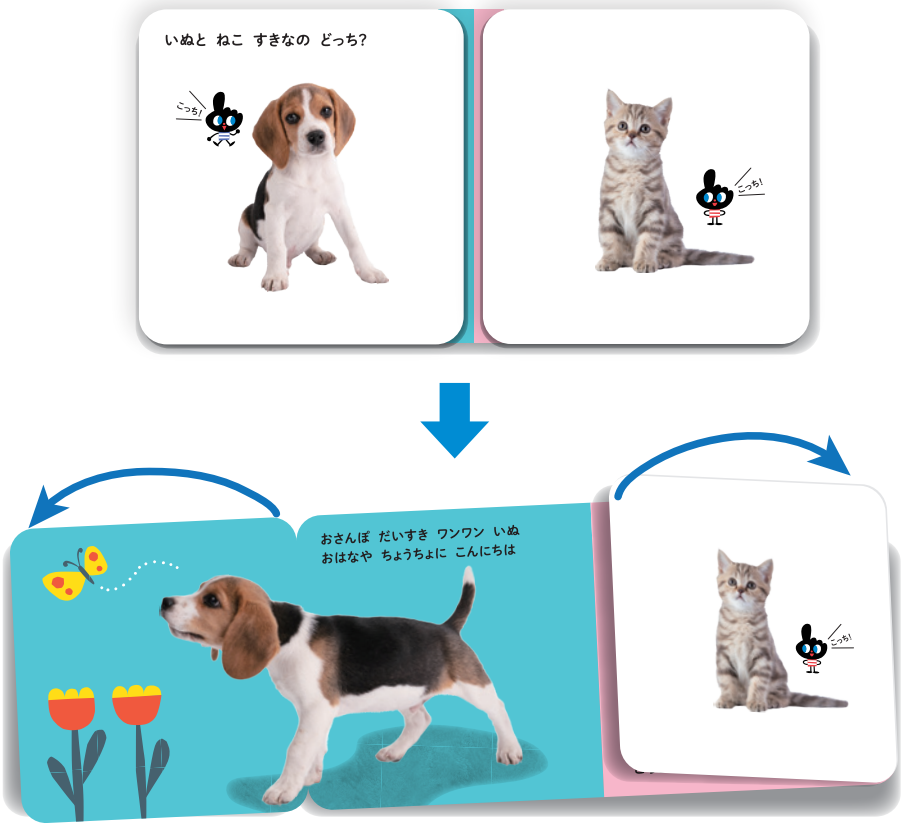
Keywords

Pointing, flap book



Which Food Do You Like?

PV (Japanese)



Lift the flaps and see what happens!

Koloro: Koloro is a team consisting of two artists, Megumi Fujii and Yoko Karashima.Together they have had experiences of designing, art directing and illustrating.

Pea and Nuts

Mami Harashima



Turn the pages to make the characters snuggle up to each other.
A gentle picture book about physical contact and closeness for parents and children to enjoy together.

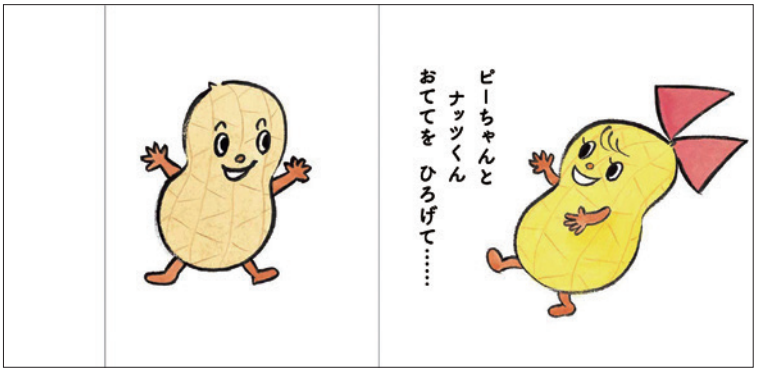
Content

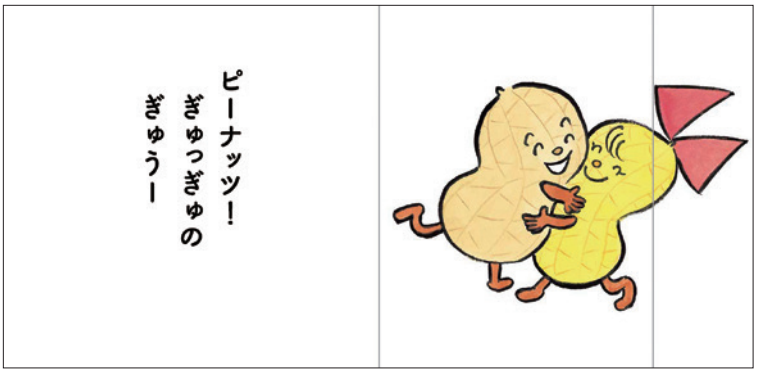
Pea and Nuts
Put your bottoms together
Now we're Peanuts!

The two friends, Pea and Nuts, use rhythmic words and movements as they snuggle up with their hands, bottoms, and bodies in this gentle picture book about physical contact and closeness that will make readers smile.

The design of the book is simple and fun: turning the pages makes the characters snuggle up to each other, using the difference of page length. It is sure to put a smile on the faces of both parents and children.

★English sample is available.





Ages 0+
186 x 191mm
24 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17882-9
Pub month: Sep. 2023

Keywords

Touch, physical exercise, peanuts, reading to children, first book, smile, physical contact and closeness

Mami Harashima: Born in Tokyo in 1983. Graduated from the Department of Commerce, School of Commerce at Meiji University. Career in electronics manufacturing. Completed the picture book course at the Palette Club School and studied picture book production at Chabooks and the Kilter Space Picture Book Study Group. "Mr. Corn Peels Away" is her debut picture book.

Smiley Devil Girl series

Illus. by **Aimi Hara**
Text by **KEROPONS**



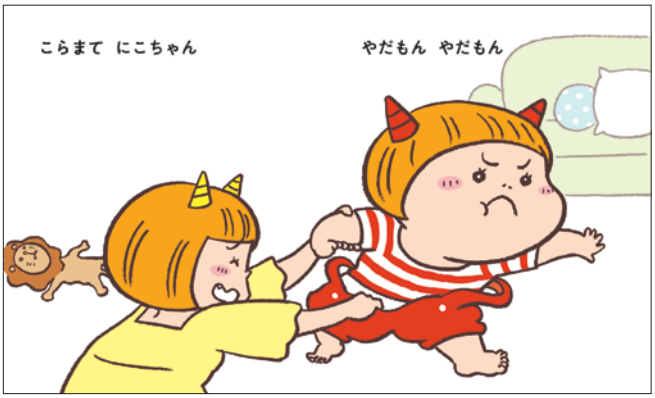
No Way! No Way!

A baby picture book which every parent could relate to.

Content

Smiley Devil Girl Niko-chan is a two year old girl. She is an energetic ball of fire, and she loves her Mom and Dad. She's growing healthily while facing difficulties and troubles.
Niko-chan, who doesn't want to have a bath, runs around saying "No, No, Niko-chan says NO!" But in the end, she has to go…
During the period of "terrible twos" which many parents have trouble with, she repeats her utmost "NO!" and Dad and Mom are troubled. But everyone, including Dad and Mom, have had their "Niko-chan" moments. This picture book was created to make parents, children and everyone around them smile, even in troubled times of childraising.

★English sample available.



Ages 1+
184 x 154 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4-591-15971-2
Pub month: Sept. 2018
Rights sold: Polish, simplified Chinese, Thai, traditional Chinese

NEW



I'll Do It! I'll Do It!



It's Mine! It's Mine!



Lend It to Me!



I Won't Go Home!

Aimi Hara: Illustrator and art director. Her work ranges from character designs to advertising. With her two-year-old child as the model, she creates the realistic and adorable character of Niko-chan.

KEROPONS: formed in 1999, a music unit consisting of Yuko Masuda (Kero) and Akiko Hirata (Pon). They create music and choreography for children, and annually perform at more than 100 events such as parent-child concerts. Their major work "Ebikanics" is a standard exercise song popular at nursery schools and kindergartens, and its video has over 40 million views on YouTube (as of August 2018).

Coo Coo

Jin Kitamura



I wonder who will come out next?
A baby picture book which sparks conversation with kids through fun animal guessing games.

Content

"Tick-tock, tick-tock, bong!" "ME-OW!"
When the clock strikes, all kinds of animals – such as cats, rabbits, and monkeys – appear from the clock window. This book stimulates the curiosity of children, as they try to guess which animal comes out next while enjoying the sounds of the clock and animals.

Three points that kids love!
1. Lots of sounds that can be repeated in a pleasant rhythm
2. Colorful pages and bold picture transitions
3. Adorable picture showing many kinds of animals

★English sample available.
★This book has a gatefold page.

Age 2+
201 × 201 mm
28 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17605-4
Pub month: Jan. 2023

Keywords

Baby, clock, apple, pigeon, cat, rabbit, monkey, elephant, lion

MOE Picture Book Prize
First Books Division
Best 20









\Also by Jin Kitamura/



Say cheese! Snap!

Reading this would bring a smile to your face!
A little boy with a camera finds smiles in the things around him.





Jin Kitamura: Born 1981, in Tokyo. Picture book author and illustrator. He has over 68,000 followers on Instagram.

Osaji the Panda and the Frying Panda

Keiko Shibata



Frying Panda is a mysterious frying pan which can turn any normal food into "panda cuisine" just by chanting a simple spell.
But if you don't use it properly, things can go really wrong!

The first book in Keiko Shibata's "Osaji the Panda" series.

Content

Mr. Koo is a chef, but lately, cooking has become a bit boring for him.
Then one day, he visited a strange panda utensil store, and was handed a "Frying Panda." In it was a small panda called Osaji.

When he recites the spell Osaji taught him and opens the Frying Panda lid... Ta-da!
Normal food is transformed into panda cuisine. But there's one promise which you have to keep...
The delightful panda Osaji brings happy and mysterious dishes to the table.

★English sample available.

Ages 3+
243 x 210mm
32 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17783-9
Pub month: May 2023
Rights sold: traditional Chinese, Korean, Thai, simplified Chinese

Keywords

Panda, food, cuisine, storytime









Second book coming in April 2024!



Osaji the Panda and the Furikake Panda

Paco has many likes and dislikes about food. One day, she poured furikake panda on her rice, and pop! The little panda Osaji appears. With a simple spell, Osaji can work magic on normal dishes. But there is one promise you must keep... The second volume in "Osaji the Panda"series.

Keiko Shibata: Born in Kochi Prefecture. Freelance illustrator, picture book artist. Among her works are The Delicious-looking Polar Bear (PHP Publishing) which won the 8th Libro Picture Book Award, and "The Bread Thief series" (KADOKAWA) which won several awards and has become a best-seller.

Long, Long Line series

Tomoko Ohmura



Long, Long Line

Ages 3+
227x 226 mm
36 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-11079-9
Pub month: Aug. 2009
Rights sold: English (excluding Canada and USA), French, German, Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Swedish, Thai, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese

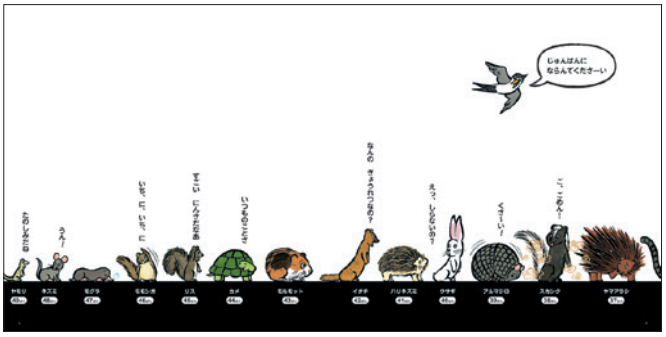
10 languages sold!

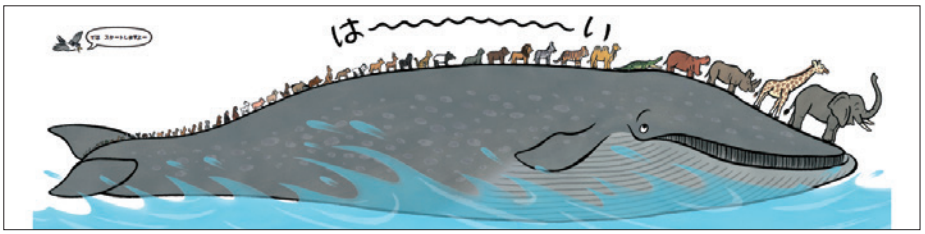
Find out what awaits at the end of the line…

Content

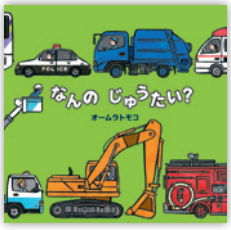
When the frog joins the queue, he is the 50th one in line. In front of him is a lizard, a mouse, a mole . . . and way up ahead at the front is an elephant. The animals are lined up in order of their size, large to small, all waiting for something to begin.
It turns out that they are all standing on the back of a whale, waiting for a giant "whale-coaster" ride. Some of the animals get tired of waiting and start playing games. Then finally the giant whale-coaster heaves into motion . . . This enjoyable story also serves as an illustrated guide for young readers to learn the name of animals and numbers.

★English sample available.





NEW



Long, Long Line: Vehicles



Long, Long Line: Insects



Long, Long Line: Sea Animals



Long, Long Line: Birds

Tomoko Ohmura : Tomoko Ohmura (1973–) graduated from Palette Club School. Her solo picture books include *The Most Amazing Shopping Trip* (winner of the Pinpoint Picture Books Competition in 2002), and Long, Long Line (winner of Peter Pan Prize by iBBY Sweden in 2014 and Prix Nord Isère Jeunes Lecteurs 2011-2012 in France).

Sushin

Hikaru Tanaka



A nonsensical picture book with a great sense of speed.

Content

It is hard to say whether these sushi are living creatures, vehicles, or food. Mysterious sushi keep swishing through the pages of the picture book. The enigmatic "sushi language" is also hard to resist, making this a funny nonsensical picture book about food that will have children laughing out loud. The author of the book is Hikaru Tanaka, winner of the 25th Japan Picture Book Award with *Pantsu-san* (The Underpants), who also placed 5th in the 2022 MOE Picture Bookstore Grand Prize with *Neko iru!* (There's a Cat!).

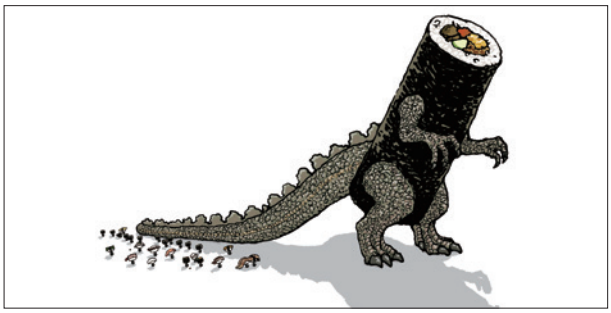
Ages 3+
232 x 286mm
34 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17829-4
Pub month: Jul. 2023

Keywords

Sushi, unique, nonsense, funny







Also from Hikaru Tanaka



There's a Cat!

Hikaru Tanaka: Comedian, cartoonist, picture book author. Born in Kyoto. Belongs to Grape Company. His best known manga works include *Sararīman Yamazaki Shigeru* (Salaryman Shigeru Yamazaki), *Watashitachi kekkon shimashita* (We Got Married) (published by Shogakukan), and *Tsumaneko* (My Wife and a Cat) (published by Kodansha). Author of picture books, such as *Pantsu-san* (The Underpants) and *Neko iru!* (There is a Cat) (published by Poplar Publishing), and *Obake no kawa wo muitara* (When You Peel Monsters) (published by Bunkyosha). He is actively involved in a wide range of areas, including manga serialization, advertising, and TV show partnerships.

Monster Soccer

Text by **Keitaro Kikaseya**
Illus. by **Saeko Hirokawa**



Ages 3+
206 x 256 mm
41 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17828-7
Pub month: Jul. 2023

Keywords

Soccer, sports, monsters, gatefold picture books, reading to children

A group of lively monsters with unique personalities hold a secret soccer tournament at night!

Content

In the evening, the little one-eyed monster secretly watches people play soccer. “I want to play, too,” he thinks. Night after night, he calls out to his fellow monsters, and in the end, they all agree to come. On the deserted field, a game begins. The unique team members all play to their strengths. Now, can the little one-eyed monster score a goal?
The gatefold pages of the book shows the dynamic play of the monsters well. Soccer fans and picture book lovers alike will enjoy this exciting book together.

★English sample available.





Keitaro Kikaseya: Storyteller, picture book author. He began his storytelling career by reading picture books to adults on the street at night, and has since traveled throughout Japan giving parent-child storytelling sessions, picture book lectures, and workshops for childcare providers. He also writes and translates picture books. His picture books include *Dobutsu shincho sokutei* (Line Up, Animals Measure Height) and *Tacchi daisuki* (We Love High Fives) (both published by Alicekan), and his translations include *Kyoryu kakurenbo* (Dinosaur Hide and Seek) (published by KADOKAWA). Childcare provider. Father of two.

Saeko Hirokawa: Picture book author. Works in a variety of fields, illustrating picture books, *kamishibai* (a traditional form of Japanese street theater in the form of picture card storytelling), and children’s stories, infusing them with her warm and humorous style. Her works include the *Chiisana yasai ehon* (Small Vegetable Picture Books) series, *Zorori zorori to yasai gane* (Line Up Vegetables, All in the Line) (both published by Kaisei-sha Publishing), the *Puku-chan ehon* (Puku-chan Picture Books) series (published by Aliceskan), and *Sekai de ichiban ookina neko* (The Biggest Cat in the World) (written by Kazuhito Kazeki / published by Ehonjuku Publishing).

The Little Mouse series

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**
Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**

50th anniversary



A simple yet stylish classic.

The Little Mouse's Vest

Content

Mama knits Little Mouse a bright red vest, and he is happy as can be. But along comes a duck and asks if he could try it on. It turns out to be a bit tight. Next comes a monkey, followed by a seal, then a lion and even an elephant. By this time, the cute little vest has gotten stretched all out of shape. Children would laugh at how the animals strain to put the vest on. With the visual appeal of the bright red vest and the highly expressive and amusing pencil drawings, the book has been a perennial bestseller. The series has grown to 40 titles, a classic loved by many generations.

★English sample available.

Ages 3+
244 x 215 mm
32 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-00465-4
Pub month: Aug. 1974 - Present
Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, Thai, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese



40 volumes in total
22 m copies sold!

Latest Volumes

NEW



Vol. 35
Little Mouse's Sports Festival



Vol. 36
Detective Little Mouse



Vol. 37
Little Mouse's PiPi Picnic



Vol. 38
Little Mouse is a Photographer



Vol. 39
Little Mouse, Who is It?



Vol. 40
Nemi's Vest

Yoshio Nakae and Noriko Ueno : Yoshio Nakae and Noriko Ueno began producing picture books together while still in school. Among their most best-known works are *The Little Mouse's Vest* (Kodansha Award for Picture Books) and the series of sequels that followed; and *Mischievous Rara* (Japan Picture Book Award). In 2005, Nakae and Ueno received the Iwaya Sazanami Literary Award. Nakae received the Children's Culture Achievement Award in 2020.

Animal Bus series



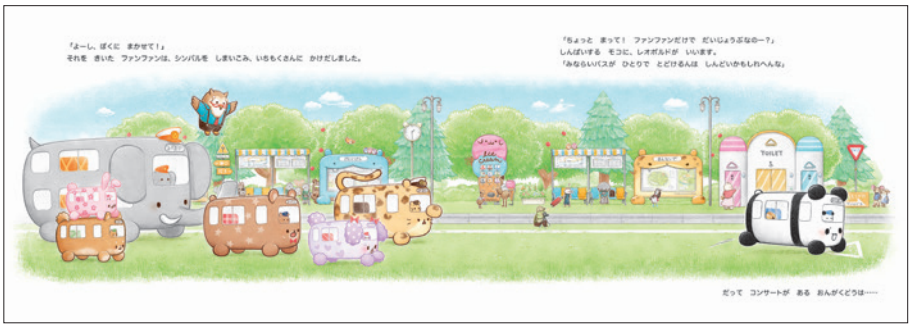
Animal Bus Lost & Found

Shiho Kotera

The “Funny Animal Bus” characters were created by stationery and goods maker Q-Lia, and were made into an animation series on Japanese TV. The endearing characters are both animal and vehicle at the same time. In this story, young trainees, who are studying to become full-fledged buses that can carry passengers, step up to deliver a lost item to its owner.

★English sample available.

Ages 3+
207 x 290 mm
32 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-15471-7
Pub month: July 2017
Rights sold: Korean, Polish, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese





Animal Bus and the Bakery
Text by **Masumi Asano**
Illus. by **Shiho Kotera**



Animal Bus in the Forest at Night
Text by **Masumi Asano**
Illus. by **Shiho Kotera**



Animal Bus and the Birthday
Text by **Masumi Asano**
Illus. by **Shiho Kotera**



Animal Buses Above the Clouds
Text by **Masumi Asano**
Illus. by **Shiho Kotera**



Animal Bus and the Mole Bus
Text by **Masumi Asano**
Illus. by **Shiho Kotera**



Animal Bus and the star Festival
Text by **Masumi Asano**
Illus. by **Shiho Kotera**

NEW



©Q-lia ©Animalbus Partners

Shiho Kotera: Shiho Kotera (1991–) was born in Toyama Prefecture. In 2013 she joined Q-LiA, where she has been engaged in designing stationery and fancy goods. In 2014, the doodle of a “panda bus” she drew in her sketchbook inspired a cast of “Funny Animal Bus” characters that also became an animated television series (with two seasons as of 2017). Cats are her favorite animal.

Masumi Asano: Masumi Asano Born in Akita Prefecture in 1977. Winner of the 13th Ohisama Grand Prize in the Fairy Tales category for her work *Ohisama* (Shogakukan). Has works such as *A Small Button and Pouch*, *What is Spring?* (Shogakukan), and *Little Ms. Toilet* (Poplar Publishing).

Tyrannosaurus series

Tatsuya Miyanishi



A living story about family and kindness.

You Look Yummy!

Content

Long, long ago, a baby ankylosaur hatches from his egg. As the little ankylosaur begins wandering about all by himself, a big, tyrannosaur comes along. “Oh, yummy! ” he exclaims in delight, and is about to pounce when the baby ankylosaur cries out, “Daddy!” and grabs onto his leg. The little ankylosaur had thought he was being called “Yummy” as a name.
And so it is that a tyrannosaur takes on the task of raising a baby ankylosaur. Yummy looks up to the tyrannosaur and says repeatedly, “I want to be just like you, Daddy!” But then comes the day when they must part . . .





Ages 3+
265 x 215 mm
40 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-07643-9
Pub month: March 2003 - Present
Rights sold: English (Canada, Korea, and USA), Korean, Polish, simplified Chinese, Spanish (Spain), Thai, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese



NEW

You Look Yummy!
See You Yummy

★English sample available.

16 titles in total

In 6 languages, 20 m copies sold!



3D Animation Books

The “Tyrannosaurs” series is now a 3D animation! Broadcasted in China and Korea, the TV series is expected to expand to other areas. The animation book series consists of 10 books, each containing a small lesson in every-day life. Ages 3+, rights sold in simplified Chinese and Korean.





Tatsuya Miyanishi : 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.

Invitation to Dino Park

Kohei Yamashita



Ages 3+
232 x 286mm
40 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17829-4
Pub month: Jul. 2023
Rights sold: simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Thai, Korean

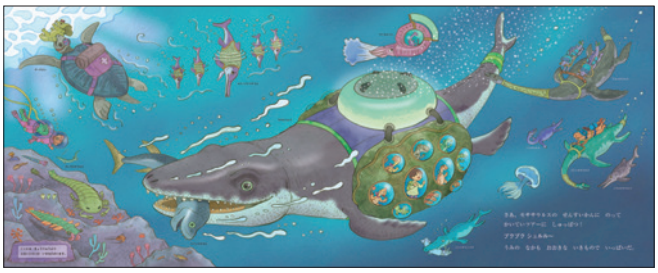
If you are a dinosaur lover, this is the adventure of your dreams! Dino Park is an amusement park teeming with dinosaurs. A young boy receives an invitation to the park and embarks on an one-night adventure.

Content

One day, a boy who loves dinosaurs receives a mysterious letter that reads "Invitation to Dino Park." The boy has suspicions that it is a prank, but that same night, a Pteranodon does indeed come to his house to pick him up. What sort of place is Dino Park? A heartwarming story depicting the emotional interaction between a boy and dinosaurs. More than 100 species of dinosaurs and other ancient creatures appear on the pages, depicted to scale and in realistic detail in powerful drawings. Join this joyful adventure through the mysterious world of Dino Park!

★English sample available.







Keywords

Dinosaurs, ancient life forms, amusement park, Tyrannosaurus, Triceratops, Megalosaurus, Spinosaurus, Pteranodon, Ankylosaurus, Stegosaurus, Brachiosaurus

Kohei Yamashita: Designer and picture book author. Born in 1971. Grew up in Kobe. Graduated from the Fine Arts Department at the Osaka University of Arts. His picture books and children books include *Kaeru-kun to Kera-kun* (Froggie and Mole Cricket) (published by Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers), the series *Banana sensei* (Our Teacher, Mr. Banana) (published by Doshinsha Publishing), *Sagaso! Maigonosaurusu* (Where's the Dinosaur?) (published by Kaisei-sha), the *Chibi Kuwa-kun* (The Tiny Stag Beetle) series (published by Holp Shuppan Publications), and *Fabre-sensei no konchu kyoshitsu* (Professor Fabre's Insect Class) (published by Poplar Publishing). Kohei Yamashita is also the creator of "MYAKU-MYAKU," the official character of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Mr. Ruraru series

Ito Hiroshi



The celebrated tenth book in the long-selling picture book series

Mr. Ruraru's Campfire

Content

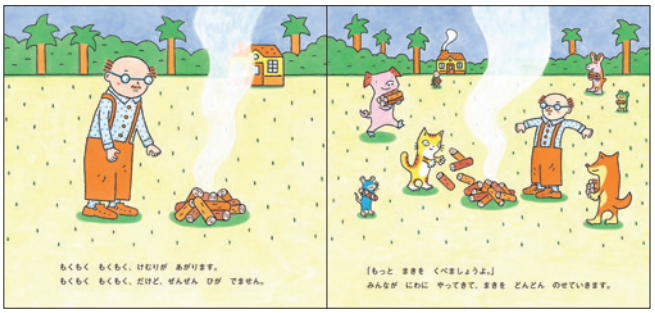
Mr. Ruraru, who wants to go camping and do some cooking, decides to make a campfire in his garden.
"Let's throw more wood on the fire."
Mr. Ruraru's animal friends gather in his yard and start piling logs on the campfire. Smoke billows, filling the air with thick white plumes.
Mr. Ruraru's campfire adventure is about to begin.

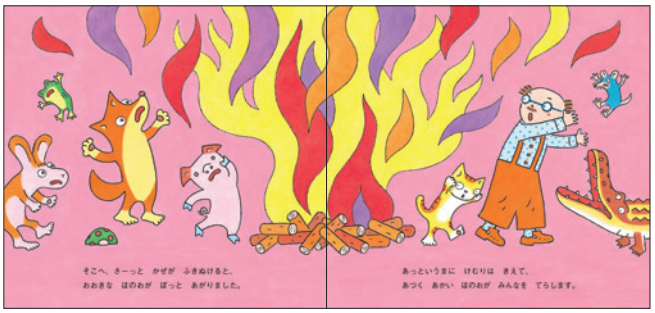
Ages 3+
231 x 245 mm
32 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17921-5
Pub month: Oct. 2023
Rights sold: traditional Chinese, Catalan, Spanish(Spain), simplified Chinese

Keywords

Hiroshi Ito, Mr. Ruraru, campfire, camp, cooking, animals, friends, adventure

★English sample available.





Also from Ito Hiroshi

Mr. Ruraru series



Bang Bang Bang Bang Bandage



Mr. Ruraru's Garden



Mr. Ruraru Is a Carpenter



Mr. Ruraru's Fishing Rod

Ito Hiroshi: Born in 1957 in Tokyo. Graduated from Waseda University, School of Education.
Author of numerous picture books, such as the *Ruraru-san* (Mr. Ruraru) series, including *Ruraru-san no niwa* (Mr. Ruraru's Garden), for which he received the Japan Picture Book Award, and *Ban-ban-ban-ban-bansoko* (Bang-bang-bang-bang-bandage) (both published by Poplar Publishing), and *Osaru no mainichi* (A Day in a Monkey's Life), *Osaru wa osaru* (A Monkey's a Monkey), *Osaru ni naru hi* (When a Monkey Becomes a Monkey), which appeared on the IBBY Honour List, *Daijobu daijobu* (Everything's Fine), for which he won the Kodansha Award for Picture Books, *Mojutsukai no muchi ga naru* (The Animal Trainer Cracks his Whip) (all published by Kodansha), and *Manhoru kara konnichiwa* (Hello from the Manhole) (published by Tokuma Shoten).

Cha Ho!
Happy RACCOS Picture Books
takadabear



Ages 3+
206 x 206mm
40 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17822-5
Pub month: Jun. 2023
Rights sold: traditional Chinese

Keywords

Sea otter, positivity, greeting, energy, nonsense

"Cha ho!" is a greeting that works wonders.
Try saying it out loud when you are happy or when you are sad. Cha ho!

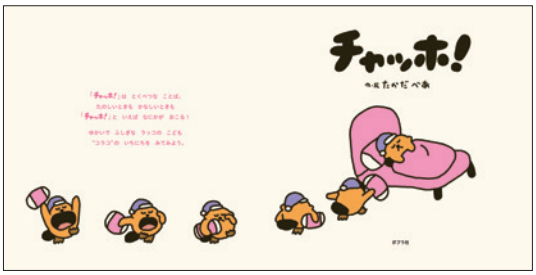
Content

If you are excited, say "Cha ho!"
If you are down, say "Cha ho!"
Anytime, anywhere, say "Cha ho!"

Korako, a happy and playful little sea otter, faces one challenge after another. A crocodile is picking a fight, the birds are having a quarrel, Korako is feeling sad and lonely…
But whatever is going on, just saying "Cha ho!" works wonders and make everyone happy.

More than 200,000 followers on social media!
The much-loved Raccos, a bunch of happy sea otters who have been featured on TV shows, now appear as the super energetic characters of a picture book. Created by takadabear, whose LINE stickers are extremely popular with young generations, this book will bring joy to children.

★English sample available.



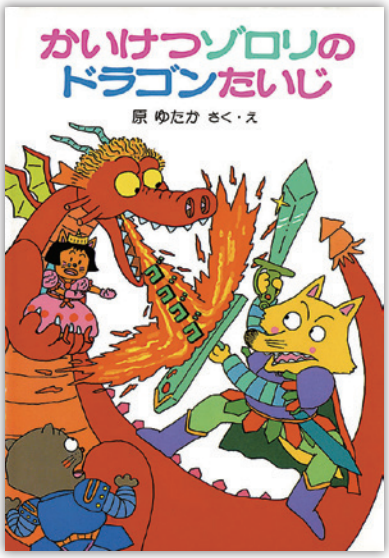




takadabear: Born in 1994. Active in a wide range of fields, including animation, illustration, and merchandise production. Creator of Ketakuma, Raccos, and other popular characters. Affiliated with the content studio CHOCOLATE Inc.

The Zorori series

Yutaka Hara



Ages 5+
210mm x 148mm
127 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-02654-0
Pub month: March 2021 – Present
Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, Thai, traditional Chinese

This witty "villain" is a hero for all children

Zorori Slays the Dragon

Content

Zorori the fox and the twin boars Ishishi and Noshishi become entangled in a variety of adventures. Zorori's dream is to become the king of villains, yet he somehow always ends up helping people. Can he fulfill his dream of marrying a princess and having a castle of his own?

A witty, entertaining series for all children.

Key selling points

- 36.6 million copies sold in the world
- best-selling children's book series in Japan
- TV animation programs started from 2020 in Japan.
- Full of tricks that will enthrall the readers such as riddles and mazes.

PV with English subtitles (3 minutes 40 seconds)





ZORORI
The fox protagonist, who aspires to be the King of villains, travels from place to place with his two apprentices, Ishishi and Noshishi.



ISHISHI
Noshishi's older brother. They look up to Zorori as their master and travel with him as his apprentices.



NOSHISHI
Ishishi's younger brother. He has a mole on his right cheek.



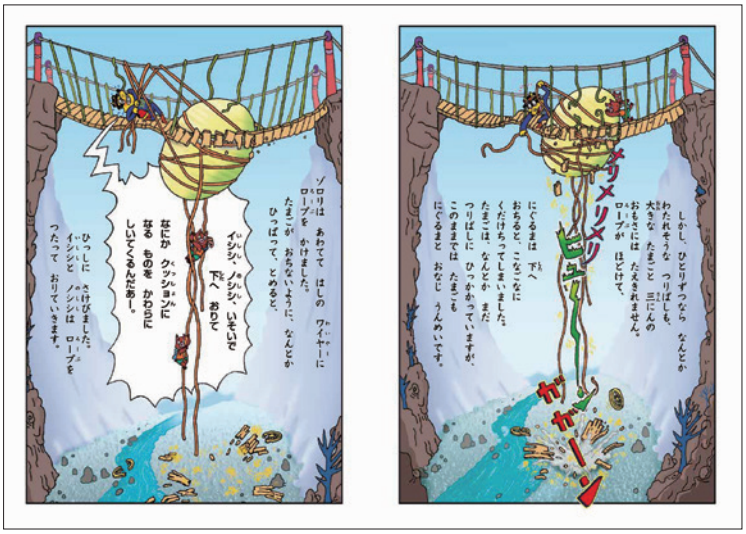
Vol.40

★English sample available.

Zorori Saves the Dinosaur Egg!

Content

Oh no! A typhoon sweeps Dinosaur Mama's egg into the sea! So much for Zorori's relaxing vacation. Zorori, Ishishi and Noshishi save the huge egg from a giant octopus, rocky volcanic terrain, a terrifying fall into a gorge, and a hungry gorilla family with problems of its own. But can Zorori return the egg to Dinosaur Mama unbroken?



From Latest Volumes



Vol. 70
Dungeon of Horror



Vol. 71
Ninja Ghost is Here!



Vol. 72
Save The Dinosaur Mother



Vol. 73
Zorori Become a King?

NEW



Vol. 74
Noshishi Become a King?

Animation Comic Books



Zorori Animation Comic #1
A Rival Arrives



Zorori Animation Comic #2
Zorori VS Beat



Zorori Animation Comic #3
Zorori's Love?

Content

In this thrilling and funny comic books from the original animation stories, Zorori meets an arch enemy who wants to become a hero. Can Zorori beat this new rival? With many original characters form the animation series, these easy-to -read comics would be a delight for early readers.

Yutaka Hara : Yutaka Hara (1953–) , born in Kumamoto Prefecture, made his debut as an illustrator at the age of 20. In 1974 he won the Children's Literature Prize in the Kodansha Famous Schools Contest. The character Zorori originally appeared as the villain in the Horenso-man (Spinach Man) series, written by Shiho Mizushima and drawn by Hara from March 1985 to June 1987, before becoming the main character in his own series from 1987 onward. In 2008, an exhibition titled "Fun with the Incredible Zorori: Yutaka Hara and the Zorori Crew" opened at the Kamakura Museum of Literature and later toured museums in Sendai and Himeji.

Kuroro Space Explorers
(1) The Warawara Village and the Shining Jewel

Rihito Uchu



Explorer Kuroro visits many different planets, while overcoming challenges to complete his quest.

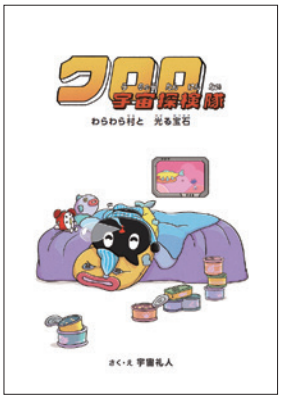
Content

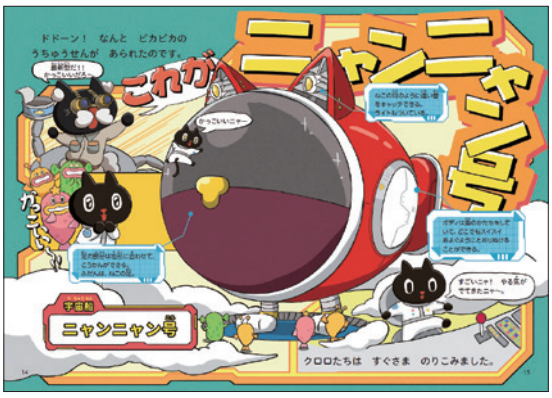
The Kuroro Space Explorers take on missions on many different planets, and this time they are heading to Earth! But they are in trouble as soon as they land, when they are swept up in a tornado… Will they really be able to succeed in their mission?

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 6+
216 × 153 mm
96 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17131-8
Pub month: December 2022
Rights sold: Korean, traditional Chinese, Thai











The Kuroro Homepage

Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghosts series

Text by Eiko Kadono
Illus. by Yoko Sasaki

From the author of *Kiki's Delivery Service*

Acchi is a gluttonous ghost who lives in a restaurant. Socchi is a ghost who likes music and lives in a candy shop. And Kocchi is a fashionable ghost who lives in a barber shop. The world around Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi is always filled with thrill and excitement!

Eiko Kadono's PV with English subtitles (3minutes 39 seconds)



Ages 6+
220 x 151 mm
80 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-11950-1
Pub month: Feb. 1979 - Present
Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese

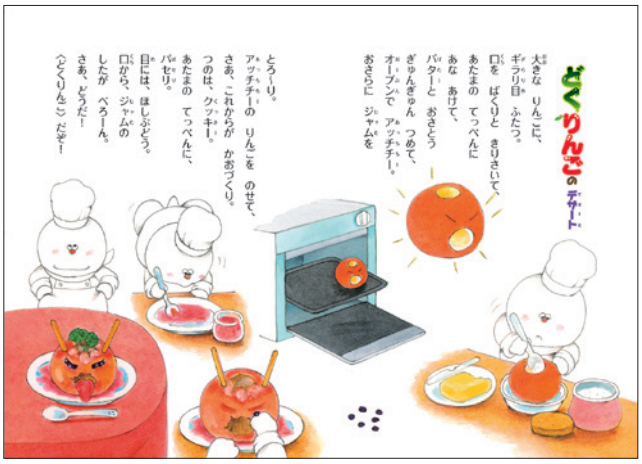
47 volumes published so far

Acchi and Dorara

Content

Acchi, a cute little ghost, is a cook at a restaurant. Acchi goes on the road to think of a new recipe and meets Dorara, Dracula's granddaughter, on his way. She is cooking 'Green Caterpillar Gratin,' which Acchi finds delicious. Acchi asks her how to cook it, but Dorara replies that Acchi should think of a recipe on his own. What kinds of dishes will Acchi make at the end?

★English sample available.





Kiki's Museum of Literature
In November 2023, the Tokyo ward of Edogawa opened a children's literature museum to honor and celebrate Eiko Kadono's achievements.

© Kiki's Museum of Literature

Winner of the Hans Christian Anderson Author Award



A major documetary film featuring Eiko Kadono

© KADOKAWA

Eiko Kadono : Eiko Kadono was born in Tokyo, and graduated from the Waseda University School of English Department of English Language and Literature. Her first book – *Brazil and My Friend Luizinho* (Poplar Publishing) – was inspired by her experiences in Brazil. She thereafter devoted herself to children's literature, authoring *Shizuka is My Mother* (Kaisei-Sha), and winning the Robo no Ishi Literature Award for the *Tales of and Old Captain* (Fukuinkan Shoten) and the Noma Literary Prize for Children's Literature and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *Kiki's Delivery Service*. In celebration of her career, she was awarded the Iwaya Sazanami Award in 2011, the Tonen-General Award for Children's Culture in 2013 and the Hans Christian Anderson Author Award in 2018.

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

Magic Garden Story series

Yasuko Ambiru



A witch, a cottage, and a mysterious Garden.

The Magic Garden and the Mysterious Herb Recipes

Content

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

Then the herb witch Topaz, a distant relative, leaves her a small cottage in her will. Against her parents' initial opposition, Jarett takes up residence there, together with six kittens. Following the recipes in a book left by Topaz, she mixes herbs from the garden, and when she gives these mixtures to her neighbors as medicines, they turn out to be very helpful.

★English sample available.



Ages 8+
205 x 153 mm
143 pages 1
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-09749-6
Pub month: April 2007 - Present
Rights sold: Korean, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Italian, Russian

26 volumes published so far



Special edition (Volumes 1 to 3 included)

NEW



Vol. 23
The Century Honey and the Magic of Opposite



Vol. 24
Jarett and the Magic Coin



Vol. 25
Jarett's Mint Collection



Vol. 26
The Warm Magic of Wish-making

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

Prank School series

Text by **Nao Arita**
Illus. by **Masashi Anraku**



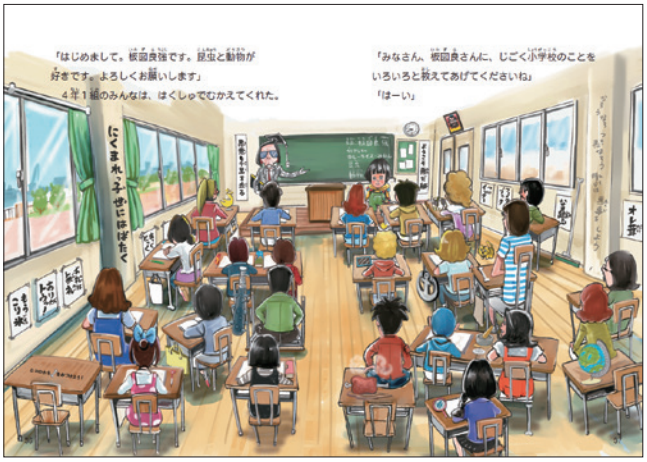
A school where all the bad kids go...

Content

Tsuyoshi Prankster is a boy who loves mischief and pranks. One day, he is sent to a school called Prank School, where children get praised for doing bad things. During his trial enrollment, Tsuyoshi meets a peculiar teacher who wears skeleton designed clothes, and a pretty girl named Ruri. Students are recommended to sleep in class, answer wrongly to questions, and even break windows with soccer balls. At first, Tsuyoshi is thrilled to join this exciting school. But then, he starts to realize that some pranks could heart people too... A dream-come-true situation for children, the Prank School series shows what true kindness is, while entertaining children with colorful illustrations full of humor.

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 8+
216mm x 153mm
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17714-3
Pub month: March 2023
Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese







Prank School #2
The New Liar at School

Nao Arita: Picture book author. Born in Fukuoka in 1979. In 2013, she made her debut as a picture book author with *Oppai-chan* (Poplar Publishing) which won the Alpaca Prize for Kenbuchi Picture Book Award.

Masashi Anraku: Born in Kagoshima in 1975 and raised in Hiroshima. Graduated from Aichi University, Faculty of Literature. Currently based in Nagoya, he creates dynamic, nostalgic, and humorous works.

Little Annin and Paoz

Rimako Horikawa



A kind and heart-warming story which sweeps you off to the southern islands.
Written and illustrated by the award winning author, Rimako Horikawa.

Content

This book contains seven short stories depieting daily lives of the girl for Little Annin and the puppy Paoz.

Little Annin is a girl who lives on a southern island.
She spends fun-filled days catching insects, making up songs, singing them, and being a tiny bit mischievous.

The longer she spends with Paoz, themore the more little Little Annin's horizons expand.
Then, after meeting crybaby Ed and a kind older boy Wayan, Little Annin goes out on and adventure with her new friends.

This lavishly-illustrated book is fun for children of various ages, from younger kids with parents to oider kids reading it aloud for themselves.

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 5+
204 × 154 mm
128 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17721-1
Pub month: March 2023
Rights sold: Korean

Keywords

Reading aloud, children's stories, dog, friendship, growing up, family









Rimako Horikawa: Born in Tokyo in 1965. Graduated from the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts. As well as being a picture book author and illustrator, she holds regular private exhibitions of her own paintings. "The Ocean Studio" (Kaisei-sha Publishing) won three major literary awards: The 31st Bunkamura Prix des Deux Magots, the 53rd Kodansha Picture Book Award, and the 71st Shogakukan Children's Publishing Cultural Prize.

Garden of Myths and Legends
The Guardians and the Hunters

Text by **Tomofumi Tanaka and Atsushi Oka** Illus. by **Mitsuhiro Arita**



What if mythical beasts were real and it was possible to breed them? An adventure fantasy that unfolds in the Garden of Myths and Legends.

Content

The Garden of Myths and Legends is a place where legendary creatures from all over the world are gathered. Kuu and Tenka are inadvertently accepted by the director of the garden, Yu Genji, who invites them to the Garden of Myths and Legends to work as keepers. As keepers, they face a rampaging Pegasus, hatch a mysterious egg, and rescue a wild salamander. Kuu, who is an expert in legends, and Tenka, who knows a lot about animals, use their strengths to overcome various challenges. However, Hell Hunt, an organization that hunts mythical beasts for money, shows up and things start to get dangerous…

The book is illustrated by renowned artist Mitsuhiro Arita. At the end of each chapter, there is an illustrated section that summarizes the ecology and legends of mythical beasts.

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 7+
188 x 128 mm
175 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17827-0
Pub month: Sep. 2023
Rights sold: Korean

Keywords

Legendary creatures, fantasy, adventure, Pegasus, kappa, Cerberus, Salamander







Second book coming in April 2024!

Tomofumi Tanaka: Movie director, scriptwriter, writer. As scriptwriter, he worked on the animation *Doraemon* and the movie *Shanidaru no hana* (The Flower of Shanidar). Author of children books, such as the *Kagaku tantei nazono shinjitsu* (Science Detective Shinjitsu Nazono) series and *5 byo de miyabure! Zen-in usotsuki* (Find the Truth in Five Seconds! Everyone is Lying) (both published by Asahi Shimbun Publishing).

Atsushi Oka: Scriptwriter, writer. As scriptwriter, he worked on the animations *Kaado faito!! Vangaado will+Dress* (Cardfight!! Vanguard: will+Dress), *Kyoto teramachi sanjo no Holmes* (Holmes of Kyoto Teramachisanjo), *Fushigina dagashiya zenitendo* (The Supernatural Sweet Shop), *Rise Man*, etc. Created games such as *Shojo Kageki Revyu Sutaraito* (Girls' Musical Revue Starlight), etc.

Mitsuhiro Arita: Illustrator. Created the illustrations for the Pokemon Card Game, Final Fantasy XI, etc., and the concept design for the movie *Berserk: ogon jidai-hen* (Berserk: The Golden Age Arc). Illustrated children books, such as the Japanese translations of the *Guardians of Ga'hoole* series and the *Wolves of the Beyond* series (both published by Kadokawa).

Nightmare Library series

Taiga Kayama



Ages 7+
188 x 128mm
191 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17908-6
Pub month: Sep. 2023



Ages 7+
188 x 128mm
199 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17708-2
Pub month: Feb. 2023
Rights sold: Korean

If you are looking for scary stories, this is just the one you are looking for.

Nightmare Library #2
The Monster of the Night Sky

Content

One night you receive an invitation and find yourself in the Nightmare Library. There, you find a skeleton concierge, a hairy monster, and a quite lady spider. What is the Nightmare Library and where is it hidden? Maybe you will find out if you visit every night.





Nightmare Library #1
Welcome to the Nightmare Library

Content

One night you receive an invitation. A mysterious light leads you to the Nightmare Library. You will read some thrilling scary stories, one story a night. Enjoy the first volume in a series that is spooky, yet pop and cute.





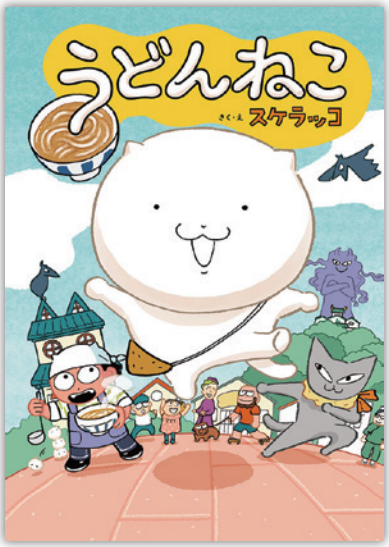
Keywords

Bad dream, scary story, ghost, nightmare, library, skeleton

Taiga Kayama: A picture-book author, illustrator, and character designer. Born in Kyoto in 1996. Specializes in illustrations with a mysterious and slightly horrific atmosphere.

Noodle Cat Udon

Sukeracko



A popular manga artist brings to life a bizarre cat born from udon noodles!
A heartwarming, funny and extremely delicious story.

Content

As the owner of an udon noodle shop kneads dough to make udon, he pushes and pulls, pushes and purrs, pushes and purrs, and, out of the blue, meow-DON! A cat is born! A chubby cat with a tail that stretches out like a noodle and a funny face that changes from one moment to the next! Can this free-spirited udon cat save a udon shop on the brink of closure? Udon is just so cute and funny! The book is also filled with hidden picture and spot-the-difference puzzles that are sure to keep kids and adults alike entertained. A fantastic *noodelicious* read with colored illustrations on all pages!

★All pages full color.
★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 7+
216 x 154mm
88 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17984-0
Pub month: Dec. 2023
Rights sold: Korean

Keywords

Cat picture books, cats, udon noodles, heart-warming, gourmet food











Sukeracko: Manga artist and illustrator
Author of the manga books *Bon no kuni* (Lantern Festival's Country), *Okii inu* (The Big Dog), and *Shoyu-sashi no kuishin-bon spesharu* (The Gourmand Soy Sauce Jug Book Special) (published by Leed Publishing), and the picture book *Matsuo to mainichi omatsuri no machi* (Matsuo and the Festival Town) (published by Akishobo). Loves udon noodles.

Scary Math #1
How Many Apples Would You Get?

Text by **Marumaru Kobayashi** Illus. by **Arata Aki**



Ages 7+
172 x 112mm
196 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17927-7
Pub month: Oct. 2023
Rights sold: Korean, traditional Chinese

Keywords

Short story, puzzle solving, horror story, math, stories that are scary once you understand the meaning

Math x Scary stories x Puzzle solving

"Who did the hungry demon eat?"
"What is the probability of a robber hiding in Anna's room?"

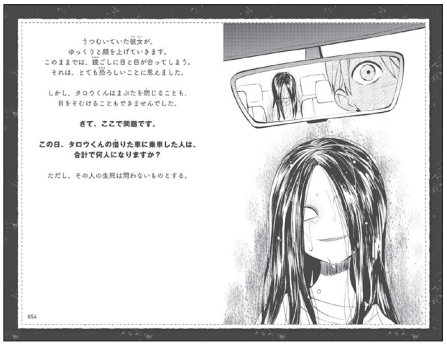
A collection of 44 short stories, each containing a challenging math problem that will horrify you once you figure out its meaning.

Fumika, who serves as a guide in this book, explains what makes the stories so scary and how to solve the problems.
This is a new kind of puzzle-solving math horror stories that even those who are not good at math can enjoy!

Content

Hello. I am Fumika Sema.
So you're not good at math, huh? Yeah, I get it.
I used to be the same. But now it is one of my favorite subjects. I love stories about ghosts and curses, so after I decided to study with the *Scary Math* books, I suddenly fell in love with math.
Come on, let's study together!

★English synopsis and sample available.





Marumaru Kobayashi: Writer. Gained popularity with the *Imi ga wakaru to kowai hanashi* (Stories that are Scary Once You Understand the Meaning) series, released mainly through a smartphone app.
Author of the bestselling series *Honto wa kowai hanashi* (Stories That are Actually Scary) (published by Kadokawa Tsubasa Bunko), which sold a total of 350,000 copies.

Arata Aki: Manga artist. Created *Boku no tonari ni ankoku hakaishin ga imasu* (A Destructive God Sits Next to Me), which was adapted for TV animation. Currently publishing the series Kawaii sekai seifuku (Cute World Domination) in Comic Gene.

Academy Millionaire series

Text by **Kanata Tooyama**
Illus. by **Arisa**



Get rich if you win.
Get expelled if you lose.
An informative and entertaining story about investing.

Content

Sakura is accepted into the prestigious Enjoji Academy, the private school of her dreams.
Then, her father's company goes bankrupt, and she finds herself unable to pay her tuition for the second term.
She goes to Takeru, the son of a wealthy family, for advice, but Takeru does not want to help her and even laughs at her poverty. Eventually, she decides to team up with Shiki, a boy in her class, to confront Takeru.
The school has a currency called "J," which Takeru and Shiki can handle, and they start an investment game in which they buy shares of promising clubs in the school with one million J. The player who has increased their capital more after one month wins the game. Desperate to win, Sakura goes around gathering information on various club activities to help Shiki. Who will prevail?
An entertaining story about investing that is a must read for modern children!

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 8+
172 x 112 mm
222 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17846-1
Pub month: Jul. 2023
Rights sold: traditional Chinese

Keywords

Investment, company shares, financial education, money game

Academy Millionaire #2
A Scheme to Definitely Get Rich!?



Content

When Sakura has trouble paying her tuition for the third term, Shiki gives her the cold shoulder and tells her, "figure it out on your own." Meanwhile, Sakura is invited by a senior student to attend an investment school for beginners. There is a mysterious person in the school who goes by the name of "S," but something is fishy!

The second installment in the entertaining series about investing.

Kanata Tooyama: Born and lives in Kanagawa Prefecture. Won the Grand Prize at the 3rd Pure Love Novel Awards with the debut novel *Watarai-kun no hokago ren-ai shinrigaku* (Watarai's Afterschool Love Psychology), which was followed by a spinoff novel *Rokunen B-gumi saikoka keikaku* (Sixth Grade B Class Optimization Plan) (both published by Poplar Kiminovel). Studied psychology at university. Became a certified financial planner after working for a financial institution.

Arisa: Freelance illustrator. Draws mainly people, nature and animals, aiming to create images that tell a story.

In a Storyline Where She Lives series

Text by **Eiichi Nakata**
Illus. by **Hechima**



Ages 10+
172 x 112 mm
266 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17781-5
Pub month: Dec. 2022
Rights sold: Korean

Keywords

Rebirth in another world, remainder of one's life, incurable disease

In a Storyline Where She Lives #1
Re-born as the Bad Guy

I was reborn as the bad guy in my favorite anime world. There she was, the girl I wanted to save… A moving trilogy from a bestselling author.

Content

After a car accident, I was reborn in the world of my favorite anime, *Kimiaru*. But the person I was reborn into was Akuto Jogasaki, the "villain of the Unei Academy." Why was I reborn as the bad guy?!
Still, perhaps I could save the heroine Haru Hayama. That's right, in the last episode of the anime, Haru gets sick and dies. Since I know the plot inside and out, I should be able to change her fate!

★English synopsis and sample available.



In a Storyline Where She Lives #2 The Changing Scenario

Content

I was reborn as the bad guy in my favorite anime world. I am trying my best to save the heroine, Haru Hayama, who is destined to die in the final episode, but for some reason the scenario of the anime keeps changing in strange directions. In such a storyline, will I be able to find a clue that will help me save Haru?



In a Storyline Where She Lives #2 In Search for the Lost Ending

Content

Change the fate, save Haru!
As Haru Hayama nears death, I go on a journey with a certain photograph as a clue. What I find is the survival route left by God (the scenario writer).
The final installment in the moving trilogy.

Eiichi Nakata: Debuted in 2008 with the bestselling novel *Momose, kocchi wo muite* (My Pretend Girlfriend) (published by Shodensha Publishing). His novel *Kuchibiru ni uta wo* (Have a Song on Your Lips) (published by Shogakukan) was adapted into a movie. His books include *Watashi wa sonzai ga kuki* (My Existence is Air) (published by Poplar Kiminovel / Shodensha Publishing), *Kichijoji no Asahina-kun* (Asahina from Kichijoji) (published by Shodensha Publishing), and *Danderaion* (Dandelion) (published by Shogakukan).

Hechima: Born in Miyagi Prefecture. Animator, illustrator, manga artist. Assistant character designer and animation director for the film *Ame wo tsugeru hyoryu danchi* (Drifting Home), animation director for *Nakitai watashi wa neko wo kaburu* (A Whisker Away) and *Pengin Haiuei* (Penguin Highway).

Author of *Papetto Koru!* (Puppet Call) (published by Houbunsha).

The Klutzy Witch series

Text by **Satoko Narita**
Illus. by **Enaga Senno**



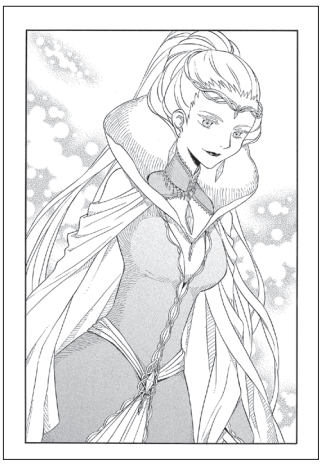
Age 10+
172 ×112 mm
190 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISBN 978-591-09464-8
Rights sold: Russian

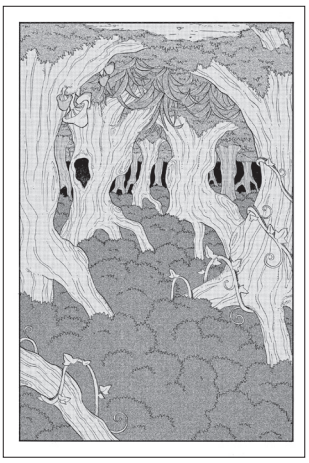
19 volumes published so far

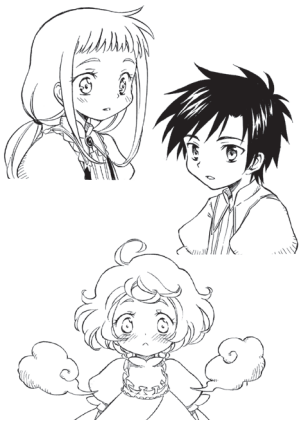
An epic fantasy series with a charming protagonist

The Klutzy Witch is a Princess

Fuka, a young witch, is training to be a better witch like her mother, who is the queen of Silver Castle. She is a lively girl and cares about her friends, but she gets into trouble sometimes. Karin, the princess of Green Castle, is Fuka's best friend; and Chitose, the prince of Blue Castle, is her friend from childhood. Fuka goes to the Woods of Wolves to look for a tunnel -which is said to connect the magical world to the human world- with them, but they find a mysterious hole instead… The first in the series, this is an exciting story of adventure and friendship.









The Klutzy Witch and the Fairy's Promise



The Knight of Randall



The Klutzy Witch's First Love



The Mission for a Successful Date

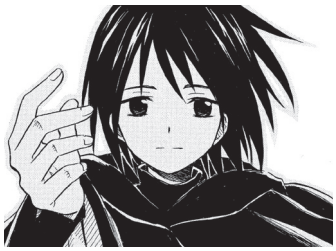


The Klutzy Witch and Dark Palace

NEW



The Prince of the Black Castle



Now an Animation Film



©Satoko Narita,Enaga Senno,POPLAR/
The Klutzy Witch Production Committee

Satoko Narita: Writer. Born in Akita, 1981. Winner of the first Dream Smash Award hosted by Poplar Publishing, she debuted with the Klutzy Witch series.

Downtown Lakeside Road

Kyoko Hamano



Age 13+
194 × 125 mm
223 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17758-7
Pub month: March 2023

Keywords

Literary club, Ueno, Shinobazu Pond, *shitamachi*, Tokyo, club activities, high school students, South Korea

A fresh tale of literature and young love.

Set in the Ueno, Yanaka, Nezu, and Sendagi neighborhoods - Tokyo's famous *shitamachi* historic shopping and residential districts - this tale of young love portrays members of a high school literary club who are passionate about the joy of writing.

Content:

New sophomore Kiwako Yuasa is one of only five members of her High School's literary club.
The club's members include senior Yamashita - who is so well-versed in modern and contemporary literature he is called a "relic of the Meiji Era," poetry writer Moto Shimada, and Fuuka, who has churned out works since elementary school in pursuit of becoming a children's story writer. To this eclectic group of distinctive characters, a freshman joins.

Kiwako does not dislike reading and books, but feels she has no real creative talents.
Surrounded by members who are obsessively keen to create original works, what connection with literature would Kiwako discover? What would become of her burning passion?

This is a story that unfolds on multiple levels, with the members' energy to write, struggles with writer's block, and interpersonal relationships overlaid and interwoven with Kiwako's own love story. With a backdrop of the Ueno, Yanaka, Nezu, and Sendagi neighborhoods, and the landmark "Shinobazu Pond" in particular, Kiwako's coming-of-age story unfurls along the Lakeside Road.

★English synopsis and sample available.

Kyoko Hamano: Born in Kumamoto Prefecture, raised in Tokyo. Received the second Japanese Board on Books for Young People Award for "Fusion" (published by Kodansha), and the 25th Joji Tsubota Literary Award for "Tokyo Cross Road" (published by Poplar). In addition, "Cream Buns" (published by Kumon Publishing) was selected as a topic book for the 59th (2013) Children and Young Person's National Book Report Concours, as was "With You" (published by Kumon Publishing) for the 67th Concours in 2021.

I Heard the Sound of Teardrops

Haruka Kanari



How can anyone's teardrops sound like music?
A pure love story about Mion, a girl with the extraordinary ability to hear the sound of tears, and Ken, her senior at school, who is a crybaby!

Content

Mion, a freshman in junior high school, has the unique ability to hear the sound of tears. Because of this, she finds it annoying to get involved with other people and does not make friends. One day she hears a soft and beautiful sound of tears. It is the sound of Ken, a senior and student council president whom everyone admired, crying in secret. Having seen a different side of her senior, she decides to take advantage of his weakness and get him to listen to her wishes. Mion approaches Ken with this calculated intent, but things go in an unexpected direction...

This is a coming-of-age love story that depicts Mion's gradual transformation through her interactions with the people around her and Ken, including her kindhearted older brother who has the same unique ability as Mion but the exact opposite personality, her classmate Seira whom Mion secretly looks up to, Chika, the mother of a child who is always crying, and Ken's childhood friend Nanami.

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 12+
194 x 125 mm
198 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17786-0
Pub month: May 2023

Keywords

Love story, coming-of-age novel, YA (young adult), communication, the difficulty of living

Haruka Kanari: Born in 1987 in Wakayama Prefecture. Writer, poet, Japanese language teacher. In her third year of junior high school, she published a collection of poems, *Aitakunattara itsudemo aeru* (Whenever You Want to See Me, I'll Be There for You) (published by Bungeisha). Her books include *Hoshizora tenko oritatamigasa wo sagashite* (Starlit Sky Roll-call: Find a Folding Umbrella) (published by Asahi Gakusei Shimbun), *Ningyo no natsu* (The Summer of the Mermaid) (published by Akane Shobo Publishing), and *Yumemiru yokogao* (Dreamy Profile) (published by PHP Institute).

The Lonely Castle in the Mirror

Mizuki Tsujimura

Over 2 million copies sold!



195 x 137 mm
558 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591153321
Rights sold:Korean, traditional Chinese, French, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, English, Italian, Thai, Russian, Turkish, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Polish, Serbian, Bulgarian

Animation Film
Winner of the 46th Japan Academy Film Prize



©2022 "Lonely Castle in the Mirror" Film Partners

A story that delves into the complex circumstances and psychology of children who find themselves unable to go to school.

Content

Shortly after starting middle school, Kokoro Anzai starts getting bullied by the alpha girl in her class—to the point that she soon finds it impossible to go to school. She visits an alternative "free school" that she thinks she might be able to attend, but when the time comes, she can't bring herself to go there either.

One day she is whiling away the afternoon in her room at home when her mirror suddenly begins to glow with light. On an impulse, she reaches out to touch it, and promptly gets pulled through the glass into another world. On the other side of the glass she finds a large European-style castle, where she is greeted by a girl in a wolf's mask. She also meets six other young people gathered there—all, like Kokoro, boys and girls who have stopped going to middle school. The wolf girl tells them that they are there to find a key hidden somewhere inside the castle. The one who finds it will be granted a single wish. Castle rules say they can come and go freely each day from 9:00 to 17:00 for up to one year. Once someone finds the key and gets his or her wish, the castle will close, and all recollections of the castle will be wiped from their memories. Further, if anyone stays in the castle past the designated time, all participants who came to the castle that day will be punished and they will be eaten by a wolf.

There are a number of clashes among the seven participants in their early days at the castle, but as they gradually grow closer they lose interest in looking for the key. They value the castle as a place where they can feel like they belong, so they are wary of finding the key and causing it to be closed.

When she learns that each of them comes from different family circumstances at home and has a different reason for not wanting to go to school, Kokoro begins trying to come to terms with her own aversion to school. Back in the real world, she meets a Mrs. Kitajima who teaches at the free school, and finally feels there is someone who understands her.

Then one day the participants discover that they're all supposed to be going to the same middle school in the real world. Kokoro learns that she isn't the only one who knows Mrs. Kitajima. Thinking this means they should be able to support each other amid whatever trials they may face, they decide on a day when they will meet up at school. But even though they do go to school on the day, for some reason they never encounter one another. Can they solve the mystery?

★English synopsis and sample available.

Mizuki Tsujimura : (1980–) was an avid reader from an early age, and while still in grade school was so struck by Yukito Ayatsuji's puzzler *Jukkakukan no satsujin* (Murder at Jukkaku Hall) that she began writing mysteries of her own. She made her literary debut in 2004 by winning the Mephisto Award for *Tsumetai kōsha no toki wa tomaru* (Time Stops in the Ice-Cold School), an expansive novel she had first begun writing in high school and spent her college years completing; it was none other than Ayatsuji who phoned to notify her of the award. Her mother-daughter novel *Zero hachi zero nana* (Zero Eight Zero Seven) was short-listed for the Naoki Prize in 2010. In 2011 she won the Yoshikawa Eiji Prize for New Writers for *Tsunagu* (Link), and was short-listed for the Naoki once again with *Ōdā meido satsujin kurabu* (Made-to-Order Murder Club). She finally won the Naoki Prize in 2012 for her story collection *Kagi no nai yume o miru* (Dreaming a Dream without a Key). Also in 2012, her novel-length cozy mystery *Honjitsu wa taian nari* (It's an Auspicious Day) was adapted into a television series. Other works include the youth novel *Shima wa bokura to* (Our Island), *Mōmoku-tekina koi to yūjō* (Blind Love and Friendship), and *Haken anime!* (Anime Supremacy). The Lonely Castle in the Mirror won the Bookseller's Award in 2018.

Ratta and Kamiyama

Rokudai Tanaka



Ages 8+
210 x 150 mm
127 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17863-8
Pub month: Aug. 2023

Keywords

Friends, new school term, classmate, elementary school, summer vacation, secret hideout, everyday life, adventure, manga

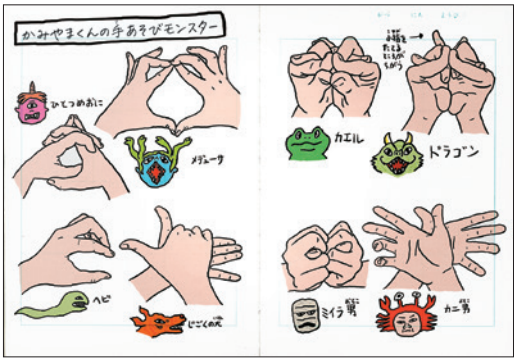
★English synopsis and sample available.

Seemingly trivial, yet precious and unique
—A heartwarming and endearing short manga about the daily life of two fourth graders.

Content

My name is Rakuta Harada.
Everyone calls me Ratta.
I met a boy in my fourth grade class, whose name is Kamiyama. He is a little strange.
He often wanders around the classroom and knows an awful lot about monsters.
I'm somehow very curious about him.....

The story humorously depicts the character of Ratta and how he overcomes his doubts and naturally accepts his friend despite the differences between them. It is also a short manga about everyday life that makes us think about diversity from a child's point of view.





Rokudai Tanaka: Born in 1980 in Tokyo. Manga artist, illustrator, and picture book author. Worked on illustrations for children books such as the *Nichiyobi* (Sunday) series (written by Shiiko Murakami / published by Kodansha), and *Boku wa ojiichan no oniichan* (My Grandpa Thinks I'm His Older Brother) (written by Naoko Hori / published by Poplar Publishing). Drew for picture books such as *Shogakko e iko* (Let's Go to School) (written by Hiroshi Saito / published by Kodansha) and *Osushi ga sukisugite* (I Love Sushi Too Much) (written by Satoshin / published by Gakken). Author of picture books such as *Udon tai ramen* (Udon vs. Ramen) (published by Kodansha) and *Oshikko mora sutaa* (The Star Who Peed His Pants) (published by Akane Shobo), and manga such as *Kukkii kan no machi meguri* (The Cookie Box's City Tour) (published by Seirinkogeisha).

World's Heroes & Heroines Comic Series

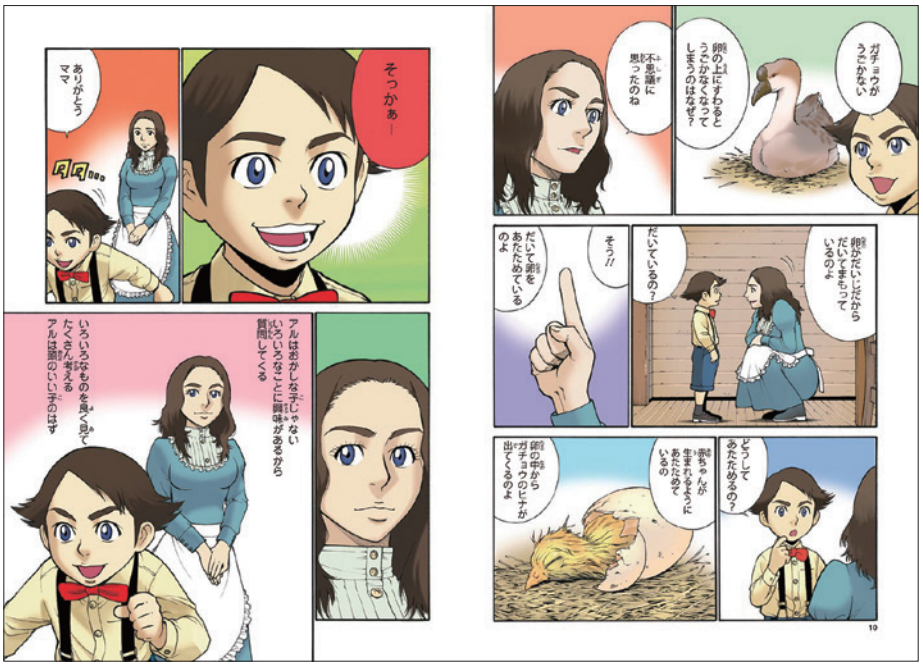


Vol. 1 Edison

Ages 8+
226 x 160 mm
126 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-12553-3
Pub month: Aug. 2011 - Present
Rights sold: French,German, traditional Chinese

The perfect comic-style biography for children

This comic series features scientists, doctors, masters of invention, and those who worked for ordinary people. The comics tell their childhood stories, as well as well-known historical episodes. Children can easily understand how these people lived, and it serves as a great start for reading biographies. The series has 55 titles so far.



NEW



Vol.55 Seton

3. Nightingale
4. Helen Keller
5. Hideyo Noguchi
6. Madame Curie
7. Yukichi Fukuzawa
8. Mother Teresa
9. Tadataka Ino
10. Joan of Arc
11. Christopher Columbus
12. Beethoven
13. Galileo
14. Basho Matsuo
15. Gandhi
16. Favre
17. Shibasaburo Kitazato
18. Ichiyo Higuchi
19. Coco Chanel
20. Kenji Miyazawa
21. Queen Elizabeth I
23. The Wright Brothers
26. Cleopatra
27. Nobel
28. Marie Antoinette
29. Grace Kelly
30. Soseki Natsume
31. Clara Schumann
32. Chiune Sugihara
33. Louis Braille
34. Maya Plisetskaya
35. Gogh
36. Catherine the Great
37. Hokusai Katsushika
39. Rontgen
40. Lincoln
41. Mary Anning
42. Jigoro Kano
43. Maria Theresa
44. Inazo Nitobe
45. Emmeline Pankhurst
46. Kinue Hitomi
47. Leonardo da Vinci
48. Jenner
49. Sarah Bernhardt
50. Chopin
51. Katherine Johnson
52. Antonin Careme
53. Isabel I
54. Eglantyne Jebb
55. Seton

Seeing the World Through the Lens of Philosophy

Editor **Kono Tetsuya** Text by **Yoshiko Sugahara**
Illus. by **Nagashima Hiromi**



Age 9+
210 × 180 mm
127 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17743-3
Pub month: March 2023
Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese

Keywords

Philosophy, philosophical thinking, philosophical discussions, ways of thinking, morality, school, questions, the ability to think

Learn ways to think by seeing through the lens of philosophy

Philosophizing means thinking slowly, carefully, and thoroughly about the ideas and questions in front of you, talking them over with others, and searching for a more satisfying way of thinking.

This book starts from the main character's fuzzy sense that "for some reason, I just don't want to go to school..." The stories (in the form of manga) take the reader on a journey, sharing experiences of diving deeply into emotions, listening to the opinions of other people, and developing thoughts through discussions with friends.

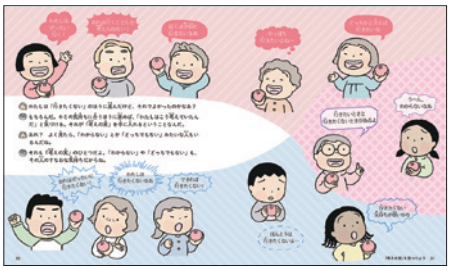
The book helps the reader learn ways of philosophical thinking which can be applied to a wide range of fuzzy emotions.

Content:

While ambling to school thinking "for some reason, I just don't want to go to school...", by the time she realized, the main character had become lost in a mysterious forest. Guided by an owl she meets, she exchanges a variety of opinions with the creatures living in the forest, and by doing so little by little chips away at that feeling of "for some reason, I just don't want to go to school." Once she leaves the forest, how different would her regular path to school look to her?







★English synopsis and sample available.

Tetsuya Kono: Professor at the College of Arts, Rikkyo University, Deputy Representative Director of the Ardacoda Children and Adult's Philosophy charity. PhD (Philosophy), Graduate School of Letters, Keio University. Specializations: Philosophy, ethics, philosophy of education.
Has been a committee member and director of many academic societies, such as being a director of the Philosophical Association of Japan.

Yoshiko Sugahara: Writer and editor focusing on children's books and practical guides. Engages in multi-faceted work in book creation, from planning and researching to composition and writing.

Hiromi Nagashima: Born in Hokkaido. *Manga* artist and illustrator.

Katalin Karikó

Julia Masuda



The story of how the COVID-19 vaccine was created

Content

This non-fiction book presents the life and research of Katalin Karikó, the scientist who developed the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2023. Despite various setbacks, such as lack of research funding and demotion, Katalin Karikó continued her RNA research without giving up. What was the source of her strength and motivation? This book tells the inside story of her life, from the childhood she spent in Hungary under the socialist regime, where she developed an eye for science in the rich natural environment, to the present, when she continued her research without compromising her convictions and was awarded the Nobel Prize.

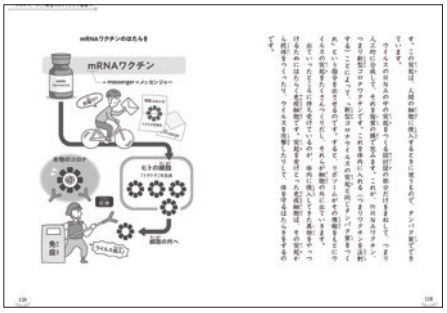
■ Video introduction of the book (*Akira Ikegami and Julia Masuda's YouTube Academy*) in Japanese

★English synopsis and sample available.

Ages 10+
194 x 133mm
142 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISNB 978-4-591-17862-1
Pub month: Aug. 2023

Keywords

Scientist, COVID-19, vaccine, Hungary, Nobel Prize, life sciences





Julia Masuda: Born in Kanagawa prefecture, Japan. Graduated from Kokugakuin University. Has taught world history, Japanese history, and contemporary society for 27 years, while also working as a reporter on NHK radio and TV. Has been the history and geography teacher on Nippon TV's "The Most Useful School in the World" and appeared on TV Asahi's "Oshita Yoko Wide! Scramble" as a commentator. Author of numerous books, including *Atarashii "Kyoiku kakusa"* (The New "Educational Disparity") (published by Kodansha Gendai Shinsho), *Kyoiku rikkoku Finland-ryu kyoshi no sodatekata* (The Finnish Way of Nurturing Teachers) (published by Iwanami Shoten, Publishers) and *Yureru imin taikoku France* (France, an Immigrant Nation in Turmoil). Analyzes the news with journalist Akira Ikegami on TV and YouTube.

Katalin Karikó: Scientist. Born in Hungary in 1955 under a socialist regime. Enrolled in the science faculty of the University of Szeged in 1973. Started researching RNA at the Hungarian Academy of the Sciences in 1978. When her research budget was taken away, she emigrated with her family to the United States in 1985. After working as a postdoctoral fellow at Temple University, she secured an adjunct professor position at the University of Pennsylvania. Despite setbacks including demotion, she persisted with her research for more than four decades. In 2013 she joined German biotech startup BioNTech, where she rose to the position of senior vice president. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania since 2021. Confronted by the COVID-19 pandemic which began in 2020, she developed an mRNA vaccine for the disease. In 2023, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

But Look Now

Shinsuke Yoshitake



Ages 5+
217 x 149mm
48 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16982-7
Pub month: June 2021
Rights sold: Catalan, French, Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Spanish, Thai, traditional Chinese

Every child becomes an adult – "But Look Now" is a heartwarming picture book highlighting those moments we want to hold onto.

Key selling points

- 9 languages, 350,000 copies sold
- First prize at the 2021 MOE Picture Book Sellers' Awards

★English sample available.

You wanted it so badly...but look now.
I cleaned your room so much...but look now.
You were so small...but look now.
There are so many memories when raising children, but eventually they grow up and become adults. That's why all these little things about everyday life become filled with nostalgia. "But Look Now" is a heartwarming story for children and adults.



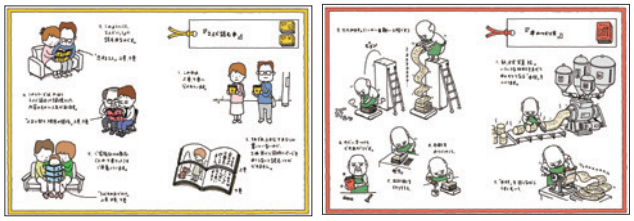
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The I Wonder Bookstore



208 x 154 mm
103 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-15444-1
Pub month: June 2017
Rights sold: English (world), French, German, Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Spanish (world), Thai, traditional Chinese

The I wonder Bookstore on the edge of town specializes in books that have something to do with books. Ask the owner, "I wonder if you have a book about so-and-so?" and he will almost surely reply, "Yes!" before ducking back among the shelves to fetch it. What kind of book would you want to request?



Shinsuke Yoshitake : Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1973. Earned a degree in Plastic Art and Mixed Media from the Master's Program in Art and Design at the University of Tsukuba. Has published a diverse range of works, including standalone sketches spotlighting aspects of everyday life with a unique take, illustrations for children's books, book cover designs, illustrated essays, and more. His debut picture book, "It Might Be an Apple," received first prize at the 6th MOE Picture Book Sellers' Awards, the 61st Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award for Art, and a prize at the 8th (Akiko Ikeda Commemorative) Watakushi, Tsumari Nobody Awards. "I Have a Reason" received first prize at the 8th MOE Picture Book Store Awards. "Still Stuck" received first prize at the 9th MOE Picture Book Store Awards and a special mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Awards. "The I Wonder Bookstore" was the runner-up in the Children's Book General Election. "The Boring Book" was selected for The New York Times the 10 Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2019.

That Book…

Naoki Matayoshi and Shinsuke Yoshitake



Ages 9+
208 x 154mm
192 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17432-6
Pub month: Jul. 2022
Rights sold: English(world), Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Spanish(world), Thai, traditional Chinese, Dutch

Keywords

The I Wonder Bookstore, *Spark*, *But Look Now*, books about books, gifts, best seller

PV (Japanese)

A witty story for all book lovers

You'll smile, you'll cry, and you'll roar with laughter at the final twist. A collaboration between Akutagawa-winning author Naoki Matayoshi and popular picture-book author Shinsuke Yoshitake, this is a hilarious, moving journey of books.

★English synopsis and sample available.

Summary

There once was a book-loving king who was very old and nearly blind. One day, he called two men to his castle and said, "I love books. I've read many in my day. In fact, I think I've read most of them. But my eyes are so bad now, I can't read. Still, I love books, so I want to hear stories about them. I command the two of you to travel the world searching for anyone who knows of unusual books. When you find them, ask them about those books. Then come back here and tell me their stories."
The two men set out on their journey and collected many stories for the king. When they returned, they began to tell him their stories each night…







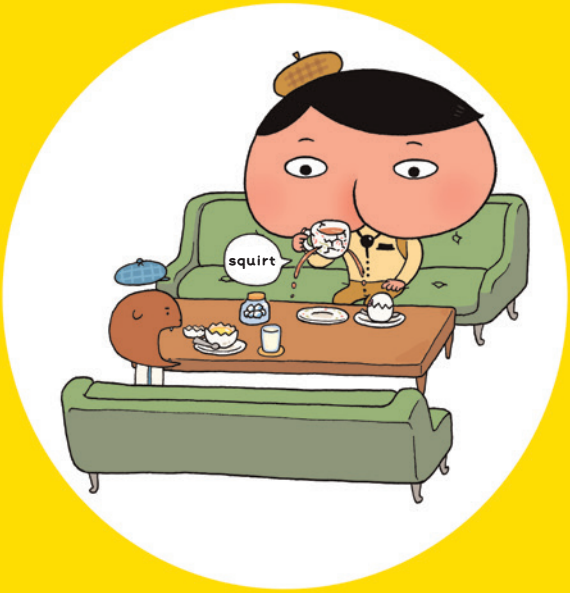


Contact

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The rest of the world…English Agency Japan / New River Literary Ltd (likangqin@newriveragency.com)

Naoki Matayoshi: Born in 1980 in Neyagawa, Osaka Prefecture. Is a member of the comedy ensemble Peace, part of the Yoshimoto Kogyo entertainment company. In 2015, his debut novel *Spark* won the Akutagawa Prize and became a bestseller with over three million copies sold. In 2017, published the romance novel *Theater*, and in April 2022, expanded *Humans*, originally a newspaper serial, for publication as a paperback. His other titles include *A Hundred Views of Tokyo* and *Second Assistant to the Librarian*. His YouTube channel Whirlpool and his subscription website Moonlight Jottings are also popular.

POPLAR



POPLAR
PUBLISHING
Foreign Rights Catalog 2024

Design : Mihoko Takahashi (Poplar Publishing)
rev.02