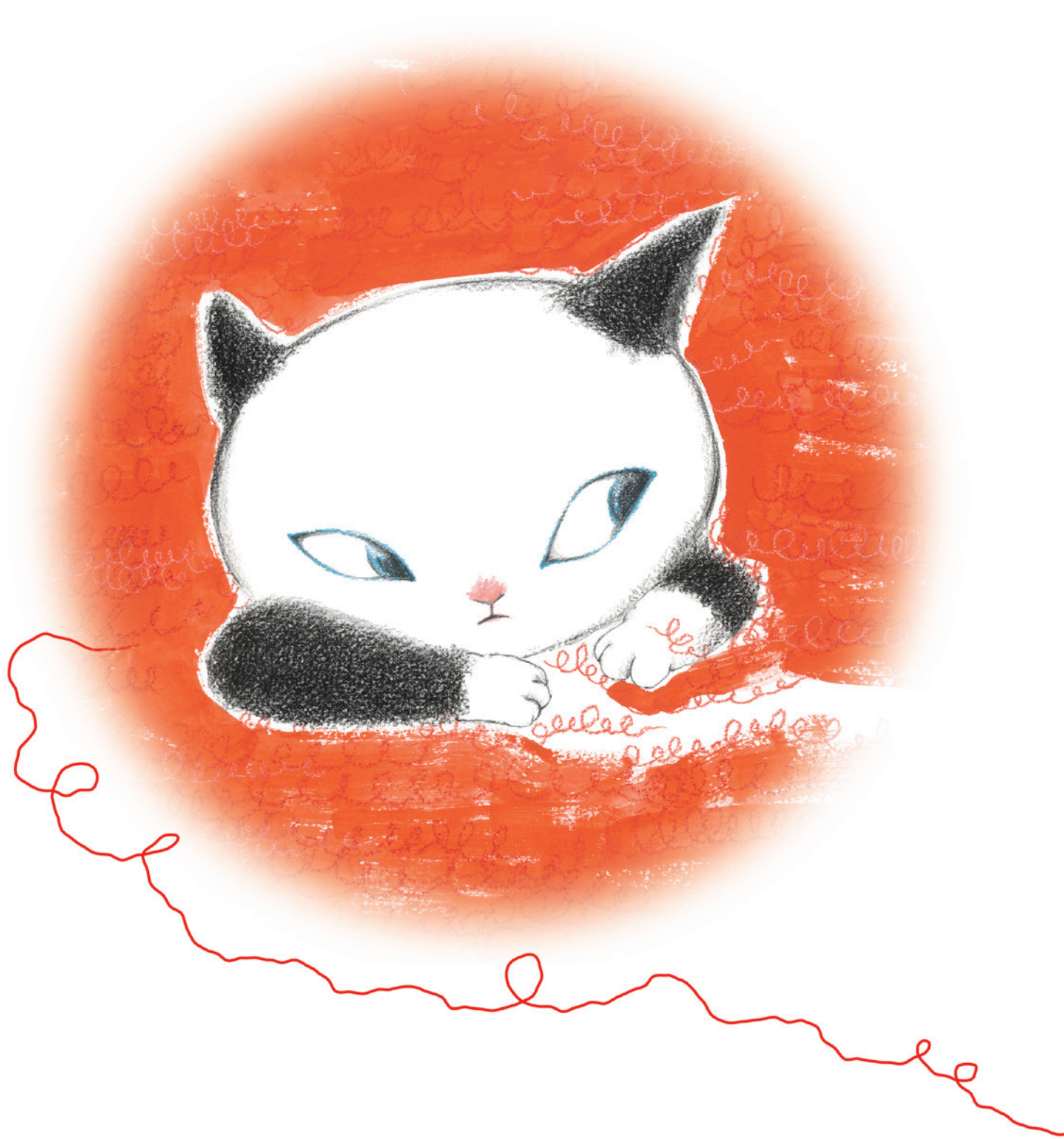




POPLAR
PUBLISHING



Foreign Rights Catalog 2026

About Us

Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd., a leading independent publisher of children's books in Japan, has been in business for more than 75 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, *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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Hoppe-chan and Her Little Cheeks

Makoi



A picture book of paper-cut art that brings a smile to readers of all ages.

Hoppe-chan is a little girl with perfectly round cheeks. One day, while swinging on a swing, her cheeks suddenly pop off and stick to a cloud! Then, plop!—they land on an apple! Her cheeks keep rolling and rolling... Where will they end up in the end?

This heartwarming story was born from the wish for a world where everyone—whether they live near or far—can smile together.

Ages 0+

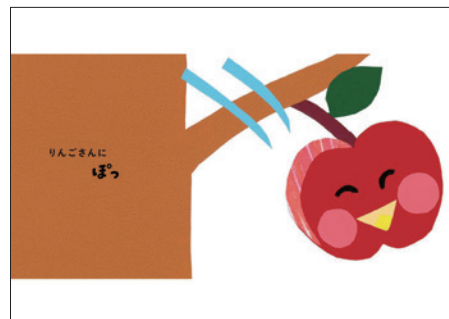
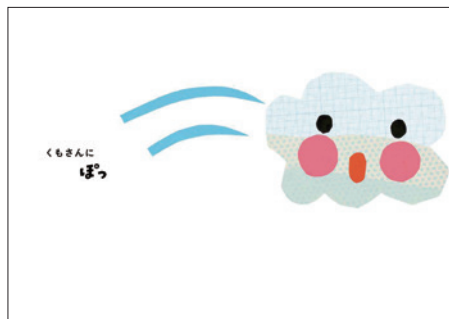
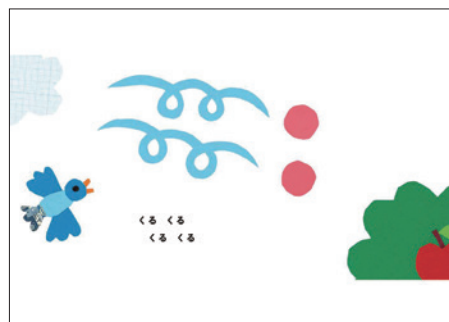
186mm x 186mm

26 pages

Hardcover

Publication: August 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18656-5



Makoi: Born in Tokyo. Influenced by Western picture books during five years spent in New York as a child. She creates book covers and illustrations using paper-cut techniques, and is known for bold compositions, vibrant colors, and emotionally rich expression. This is her debut picture book.

Smiley Devil Girl series

Illustrated by **Aimi Hara**
Written by **KEROPONS**



Ages 1+
184mm x 154mm
32 pages
Hardcover
Publication: September 2018
ISBN: 978-4-591-15971-2

Rights sold:

Catalan, Polish, Portuguese
(excluding Brazil), simplified
Chinese, Spanish, Thai, traditional
Chinese, Vietnamese

★English sample
available

★7 volumes currently
available

No Way! No Way!

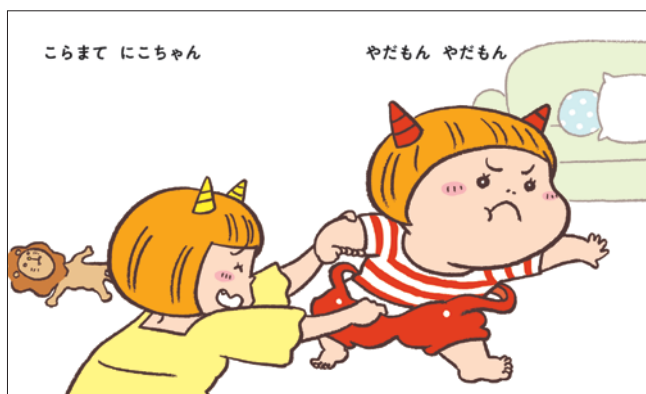
A humorous picture book about a child going through the “terrible twos.”

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.



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 137 million views on YouTube.

Nora the Stray Cat

Izumi Suge



Ages 3+

235mm x 210mm

32 pages

Hardcover

Publication: October 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18727-2

Received a Special Mention in the Opera Prima category of the 2026 Bologna Ragazzi Award.

A picture book that gently portrays the kindness found in everyday life through the connection between a cat and an elderly woman.

Nora is a stray cat who lives quietly in a corner of the park. One day, while sitting on his favorite bench, an elderly woman wearing many sweaters comes by. "Do you mind if I sit next to you for a bit?" "This bench is so warm and cozy, isn't it?" the woman talks to Nora.

As the woman chats in a friendly way, Nora's guarded heart begins to open. But when the woman finally stands up, she doesn't realize that the wool of her sweater has gotten caught in Nora's claws...

This is a gentle story of warmth and connection between a carefree cat and a kind elderly woman.

Rights sold:

Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese

★English sample available



Izumi Suge: After working at a design firm, she began her career as a freelance graphic designer while dedicating herself to creating picture books. This work marks her debut as a picture book author. *Nora the Stray Cat* received a Special Mention in the Opera Prima category of the 2026 Bologna Ragazzi Award and the Grand Prize at the 25th Pinpoint Picture Book Competition.

The Candy House Construction Company

Written by: **Masumi Asano**

Illustrated by **Tomoko Shintani**



Ages 3+

206mm x 206mm

32pages

Hardcover

Publication: October 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18729-6

Rights sold:

Korean, Thai

A picture book full of dreams, centered around the theme of a candy house.

One day, Mr. Fox visits the Candy House Construction Company, a place where his dream candy house can come true. Imagine a fluffy sponge cake sofa, a freshly baked apple pie door, a roof decorated with colorful chocolates, and a warm pancake floor... As Mr. Fox makes his choices, a one-of-a-kind candy house is completed!

The cheerful crew at the construction company — including a humorous sales bear and a serious pig architect — plays a big role in this delightful story. It's a fun and imaginative tale that sparks children's creativity.



Masumi Asano: Winner of the Ohisama Grand Prize in the Fairy Tales category for *Pucchi, the Little Button* (*Chiisana Botan, Pucchi*). Her works include the popular *Animal Bus* series, among many others. She is also active as a voice actress with numerous roles to her name.

Tomoko Shintani: While working as a UI designer at electronics and IT companies, she began sharing her illustrations on social media. Now a freelance illustrator and designer, her works include *Search! Find! Travel Play* (*Sagashite Mitsukete Tabiasobi*) and more.

I Want to Eat 100 Pancakes

Eriko Ishikawa



Ages 3+
264mm x 216mm
33 pages
Hardcover
Publication: January 2026
ISBN: 978-4-591-18832-3

A delightful picture book filled with cute and unique cats!

“Today, I really want to eat 100 delicious pancakes!” A little girl goes shopping for enough ingredients to make 100 pancakes. Suddenly, a big black cat appears. At every stop, more and more cats join in to help her with the shopping.

When the girl returns home with a crowd of cats, her mother starts cooking pancakes one after another. The girl munches away happily and feels completely satisfied! But what about the cats...?

“I wanted to portray a child who doesn’t have to be perfect—just wholeheartedly devoted to what she loves,” says the author. The stylish and charming cats reflect her background as a designer. A fun, lively picture book perfect for read-aloud sessions.



Eriko Ishikawa: Her debut work *When We Played on the Coal Hill* (*Botayama de Asondakoro*) won the Kodansha Publishing Culture Award for Picture Books. Since then, she has received numerous awards, including the Tsubota Joji Literary Award for *Arara's Field* (*Arara no Hatake*, written by Rie Muranaka). Other works include *The Birds That Visit My Yard*.

Butasuke the Little Pig and His Horn

Illustrated by **Keiko Shibata**

Written by **Hiroshi Yamazaki**



Ages 3+

216mm x 193mm

32 pages

Hardcover

Publication: June 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18612-1

A picture book by a bestselling author that teaches children how to protect themselves.

Butasuke is a little pig who attends a preschool deep in the forest. A cheerful “Beep!” always comes out of the horn on his head—during drawing time, lunchtime, even nap time!

One day, while playing hide and seek, Butasuke notices that the door of the preschool bus has been left open. Thinking it’s the perfect hiding place, he hops inside. But the door shuts, and he finds himself trapped.

He tries blowing his head horn, but no one hears him. Then he remembers something his teacher once told him: “your horn sounds so much like a car horn that it could surprise everyone!” Inspired, he presses the real car horn—Honk! The teachers immediately notice and rush to help him.

This story was created to teach children a simple and effective way to call for help if they ever become accidentally locked inside a vehicle: Press the car horn. The authors hope that families and educators will read this book together to prevent such accidents.

Rights sold:

Korean, Thai, traditional Chinese



Keiko Shibata: Her works include *the Bread Thief* series which has won several awards and has become a bestseller, *The Delicious-looking Polar Bear* which won the Libro Bookstore Picture Book Award, and *Osaji the Panda* series.

Hiroshi Yamazaki: As a creative director and copywriter at an advertising agency, he creates TV commercials and other media. His picture book credits include the *Unsolvble Moral Questions: How Would You Answer?* (*Kotaeno nai dotoku Do toku?*) series and more.

The Long, Long Breakfast

Kurita Bokoyama



Ages 3+
192mm x 250mm
32 pages
Hardcover
Publication: January 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18432-5

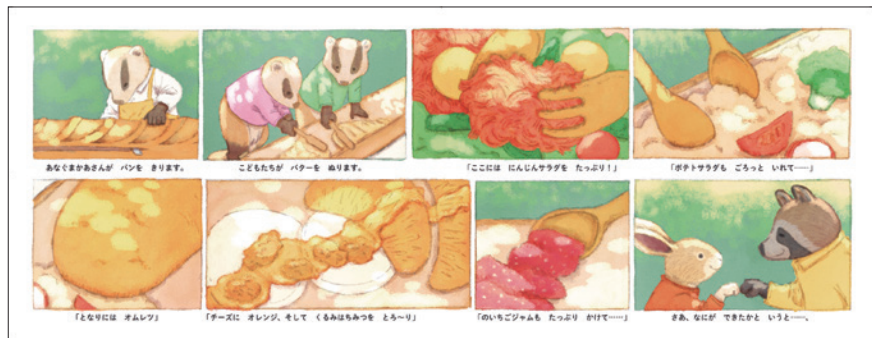
Rights sold:

French, Korean, Thai

“Hey, let’s cook breakfast outside today!”
A delicious and fun breakfast relay story.

One fine morning, the twin rabbits who live in the woods are outside, cooking their breakfast, when a delicious smell wafts in from somewhere. The tanuki next door seems to be having breakfast outside as well, so the rabbits decide to go over and enjoy breakfast together.

Just then, a delicious smell wafts into the tanuki’s place, too... Attracted by this smell, the animals go from one neighbor’s house to the next. In the end, they make a big sandwich together and share it. A breakfast themed picture book that will make you want to share a meal with someone.



Kurita Bokoyama: Picture book author and illustrator. In addition to picture books such as *The Birth of a Jellyfish* (*Umareta yo! Kurage*), he has also worked on many picture books for young children and science picture books under the name Bokokobo. His portfolio includes *Picture Book about the Sky: Learning about Stars and the Weather* (*Tenki to Hoshi ga Wakaru Sora no Ehon*), *Let’s Play Together: Ayatori for Two* (*Issmoni Yarou! Futari Ayatori*), *Picture Book of Nursery Rhymes* (*Doyo Daishugo Uta Ehon*).

Animal Bus series

Written by **Masumi Asano**
Illustrated by **Shiho Kotera**



Animal Bus Lost & Found

A heartwarming picture book series filled with adventure and friendship.

Sold over 280,000 copies as a series.

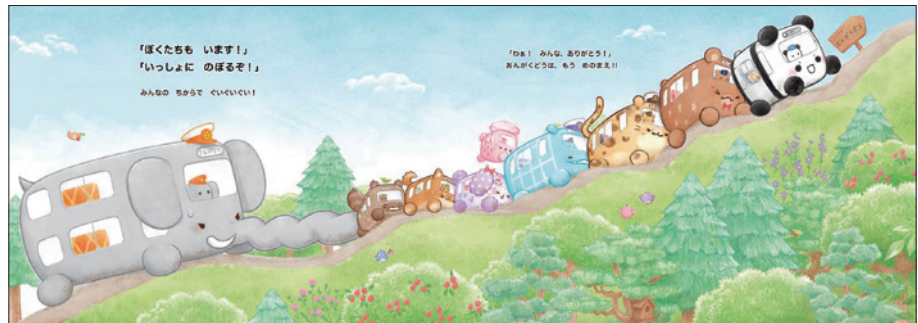
Ages 3+
207mm x 290 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
Publication: July 2017
ISBN: 978-4-591-15471-7

Rights sold:

Korean, Polish, traditional
Chinese, simplified Chinese, Thai

★English sample
available

★9 Dvolumes currently
available



©Q-lia ©Animalbus Partners



Animal Bus and the Bakery



Animal Bus in the Forest at Night



Animal Bus and the Birthday



Animal Bus Above the Clouds



Animal Bus and the Mole Bus



Animal Bus and the Star Festival



Animal Bus and the Strawberry Field



Animal Bus and the Amusement Park

NEW

Shiho Kotera: 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. Cats are her favorite animal.

Masumi Asano: Winner of the Ohisama Grand Prize in the Fairy Tales category for *Pucchi, the Little Button* (*Chiisana Botan, Pucchi*). Her works include the popular *Animal Bus* series, among many others. She is also active as a voice actress with numerous roles to her name.

Long, Long Line series

Tomoko Ohmura



Ages 3+

227mm x 226 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

Publication: August 2009

ISBN: 978-4-591-11079-9

Rights sold:

French, German, Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Swedish, Thai, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese

★English sample available

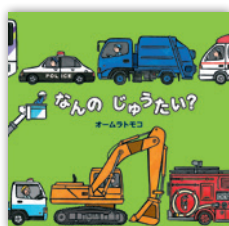
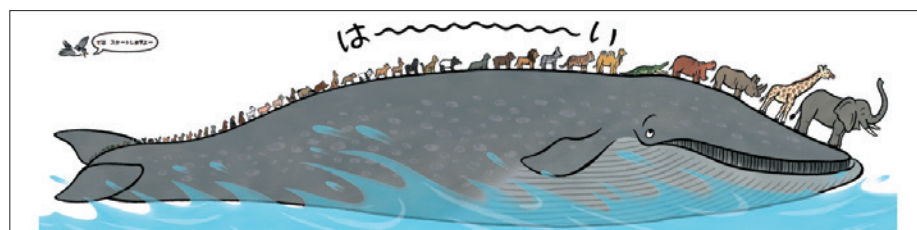
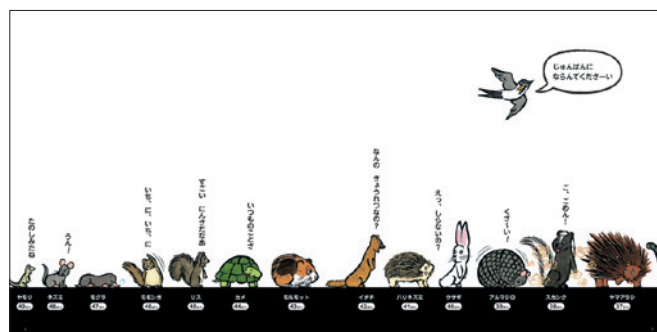
★6 volumes currently available

Long, Long Line: Animals

A bestselling picture book series that playfully depicts long lines.

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.



Long, Long Line: Vehicles



Long, Long Line: Insects



Long, Long Line: Sea Animals



Long, Long Line: Birds



Long, Long Line: Dogs

NEW

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

Four Witch Sisters On a Shopping Spree

Mina Kawai



A delightful interactive picture book where young readers join little witches to choose their favorite magical items.

Four young witches have just moved into a new home. Each young girl goes out shopping to fill up their old, empty house with the things they love. Cute, stylish and sometimes a bit mysterious and scary – so much is waiting to be discovered at the magic shops throughout town.

What will each of these young witches buy? What would you choose? A fun “shopping trip book” that can be enjoyed again and again alone, between parent and child, or with siblings and friends.

Ages 4+
303mm x 216mm
31 pages
Hardcover
Publication: October 2021
ISBN: 978-4-591-17135-6

Rights sold:

Catalan, French, Korean, Spanish, Thai

★English sample available



Four Witch Sisters and Their Lovely Basement

When the four young witches move into their new home, they discover a mysterious basement filled with broken furniture, stacks of old books, and more. By refurbishing what they find and adding items they love, the four witches begin creating a lovely room.

This interactive picture book invites young readers to join the witches—choosing favorite items and helping design a magical space together..

Publication: April 2023
ISBN: 978-4-591-17759-4

Invitation to Dino Park

Kohei Yamashita



Ages 3+
232mm x 286mm
40 pages
Hardcover
Publication: July 2023
ISBN: 978-4-591-17829-4

Rights sold:

simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Thai, Korean, Vietnam

★English sample available

A joyful picture book set in a dinosaur-filled amusement park.

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.

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.



Publication: July 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18639-8

Dino Park: Dino Robo Safari Adventure

The young boy is invited to explore a brand new area of the Dino Park—the Dino Safari zone, which features over 100 kinds of dinosaurs and other ancient creatures. Riding in a dinosaur shaped machine called the Dino Robo, he sets off on an exciting safari adventure, encountering a wide variety of dinosaurs along the way. Through these lively encounters, the boy gradually learns about empathy and the importance of caring for others.



Kohei Yamashita: Designer and picture book author. He is the creator of “MYAKU-MYAKU,” the official character of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

It's Dripping!

Noritake Suzuki



Ages 3+
206mm x 206mm
24 pages
Hardcover
Publication: October 2024
ISBN: 978-4-591-18326-7

A humor-filled picture book with unexpected twists and turns.

Sold over 65,000 copies in Japan.

Everyone loves a sweet, crispy doughnut. But what if you put chocolate sauce on it? Even better, right? But what if you put a bit too many sauce on the doughnut? The sauce starts dripping, and you have to catch it!

This humorous picture book takes you on a simple yet capturing rollercoaster of “?” and “!” which keeps readers wondering what would happen next. Children are sure to cry out, “It’s dripping!” when the pages are turned.



Nice catch!

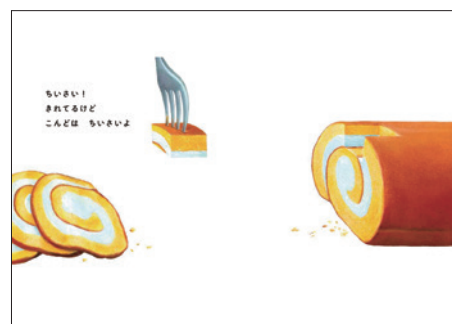
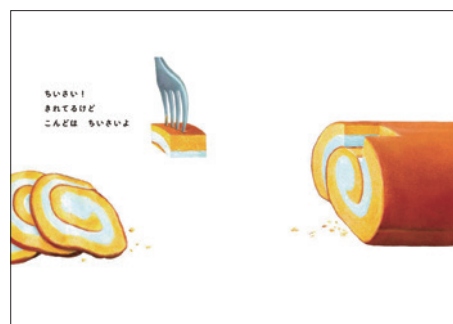
NEW



Publication: October 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18728-9

Slice It

A perfectly sliced roll cake—mmm, looks delicious! But one slice isn’t enough. Let’s take another. Oh no, it’s too thin! That won’t satisfy me, so let’s take more. Now it’s too tiny! Drawn in a hyper-realistic style, the roll cake lures readers to turn the page, only to be met with surprising developments that go beyond imagination.



Noritake Suzuki: After working as a graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the Japan Picture Book Award Readers’ Prize for *My Toilet*, and the Miraiya Bookstore Picture Book Award, the Libro Bookstore Picture Book Award, and the MOE Picture Book Award for *A Collection of Daily Tragedies* series, which sold over 2.7 million copies in Japan.

Find the Suika Game!

Supervised by **Aladdin X**
Illustrated by **Kaori Hayashi**



Ages 5+
246mm x 216mm
30 pages
Hardcover
Publication: August 2024
ISBN: 978-4-591-18245-1

Rights sold:

Korean

With over 11 million downloads, the viral game is now reborn as a joyful search-and-find picture book.

Sold over 55,000 copies in Japan.

Ranked No.1 in the 2024 annual download rankings, the beloved Suika Game is now a fun-filled seek-and-find picture book. The fruits are causing a commotion at summer festivals, race tracks, and even in outer space! Can you spot the hidden characters among the jam-packed fruits?

Just like the game, readers will want to try again and again! Every page is newly illustrated and bursting with cuteness—perfect for parents and kids to enjoy together.



Find More Suika Game!

Once again, the fruits have leapt out of the game screen—this time, they're being chased by dinosaurs in the Jurassic era, battling the Dark Lord as heroes in a dungeon, and even forming an idol group called "Suika Fresh." The adorable and slightly surreal world is back—now even more fun in this exciting second volume!



Publication: July 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18641-1



Aladdin X: Company specializing in the development and production of home projectors. Its original built-in projector game, *Suika Game*, became a massive hit.

Kaori Hayashi: Designer, illustrator, and picture book author. After working for twelve years at a design company, she became a freelance artist. She specializes in creating colorful and playful designs and illustrations for children's products.

Found It—Christmas!

Chiharu Okajima



Ages 3+
263mm × 216mm
22pages
Hardcover
Publication: October 2024
ISBN: 978-4-591-18327-4

Rights sold:
Korean, traditional Chinese

A seek-and-find picture book packed with all the cutest things about Christmas!

Twins Chris and Marie head into town to shop for their Christmas Eve party. They're inviting friends over, so they need to prepare decorations and delicious treats.

From Christmas markets and toy shops to rows of wreaths and festive cakes... Join the twins as they search for wonderful Christmas items and get ready for the party! Just gazing at the pages will fill you with excitement—this is a seek-and-find picture book full of holiday cheer.



Chiharu Okajima: Illustrator and picture book author. Captivated by the world of picture books she read as a child, she creates warm digital illustrations with the texture of colored pencils and paints. Her work includes illustrations for children's fiction and preschool magazines.

Find the Odd One Out!

Yutaka Nakagaki

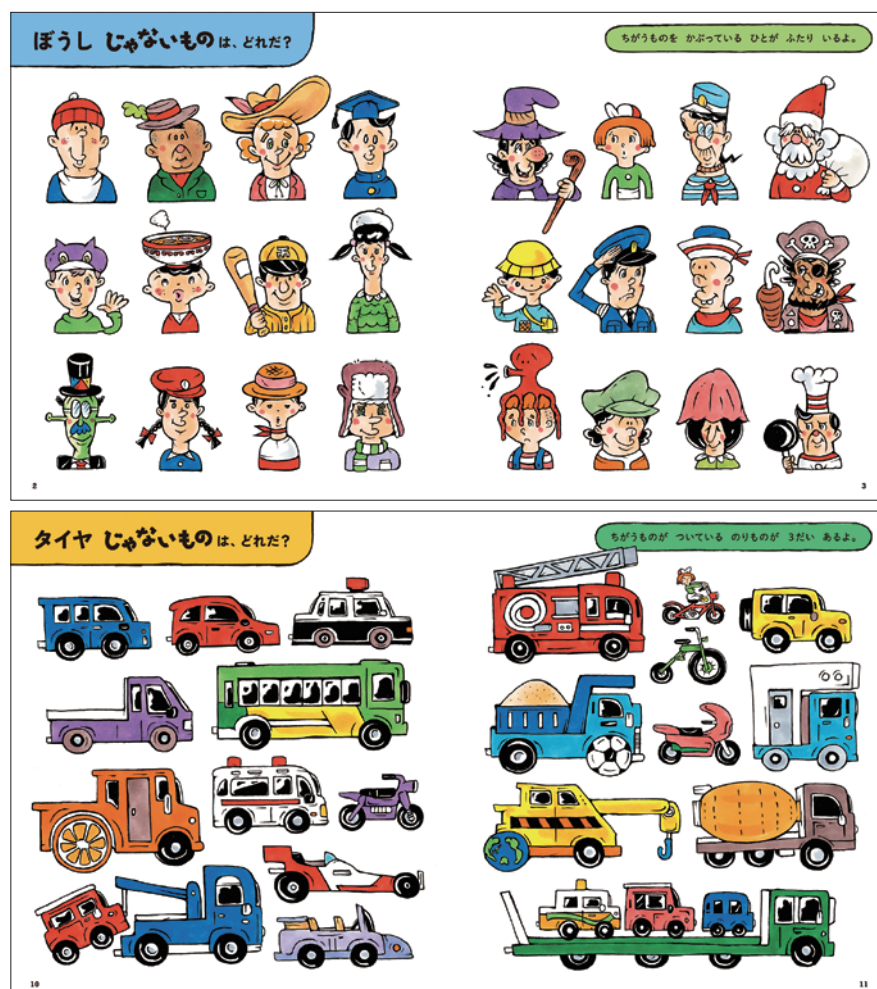


Which one is NOT a hat? A delightfully unique seek-and-find picture book that will make children laugh.

At first glance, this may look like a typical seek-and-find picture book. But if you look closely, you'll find out that things are not quite what they seem! Can you spot all the odd ones out? An orange in place of a tire and an octopus mimicking a hat...

This is a unique seek-and-find picture book where kids search for items which are cleverly camouflaged. The detailed and whimsically offbeat illustrations are bound to spark children's curiosity.

Ages 3+
206mm x 186mm
32 pages
Hardcover
Publication: April 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18576-6



Yutaka Nakagaki: Picture book author and illustrator. He began his career as a freelance illustrator in 2005, first appearing in a music magazine. Gaining increased popularity in recent years, he has published a lot of picture books, including *Take a Ride Through the Human Body on the World's Fastest Rollercoaster*.

Where's the Hamster?

Takahiro Noda



Ages 5+

246mm × 216mm

24pages

Board book

Publication: March 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18391-5

Rights sold:

Spanish, Catalan, traditional
Chinese, Polish, Czech, Thai

★English sample
available

★Co-production item

An innovative seek-and-find picture book, with a hexagonal shape.

Flip through the hexagonal picture book and you will find a detailed yet cute world of three-dimensional cubes: a toy box, a first-aid kit, an insect cage... But where is the hamster? Look for hamster, together with the main character. As young readers flip through the pages, they will realize that there are more stories hidden inside than meets the eye!



NEW

What will We Buy?

In this second volume, the story takes place in a bustling shopping mall. The mysterious cube-shaped world expands even further—far bigger in scale than the first book's cozy home setting. With a shopping list in hand, the characters explore the mall, but readers will quickly find themselves curious about items not on the list as well.

Publication: March 2026

ISBN: 978-4-591-18828-6

Takahiro Noda: In 2021, he won the "Nika Design Poster Grand Prize" in the Design Division of the 105th Nika Exhibition. This book is his first stand-alone book. Loves superheroes and capsule toys.

Butt Detective series

Troll



Ages 3+
266mm x 207mm
32pages
Hardcover
Publication: October 2012
ISBN: 978-4-591-13090-2

Rights sold:

Catalan, English (UK
Commonwealth, excluding
Canada), Korean, Norwegian,
Polish, simplified Chinese,
Spanish, Thai, Finnish, Bulgarian,
traditional Chinese

Agent:

Tuttle-Mori Agency (World,
excluding Asia)

★English sample
available

★7 volumes currently
available

**A global hit picture book series packed with humor,
charm, and kid friendly mysteries.**

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.



Vol.2



Vol.3



Vol.4



Vol.5



Vol.6



Vol.7



Short promotional
video (in Japanese)

Butt Detective series

Troll



Ages 6+
216mm x 155 mm
88 pages
Hardcover
Publication: August 2015
ISBN: 978-4-591-14618-7

Rights sold:

Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian,
German, Finnish, French, Italian,
Korean, Norwegian, Polish,
simplified Chinese, Thai,
traditional Chinese, Portuguese
(Brazil), Russian, Ukraine, English
(North America), Vietnamese

Agent:

Tuttle-Mori Agency (World,
excluding Asia)

★English sample
available

★15 volumes currently
available

The beloved mystery chapter book series with successful anime and film adaptations.

A global phenomenon with over 35 million copies sold across its picture-book and chapter-book series.

This illustrated chapter book series invites readers to join Butt Detective and his assistant Brown the little dog as they solve mysteries through engaging activities—mazes, secret codes, hidden object puzzles, and more. Each book includes two exciting stories.

In this first title of the series, a mysterious client known as the Purple Lady brings a puzzling, coded message to Butt Detective. He follows clues around town and unravels that the visitor was actually the serial burglar disguised as the Purple Lady, and that he was plotting to steal the treasure from the farm.



Troll : Troll is a team consisting of writer Yoko Tanaka and illustrator Masahide Fukasawa. Together they produce picture books, children's fiction, and application graphics for the iPhone, iPad, and Android.

Magic Garden Story series

Yasuko Ambiru



Ages 8+
205mm x 153mm
143 pages
Hardcover
Publication: April 2007
ISBN: 978-4-591-09749-6

The Magic Garden and the Mysterious Herb Recipes

A cozy world of magic, friendship, and the small joys of growing up.

Bestselling series with over 1.3 million copies sold in Japan.

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.

Rights sold:

Korean, traditional Chinese,
Vietnamese, Thai, Italian, Polish,
Russian

★English sample
available

★26 volumes currently
available



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

The Kittens of the Magic Garden – An's Story

Yasuko Ambiru



Ages 5+
205mm x 155mm
64 pages
Hardcover
Publication: May 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18547-6

Rights sold:

Italian, traditional Chinese

★English sample available

Keywords:

desire for recognition,
self-esteem



The kittens teach us what's truly important in our life.

A heartwarming spin-off story of *The Magic Garden Story* series.

A girl named Jarett and her six unique kittens live at Topaz Manor, where herbs grow in the beautiful Magic Garden. One of the kittens, An, has always wanted to be special. One day, she gets her big chance!

Through the relationships between the kittens, this story shows that being special – something that everyone yearns for – is something that we all are just by being who we are now.

All pages are fully colored for easy reading. It's perfect for reading aloud to a child and for early readers. The book is fully enjoyable even if one hasn't read *The Magic Garden Story* series.

Six Volumes
Slated for Release



Yasuko Ambiru: She writes children's fiction, and her works include *The Magic Garden Story* series, *Lulu and Rara* series, *The Anything Witches Company* series, *Moon Hills Magic Jewelry Store* series and more. She has sold over 5.2 million copies of her books.

Our Minecraft Adventure Chronicle

Written by Tora Hari

Illustrated by Machito Gomi



Ages 8+
172mm x 112mm
286 pages
Softcover
Publication: June 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18619-0

Rights sold:

Korean, traditional Chinese



Short promotional video
(in Japanese)



Publication: December 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18812-5

Minecraft meets Home Alone – an exciting adventure novel set in the world of the globally popular game.

The story follows Kosei, a 5th-grade boy who wishes to escape his troubles in the real world. One day, his wish comes true—he is suddenly transported into the world of Minecraft. Chased by zombies and skeletons, he meets new friends and discovers that he is a “Legendary Crafter,” someone with a special power called Craft—the ability to create, dismantle, and store items.

Together with his new companions, Kosei builds a massive secret base. But danger looms as a band of raiders threatens their village. Using their wits and crafting skills, the children set clever traps and prepare to defend their home!



Our Minecraft Adventure 2

What Happens When You Craft in the No Craft Village!?

Kosei and Loki wander into a snowy biome and eventually arrive at a mysterious village where crafting is strictly forbidden. But before they realize it, they accidentally craft something—and are immediately captured!

In the village jail, they meet a girl named Kanon and team up with her to stage a daring escape. However, Kosei just can't accept the strange rules imposed by Evo, the tyrant who controls the village. Determined to uncover the truth behind these laws, he takes action!

Tora Hari: Author of many popular children's books, including the hit series *Despair Tag*, which has sold over 1 million copies.

Machito Gomi: Manga artist known for works such as the *Pokémon: The Story of Ash and Goh* series.

Nightmare Library series

Taiga Kayama



Ages 7+
188mm x 128mm
199 pages
Softcover
Publication: February 2023
ISBN: 978-4-591-17708-2

Rights sold:

Korean, Italian, Thai, Polish,
English, Russian, traditional
Chinese

A chilling Japanese horror series brought to life with richly detailed illustrations.

Nightmare Library 1 Welcome to the Nightmare Library

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. Young readers will enjoy these spooky yet cute and pop styled stories.



Publication: September 2023
ISBN: 978-4-591-17908-6

Keywords:

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

Nightmare Library 2 The Monster of the Night Sky

At the Nightmare Library, every book is born from a child's terrifying dream. There, young readers encounter a skeletal concierge, a shaggy monster, and a silent spider woman—staff who are eerie yet strangely endearing. Their unsettling charm is part of what makes this series truly irresistible.



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.

The Zorori series

Yutaka Hara



Vol.40

Ages 5+

218mm x 155mm

95 pages

Softcover

Publication : December 2006

ISBN: 978-4-591-09512-6

Rights sold:

Korean, simplified Chinese, Thai,
traditional Chinese

★English sample available

★76 volumes currently
available



Short promotional video
(with English subtitles)

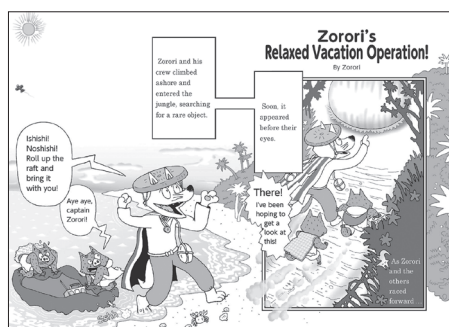
Zorori Saves the Dinosaur Egg!

A million copy bestseller from Japan, led by Zorori—the clever, mischievous hero loved by generations.

40 million copies sold in the world.

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.

In this volume, 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?



English sample layout

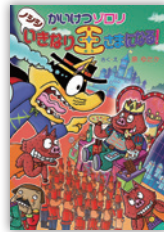
From Latest Volumes



Vol. 72
Save the Dinosaur
Mother



Vol. 73
Zorori Suddenly
Becomes King!?



Vol. 74
Noshishi Suddenly
Becomes King!?



Vol. 75
Got It! The
Mysterious
Giant Diamond



Vol. 76
Here Comes the
Fake Zorori!

Yutaka Hara :Hara is one of Japan's most beloved creators of children's literature. He debuted as an illustrator at age twenty and received the Kodansha Children's Literature Award early in his career. He is best known as the creator of the long running Zorori series, which has been adapted into TV series and films, and earned a Guinness World Record in 2022 for the most volumes in a single-author chapter-book series.

Let's Go! Maizen1 Hide and Seek in a Giant Toilet

Written by **Hiroshi Ishizaki** Illustrated by **Sanosuke Sakuma**



Ages 6+
172mm × 112mm
144pages
Softcover
Publication: November 2023
ISBN: 978-4-591-17967-3

Rights sold:

Korean

★8 volumes currently
available



Mizen's YouTube channel
(in English)

Chapter book series by the hugely popular YouTube duo Mizen, who have 20 million followers.

Over 350,000 copies sold in the series.

Beloved especially among elementary school students, the Maizen Sister's hit videos have been transformed into exciting stories in this book. Whether you're already a fan or discovering them for the first time, you'll enjoy thrilling adventures featuring Zenichi, the smart and dependable one, and Mikey, the cheerful and innocent newcomer to this world. This book contains three short and fun stories:

1) Hide-and-Seek in a Giant Toilet

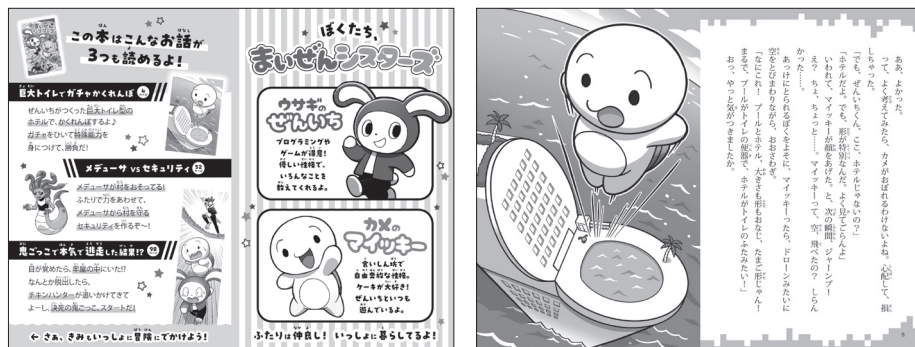
Zenichi and Mikey play hide-and-seek in a hotel shaped like a giant toilet—but with a twist! During the game, they can draw from a “gacha” machine to gain special abilities like invisibility, super jump, or wall-phasing. Zenichi uses his strategic mind to combine powers, while Mikey relies on bold moves to evade pursuit.

2) Medusa vs. Security

One day, a village is attacked by Medusa, turning villagers into stone. To protect everyone, Zenichi and Mikey build a security system with traps and barriers. But Medusa's power is overwhelming! Can their teamwork and quick thinking save the day? This episode is packed with tension and the thrill of victory.

3) The Ultimate Escape in Tag

Zenichi wakes up in a prison cell, only to face the villainous Chicken Hunter. To survive, Zenichi and Mikey must escape in a high-stakes game of tag across a vast field, using hiding spots and items to outwit their pursuer. Full of unpredictable twists and heart-pounding excitement!



Hiroshi Ishizaki: Ishizaki began his career in publishing before becoming a writer and translator. He won the Noma Children's Literature Award and the Japan Association of Children's Authors Award for *The Witch School at the End of the World* (*Sekai no Hate no Majogakko*), among many other popular works.

Sanosuke Sakuma: Sakuma works across creative fields, including game character design, trading card illustrations, and book artwork.

Maizen Gamebook

Written by **Chisato Seki**

Illustrated by **Kaori Hayashi**



Ages 5+

215mm x 155mm

79 pages

Softcover

Publication: April 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18577-3

An interactive gamebook where readers choose the next page—solving mazes, quizzes, and missions along the way, based on the hugely popular YouTube content.

Zenichi sneaks into a heavily guarded prison to rescue Mikey, who has been captured for a crime he didn't commit. Together, they hatch a daring escape plan, but countless traps and obstacles await them.

This interactive story allows readers to decide how the plot unfolds by choosing which page to turn to next. Sometimes the choice may lead to a game over—but don't worry! Readers can try again and enjoy the adventure as many times as they like.



Chisato Seki: A children's book author known for creating numerous character based titles. She is the author of *MyakuMyaku: A Day in the Life* (*MyakuMyaku Aru Hi no Ohanashi*), a picture book featuring the official character of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, along with many other works centered on popular characters.

Kaori Hayashi: Hayashi creates works across a wide range of fields, including picture books, educational materials, childcare products, and miscellaneous goods.

Maizen Comics – Prison Break!

Story by **Jun Esaka**

Illustrated by **Sanosuke Sakuma & Kaori Hayashi**



Ages 6+

151mm x 105mm

192 pages

Paperback

Publication: November 2025

ISBN: 978-4-591-18695-4

Maizen, the hugely popular YouTube channel with 20 million subscribers worldwide, is featured in comics!

The Maizen's hit videos have been reimagined into this brand-new comics. You'll enjoy the adventures and mysteries featuring Zenichi, the knowledgeable and dependable one, and Mikey, the cheerful and innocent newcomer to this world.

The book features 80 four-panel comic strips, divided into three major story arcs inspired by their videos. Just like the original storylines, you can read them sequentially or enjoy each one on its own for a good laugh.

In the first story, Zenichi and Mikey accidentally damage a gate and end up in prison. Their comical attempts to escape include building a portal to another world and creating a drink that shrinks their bodies.

Beyond the comics, the book includes quiz pages, character introductions and more. With its full-color illustrations and minimal text, it's easier to read than traditional comics—making it a perfect gateway into comics for young readers transitioning from picture books.

★The second volume is planned for release



Jun Esaka: After graduating from Waseda University, Esaka began a career in writing. In addition to original manga stories, he has worked on novelizations such as *ONE PIECE novel HEROINES* and the *NARUTO Novels* series.

Sanosuke Sakuma: Sakuma works across creative fields, including game character design, trading card illustrations, and book artwork.

Kaori Hayashi: Hayashi creates works across a wide range of fields, including picture books, educational materials, childcare products, and miscellaneous goods.

I Told a Lie

Written by **Suguri Nishimura**
Illustrated by **Kano Nakajima**



Ages 10+
188mm × 135mm
174 pages
Hardcover
Publication: June 2023
ISBN: 978-4-591-17821-8

Rights sold:

Italian

★English synopsis and sample available

Keywords:

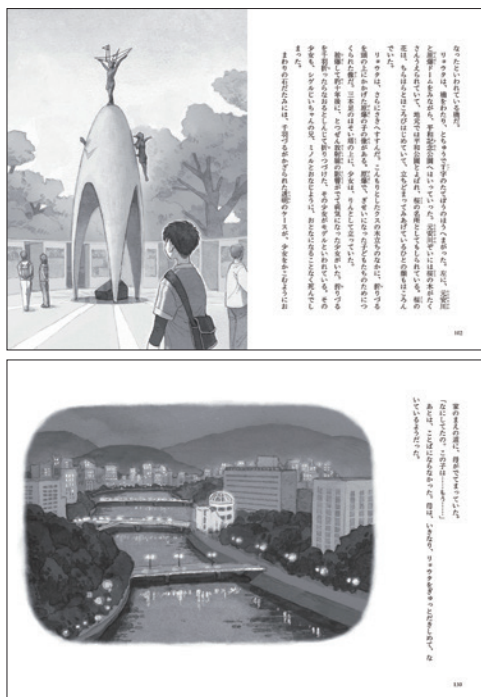
WWII, peace, family, community, bonding

Set in Hiroshima, a city still bearing the scars of the atomic bomb, this story portrays the horrors of war and a heartfelt prayer for peace.

Ryota, a fifth-grade student, lives with his grandfather. One day, his grandfather tells Ryota about Minoru—Ryota's great-uncle who died in the atomic bombing. Although the war had always felt like a distant past to Ryota, his grandfather's stories sparked a deep interest in history in him. He begins exploring Hiroshima, visiting the Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and the statue of a young girl in Peace Memorial Park. As he walks through the city, Ryota reflects on Minoru's life and the tragedy he endured.

Meanwhile, Rei, a girl at Ryota's school whom he secretly admires, is troubled by her great-grandmother Tazu. Tazu had lost her son in the bombing. Every summer, Tazu's memories become fragmented, and she starts searching for her lost child. One day, Ryota hears that Tazu has gone missing. He searches for her and, upon finding her, impulsively pretends to be her deceased son.

This is a powerful story that makes readers think about what we can do for our loved ones in the modern world.



Suguri Nishimura: Born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1956. Her book *My Light-Colored Paints* (*Boku no Hikariiro no Enogu*) was selected as a recommended title for the 61st National Youth Book Report Contest, and *I Told a Lie* was chosen for the 70th edition of the same contest.

Kano Nakajima: Graduated from Musashino Art University. After working at a design office, she began her career as a freelance illustrator in 2019.

This World is Worth Living in

Marie-Lou Hasegawa



Ages 10+
194mm x 126mm
263 pages
Softcover
Publication: June 2025
ISBN: 978-4-591-18651-0

Rights sold:

Korean

★English synopsis and sample available

Keywords:

preciousness of being alive,
hope and resilience, teenage
struggles, friendship and
connection

A moving coming of age story that illuminates the preciousness of being alive.

The protagonist of this story is a wandering soul. Living peacefully in a pure, heavenly realm, the soul longs for the richness of human life. One day, it escapes from the heavenly realm and slips into the body of a 14-year-old boy, Tenzan Takanashi—where it is granted just one year to live as “Tenzan.”

At first, everything is dazzlingly new: moving a body, speaking, eating, touching the world. Every moment is filled with wonder. But as the soul adjusts to daily life and begins interacting with others, it starts to experience more complex emotions—joy, fear, longing, frustration, and pain.

When a classmate becomes overwhelmed by despair and expresses a desire to die, the soul desperately wishes for her to live. Yet the soul also realizes that the girl’s feelings are directed not toward the soul, but toward the real Tenzan—deepening the conflict within.

Even when life is painful, it is still filled with joy. The soul wants to experience so much more. It dreams of becoming “real” and continuing to live as Tenzan. But the limit of its borrowed time approaches without mercy...

A fresh, thought provoking YA novel that leaves readers seeing their own world differently once they turn the final page.

Marie-Lou Hasegawa: Hasegawa received the Kodansha Children’s Literature Newcomer Award (Honorable Mention) for *The Country Where Drawing Is Forbidden* (*Oekaki Kinshi no Kuni*), the Japanese Association of Writers for Children Newcomer Award for *The Mermaid of Kasumi River* (*Kasumigawa no Ningyo*), and the Noma Children’s Literature Award for *How to Kill Sugimori-kun*. (*Sugimori-kun wo Korosu niwa*). She writes across a wide range of genres—from realism to science fiction and fantasy—with a distinctive voice that resonates deeply with young readers.

Artificial Soul

Written by **Madoka Sato**

Illustrated by **Kenji Urata**



Ages 11+
195mm x 127 mm
175 pages
Hardcover
Publication: February 2019
ISBN: 978-4-591-16205-7

A gripping near future mystery about friendship, suspicion, and the boundary between human and AI.

The newly created “Model School” in addition to having a fully furnished super security system equipped with security cameras and microphones, is said to have stationed one android (Guardroid) in the class as a “Watcher Role” to prevent bullying.

Mika, a 6th grade elementary school student, has made new friends in the clean and comfortable school building, and is excited about her new life, but, soon, the “search for the Guardroid” began within her class...

What is a true heart? What is the difference between a human heart and a Guardroid heart? This is a story set in the Tokyo of the near future, but it may be the story of “Tomorrow’s Tokyo,” and gives a good perspective of a society where AI and humans coexist.

Rights sold:

Italian

Keywords:

near future, android, AI, human
heart, trust, friendship

Madoka Sato: A Japanese author who has lived in Italy since 1987, Sato made her debut in 2006 when she won the Nissan Children’s Story Picture Book Grand Prix with *Light Blue Flippers* (*Mizuiro no Ashihire*). One of her major works, *105 Degrees* (*105 do*), was selected as an assigned reading book for the 64th National Book Report Competition for Youth. She has also produced numerous translations from Italian.

Kenji Urata: Graduated from Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts Graduate School. Urata actively participates in exhibitions, mainly in Okinawa, and works on creative activities, such as the “Exhibition of Works Created by Art Teachers” and the “Mabuni peace project.”

In a Storyline Where She Lives

Eiichi Nakata



Ages 12+
188mm x 128mm
626 pages
Softcover
Publication: June 2024
ISBN: 978-4-591-18206-2

Rights sold:

Simplified Chinese

★English sample
available

Keywords:

reincarnation, love, the power of
storytelling, meaning of life,
anime

From a bestselling author comes a thrilling story of reincarnation, where the protagonist finds himself in the world of an anime and fights to change the fate of the heroine.

A 28-year-old office worker, who died in a traffic accident on his way home, finds himself reincarnated in the world of his favorite anime *kimiari*. The body he has reincarnated into was that of a young boy Akuto, the villain of the story.

Akuto spent twelve years in this body without knowing about his previous life, until he fell and hit his head, which made him remember his old life, as well as obtaining the skills he cultivated from that time. He subsequently decides to act against his assigned role of villain. He also decides to change the heroine Haru Hayama's destiny that will see her die from an illness. He was an ardent fan of the anime, and knowing the scenario thoroughly, he thinks that he should be able to change the fate of the heroine.

However, even when Akuto changes the course of events, the heroine still falls ill according to the scenario. Can he find the survival route left by "God (scenario writer)" and see the storyline in which the heroine is alive? This is a moving story that will inevitably bring tears to the readers' eyes.

Live your other self in another world.

If you realize what is important there,
you may be able to change your real self a little.

—Mamoru Hosoda, Animation Director

Eiichi Nakata: Debuted in 2009 with the bestselling novel *My Pretend Girlfriend* (*Momose, Kocchi wo muite*). His novel *Have a Song on Your Lips* (*Kuchibiru ni uta wo*) won the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award. Many of his novels, including *Have a Song on Your Lips*, were made into a film.

POPLAR

