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Foreign Rights Catalog

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3D Animal Puzzles

Kōji Ishikawa



Ages 5+
175 x 195 mm
10 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591150917
Rights sold:

Kōji Ishikawa is the author of the hugely popular *Katanuki ehon* (Hide and Seek) series in which turning a page with one or more special cut-outs completes the picture and answers the riddle. In this new book he offers young readers embedded polyurethane puzzle pieces that they can take out and slide together to form cute little three-dimensional animals.

The volume features five different animals: a dog, a cat, a lion, an elephant, and a gorilla. In each case, the left-hand page shows a picture of the animal with its name (in both Japanese and English), the sound it makes, and a simple sentence describing a distinctive characteristic. The puzzle pieces that go together to form the animal are embedded in the right-hand page, which also states the color of the animal in both Japanese and English. Since each animal is made of just four pieces, even small children can quickly learn how to fit them together.

Besides learning the names, sounds, and characteristics of the animals as well as names of colors, the child develops new cognitive skills from the process of looking at the pieces and thinking about how they go together. The finished animals are not only sturdy enough for the child to move about and play with, but attractive enough to be set on a shelf for decoration. When the child is finished playing, figuring out where and how each piece fits back into the book offers another mental workout, as well as good practice in putting things back in their place when finished with them. As a bonus, the book is very compact, so it's easy to take along wherever you need to go.



About the Author

Kōji Ishikawa (1963–) was born in Chiba Prefecture and graduated from Musashino Art University. His colorful illustrations of animals and people grace a variety of media, including publications, advertisements, and character designs. More recently he has become known as an author of children's books. His best-selling Hide and Seek series now runs to more than a dozen volumes and counting.

What We Become When Baby Comes

Kanayo Sugiyama



Ages 3+

227 x 226 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591108987

Rights sold: China

A little girl who has a new baby brother enumerates all the things she and her parents “become” as a result, beginning with “I become a big sister.” Her mother “becomes me and the baby’s mommy” and her mother’s days “become busier” with more jobs to do as she nurses the baby, changes his diaper, gives him baths, cooks the family’s meals, does the laundry, and “looks after me, too.” Her father “becomes me and the baby’s daddy,” and “becomes extra nice to Mommy” when she’s tired from her added work.

The girl goes on to detail other ways in which her family’s life changes. They all “become as quiet as ninjas” when the baby is asleep, and “become irritated when the phone rings or the dog next door barks.” They become sensitive to sounds (“Is that the baby crying?”) and smells (“Does he need to be changed?”).

“Sometimes I become jealous of the baby,” notes the girl about herself, but “I know I have to become more independent”—except “I become teary when I goof up,” and then “I become clingy” and “Mommy becomes just my mommy again” for a while. As time goes by, “I become more patient,” and “I also become able to help out with the baby in little ways,” and gradually “I become more understanding of my brother.”

On the final page the little girl notes that they have “become a family of four”—implying that it is by virtue of all the other “becomings” she has mentioned. The story is a perfectly pitched portrayal of the psychology of a small child who is on the one hand excited to have a new sibling, and on the other faced with many changes to everything she has known in her life.

About the Author

Kanayo Sugiyama (1967-) was born in Shizuoka Prefecture and graduated from Tokyo Gakugei University with a degree in fine arts. She set herself up as a freelance picture-book author in 1990, and the following year published *K. Sugyāma hakushi no dōbutsu zukan* (Dr. K. Sugyāma’s Illustrated Animal Book). From 1993 to 1995 she studied etching at the Art Students League of New York. In 1998 she received the Kodansha Award for Picture Books as the illustrator for *Pengin no hon* (The Book of Penguins). Among her many other titles are *Boku no obentō and Watashi no obentō* (My Box Lunch, 2003—two separate versions with male and female narrators), *Yama ni ki o uemashita* (They Planted Trees in the Mountains, 2007), *Akachan ga umaretara naru naru nan ni naru?* (What We Become When Baby Comes, 2009), and *Akachan wa okāsan to kō shite o-hanashi shite imasu* (How Babies Talk with Mama, 2010).

My Hat

Yōko Sano



Ages 5+

225 x 250 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591004999

Rights sold: China, Korea and
Taiwan

A little girl of about kindergarten age narrates this story. She has a white hat with a red flower on it. Her brother, a year or two older, has a white hat with a blue ribbon around it. They always wear their hats whenever they go out—to catch dragonflies, to go to the zoo, to go shopping.

One day the little girl's family takes a train to visit her aunt. She leans out the window to catch the wind as the train speeds along, and her hat goes flying. Her parents try to comfort her, but she is inconsolable and can't stop crying.

The next day her father comes home with two new hats—a white hat with blue lines for her brother, and a white hat with red lines for her. Her brother dons his new hat right away, but she doesn't want to put hers on. It doesn't seem like her hat. Even when she goes outside, she pushes her hat off and lets it dangle by its string against her back instead of wearing it properly on her head.

On a hot summer day, she and her brother go outside to catch dragonflies again. Her brother warns her that she could get sick if she doesn't wear her hat, so she reluctantly puts it on. But it still doesn't feel like her hat. As she sits looking at a parade of ants on the ground, a butterfly comes and lands on her hat. It flits away when her brother notices and shouts out to her. She reaches up to touch where it was, and soon the butterfly returns to flutter about her some more. It makes her happy, and the next day when she and her brother go out to catch dragonflies again, she puts on her hat from the start.

Accompanied by soft-toned illustrations, this heartwarming story about a child's feelings of attachment to one of her belongings has remained a perennial favorite since it was first published decades ago.

About the Author

Yōko Sano (1938–2010) was born in Beijing, China. A writer of many talents, she produced numerous children's books and was esteemed by adults for her essays as well. Sano traveled to Europe in 1967 and studied lithography in Berlin. In 1973 she published her first picture book, *Sū-chan to neko* (Sue and the Cat). She went on to produce various styles of picture books, including *Ojisan no kasa* (Uncle's Umbrella), *Watashi no bōshi* (My Hat; winner of the Kodansha Award for Picture Books), and *Nē tōsan* (Hey Papa; winner of the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award). She also produced illustrations for others' works and translated picture books into Japanese. Her script *Jitensha buta ga yatte kita* (The Bicycle Pig Is Coming) was used in stage performances for children by the Maru theater company.

Night Boat

Text by **Haruo Yamashita**

Illus. by **Ken Kuroi**



Ages 6+

287 x 217 mm

38 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591124260

Rights sold:

After supper, Papa goes out onto the upstairs balcony to smoke. He's still out there in the dark when a small earthquake hits, and little Misaki takes a penlight with her to check on him. She discovers that he has gone up the ladder to the roof and climbs up after him. Sitting there with him, she can see over the nearby houses to the ocean, and to the lighthouse blinking on and off at the tip of a headland jutting out in the distance. Papa tells her that the blinking light is a signal, and the lighthouse is inviting them to come and visit on the night boat. When he uses Misaki's penlight to signal back, the light grows more intense, stretches a beam out in their direction, and the next thing she knows Papa has transformed into a night boat that Misaki is riding along a path of light through the dark sky.

The lighthouse tells them that this is the night of the Lighthouse Olympics, and together they go to a shallows on the distant horizon where the games are to be held. On the way they see countless other lighthouses converging on the designated spot. The opening ceremony kicks off with a torch relay followed by mass calisthenics, and then the competitions begin—the light throw (like the javelin), the broad jump, wrestling, relay races. Joining in the final race, Misaki's night boat crosses the finish line side-by-side with a small, bobbing beacon. At the closing ceremony, the lighthouses sing together, and, as fog rolls in, sound their foghorns to one another in farewell.

Back on the roof, the night boat turns back into Papa. Misaki remarks that the lighthouses are a little like lonesome dinosaurs, bellowing for their friends far away. Papa laughs, and just then Mama calls up the ladder wondering where they've gone.

The warmth of the bond between father and daughter comes through clearly, and there is a lyrical, dreamy quality to the artwork and the description of the lighthouse games. The nighttime seascapes evoke a gentle sense of pathos that lingers after the last page is turned.

About the Author

Haruo Yamashita (1937–) was born in Tokyo but lived on the Inland Sea coast during his formative years. Many of his books have marine themes. Early in his career he worked as an editor at a publishing house specializing in children's literature, but then started up a small literary journal with a number of other writers and became an author in his own right. His work covers a broad spectrum from picture books and fairy tales for preschoolers to novel-length stories for older boys. He received the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *Hanbun chōdai* (Give Me Half) in 1975; the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Matsuge no umi no hikōsen* (Airship in the Eyelash Sea) in 1983; the Noma Prize for Children's Literature and the JAWC Award for *Kamome no ie* (Seagull House) in 1992; and the Robo-no-Ishi Literary Award for the same work in 1993. He is one of the most highly respected of Japan's writers for children. He is also the Japanese translator for the *Barbapapa* series by Annette Tison and Talus Taylor. In 2004 he was decorated with Japan's Medal with Purple Ribbon.

Ken Kuroi (1947–) was born in Niigata Prefecture and graduated from the Niigata University Faculty of Education with a degree in art. He worked as a children's book editor with a major publisher before turning freelance as an illustrator. In 1983 he was awarded the Sanrio Art Prize for a series of illustrations he produced for the magazine *Shi to meruhen* (Poems and Märchen). Picture books he has illustrated include *Gon the Fox* and *Buying Mittens* by Nankichi Niimi; *Okāsan no me* (Mother's Eyes) and *Amanomachi Yanagi-dōri* (Willow Street in Amano) by Kimiko Aman; and *Yoru no fune* (Night Boat) by Haruo Yamashita. He has also published many art collections, including *Mishishippi* (Mississippi), *Monoraru* (Monaural), and *Kumo no shingō* (Cloud Signals).

www.kenoffice.jp/index.html

The Puppet Family Moves Away

Text by **Mutsumi Ishii**

Illus. by **Kuniko Nagasaki**



Ages 5+

257 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591117293

Rights sold:

A little girl loves playing with her finger puppets—a family that includes a father, mother, sisters Ayu and Ami, and their pet dog. Yesterday she played only with Ami because the others were missing, and today even Ami is gone. When she goes to tell her mother in the kitchen, her mother suggests she clean her room, saying, “I bet you’ll find Ami and the rest of her family when you do.”

While she was playing yesterday, the girl pretended that a blue sash that goes with one of her dresses was a river, the jumbled pile of clothes on the other side of the sash was the woods, and the wardrobe beyond the pile of clothes was the mountains. Recalling that she took Ami with her into the woods, she begins digging through the sweaters and skirts and such, tossing them aside one after the other as she tries to find her lost puppet. But the only thing she finds besides clothes is her brother’s red train car. She then learns that her brother is missing a blue train car as well.

The room now looks as if it’s been hit by a storm, with clothes scattered everywhere and the puppets’ little table and chairs knocked over. The girl decides to search in the mountains next, but Ami doesn’t turn up in the wardrobe either. She finally calls Ami’s name as loud as she can, and thinks she hears Ami answering, but she can’t figure out where the voice is coming from.

Later that evening, when the girl is eating her dinner, the finger puppets have also sat down to eat at a small table in the attic above the girl’s room. Because the little girl’s room was constantly getting hit by storms, they had decided to move away. They rode her brother’s blue train up to the attic, where they are now nicely settled in. Ami loves to play with the little girl, but her parents say that might not be possible until the girl grows up a bit more and learns how to keep her room neat.

It’s a fanciful and humorous story about a girl who doesn’t like to tidy her room and who slips easily back and forth between her pretend world and the real world. The brightly colored artwork portrays these two worlds in seamless harmony.

About the Author

Mutsumi Ishii (1957–) won the Niimi Nankichi Children’s Literary Award in 1990 for her short-story collection *Gogatsu no hajime*, *Nichiyōbi no asa* (A Sunday Morning in Early May), and the Asahi Award for New Writers in 2003 for the novel *Pasukaru no koi* (Pascal’s Love), published under her pen name Ren Komai. *Sara to kami hikōki* (Plates and Paper Airplanes) won the 2011 JAWC Award. She has also translated many picture books, receiving the Sankei Children’s Book Award in 2006 for her translation of Sarah McMenemy’s book *Jack’s New Boat*. Her works appeal to a broad audience ranging from preschoolers, such as her Little Violet series, to young adults, particularly young women. Some of her stories, such as *Shiroi tsuki kiroi tsuki* (White Moon Yellow Moon), have a surrealistic tinge reminiscent of Haruki Murakami.

Kuniko Nagasaki (1970–) is a native of Tokyo. Since graduating from Tama Art University’s Department of Textile Design she has worked as a freelance illustrator of magazines, books, and advertising. In addition to illustrating such works as *Kanemochi tō-san binbō tō-san* (Rich Daddy, Poor Daddy) and *Chiizu wa doko ni kieta?* (Where’d the Cheese Go?), she has published collections of her pictures, including *Nagasaki Kuniko no shishū no hon* (Kuniko Nagasaki’s Embroidery Book) and *Daydream Nation*. She has also illustrated many picture books, among them *Panda no Ponpon* (Ponpon the Panda) and *Shōto torippu* (A Short Trip). She is known for her bold compositions and charming characters. Her style makes ample use of her design skills, and her work in various genres is highly regarded.

Pola, the Abandoned Cat

Kayoko Furiya



Ages 5+

227 x 226 mm

40 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591111680

Rights sold: China

Some strange men take Pola the cat to the woods and leave him there after Gramps, his owner, dies. He spends a long uneasy night alone in the dark woods. The next morning he meets Tiny, a dog abandoned by his owners when he grew too big for the apartment house where they lived. Tiny begins teaching Pola about life in the wild. But after being doted on by Gramps all his life, Pola has a hard time dealing with the foraged food on offer, and he takes to his heels with a Yikes! when Tiny brings him a lizard to eat.

After another difficult night, Pola starts looking for bugs and berries and nuts he can eat—as Tiny had tried to teach him. In the days that follow he becomes more daring, and one day he decides to try to catch a fish in the stream, only to end up falling in the water. Tiny happens to be nearby and saves him from drowning, and after that the two strays deepen their friendship.

Summer turns to fall, and then winter comes. One morning after it has snowed, Tiny realizes that Pola will never be able to survive a winter in the wild. He shows Pola the way back to town so he can find someone else like Gramps to take care of him. They say goodbye at the edge of the woods overlooking the town. Pola wants Tiny to come with him, but Tiny says no one has any use for an old dog like him, so he is better off in the woods. That night, Tiny gazes up at Polaris, Pola's namesake star, and wishes him a happy life.

The story depicts both the beauty and the harshness of nature as it focuses on the plight of pets who have been abandoned by uncaring humans.

About the Author

Kayoko Furiya (1946-) was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture and graduated from the Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture with a degree in oil painting. Among her best-known picture-book titles are *Bāchan mama no natsu-yasumi* (Summer with Grandma), *Obāchan no shima de* (On Grandma's Island), and *Ōdorobō Kuma-san* (The Thieving Mr. Bear). She also provides illustrations for the *Futago no mahōtsukai* (The Twin Wizards) series and the *Kaze no oka no Rurū* (The Little Witch of Windswept Hill; story by Saki Murayama) series.

Gonsa the Cat

Kinji Ishikura



Age 6+

227 x 225 mm

35 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591104606

Rights sold: China

The story is told from the point of view of Gonsa, a cat living with an old man whose advancing dementia requires him to move into an elder-care facility. On the day of the move, a neighbor woman comes to take Gonsa home with her. She roasts a piece of fish for him, but Gonsa is feeling sad and can only finish half of it. It doesn't help his mood when she declares that she's going to call him "Fuku-chan" from now on instead of Gonsa. As the days go by, in spite of his new owner's solicitude, he can't help dwelling on all the things he remembers about his longtime master and how much he misses him.

When his friend Gāgo the crow gives him directions to the facility where the old man went, Gonsa makes his way there and finds Gāgo waiting for him. Through the window, they see the man seated at a long table, eating and talking cheerfully with his fellow residents. Gāgo calls to him, and he turns their way with a smile that shows no recognition. Gonsa is shocked to realize that his former owner has forgotten him, but he also senses that he is happy where he is. Gāgo flies off into the sunset, and as Gonsa starts for home he looks back over his shoulder and promises to come again. He imagines his new owner will be out looking for him, and he doesn't mind so much anymore that she will be calling out "Fuku-chan! Fuku-chan!" as she searches.

Through the eyes of a cat, the story gently focuses on the inevitable twilight of life, and on what it can mean when loved ones succumb to the changes that brings.

About the Author

Kinji Ishikura (1935-) was born in Ehime Prefecture and graduated from the Department of Crafts at the Tokyo University of the Arts. He worked as an industrial designer before launching a career as a picture-book author. He won the Sankei Children's Book Art Award in 1980 for *Tanabata mukashi* (Tanabata Long Ago). In 1995 he received both a Japan Picture Book Award and the Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Obāchan ga iru to ii noni na* (I Wish Grandma Were Here; story by Motoko Matsuda). Among the many other picture books he has created or collaborated on are *Umi o watatta orizuru* (The Folded Cranes That Crossed the Sea), *Hi no ame, kōri no ame: Kamui yukara*, *Ainu no kamisama ga hanashita koto* (Rain of Fire, Rain of Ice: An Ainu Epic), and *Sora yuku fune* (Boats in the Sky).

Little Kitty Lette

Natsuko Ichikawa



Ages 5+
227 x 226 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591103029
Rights sold: China

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

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

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

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

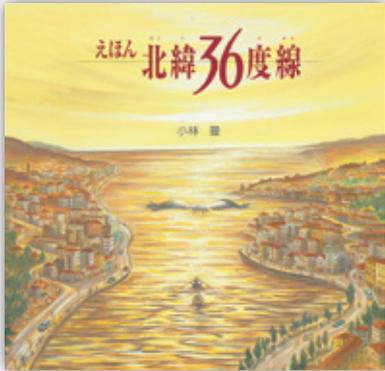
Scenes from the daylong adventure of a slightly mischievous little kitten are portrayed in soft lines and glowing colors. The constantly changing surroundings as Lette hurries through town to the school gives readers the sense that they are on an adventure, too.

About the Author

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

The 36th Parallel North

Yutaka Kobayashi



Ages 5+

245 x 260 mm

40 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591061497

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

Starting in Tokyo, a large mysterious bird leads two young boys around the world on a journey that traces the 36th parallel, encountering different cultures along the way.

The story begins as a great white bird appears “from within the realm of time” and takes wing into the sky. It is 7:30 in the evening, and two boys on bicycles in Tokyo’s Shinjuku district spot the bird as it flies by, headed west. They pedal after it and begin an imaginary journey, taking the reader along with them. The bird leads them across the ocean to the port of Pusan in Korea, and then on to the wider Asian continent, where the boys wheel their bicycles along a street in Xi’an, China, colored by the sunset. Continuing westward, they see nomads in the Pamir Mountains, then a family crossing the desert in a camel caravan, and soon arrive in a beautiful Middle Eastern village surrounded by lush foliage. Next comes a war-torn town followed by a refugee camp. Skirting south of Europe, the bird flies on across the oceans and ultimately back to Tokyo.

The story introduces young readers to the notion of how different life might be for others who live along the same 36th parallel where so many Japanese live. With the time in each location shown at the lower right of the page, readers also get a sense of the immense scale of the globe as they cross one time zone after another. The white bird flies ever onward, oblivious to any lines humans may have drawn on the Earth, showing that all people everywhere are connected across borders and time.

About the Author

Yutaka Kobayashi (1946–) is a Nihonga artist and picture-book creator. He decided to become an artist while studying in England after graduating from Rikkyo University. In 1979, his very first submission was accepted for the Japan Fine Arts Exhibition (Nitten), and in 1983 he received a Special Excellence Award in the Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition. He is a frequent visitor to the Islamic countries of Asia and the Middle East, and treats subjects taken from those visits in his paintings and picture books. His *Kuraudeia no inori* (Claudia’s Prayer; text by Yasuko Murao) received the Japan Picture Book Awards Readers’ Prize in 2008. *Sekai ichi utsukushii boku no mura* (The Most Beautiful Village in the World) and *Boku wa otōto to aruita* (I Walked with My Little Brother), which portrays two children seeking refuge from fighting in wartime, have been selected for inclusion in elementary school textbooks. These and other stories told through the eyes of children from other cultures have received wide acclaim.

Bambi and the Songbird

Kumiko Higami



Ages 8+

276 x 197 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591152195

Rights sold:

People call her Bambi because she wears a deerskin skirt given to her by her grandmother, who had received it from her husband. And since Bambi started wearing the skirt, a pretty white songbird has been coming to her and taking her places—to beautiful flower gardens in the spring; to gaze at the twinkling stars on a summer night; to wander a fragrant forest in the autumn. Everywhere they go, the bird seems to be searching for someone.

One winter afternoon the bird takes Bambi to a lake in the woods, frozen over like a sheet of glass. Bambi is having fun skating about on the ice when a deer approaches. With the white bird fluttering nearby, the majestic buck tugs familiarly at Bambi's skirt. "I've been looking for you everywhere," he says. "Ever since White Bird told me you'd been shot by a hunter." The deerskin of Bambi's skirt came from the doe that used to be the buck's mate, and the bird was their friend.

The buck leads Bambi to a cave deep in the woods, where she falls into a peaceful sleep next to him. In her dreams, she becomes a doe and roves the woods with the buck and the bird. When she awakes, her companions are gone. She weeps in sadness as she realizes that they have departed for another world and she will never see them again.

The beautiful landscapes through which Bambi and the white bird roam rise vividly from the pages to transport readers into a dreamlike world. It is a story reminiscent of a Grimm's fairy tale that can be enjoyed by young and old alike.

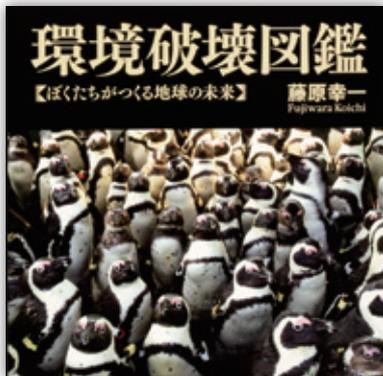


About the Author

Kumiko Higami (1963-) was born in Tokyo and graduated from Kwansei Gakuin University with a degree in German literature and linguistics. Her creative activities include paintings, book covers, package design, picture books, art collections, and collaborations on poetry and postcard collections. Among the many titles she has worked on are *Chokorēto hime* (Princess Chocolate; story by Izumi Motoshita), *Hamaguri no sōshi* (The Story of the Clam Princess; story by Osamu Hashimoto), and the story collection *Otogi-banashi no wasuremono* (Lost Property Fairy Tales; stories by Yōko Ogawa).

A Visual Guide to Environmental Destruction: The Future of the Earth Is in Our Hands

Kōichi Fujiwara



Ages 12+
256 x 257 mm
255 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591151518
Rights sold:

The permafrost in polar regions melts. Less than ten percent of the world's virgin forests remain. More than 100,000 baby seals drown due to global warming. Wild elephants scavenge for food in plastic garbage bags at the dump to stave off hunger . . . Human activity is causing environmental destruction all over the planet. As people everywhere grow increasingly concerned with global warming, climate change, mass extinctions, and other environmental problems, a long-time nature photographer documents the state of the destruction and offers up a prayer for regeneration.

Author Kōichi Fujiwara's report on the breakdown of the Earth is presented in 11 chapters: "Land," "Ocean," "Antarctica," "Arctic," "Africa," "Oceania," "America," "Eurasia," "Japan," "World Heritage," and "Regeneration." Powerfully beautiful photographs fill the pages, driving home the tragedy of the global environmental crisis. The book is also an ideal source for simply learning about the Earth and its characteristics as well as the countless flora and fauna that make this planet their home.



About the Author

Kōichi Fujiwara (1955-) was born in Akita Prefecture. He is a scientific journalist, photographer, and writer. After studying biology at universities and graduate schools in Japan and Australia, he established himself as a nature photographer documenting the lives of wild animals and plants, with a particular focus on environmental destruction. His travels have taken him to both polar regions, Africa, tropical Asia, Oceania, and South America. He gives lectures about his work at schools and businesses across Japan. His major publications include *Penguin gaidobukku* (A Penguin Guidebook: Encyclopedia of Spheniscidae, 2002), *Madagasukaru ga kowareru* (Madagascar: Threats to Madagascar's Biodiversity, 2010), *Garapagosu ni ki o ueru* (Planting Trees in the Galapagos, 2013), *Zō no namida, hito no namida* (Elephant Tears, Human Tears, 2015), and *Penguin kazoku to osoroshii yama* (The Penguin Family and the Terrifying Mountain, 2016).

www.natures-planet.com

Adventure! Discovery! Spectacular Mazes: The Legend of Magicalune

Hiroaki Hara & Birthday



Ages 6+

310 x 227 mm

35 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591126745

Rights sold: France

This is one of 12 volumes to date in the *Bōken! Hakken! Dai-meiro!* (Adventure! Discovery! Spectacular Mazes) series of books that call for readers to solve mazes and hidden-picture puzzles as part of a fanciful story. The reader in effect becomes the hero who takes action and moves the story forward, variously becoming a pirate, flying into outer space, searching for the Kingdom of Dinosaurs, becoming a wizard, entering an automobile race, and so forth. The cast of characters changes from volume to volume along with the worlds depicted, but characters from other volumes sometimes drop in as well, creating links between the stories that are understood only by those who have read the other books in the series. Each volume contains more than 20 mazes and two to three hundred hidden pictures for the reader to find, and with plenty of additional puzzles as well, the books can easily keep a child entertained for an entire day.

In this volume, the story is set at the Zardry Wizard Academy in the Kingdom of Magicalune. Aspiring wizards from around the kingdom come to the academy with their sights set on becoming one of the “Miracle Masters”—as wizards of the six elements are called in this world—to replace the five who were felled by the dark wizard Deathverado after he escaped from where he’d been locked away. As Deathverado causes repeated disturbances, eleven fledgling wizards and the hero (reader) are tasked with finding the “dark stones” that Deathverado has scattered about the kingdom—stones with the power to take possession of people and objects and control them. Peace will return to the land only when they have been recovered. They must battle with the Sky Giant, Red Dragon, Death Dragon, and others as they pursue their mission.

At the end of the volume are six pages of answer diagrams, laid out in an easy to understand format. Also included as a bonus are a variety of game cards, as well as information cards on the “manimals” in the story, which can be detached from the book for additional fun play.

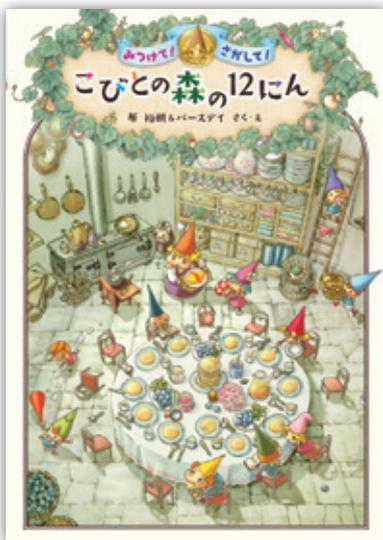


About the Author

Hiroaki Hara & Birthday teams the creative group Birthday Co., Ltd. with its president Hiroaki Hara, who is a picture-book author in his own right. As a maker of video and trading-card games, Birthday is known for its creation of a variety of characters and worlds. It developed the role-playing video game *Daikajū monogatari* (The Great Shell Monsters) and produced the video game *Cocoro no cocoron*, among many others. In collaboration with Hiroaki Hara, the group has produced the role-playing picture books in the *Bōken! Hakken! Dai-meiro* (Adventure! Discovery! Spectacular Mazes) series, as well as the similarly conceived *Kobito no mori no jūninin* (Twelve Munchkins in the Forest).

Twelve Munchkins in the Forest

Hiroaki Hara & Birthday



Ages 6+

217 x 153 mm

35 pages

Hardcover

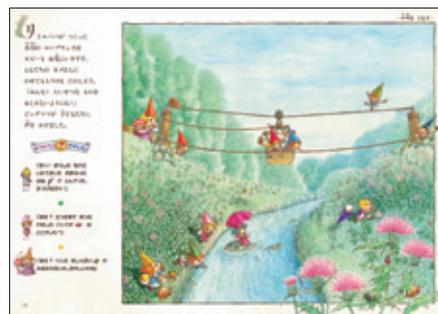
ISBN 978-4591144633

Rights sold: China

Ruby is a little munchkin who lives in the forest with Big Mama, who loves to cook, Little Papa, who's good with his hands, and her nine little munchkin brothers and sisters. The munchkins are all happy-go-lucky scatterbrains who can't seem to stop misplacing things. Today is the day of the picnic that Ruby has so eagerly been waiting for. On their way to Dandelion Hill, the munchkin family come upon a baby mouse being attacked by a snake and rescue her. They deliver the baby mouse safely to her home and become friends with her family. The mice show them to a secret place by the lake. There they see mysterious round balls bubbling up to the surface, and watch them turn into fairies.

Below the story text on each page is a sidebar titled "Look for it! Find it!" with a variety of different tasks for the reader. For example, the reader is asked to find things that Ruby and her family have dropped or misplaced along the way (their picnic basket, some jam, a box of snacks, a baby bottle, etc.), to look for snails and ants hidden in the pictures, to find the names of the flowers, and to solve mazes.

At the end of the volume are six pages of answer diagrams laid out in an easy-to-understand format. Besides enjoying a cute and fanciful story, young readers can have lots of fun looking for the hidden pictures and solving the mazes.



About the Author

Hiroaki Hara & Birthday teams the creative group Birthday Co., Ltd. with its president Hiroaki Hara, who is a picture-book author in his own right. As a maker of video and trading-card games, Birthday is known for its creation of a variety of characters and worlds. It developed the role-playing video game *Daikaijū monogatari* (The Great Shell Monsters) and produced the video game *Cocoro no cocoron*, among many others. In collaboration with Hiroaki Hara, the group has produced the role-playing picture books in the *Bōken! Hakken! Dai-meiro* (Adventure! Discovery! Spectacular Mazes) series, as well as the similarly conceived *Kobito no mori no jūninin* (Twelve Munchkins in the Forest).

Baby's Mini Picture Books Series

Koshiro Hata



Ages 0+

90 x 90 mm

30 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591145715 (Vol.1)

Rights sold:

Animals

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

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



Vol.2 Rides
978-4591145722



Vol.3 Food
978-4591145739



Vol.4 Fruits
978-4591145746



Vol.5 Living
978-4591145753



Vol.6 The Zoo
978-4591145760

About the Author

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

Parsley's Interactive Books Parsley in Costume

Miki Itō



Ages 0+

90 x 90 mm

16 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591093535

Rights sold:

Parsley in Costume

This is the 13th volume in an interactive book series centering on a West Highland white terrier puppy named Parsley. Each book in the series has a special feature, such as flaps to be opened, holes in the pages, sound-making devices, or felt on the illustrations, to stimulate young readers' eyes, ears, and sense of touch. The small size of the books makes them perfect for taking along when you need to go somewhere with your little one in tow.

The movable feature in *Parsley in Costume* is flaps. Parsley appears in a bunny suit, a bear suit, a lion suit, and so on. When the reader folds back the flap, Parsley's face appears from beneath. Other volumes include *Paseri no o-henji hāi* (Parsley's Book of Answering When Called) and *Paseri no maru sankaku shikaku* (Parsley's Book of Circles, Triangles, and Squares). There are 15 titles in the series as of September 2014.



About the Author

Miki Itō (1955–) was born in Tokyo. She is a picture-book author and an illustrator. Her distinctive illustrations, marked by their bright colors, highly expressive characters, and humorous compositions, appear in both children's books and general-interest magazines. Among the picture books she has authored are *Boku ga ichiban tsuyoin da zo!* (I'm the Strongest), *Tomodachi gokko* (Playing Friends), and the *Paseri no shikake ehon* (Parsley's Moveable Books) series. Works she has illustrated include *Mahōtsukai no ita basho* (Where the Magician Lived), *Dame neko no issshōkenmei* (Useless Cat Tries Harder), and the *Doriimu hausu* (Dream House) series.

Who Is It?

Text by **Yoshiaki Ushiro**

Illus. by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**



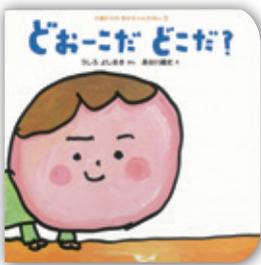
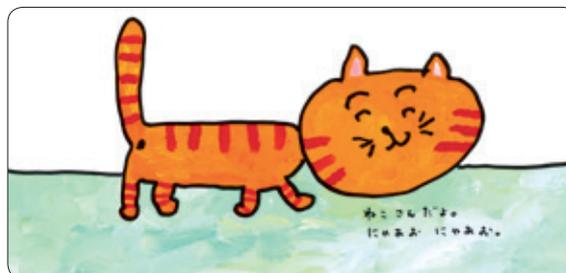
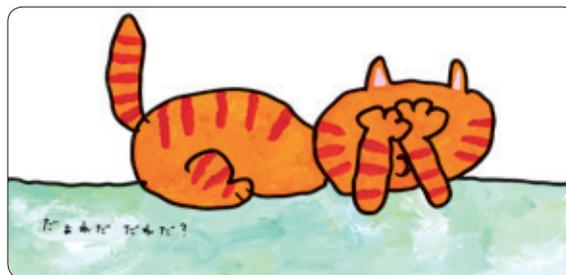
Ages 0+
 165 x 165 mm
 20 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591120361
 Rights sold: Korea

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

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



What is it?



Where is it?



About the Author

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

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

Guess Who?

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**

Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**



Ages 2+

160 x 160 mm

20 pages

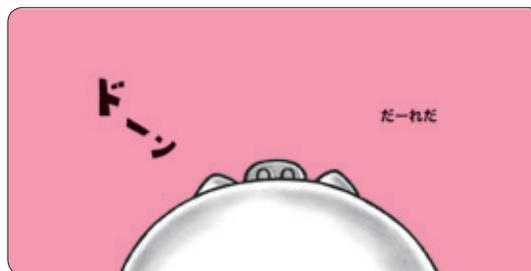
Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591139769

Rights sold: China

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

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



Greetings

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

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

About the Author

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

Pha-Pa-Ra-Pahhhh!

Hiroyuki Arai

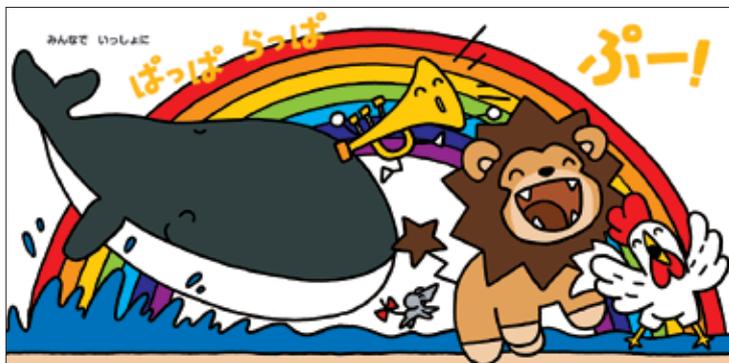
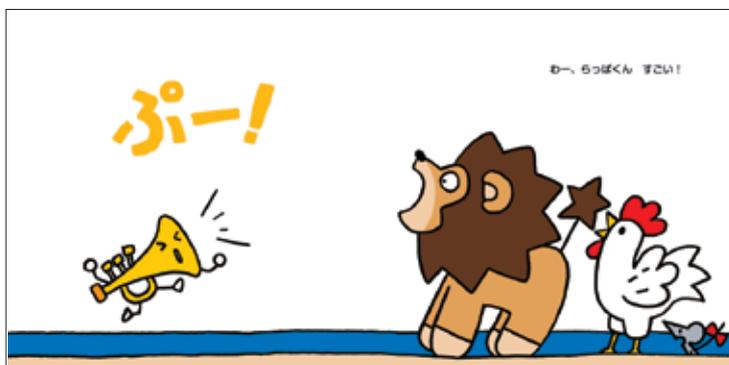


The story is simply Rappa the trumpet (*rappa* is the Japanese word for “horn”) and his animal friends comparing what they can do with their voices, but the result is a collection of amusing, rhythmical sounds that will have even the littlest listeners wanting to participate.

After Rappa blasts out a *Pah-pa-ra-pahhhh!*, the animals gathered round proudly demonstrate the sounds they can make. The hen crows, the lion roars, the mice squeak, and the whale blows. Babies will delight in the onomatopoeic sounds.

A sequel in the same series is *Boom Ba-Boom Boom!*, in which Taiko the drum starts things off with *Boom ba-boom boom!*, and his friends—a plastic bottle, a glass bottle, etc.—respond with their own percussive noises. The rhythmical repetition of their utterances makes for loads of fun as young readers raise their voices to join in. Having tested his ideas with numerous infants in the process of writing both books, author Hiroyuki Arai knows exactly what babies will respond to.

Ages 0+
 160 x 160 mm
 28 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591141052
 Rights sold:



Boom Ba-Boom Boom!

About the Author

Hiroyuki Arai (1974–) is a picture-book author and toy designer. He has also designed characters for children’s television shows. Among his many published titles are *Pah-Pa-Ra-Pahh!*, *Boom Ba-Boom Boom!*, *Refrigerator*, *Closet*, and *Water*, *Splash*. His ideas for picture books grow out of his own experiences as a father of two girls.

Jump!

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 0+

155 x 155 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591064764

Rights sold: Argentina, China, France, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, Taiwan, The United Kingdom, and The United states

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

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

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



About the Author

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

My First Adventure 8: Whose Voice Is That?

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 2+

155 x 155 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149706

Rights sold: China, France and Taiwan

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Holes

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



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

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

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



Hide and Seek Series

Koji Ishikawa



Ages 0+
 160 x 160 mm
 32 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591092378
 Rights sold: China, France,
 Korea and Taiwan

Hide and Seek Animals

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



Vehicles, Ships & Airplanes



Toys



Clothes



Fruits



Animals' Patterns



Vegetables



Sea Animals



Birds



Christmas



Insects



Halloween

About the Author

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

Smile Baby! Series

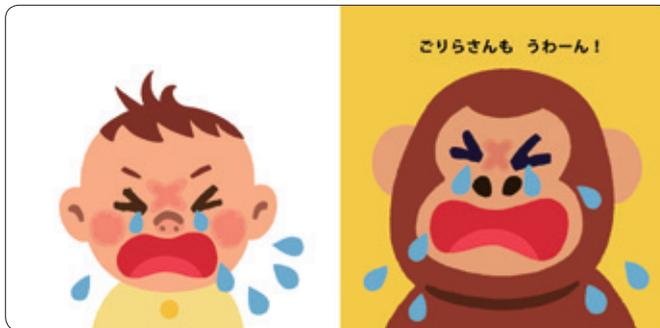
Koji Ishikawa



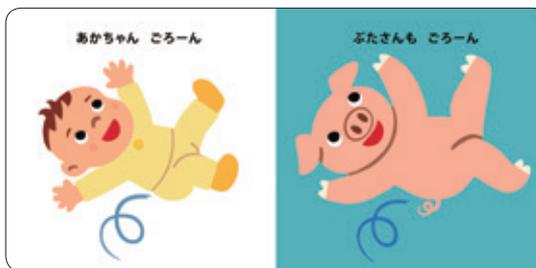
Smile, Baby!

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

Ages 0+
 140 x 140 mm
 22 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591128473
 Rights sold: Korea



Hello, Baby!



Mom, Let Me on!



About the Author ◀ * * * * *

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

Stretchy Wolf

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 3+

187 x 185 mm

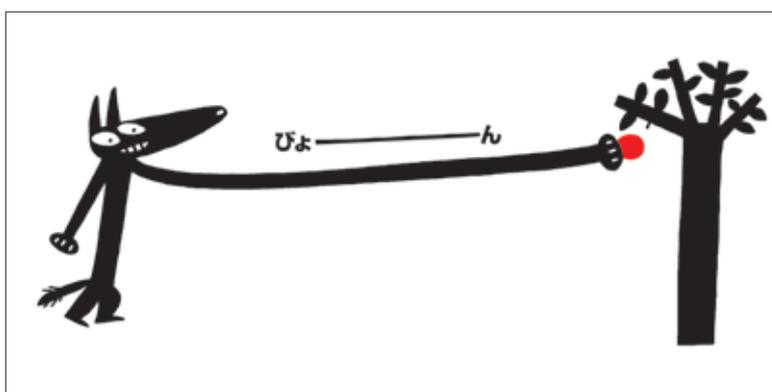
26 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150955

Rights sold: China

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



About the Author

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

Wolf Mimic

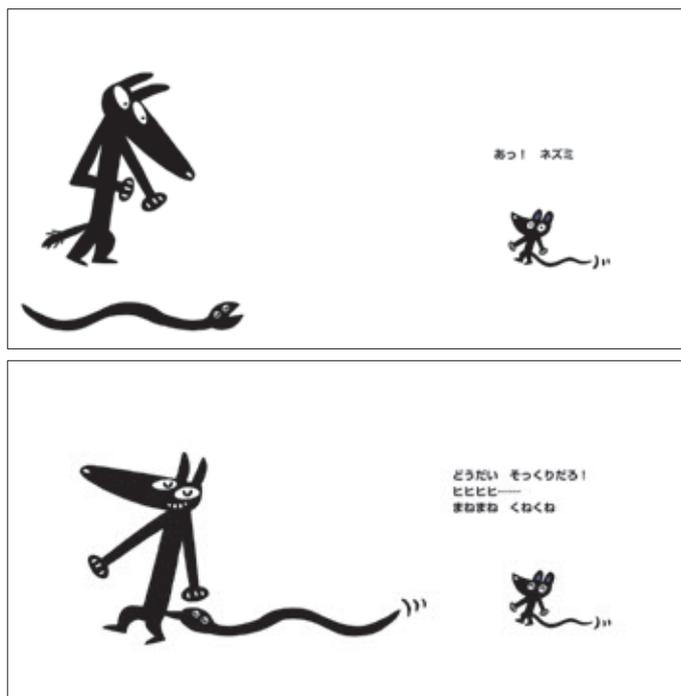
Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 3+
 187 x 185 mm
 25 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591152553
 Rights sold: China

Wolf loves to mimic other animals. He sees a turtle and improvises a rounded shell on his back; he sees a bat and dangles curtains from his arms for wings; sees a panda and marks himself with white paint to match its markings. Next he disguises himself as a snake, followed by a tiny mouse, and then he sees a massive dinosaur. Because of its size, the dinosaur presents a special challenge, but Wolf cleverly mimics several of the bony plates on its back.

The solid black wolf is shown mostly against a plain white background, with a simple splash of color here and there to highlight his tricks. The bold effect helps each element of the artwork stand out clearly even for the youngest eyes—except when the Wolf mimics the dinosaur in such a way as to make him hard to find. In addition to the humorous illustrations, text punctuated with the kind of rhythmical words little ones love to repeat makes it an excellent choice for read-aloud fun.



About the Author

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

This Is Round

Text by **Hiroataka Nakagawa**

Illus. by **Tupera Tupera**



Ages 0+

166 x 166 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591144978

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

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

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

Taro Gomi



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

Ages 2+
 160 x 159 mm
 22 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591142783
 Rights sold: China

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



I Was Just Daydreaming, When . . .



About the Author

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

Let's Walk

Taro Gomi



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

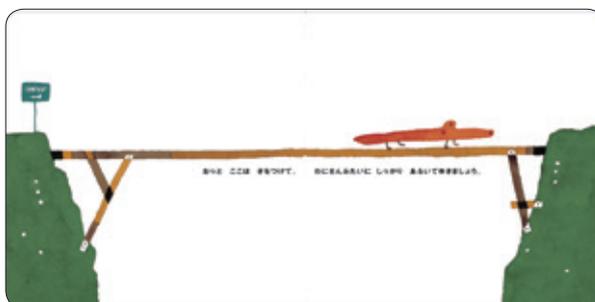
Detach the boy and girl dolls from the cover and hold them by their sticks to have them walk across the pages as you make up your own stories to go along. The scenes show a green pasture, a field of grass, a bridge, and so on, each with animal friends to join the two on their walk—a cow at the farm,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

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

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



Let's Play



About the Author

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

What Do You Say ?

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



Ages 2+
 140 x 140 mm
 20 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591146149
 Rights sold: China and
 Vietnam

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

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



About the Author

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

Minamisuna Sakura Nursery School
 www.minamisunasakura.com

Brush Brush Your Teeth

Text by **Kayoko Ogura**

Illus. by **jinco**



Ages 2+

140 x 140 mm

20 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591148082

Rights sold: China and

Vietnam

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



About the Author

Jinco graduated from Seisen University with a degree in Japanese literature, and began her career as a product planner at San-x, known for its stationery and other merchandise featuring a variety of cute characters. She subsequently reinvented herself as a digital designer and became a video-game planner at Namco, the operator of video arcades, amusement parks, and other entertainment venues. She also drew illustrations and wrote poetry on her own, and established herself as a character creator by launching a website featuring original characters. Since February 2001 she has worked as an independent character creator and planner, designing a wide variety of characters, including Tamagotchi creatures. Books she has illustrated include *Onna no ko toire* (The Little Girls' Room), *Nikkori goaisatsu* (What Do You Say?), and *Shaka-shaka hamigaki* (Brush Brush Your Teeth).

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

Masks

Text by **Kotomi Wada**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**



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

Ages 3+

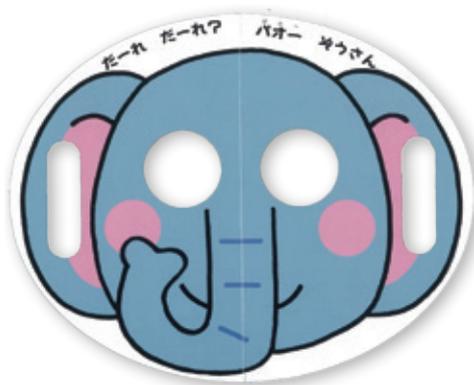
190 x 120 mm

16 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591058206

Rights sold: China



About the Author

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

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

Mischief Book : Punch!

Chiharu Sakazaki



Ages 0+
 160 x 159 mm
 10 pages
 Boardbook
 ISBN 978-4591141809
 Rights sold: China

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

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

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



Mischief Book: Squish!

About the Author

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

Let's Make a Fruit Cake!

Shimako Okamura



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

Ages 2+
 186 x 186 mm
 24 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591135921
 Rights sold: China



Let's Make a Sandwich!

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

About the Author

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

The Puffy Series

Akinori Matsu



What do you like, Puffy?

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

Ages 0+
 164 x 164 mm
 24 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591135686
 Rights sold: China



Let's Play, Friends!

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



Let's Play, Hide and Seek!

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

About the Author

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

Chomp!

Shinta Cho



Ages 0+

168 x 176 mm

17 pages

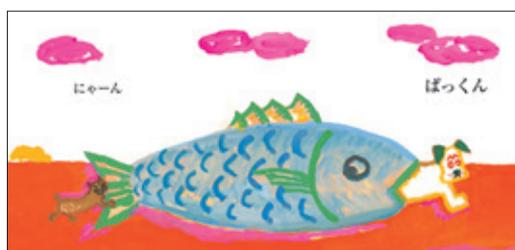
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591144688

Rights sold: China

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

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



About the Author

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

How Much Longer, How Much Longer?

Text by **Fumiko Takeshita**

Illus. by **Michiko Egashira**



Ages 2+

197 x 195 mm

27 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149690

Rights sold: China

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



About the Author

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

Poko and Moko, the Lamb Twins

Jun Ichihara



Ages 1+

187 x 186 mm

38 pages

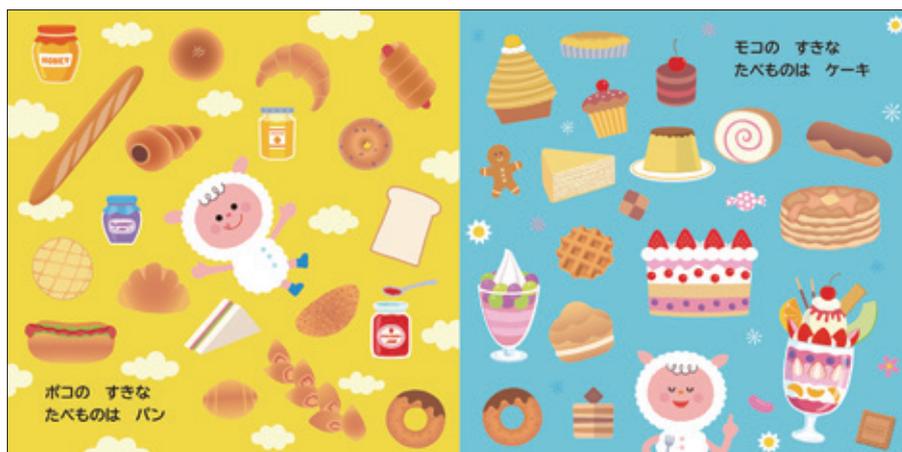
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146736

Rights sold: Canada and The United States

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

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



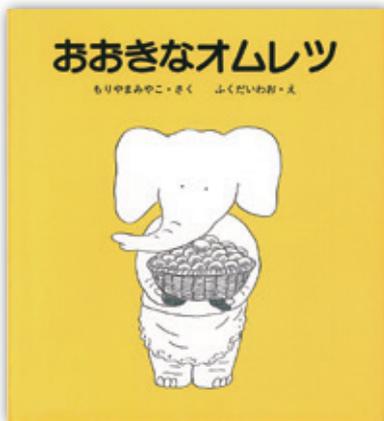
About the Author

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

The Big Omelet

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

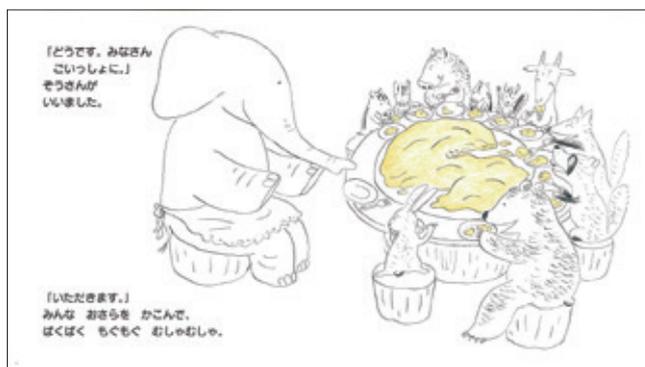
Illus. by **Iwao Fukuda**



Ages 2+
 207 x 187 mm
 24 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591061596
 Rights sold: Korea

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

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



Who Wakes Up? A Girl Rabbit Loves Her Pants Animals Compare to Each Other My Treasure Chest Passing By Come to My House Warm Presents Little Monkey Goes to the Sea

About the Author

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

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

Muddy Mudinsky and Springwater Boy

Tatsuya Miyanishi

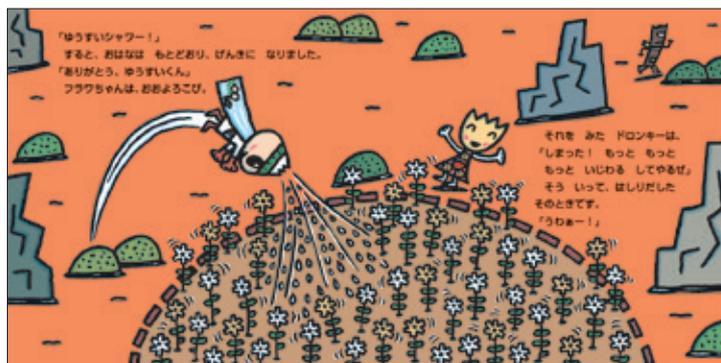


Ages 2+
187 x 185 mm
28 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591119396
Rights sold: China

Born in a dirty, garbage-choked river, the mud sprite Muddy Mudinsky loves playing pranks and being mean. He is constantly needling and bullying the other sprites. One day, a water sprite is born in a pristine, spring-fed stream next to Mt. Fuji. Springwater Boy is both kind to others and strong, and can fly as well as swim.

When the other sprites tell him about Muddy Mudinsky's bad behavior, Springwater Boy decides to come to their aid. He helps Stone Boy get his hat back, and goes on to help the other sprites in similar fashion. Seeing his mischief undone, Muddy Mudinsky grits his teeth in chagrin and runs off, vowing to do even worse things the next time. But as he runs, he falls into a deep pit he'd dug, intending it for someone else, and he can't get out. Springwater Boy throws him a rope and tries to pull him out, but Muddy is too heavy. Then the other sprites he had treated so badly come along, and with everyone pulling together, they are able to get him out.

Now everyone is hungry from pulling so hard, so Springwater Boy pours green rice into his head. Soon, nice big rice balls are popping out for all the sprites to eat. They enjoy a hearty meal together, with Muddy Mudinsky polishing off three in this entertaining tale in which two sprites with opposing personalities face off.



Meow Meow

Hideko Nagano



Ages 3+
207 x 231 mm
24 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591103333
Rights sold: China

This “baby’s first book” includes an origami insert, which adds a dimension of play to help entice the child into the world of the story. The author’s second title, it follows the dog-themed *Wan-wan* (Bow-Wow), in which the central character is a toddler. In this cat-themed book, the central character is a baby, which gives one- and two-year-olds someone to identify with, and toddlers the opportunity to empathize with those smaller than themselves. The parent and child cats appearing together on the final page invite readers to affirm their own parent-child bond. Only a handful of very simple words appear besides the cats’ *meows*, but they are easy-to-learn words with a range of meanings, and understanding their use here will foster the child’s mastery of them. The author has said that she created the book out of her experiences with her own granddaughter, and one recognizes numerous touches designed to draw the youngest readers in. Folding a cat with the bonus origami paper while reading the story adds to the fun.



About the Author

Hideko Nagano (1941–) was born in Ehime Prefecture on the island of Shikoku. Besides creating her own picture books and fairy tales, she also works as an illustrator for other children’s authors. Her major titles include *Tosan kasan* (Papa and Mama); *Okasan ga okasan ni natta hi* (The Day Mommy Became a Mommy), which received an honorable mention in the 1994 Sankei Children’s Book Awards; *Nee, asobo* (Daddy, Let’s Play), focusing on the father-child relationship; the picture books for infants, *Wan-wan* (Bow-Wow) and *Nyan-nyan* (Meow Meow); and *Setouchi Taiko-san depato ikitai* (Taiko from Setouchi Wants to Go Shopping), which won a Japan Picture Book Award in 1996. The last of these, about a family of sea bream living in the Seto Inland Sea, on the shores of which the author spent her formative years, has been particularly popular and was turned into a series. Nagano’s drawings in her books for infants feature strong, thick lines, cute expressions, and a sense of movement that have established her as one of the leading authors for this age group.

Bow-Wow

Hideko Nagano



Ages 2+
207 x 231 mm
24 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591103326
Rights sold: China

This “baby’s first book” includes an origami insert and instructions for folding a dog, which is most typically the first animal a baby gets to know. This adds a dimension of interplay between parent and child that helps draw the child into the world of the story, and the parent gets to share in the child’s excitement.

The only word to appear in the book is *wan-wan*—Japanese onomatopoeia for a dog’s bark as well as the baby-talk word for “dog”; it can also indicate a child’s sobbing. *Wan-wan* is used in each of these ways at different points in the story: for example, the dog’s bark startles the child and makes him burst into tears, but this is just a step on the way to the two becoming friends.

The author is known for a distinctive drawing style characterized by bold lines, cute expressions, and a sense of movement and energy. This last quality is further enhanced by the novel inclusion of origami with the book, which this work pioneered. Nagano subsequently produced *Nyan-nyan* (Meow Meow), a similar origami-insert picture book that features a cat.



About the Author

Hideko Nagano (1941–) was born in Ehime Prefecture on the island of Shikoku. Besides creating her own picture books and fairy tales, she also works as an illustrator for other children’s authors. Her major titles include *Tosan kasan* (Papa and Mama); *Okasan ga okasan ni natta hi* (The Day Mommy Became a Mommy), which received an honorable mention in the 1994 Sankei Children’s Book Awards; *Nee, asobo* (Daddy, Let’s Play), focusing on the father-child relationship; the picture books for infants, *Wan-wan* (Bow-Wow) and *Nyan-nyan* (Meow Meow); and *Setouchi Taiko-san depato ikitai* (Taiko from Setouchi Wants to Go Shopping), which won a Japan Picture Book Award in 1996. The last of these, about a family of sea bream living in the Seto Inland Sea, on the shores of which the author spent her formative years, has been particularly popular and was turned into a series. Nagano’s drawings in her books for infants feature strong, thick lines, cute expressions, and a sense of movement that have established her as one of the leading authors for this age group.

Up! Up!

Shinta Chō



Ages 3+
208 x 186 mm
20 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591085851
Rights sold: China and Korea

Babies and toddlers love being picked up and held, and they know just how to let you know when they want “Up!” With bright-colored artwork and simple, rhythmical text, veteran children’s book author Shinta Cho has created a humorous and heartwarming picture book illustrating such scenes.

The pages begin with puppies and kittens and piglets that beg to be held, then move on to a baby bread roll and baby scoop of ice cream and baby shoes being held by their much bigger “parents.” In the end we see a human mother holding two babies in her arms.

Filled with Cho’s unique brand of humor, this is a book to be enjoyed by parent and child together. It is a companion volume to two other books by Cho about things that small children beg for: *Onbu, onbu, nee onbu* (Piggyback! Piggyback!) and *Anyo, anyo, nee anyo* (Want Down! Want Down!).



About the Author

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

Happy Birthday

Mamoru Suzuki



Ages 3+

149 x 165 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146392

Rights sold: Canada and The
United States

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

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



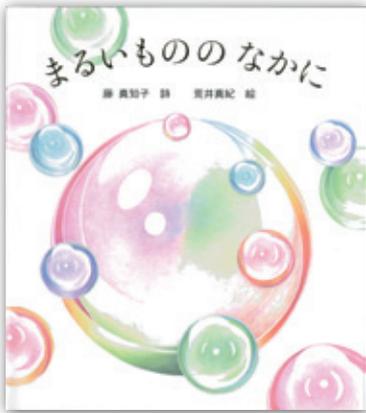
About the Author

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

Inside Something Round

Text by **Machiko Fuji**

Illus. by **Maki Arai**



Ages 3+

187 x 166 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149140

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

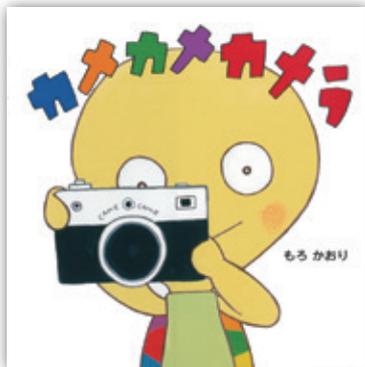
Machiko Fuji was born in Tokyo and graduated from Tokyo Woman's Christian University. She made her debut as a children's author in 1985 with *Majoko donna ko fushigi na ko* (Who Is Magical Majoko?), a series about a child witch. Targeted at lower elementary readers, it has now reached 58 volumes and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

www.machiko-fuji.jp

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

Turtle Cam

Kaori Moro



Ages 3+

186 x 186 mm

29 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147474

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

Together with Mofumo

Text by **Suzune Sato**

Illus. by **Mon**



Ages 3+

200 x 204 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591144336

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Watch Me, Mama

Text by Nanami Madoka

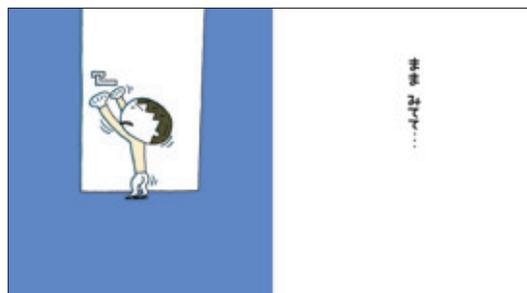
Illus. by Tatsuya Miyanishi



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

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

Ages 3+
 195 x 175 mm
 28 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591134443
 Rights sold: China and Taiwan



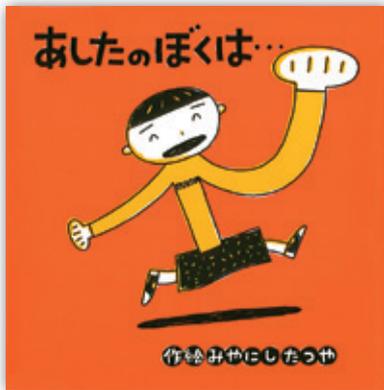
About the Author

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

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

Tomorrow I'll...

Tatsuya Miyanishi



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

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

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



About the Author

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

Who is Hiding ?

Satoru Onishi



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

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

Ages 3+
 245 x 215 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591012574
 Rights sold: Australia, China, France, Germany, Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Poland, Russia and Vietnam



About the Author

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

Kuu and Maa's, Learning Books

Koshiro Hata



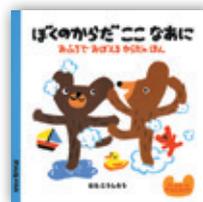
What is this Shape?

The little twin bears Kuu and Maa are drawing. They draw the round sun, a square house and more. Children can enjoy learning shapes, colors and the names of things in this Little Bearseries. Six titles have been published so far.

Ages 3+
 198 x 195 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591067758
 Rights sold: China, Korea,
 Taiwan and Vietnam



What is this Color?



What is this Part of My Body?



What is this Vehicle?



What's on the Menu?



What is this Shop?



What is this Greeting?



What is this Weather?



What's This Animal?

About the Author

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

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

Koshiro Hata



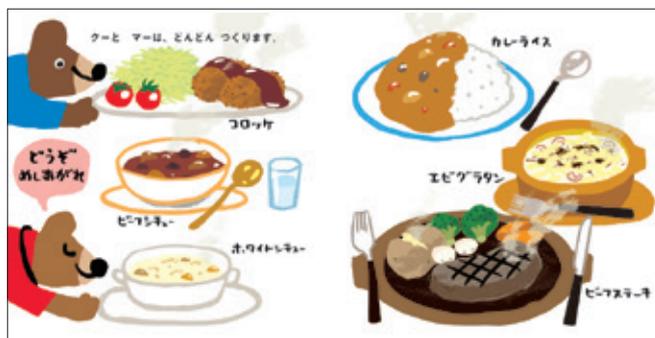
Ages 3+
 198 x 195 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591139455
 Rights sold: China and Vietnam

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

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

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

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

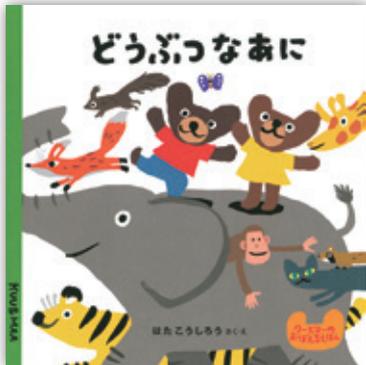


About the Author

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

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

Koshiro Hata



Ages 3+

198 x 195 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591148099

Rights sold: China and

Vietnam

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

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

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



About the Author

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

How Many Animals?

Koshiro Hata



Ages 3+

227 x 226 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

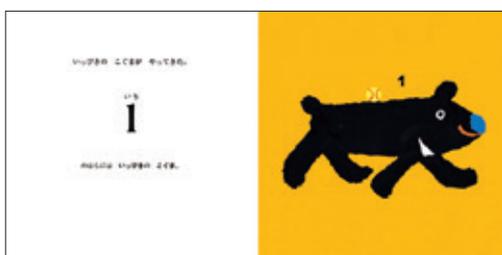
ISBN 978-4591066218

Rights sold: China and

Taiwan

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

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



About the Author

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

Daddy, Daddy!

Text by **Hiroataka Nakagawa**

Illus. by **Yoshiko Misumi**



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

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

Ages 3+

227 x 196 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591139837

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



About the Author

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

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

Gorillas Galore

Nao Takabatake



Ages 3+
 196 x 195 mm
 34 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591150559
 Rights sold: China

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Rin and Green

Text by **Hiroyuki Aihara**

Illus. by **Nami Adachi**



Ages 3+

181 x 228 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591105757

Rights sold: China

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

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



Rin and Green's Restaurant

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



Rin and Green Go on a Picnic



About the Author

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

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

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

Kaya Doi



Ages 3+

188 x 188 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150603 (Vol.1)

Rights sold: China

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

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

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

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



Kuri and Her Cousins



Kuri and Her Neighbors' Tomatoes

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

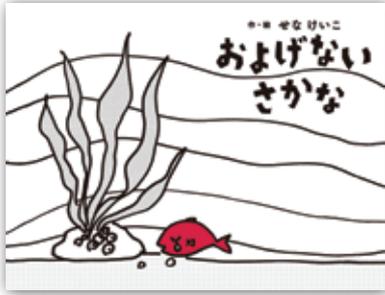


About the Author

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

The Fish That Couldn't Swim

Keiko Sena



Ages 3+

182 x 243 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591145791

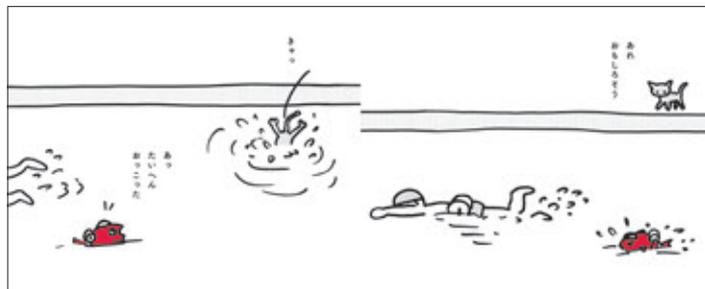
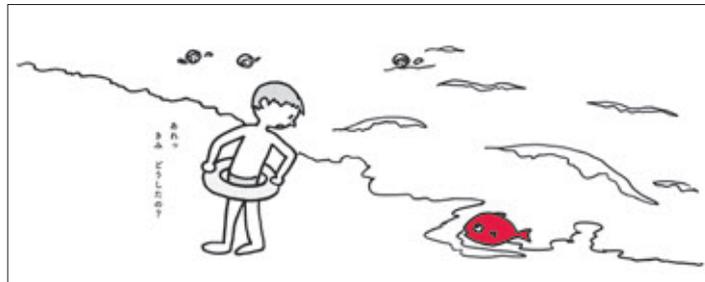
Rights sold:

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

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Muddy Mudkin

Hiroshi Ito



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

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

Ages 3+

270 x 220 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591077696

Rights sold: China and Korea



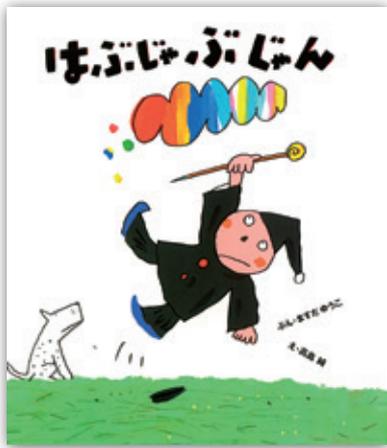
About the Author

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

Habu Jabu Jan!

Text by Yuko Masuda

Illus. by Jun Takabatake



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

Ages 3+

228 x 196mm

30 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882644194

Rights sold: China



About the Author

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

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

Can We Be Friends?

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



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

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

Ages 5+

227 x 226 mm

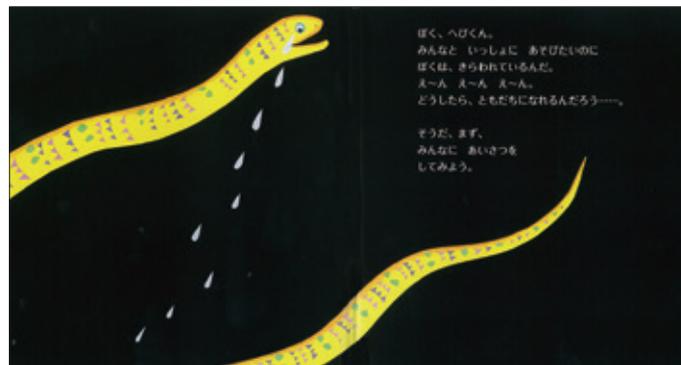
32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591098721

Rights sold: China, Korea,

Taiwan and Vietnam



About the Author

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

Nezumi-kun The Little Mouse Series

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**

Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**



Ages 3+

244 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591004654

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

Little Mouse's Red Vest

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

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



Little Mouse and Pancakes

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

About the Author

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

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



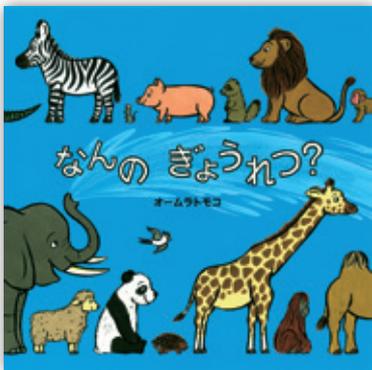
- Little Mouse Wants to Eat Apples
- Again! Little Mouse's Red Vest
- Little Mouse and his Best Friend
- How much do You Weigh, Little Mouse?
- Little Mouse's Birthday
- Once Again! Little Mouse's Red Vest
- Little Mouse Breaks a Glass
- Little Mouse and Elephant
- Little Mouse Plays on a Swing
- Little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

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



Long, Long Line

Tomoko Ohmura



Ages 3+

227x 226 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591110799

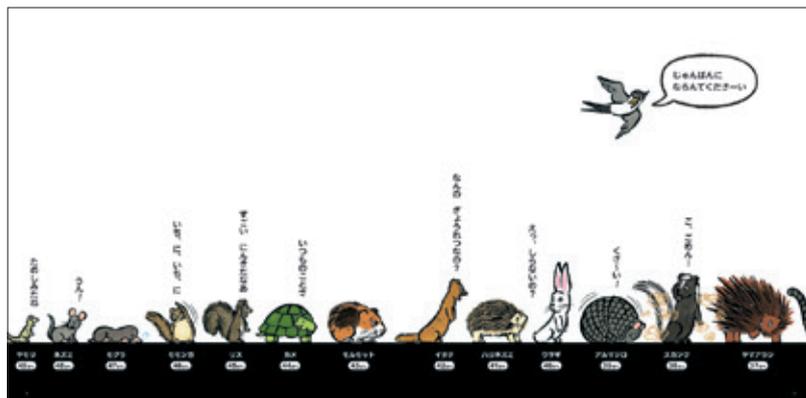
Rights sold:

Australia, Canada, China,
France, Germany, Italy, Korea,
New Zealand, Poland, Russia,
Spain, Sweden, Thailand,
Taiwan, the Netherlands, The
United Kingdom, The United
States and Vietnam

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

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

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

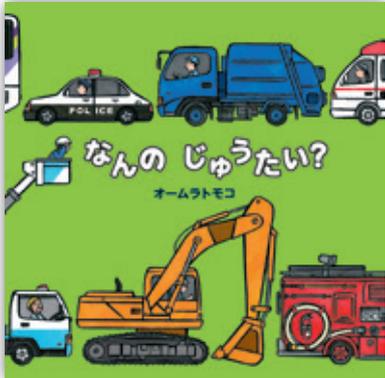


About the Author

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

What's the Hold-Up?

Tomoko Ohmura



Ages 3+

227 x 226 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

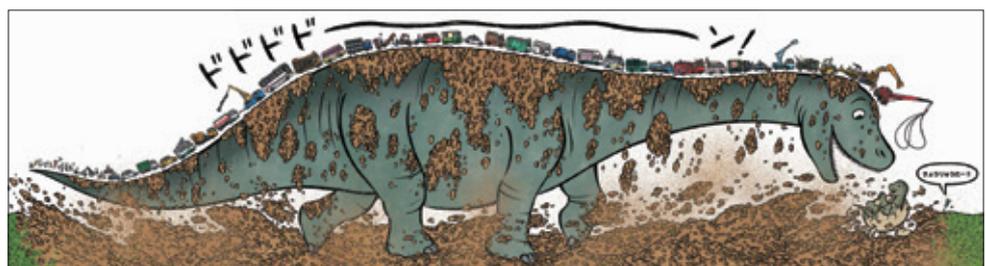
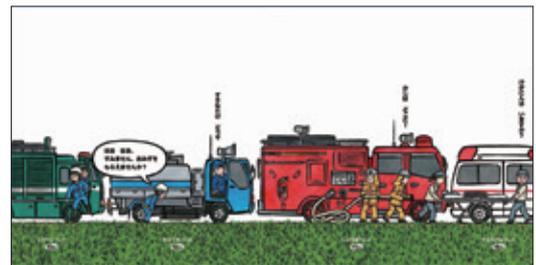
ISBN 978-4591142288

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

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

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

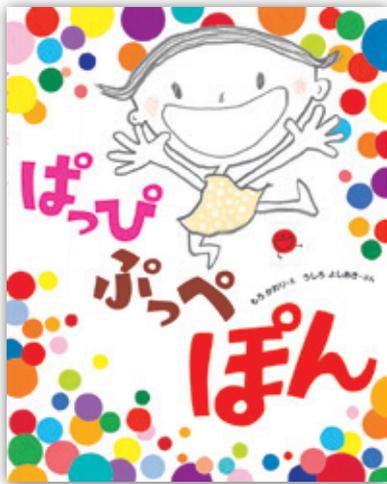
Whether by oneself or in a group reading, it's great fun to follow the parade of beautifully drawn, special-function vehicles and conveyances that stretches from one spread to the next and the next. The book is a sequel to the author's *The Long, Long Line*, which has been translated into 12 languages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



Pappi Puppe Pon

Text by **Yoshiaki Ushiro**

Illus. by **Kaori Moro**



Ages 3+

271 x 216 mm

31 pages

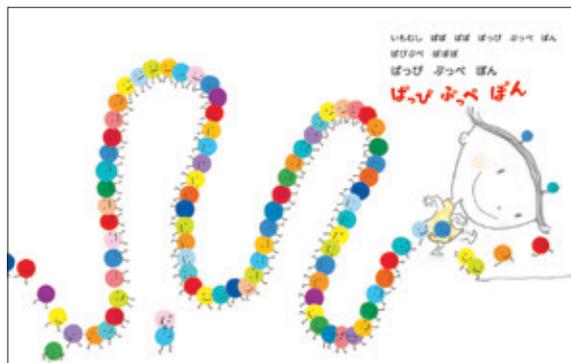
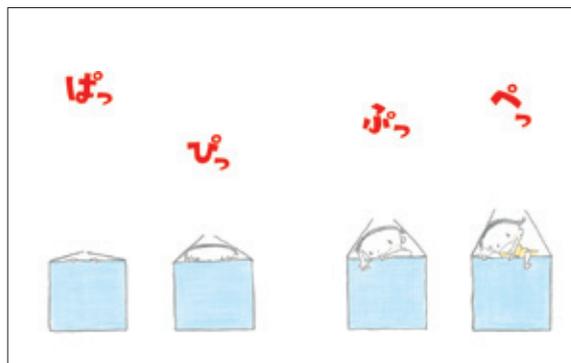
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591140871

Rights sold: China

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+
 282 x 216 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4882645535
 Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Animal Senryū: What Am I?

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+

282 x 216 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645559

Rights sold:

Silhouettes of animals are colored with bright bands of rainbow colors to make them difficult to distinguish. Each is accompanied by a senryū, which is a kind of short poem essentially similar to a haiku, with 17 syllables in lines of five, seven, and five, but with a more humorous thrust, often poking fun at or satirizing human behavior and society. In this case, each senryū presents something characteristic of the animal in an amusing light, along with the question “What Am I?” After guessing the answer, readers turn the page to see a drawing of the animal in its regular color scheme and learn whether they are right.

For example, a page reads, “I want to catch it / The tail on my other end / I want to catch it,” and on the facing page is a colorful silhouette of an animal along with the words, “So I end up chasing my tail. What am I?” Overleaf, the picture is revealed to be a dog, and the text says, “I am a dog. It’s just my own tail, but I get hooked by it sometimes, I really don’t know why!”

Incorporating a guessing game element, this is the perfect book for a parent to read with a child, for reading with friends, or for group readings. Author Satoshin is a great proponent of such reading, and developed the book with those shared contexts in mind. Young readers will delight in the humorous poems and dynamic artwork.

About the Author

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

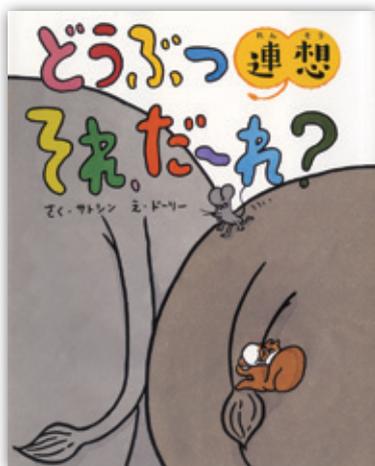
www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s

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

Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+

282 x 216 mm

32 pages

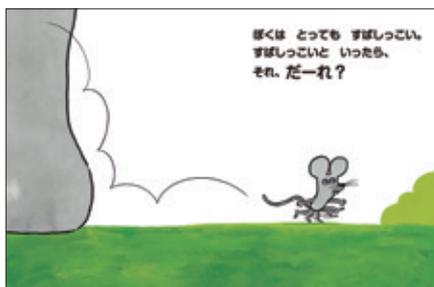
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645603

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s

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

The Baby King

Nobumi



Ages 3+

263 x 188 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882642312

Rights sold:

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

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

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

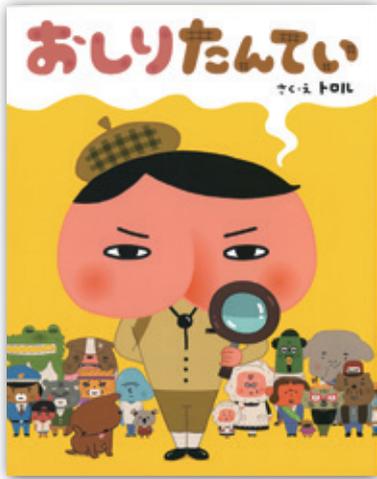


About the Author

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

The Bum Detective

Troll



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

Ages 5+
 266 x 207 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591130902
 Rights sold: China, France,
 Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam



The Bum Detective:
 Find the Rainbow-
 Colored Diamond



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



The Bum Detective:
 The Mystery of
 Missing Lunch

About the Author ◀ * * * * *

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

The Bum Detective: The Case of the Brazen Thief

Troll



Ages 5+
266 x 207 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591146743
Rights sold: China Taiwan and
Korea

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Mr. Ruraru's Yard

Hiroshi Ito



Ages 5+

233 x 247 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591069424

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr. Ruraru's Treat



Mr. Ruraru's Violin



Mr. Ruraru's Bicycle



Mr. Ruraru's Bookshelf



Mr. Ruraru's Birthday

Mr. Ruraru's Telescope

Hiroshi Ito



Ages 5+

232 x 246 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591142608

Rights sold:

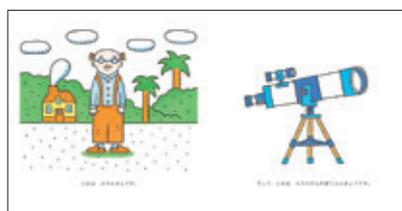
This is the seventh installment in author Hiroshi Ito's tremendously popular Mr. Ruraru picture-book series, which now spans a full quarter-century.

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

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Used to Be Children

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**

Illus. by **Hiroshi Ito**



Ages 5+

278 x 217 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591149157

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Ribbit Goes Ribbit

Hiroshi Ito



Ages 5+
 265 x 220 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591103340
 Rights sold: China and Korea

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Yesterday's Sun, Where Did You Go?

Text by **Kumiko Kun**

Illus. by **Yoko Imoto**



Ages 5+

227 x 226 mm

33 pages

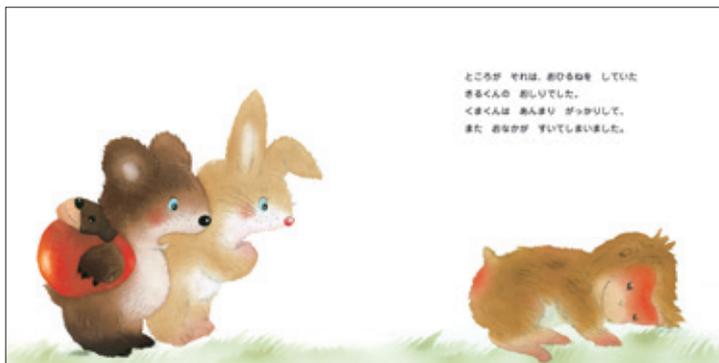
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591092804

Rights sold: China and Korea

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

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



ところが、それは、おひるの影を していた
きまぐれの 影しりでした。
くまくんは あんまり びっくりして、
また、おなかを すいてしまいました。



すると、まぶたが 重くなり、
ずうずう 寝ちゃってしまいました。

About the Author

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

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

We Met Spring

Text by **Kyōko Hara**

Illus. by **Kōshirō Hata**



Ages 5+

257 x 221 mm

35 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591097151

Rights sold: China, France,
and Taiwan

Mark and Matt are twin bear cubs. Just awakened from hibernation, they have yet to experience their first spring. Their parents tell them that as the season arrives, it grows warmer, green plants sprout from the earth, the branches of trees fill out with leaves, and red and yellow flowers bloom, filling the air with their sweet scent. Too excited to wait, the sibling cubs hurry outside, where the air still has a sharp chill and patches of snow remain on the ground.

Everything they see is new to them. They find a frog peeking out from the ground, and ask, “Are you spring?” “I’m a frog,” he answers. “Brr, it’s still too cold. Spring isn’t here yet.” The frog crawls back into his hole.

Mark and Matt dig in the ground and climb trees looking for spring, but it remains elusive. After tiring themselves out, they are resting on a hill, when they see something green and red and yellow coming up the path from below. “It must be leaves and flowers! It must be spring!” They start running toward the colors, and when they get near, they smell something sweet in the air. “You must be spring,” they say. “You smell nice.” It’s a little girl wearing a green coat with a red scarf wrapped around her neck and a yellow ribbon in her hair. “This is what you smell,” she says, taking two freshly baked tarts from the basket she is carrying and giving them to the cubs. After she says goodbye and continues on her way to her grandmother’s house, the two brothers exchange a look of satisfaction. “We met spring,” they say, and happily make their way home.

The illustrations begin in black-and-white, to represent winter, and gradually take on more and more colors as the story progresses, closing with a brightly colored spring landscape filled with flowers and green leafy trees. The gradually increasing colors fill readers’ hearts with the same excited anticipation the two cubs experience at the prospect of “meeting spring.”

About the Author

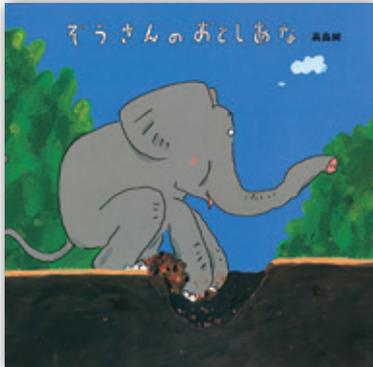
Kyōko Hara was born in Tokyo and graduated from Wakō University with a degree in art. In 1978 she won the Children’s Literature Prize in the Kodansha Famous Schools Contest. Among her many titles are *Haru ni aeta yo* (We Met Spring), *Nē, ohanashi kikasete* (Read Me a Story), the *Kuma no Beāru to chiisana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

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

www.koshirohata.net

The Elephant's Trap

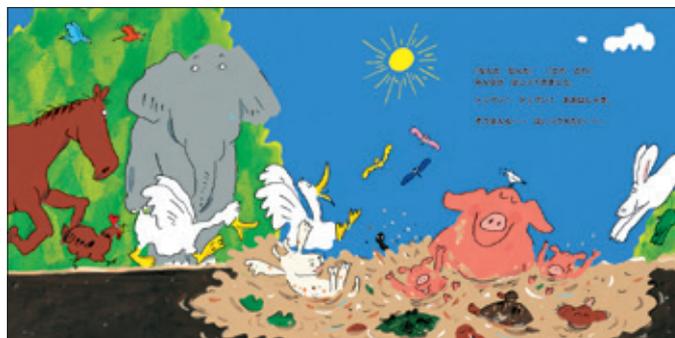
Jun Takabatake



Ages 5+
 227 x 227 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591125335
 Rights Sold: China, France,
 Korea and Taiwan

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

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



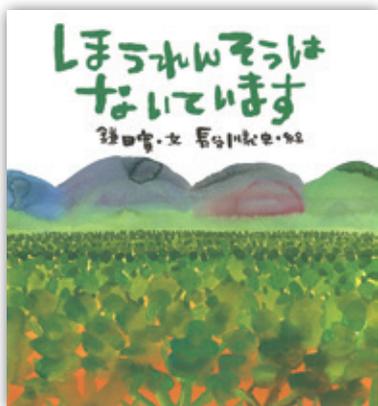
About the Author

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

The Spinach Is Weeping

Text by **Minoru Kamata**

Illus. by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**



Ages 5+

257 x 234 mm

32 pages

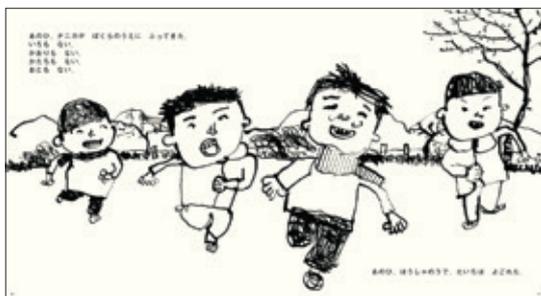
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591139394

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Settle the White and Black of It, Good Zebra

Text by **Ikuko Nagai**

Illus. by **Junko Kusahara**



Ages 5+

262 x 216 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645634

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

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

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

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

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

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

About the Author

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

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

My Jump Rope and the Little Foxes

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Komako Sakai**



Ages 6+

227 x 226 mm

24 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591079539

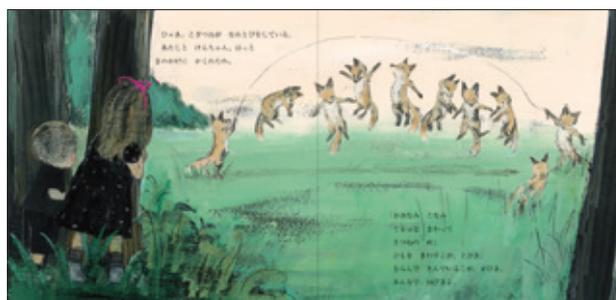
Rights sold: China, France,

Taiwan and The United States

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

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Bashful Bunny White

Kaori Tajima



Ages 5+
 243 x 221 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591150245
 Rights sold: Korea and Taiwan

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



About the Author

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

The Dragon God's Toothache

Toshitaka Sekiya



Ages 5+

262 x 290 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146156

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

Professor Tree Frog: A Late-Night Concert Surprise

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 5+

236 x 236 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129241

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

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

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

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

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



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



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



Professor Tree Frog's Year in Pictures



About the Author

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

When I was a Dinosaur

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 5+

257 x 237 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

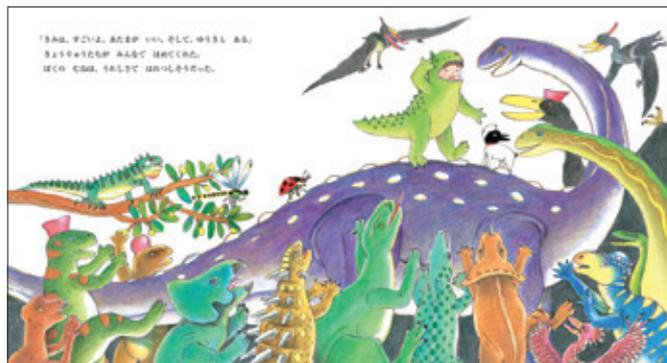
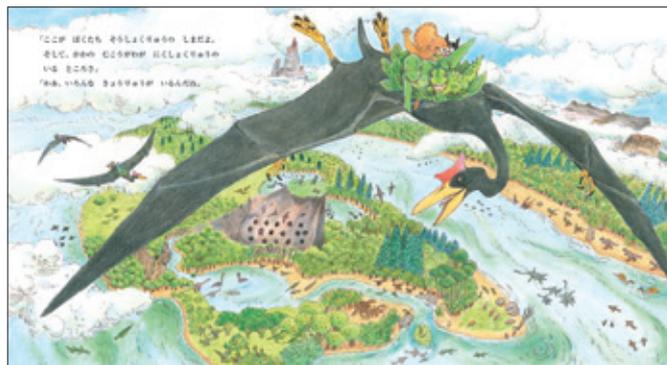
ISBN 978-4591124956

Rights sold: Canada, Korea,
Taiwan and The United States

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

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

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



Pen and Guin Go Fishing for Something Big

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 5+

257 x 221 mm

33 pages

Hardcover

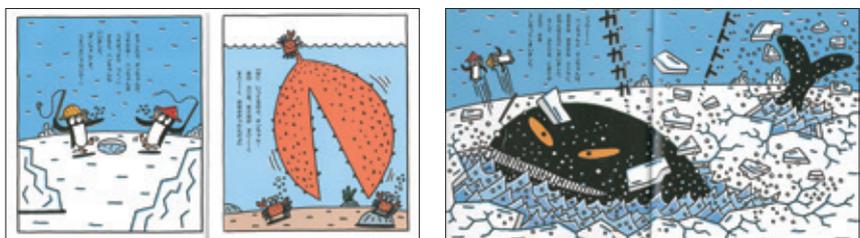
ISBN 978-4591086070

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

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

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

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



About the Author

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

The Pirate Falls in Love

Seizo Tashima



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

Ages 6+
 260 x 259 mm
 40 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591135037
 Rights sold: Korea



About the Author

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

Natchan and Grouchy Wolf

Text by **Nao Kousaka**

Illus. by **Mako Taruishi**



Natchan, a little girl, is upset because she has caught a cold and can't go on a trip with her classmates. She is bored and plays by herself, making shadow pictures with her hands. And then, a wolf suddenly comes out from the shadows. The wolf looks grouchy, and he says that's because Natchan, who is in a bad temper, has made him so. After they play together, the wolf gets hungry and says he wants to eat Natchan's grandma. Natchan takes courage in beating the grouchy wolf! With gentle-touched illustrations, the story addresses the theme of emotions.

Ages 5+

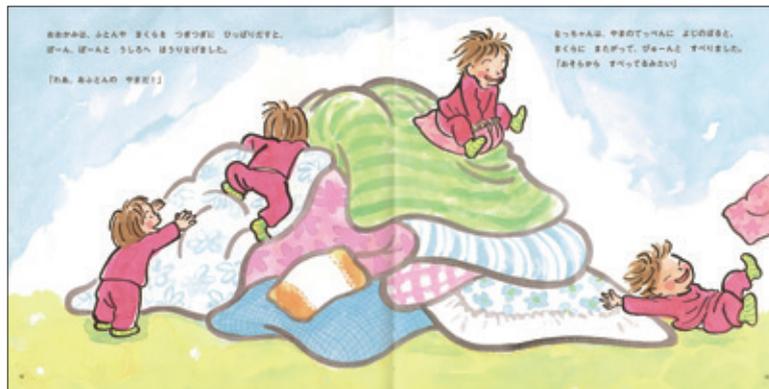
226 x 226 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591124291

Rights sold:



About the Author

Nao Kousaka won the Muku Hatoju Children's Literature Award for "Hashire, Sena!" in 2006. She writes children's fiction.

Mako Taruishi started working as an illustrator after working at Sanrio. She draws illustrations for picture books and story books.

My Precious Friend Pako

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Gen Hirose**



Hiro, a second grader, has been with Pako, a little stuffed elephant, since he was very small. One day, his mother tells him that they will go to see his father at the hospital. Hiro is very surprised because he has been told that his father passed away a long time ago. Hiro brings along Pako, his best friend, and his father tells him that he actually gave Pako to Hiro. It's a moving story of a family and friends, with beautiful illustrations.

Ages 5+
 227 x 226 mm
 31 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591097731
 Rights sold:



About the Author ✦ * * * * *

Miyako Moriyama, born in 1929, is a beloved children's author in Japan. She won several literary awards, including the Noma Children's Literature Award for "Maneya no Oira Tabi Neko Dochu."

Gen Hirose, born in 1968, draws illustrations for picture books and story books. He is known for his use of color and expression.

Mr. More and Grandma Woody

Text by Machiko Fuji

Illus. by Yoko Koba



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

Ages 6+

222 x 225 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591086834

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan



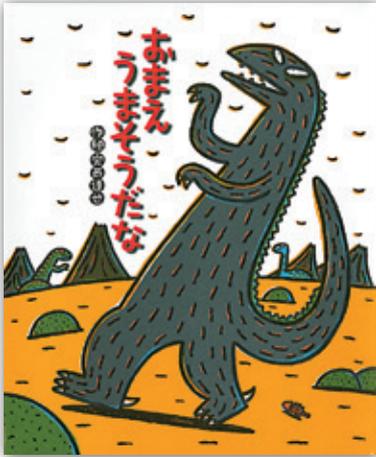
About the Author

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

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

Tyrannosaurus Series

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 6+

265 x 215 mm

40 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591076439

Rights sold: Canada, China,
France, Korea, Taiwan and The
United States

Oh, Yummy!

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

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

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



About the Author

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



You are My Best Friend

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



I am the Tyrannosaurus!



I'll Love You Forever



Could I also have some of that love?



I Love You



Thank You for Loving Me



I'm so Happy I Met You



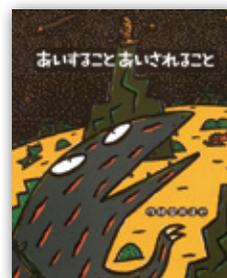
I am the One most Loved



I Believe You



We'll be Together Forever



To Love and to be Loved



Gentleness and Consideration

Sharing a Desk with Masuda

Miho Takeda



Ages 5+
247 x 245 mm
28 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591039427
Rights sold: China, France,
Korea and Taiwan

Miho is in the first grade. She shares a desk with Masuda, who draws a line in the middle of the desk and threatens to pound her if she crosses it. She doesn't like the school lunches, and math is tough. Even gym class is filled with things she can't do. She hates pretty much everything about school, and worst of all is the boy who sits next to her.

The story follows interactions between Miho and Masuda, a shy girl for whom school is a hostile place where she can't fit in, and an uninhibited boy who doesn't intend to be mean but can sometimes get a little rough. It's told with a humorous touch, including the way Masuda takes the form of a monster in Miho's eyes. In places, Miho's shifting psychology is shown by breaking the page down into cartoon-style frames that show her moving through time, and the author makes ample use of other visual cues as well, such as color selection, frame size, and layout. On the final page, Masuda appears in the form of an ordinary first-grader.

Children being read this story will no doubt imagine the day when they, too, will start school. Miho and Masuda's ups and downs may set their hearts pounding nervously, but when they grasp the message of the last scene, they'll know to look forward to making new friends there.

The success of this book led to a *Masuda-kun* series with four additional titles, all of which have been well received: *Masuda-kun no randozeru* (Masuda's Bookbag), *Masuda-kun no ichinensei nikki* (Masuda's Diary), *Masuda-kun to hajimete no sekikae* (Miho and Masuda Move Seats), and *Masuda-kun to maigo no Miho-chan* (Masuda and the Lost Miho). (Sachiyo Hosoe)



About the Author

Miho Takeda (1959–), a native of Tokyo, made her debut as a picture-book author in 1987 with *Ashita ensoku* (Tomorrow's the Class Outing). She received a Japan Picture Book Award and the Kodansha Award for Picture Books in 1991 for *Tonari no seki no Masuda-kun* (The Boy Who Sits Next to Me), and the Japan Picture Book Awards Readers' Prize and the Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize in 2001 for *Sumikko no obake* (The Ghost in the Corner). In 2007, she won (with Ryuji Goto) the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Okasan, genki desu ka* (Dear Mother, How Are You?). Trademark elements of her style include figures in bold outline that are only three heads tall, hand-lettered text, and compositions using cartoon-style frames. In addition to providing artwork for books like Eto Mori's *Ninkimono* (Popular Kid) series, she also designs characters for children's television shows.

How are You Doing, Mom?

Text by **Ryuji Goto**

Illus. by **Miho Takeda**



Ages 5+

227 x 226 mm

30 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591092101

Rights sold: China, Korea,

Taiwan and Vietnam

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



About the Author

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

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

Yours for Free

Keiko Hamada



Ages 5+
 226 x 228 mm
 36 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591140888
 Rights sold: China, Korea
 and Vietnam

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

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



About the Author

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

My Annoying Little Sister

Keiko Hamada



Ages 5+

257 x 221 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591088074

Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

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

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

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



Bicycles, Creak Creak

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Tomomi Shimada**



Ages 5+

277 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645641

Rights sold:

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

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

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



About the Author

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

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

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

Little Friends

Text by **Reiko Katayama**

Illus. by **Takako Kawakami**



Ages 5+

189 x 262 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645504

Rights sold: China

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

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

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



About the Author

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

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

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

Kū-chan's Pancake

Yuko Watanabe



Ages 5+

264 x 216 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591151563

Rights sold: Korea

Little Kū-chan sees Mama getting ready to make something in the kitchen, and wants to help—all the more so when she discovers that what they'll be making is pancakes. She loves them! “I don't need help,” she insists, as she breaks the eggs, mixes the batter, and flips the cake. But the oversized pancake lands awkwardly against the edge of the griddle, and Mama instinctively reaches in with her own spatula to salvage it. “I wanted to do it myself!” cries Kū-chan in a huff. Mother and daughter exchange words, and Kū-chan leaves the kitchen in tears. As she is sniffing by herself in the living room, the door from the kitchen opens, and who should appear but the misshapen pancake she made. The talkative pancake tries to cheer her up, though without much success—until Kū-chan notices how sweet it smells and takes a fluffy bite. Yum! Her pancake wasn't a failure after all! She thinks Mama's still angry, so it takes a little more help from her pancake, but in the end Kū-chan returns to the kitchen, and mother and daughter finish making a nice big batch of pancakes together.

A small child's budding sense of independence and self-reliance is portrayed through the friction that arises between mother and daughter while making pancakes. It's a cute, mouthwatering story that's likely to send many a parent and child to the kitchen to mix up their own batch of fluffy, golden hotcakes like those pictured so enticingly on nearly every page.

About the Author

Yūko Watanabe was born in Niigata Prefecture. She received her undergraduate degree in industrial, interior, and craft design from Musashino Art University in 1998, and in 2010 completed a master's degree at the same institution with a thesis on the relationship between illustration and text in picture books. Between degrees, she worked for an interior design company, then got her start with picture books by attending the Atosaki Juku workshop, and began conducting drawing classes at kindergartens and centers for people with developmental disorders. Her publishing debut came in 2016 with Kū-chan no hot-tokēki (Kū-chan's Pancake). She is a big fan of pancakes herself—both the making and eating of them.

yukow.exblog.jp/14226435

Polar Bear Post Office

Seigo Kijima



Ages 5+

263 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591146637

Rights sold: Canada, China,
France, Taiwan and The United
States

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

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



About the Author

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

A Great Big Ship

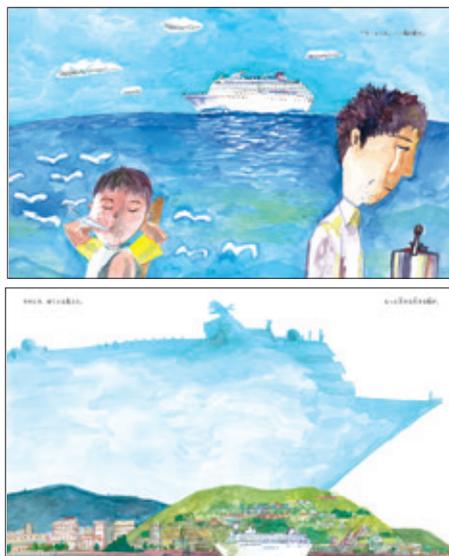
Shuhei Hasegawa



Ages 6+
264 x 215 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591110812
Rights sold: Korea

On the way home from the supermarket with his father, a boy searches for the right words. “Dad, look, you don’t have to fill in for Mom, too. I just want you to go on being my dad.” With the boy’s mother gone—we are never told what happened—the father has returned from an extended assignment overseas to rejoin his son, and the two of them are groping along to find their way together in this new arrangement.

Illustrated in soft watercolors, the story unfolds through their spoken words, moving freely back and forth in time as it gradually draws a portrait of the boy’s mother as seen by each of them. The boy remembers a woman who scolded him in place of his absent father; he remembers her weeping; and he remembers that she liked to whistle. His father, too, recalls that when they first started dating she whistled a lot. The melodies she chose no doubt expressed her cheer when she was happy and helped lift her spirits when she was feeling down. Over time, remembering the woman they both miss helps the two she left behind grow closer and come to terms with their present circumstances. Father and son liken their situation to being on a great big ship from which they can never disembark, and so all they can do is stay focused on what’s ahead and keep sailing on together. (Sachiyo Hosoe)



About the Author

Shuhei Hasegawa (1955–) is an author of picture books and also a musician. A native of Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture, he studied at Musashino Art University in Tokyo, though he did not obtain a degree. He made his writerly debut with *Hasegawa-kun kirai ya* (Can’t Stand Hasegawa), which won the Original Picture Book New Writer Award in 1976. *Mienai ehon* (The Invisible Picture Book) won the Akaitori Award for Children’s Literature in 1990. He won the Robo-no-Ishi Literary Award in 1992 for his two works *Ishi to daiyamondo* (Stones and Diamonds) and *Empitsu dessan Koike-san* (Koike-san’s Pencil Sketches). His *Homuran wo utta koto no nai kimi ni* (To You Who’ve Never Hit a Home Run) won the Japan Picture Book Award in 2007. Hasegawa has worked in a broad range of fields, among them picture books, fiction, criticism, translation, composing music and lyrics, and musical performance. Since 1991 he has lived in Nagasaki, and is currently a visiting professor at the Kyoto University of Art and Design.

Wayward Bear

Text by Shoichi Nejime

Illus. by Nao Takabatake



Ages 5+

245x 187 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882642473

Rights sold: Korea

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

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



About the Author

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

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

The Small Town

Shinsaku Fujita



Ages 5+

245 x 187 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

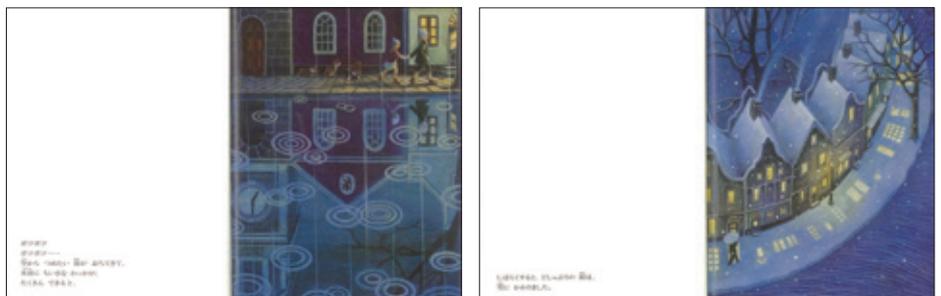
ISBN 978-4882642466

Rights sold: China and France

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

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

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



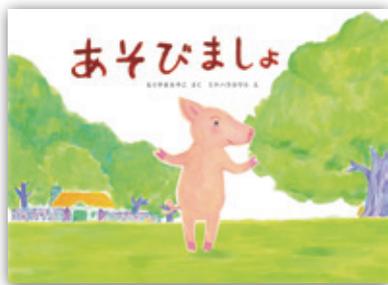
About the Author

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

Let's Play

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Yoko Miyahara**



Ages 2+

188 x 263 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882642305

Rights sold:

Pig sets out to find someone to play with, but the fox, bear, and rabbit boys and girls that he usually plays with aren't at home, are sick, or are otherwise occupied. Lamenting that he can't play hide-and-seek or tag by himself, he lies down in the meadow and stares up at the sky. Then Monkey, who is new to the area and doesn't yet have any friends, comes out of the woods with a ball. Soon they are playing catch together. Monkey is very good at the game, and knows just how to throw the ball so it's easier for the less adept Pig to catch it. Toward evening Monkey's little sister comes to fetch him. She is playing rope train with several squirrels and mice holding the rope behind her. After agreeing they'll all play again another day, the monkey siblings choo-choo off into the woods with their passengers in tow. Pig is happy to have made lots of new friends.

The pure and innocent desire for playmates comes through vividly in this refreshing story about the joys of making friends.



About the Author

Miyako Moriyama (1929–) was born in Tokyo. After first working as an advertising copywriter, she began creating children's books. She is known for her rhythmical writing style and for stories featuring human-like animals. Her prolific works include *Mizutamari* (*Puddles*); *Mori no yūbin-ya* (*Postman of the Forest*); the *Kitsune no ko* (*Little Fox*) series, which won the Robō-no-Ishi Young Readers Award in 1989; *Maneya no oira tabineko dōchū* (*Travels of Oira the Copy-Cat*), winner of the Noma Prize for Children's Literature in 1996; and *Hana to terakoya no nakamatachi* (*Hana and Her Friends in the Temple School*), which won the Akaitori Award in 2009.

Yōko Miyahara lives in Kanagawa Prefecture. She worked as a Yūzen silk painter and graphic designer before turning independent as an illustrator. Picture books for which she produced both story and text include *Okāsan no tanjōbi* (*Mama's Birthday*) and *Tēburu monkī no Kokomo* (*Kokomo, the Table Monkey*). Other titles she has illustrated include *Wasurenbō no harinezumi* (*The Forgetful Hedgehog*; story by Fumiko Takeshita), *Himitsu no nokku* (*The Secret Knock*; story by Etsuko Mutō), and *Asobimasho* (*Let's Play*; story by Miyako Moriyama). Her watercolors of plants and animals have also graced the covers of books and magazines, and she produces artwork for advertisements as well as woodblock prints.

Chiko in the Land of Doors

Text by **Kunio Iwaya**
 Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**

Directed by **Yoshio Nakae**



Ages 8+

286 x 246 mm

38 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591092828

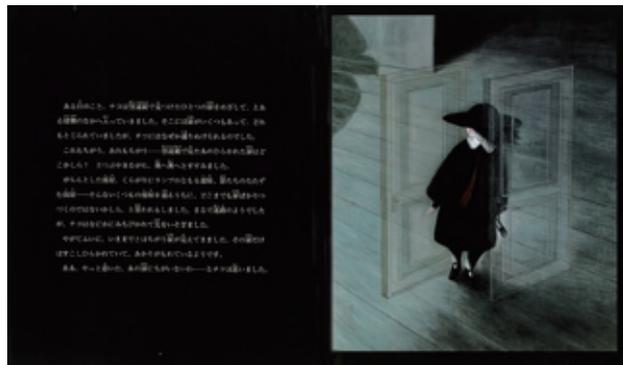
Rights sold:

Chiko is always alone. It's partly because of the trouble with her eyes—she doesn't have particularly poor vision, but she often sees double—which has made her subject to teasing by her peers. Then she receives a small telescope as a gift, and discovers that when she looks at things through the telescope, she can see them clearly. Now she becomes fonder than ever of looking at things, and carries the telescope with her wherever she goes.

One day she sees a door through the telescope and enters the building where it is. On the other side of the door is an old man with a cane. “Welcome. Please come right on in,” he says in a gentle voice. “I’ll show you a whole new way of seeing things.” He then begins escorting her through the Land of Doors. The doors open onto a world of surrealism. Chiko and her companion travel through the works of Marcel Duchamp and Max Ernst, going through one door after another. Her heart dances with excitement at everything she sees. Then they come to the final door, and the old man with the cane bids her farewell.

The following morning, Chiko is by herself again. But even if she is lonely, she is no longer miserable, for in her heart she will always have her memories from the Land of Doors.

This book was created as an homage to Japanese surrealist poet and artist Shūzō Takiguchi (1903–1979), who appears in the story as the old man with a cane. The artwork not only includes depictions of his study and items from his collection, but also incorporates a number of famous surrealist works, allowing the story to serve as an introduction to surrealism even as it takes the reader on a fairy-tale journey through a wondrous alternate world.



About the Author

Kunio Iwaya (1943–) is a scholar of French literature, as well as an author, critic, essayist, and translator. He has written on a broad range of topics as a general critic and essayist—from literature, film, and art to travel, gardening, and food; and he has also written modern fairy tales.

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

Shiba Becomes a Deer

Text by **Rika Fujiwara**

Illus. by **Reika Nakayama**



Ages 6+

303 x 217 mm

47 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591141069

Rights sold:

One night, the strains of a marvelous song coming from afar lure the boy Shiba to set out on a journey. Then, all of a sudden, he finds himself transformed into a deer by the unseen owner of an eerie voice in the darkness. The only sounds to emerge from his mouth now are deer cries. Walking on, he falls into a pit, then before he knows it he is gliding through the sky under a parachute and falling back to earth.

Landing in a tree, he meets Bukubu the quetzal. Since Bukubu can't fly, Shiba gives him his parachute. In return, Bukubu gives Shiba his prettiest feather.

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

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Timothy & Sarah Series

Midori Basho



A Letter from a Florist

Ms. Daisy opens a flower shop. Timothy and Sarah wait for customers with her, but no one comes. At that time, Rick sees a postman getting injured and letters floating in a river. After Rick helps the postman and picks up the letters, he takes all day to deliver the letters to villagers. The next morning, many villagers come to the flower shop, and they buy and bring flowers to the postman in the hospital. This heartwarming story is the latest title in the Timothy and Sarah Series.

Ages 5+
 247 x 245mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591127100
 Rights sold: Canada, China,
 The United States, Taiwan
 and Vietnam



- Let's Swap Clothes!
- A Treasure Map
- Timothy, Sarah and a Fairy of Woods
- Timothy, Sarah and Ms. Daisy
- A Thank-you Present
- A Contest for Handmade Cakes
- A Small Library

About the Author

Midori Basho started her career as a picture book author and illustrator after working at a graphic design company.

Timothy & Sarah: The Homemade Cake Contest

Midori Basho



Ages 5+

247 x 245 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591121092

Rights sold: Canada, China,

The United States, Taiwan

and Vietnam

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Timothy & Sarah Series: The Seven-colored Candies

Midori Basho



Ages 5+
 189 x 134 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591081167
 Rights sold:

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

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

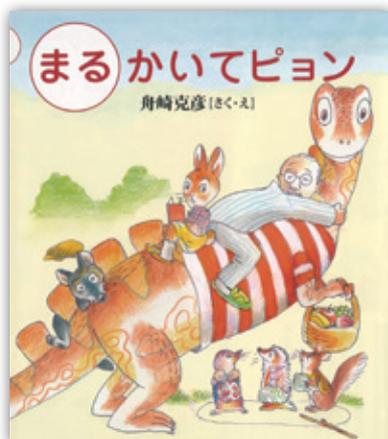


About the Author ◀ * * * * *

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

Ring around a Hopsie

Yoshihiko Funazaki



Ages 5+

217mm x 187 mm

48 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4882645542

Rights sold: Korea

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

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

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

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

About the Author

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

The Invisible Man Has Dinner

Yasushi Tsukamoto



Ages 5+

257 x 220 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147764

Rights sold: China, Korea
and Taiwan

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

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

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Crisis at the Gas Plant

Katsuhiko Shigeri



Ages 5+

256 x 222 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147801

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Thunder Kid Comes Tumbling Down

Katsuhiko Shigeri



Ages 5+

257 x 220 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591118368

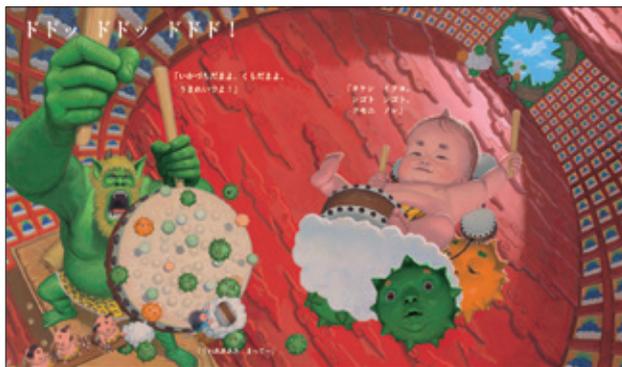
Rights sold: Korea

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

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

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

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



About the Author

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

Thank You for Traveling with Us Today

Katsuhiko Shigeri



Ages 5+

256 x 222 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591129777

Rights sold: China

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

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

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

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



Happy Al's Upside-Down Day

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illus. by **Koshiro Hata**



Ages 6+

222 x 226 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591135020

Rights sold: China

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

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

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



Happy Al's Restaurant Mix-Up



About the Author

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

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

I Say, You Say

Text by **Wakiko Satō**

Illus. by **Eigoro Futamata**



Ages 5+

225 x 250 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005187

Rights sold: China, France,
Italy, Spain and Taiwan

The baby chick Pyo goes off to the woods to play. In the course of various adventures, she swaps voices with the animals she meets there, borrowing the voices of a mouse, a pig, a frog, and a dog, one after the other. When she finds herself attacked by a cat, Pyo just barks like a dog, and the cat, astonished, beats a hasty retreat. Finally, Pyo meets a turtle, then makes her way home.

In depicting the simple, everyday adventures of Pyo, who is cute and a little bit mischievous, Wakiko Sato brings a kind of realism to the realm of children's literature. Her pared-back, extremely short sentences blend well with the delicate pictures of Eigoro Futamata, who renders even background scenery in exquisite detail. As we turn the pages, the life of the forest unfolds before us.

The families of the animals that Pyo encounters are portrayed with a comical touch that will appeal even to very small children who are only starting to learn language. *I Say, You Say* has been a strong seller for over 30 years now and continues to win new readers. It is one of the finest of Japanese picture books, and has been passed down from parent to child for decades.

(Akira Nogami)



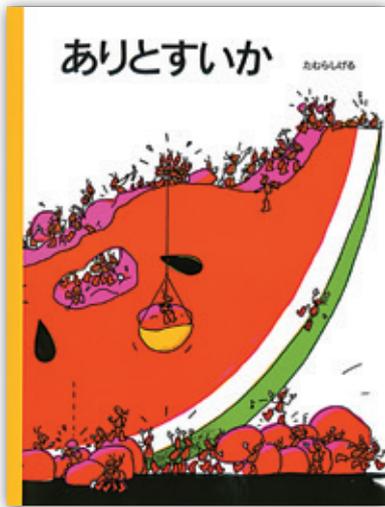
About the Author

Wakiko Satō (1937–), a native of Tokyo, has many picture books to her credit. *Grandma Baba's Busy Night!*, *Grandma Baba's Magic Watermelon!*, and *Grandma Baba Wants Sunshine!* form part of the Grandma Baba series, for which she created both the text and the illustrations. Other illustrated works include *Sentaku kāchan* (Washing-Crazy Ma), *O-tsukai* (The Errand), and *Rusuban* (What If There May Be Phantoms in My House?). She is director of the Little Museum in a Village of Picture Books in Nagano Prefecture and has done much to promote picture-book art, both domestic and foreign, in Japan. Many of her children's tales are based on her own childhood experiences, dealing with everyday events and illustrated with bright, easily understandable pictures. Her stories always have a solid core characterized by skillful plot development leading to happy endings, attributes that have won her a following among readers of all ages.

Eigoro Futamata is a native of Otaru, Hokkaido. His drawing style appears simple, but every detail is carefully designed to give readers a visceral sense of the emotions and actions of the characters he portrays. He has won the affections of readers over many years through his humorous, gentle, and warm style of illustration. Futamata has been active as an illustrator of picture books as well as of traditional *kamishibai* (paper play) art. His works include the *kamishibai* story *Taberareta yamamba* (The Mountain Witch Who Was Gobbled Up), and the picture books *Torikaekko* (tr. *I Say, You Say*), which won the Japan Picture Book Award, *Kitsune no okyakusama* (The Fox's Guests), *Kuki ga naku naru hi* (The Day the Air Disappears), and *Kogitsune Kon to kodanuki Pon* (Little Fox Kon and Little Badger Pon), which won the Prize for the Promotion of Social Welfare for Children.

The Ants and the Watermelon

Shigeru Tamura



Ages 5+

246 x 190mm

32 pages

Hardcover

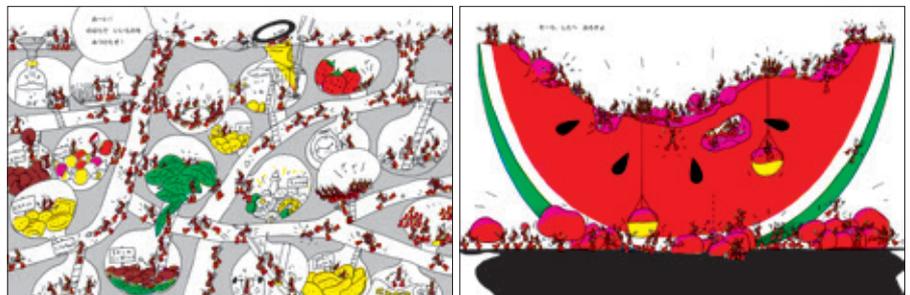
ISBN 978-4591071540

Rights sold: China, Korea and

Taiwan

One hot summer afternoon, some ants come upon a slice of watermelon. The juicy red wedge dominates both pages of the open spread; the ants are tiny figures looking up at it from below. They climb up onto the fruit and sample the red flesh. It's delicious, and they want to take it back to their nest, but they can't get the wedge to move even the tiniest bit. So they go back to their stronghold to call in reinforcements. An army of ants, all wearing tiny red boots, hurries to the scene, and they push and pull with all their might, but the watermelon still won't budge. So they climb up onto the slice and use shovels and pickaxes to break the flesh into little bits, which they lower to the ground for other ants, working in groups, to haul to their nest. Soon every room in the nest is chock full of red watermelon pieces. After they've eaten their fill from what's left, they drag the remaining rind to the edge of a water puddle, take off their boots, and play on it as a water slide.

The humorous detail of the artwork—portraying the valiant efforts of the ants to move the giant watermelon, the individual mannerisms of countless ants, and the many different rooms in the nest where chocolate or candy is stored, mushrooms are being cultivated, construction is underway for something new, and so forth—are sure to capture and stimulate young readers' imaginations. (Akira Nogami)



About the Author

Shigeru Tamura (1949–) was born in Tokyo and completed the Kuwasawa Design School program. He works in the fields of picture books, manga, and animation. His picture books include *Yoru no sanpo* (A Stroll at Night), *Suna no oshiro* (Sand Castle), *Uchu suketo* (Cosmic Skating), and *Robotto no kuni SOS* (SOS from Robot Land). In film, his *Ginga no sakana* (The Fish in the Milky Way) received a Special Award at the Montreux International Electronic Cinema Festival in 1993, and his *Kujira no choyaku* (The Whale Leaps) won the Grand Prize for Animation at the Japan Media Arts Festival in 1998. The source of his appeal can be found in his distinctive humor and lyricism, which come through not only in his picture books but also his motion pictures, making him a favorite of readers ranging from small children to young adults.

Bunny with Glasses

Keiko Sena

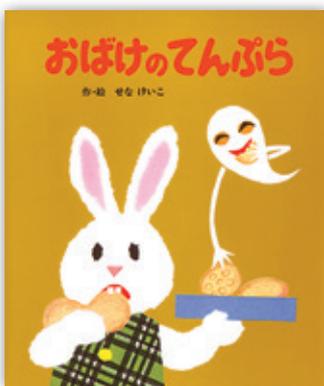


Ages 5+
245 x 210 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591004692
Rights sold: China, France and
The United States

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

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

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



Ghost Tempura

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

About the Author

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

Little Bunny Mashiro

Text by **Tazu Sasaki**

Illus. by **Sekiya Miyoshi**



Ages 5+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

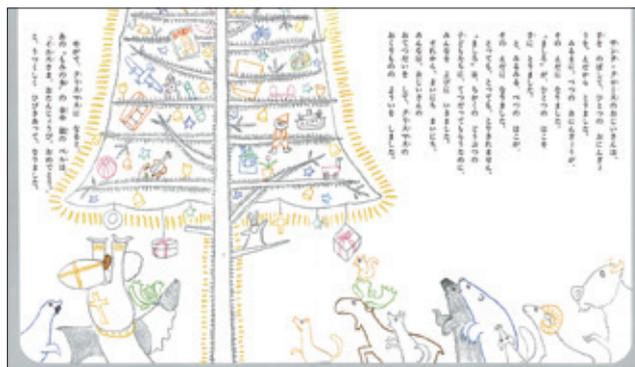
ISBN 978-4591005309

Rights sold: China and

Taiwan

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

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



About the Author

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

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

The Big Table

Text by **Miyako Moriyama**

Illus. by **Gen Hirose**



Ages 5+

227 x 226 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591068687

Rights sold: China and
Taiwan

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

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

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



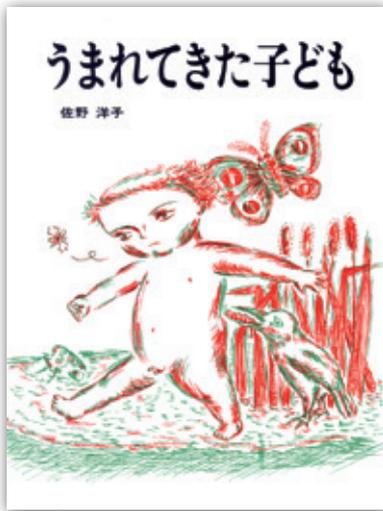
About the Author

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

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

The Child Who Was Born

Shigeru Tamura



Ages 5+

290 x 215mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591037515

Rights sold: Korea

A child who chose not to be born has come to this world to observe it. He's not afraid of roaring lions, and mosquito bites don't make him itch. He hasn't been born yet, after all. But one day he sees a little girl who, bitten in the rear end by a dog, runs home in tears crying "Mommy, Mommy!" As he watches the girl's mother tend to her child's wound, he feels envious. He wants someone to apply a bandage to him, too, so he decides to be born. When he cries, "It hurts!" his mother comes running, assuring him, "It's all right." She feels soft and warm, and smells good too, as she hugs him. He gets hungry sometimes. He itches when mosquitoes bite. He laughs hard when the wind blows.

Through the medium of a child, the author spiritedly shows what it means to live—we feel emotions and sensations, we hear other's words, and we get sleepy when our stomachs are full. By making the protagonist a child who didn't want to be born, Sano hints at a tender subject, revealing her stance on life in a fresh, raw way that resonates strongly. Two-tone lithographs create a mythical atmosphere, and the expressions on the faces of the men and women depicted have an old-timey look. This is a moving book for young and old, however many times it is revisited. (Sachiyo Hosoe)



About the Author

Yoko Sano (1938–2010) was born in Beijing, China. A writer of many talents, she produced numerous children's books and was esteemed by adults for her essays as well. Sano traveled to Europe in 1967 and studied lithography in Berlin. In 1973 she published her first picture book, *Suu-chan to neko* (Sue and the Cat). She went on to produce various styles of picture books, including *Ojisan no kasa* (Uncle's Umbrella), *Watashi no boshi* (My Hat; winner of the Kodansha Award for Picture Books), and *Nee tosan* (Hey Papa; winner of the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award). She also produced illustrations for others' works and translated picture books into Japanese. Her script *Jitensha buta ga yatte kita* (The Bicycle Pig Is Coming) was used in stage performances for children by the Maru theater company.

Elf, the One-Legged Ostrich

Gaku Onoki



Ages 5+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005361

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan

Elf, a strapping young ostrich, is just as fond of children as he is loved by them. He takes the young of other animals for rides on his back, extends his long neck to pluck nuts and seeds for them, and frightens off jackals by imitating a lion's roar. One day a lion attacks. Elf fights hard to protect his charges, and has one leg chewed off in the process. As he heals, at first the other animals bring him food, but gradually they forget about him and he is left to himself. When a black panther appears on the scene, preying on the young, Elf gathers onto his back those too small to run to safety, rises to his full height, and fights the predator off. As the young creatures climb down to thank him, they discover that Elf has turned into a glorious shade-giving tree . . .

With their bold images of animals etched in ink against earthy ochre backgrounds, Onoki's rugged woodblock prints directly convey the struggle for survival on the African savanna. His inspiration for the story, which he wrote and illustrated, was the sight of a baobab tree standing starkly alone in the African grasslands. One of his best-loved works, with a devoted readership for four decades, this book resonates with others by Onoki in which the struggle to preserve something precious is rewarded in mythic proportions, with the protagonist's transformation into a mountain, lake, or other force of nature. (Sachiyo Hosoe)



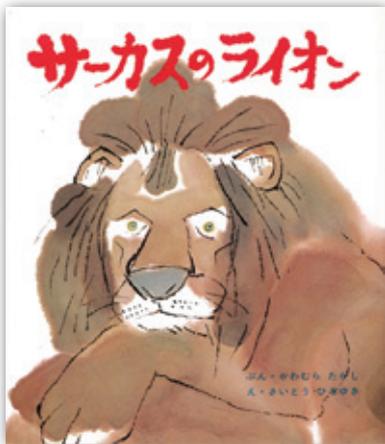
About the Author

Gaku Onoki (1924–1976) was self-taught as an artist, working in Western-style painting and in printmaking. He studied in Europe from 1961 to 1962 and then began making prints, authoring and illustrating books for children. His works were purchased by the Slovenian government at the Eighth International Biennial of Graphic Arts held in Ljubljana in 1969. In 1970 he won the Shogakukan Art Prize (now known as the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award) for *Ondori to nimai no kinka* (The Rooster and Two Gold Coins) and other works. He used many varied techniques in his works in addition to the prints that were his specialty. His principal works include *Kata-ashi dacho no Erufu* (Elf, the One-Legged Ostrich), *Sayonara Chifuro* (Farewell to Chifuro), and *Shirasagi choja* (The Millionaire White Heron).

The Circus Lion

Text by **Takashi Kawamura**

Illus. by **Hiroyuki Saito**



Ages 5+

245 x 215 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005439

Rights sold:

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

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

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



About the Author

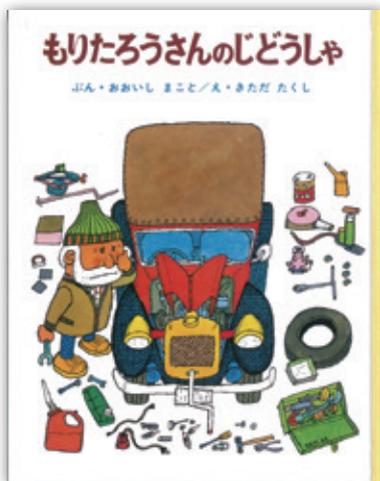
Takashi Kawamura (1931–2010) received the Noma Prize for Children's Literature in 1978 for *The Cow that Goes to the Mountain*, the JAWC Award in 1981 for *Between Day and Night*, and both the JAWC Award and the Sankei Children's Book Award in 1989 for *New Tales of Totsukawa* (10 volumes), and many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

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

Moritaro's Car

Text by **Makoto Oishi**

Illus. by **Takushi Kitada**



Ages 5+

235 x 185 mm

52 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591013489

Rights sold:

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

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

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



About the Author

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

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

No Wildcats

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Takushi Kitada**



Ages 5+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005552

Rights sold:

Mr. Matsui drives a taxi. One autumn day, he picks up a young man as a passenger and follows his instructions to turn right, then left, and so on, over and over, until he no longer knows where he is. After driving along a deserted stretch of road and arriving at a wooded grove, he asks the passenger where they are. In response, he hears a purring sound and a gentle laugh, which prompts him to look in his rearview mirror. To his surprise, the figure in the back seat wearing a coat and tie is a wildcat. Matsui screeches to a halt in a cloud of dust and asks him to get out, but the wildcat protests that he didn't see any signs on the car saying "No wildcats," and goes on to explain that he is a doctor and is hurrying to his ailing mother's bedside.

Matsui decides to deliver the passenger to his destination, where Dr. Wildcat's little sister is waiting in front of the house. The doctor asks Matsui to wait for him while he examines his mother. When he returns, he expresses his gratitude, saying that thanks to Matsui, his mother should soon be better. Halfway back to town, Matsui looks over his shoulder to discover that he is once again carrying a young man in the back seat. When they reach the university hospital, the doctor hands him an extra sheet of paper along with the fare. Although humans can't read it, he tells Matsui, the paper says "No wildcats," and if he posts it on the door of his taxi, wildcats will stay away. As the doctor is about to go inside the building, Matsui calls out to him. Tearing the paper up into little pieces, he shouts, "Call on me any time!"

This brief encounter between the kindly taxi driver and his unusual passenger leaves readers with a warm feeling in their hearts. It is part of the *A Car the Color of the Sky* series, and this volume is a picture-book edition of one of the titles found in the *The White Hat* volume.



About the Author

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

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

Dai's Little Kitten

Matsuko Yamamoto



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

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

Ages 5+

235 x 185 mm

52 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591013588

Rights sold: China and Taiwan



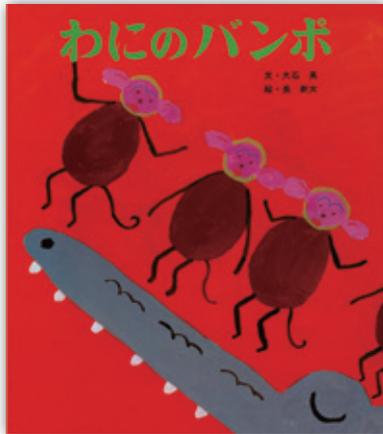
About the Author

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

Banpo the Alligator

Text by **Makoto Oishi**

Illus. by **Shinta Cho**



Ages 5+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005378

Rights sold: China and Korea

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

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

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



About the Author

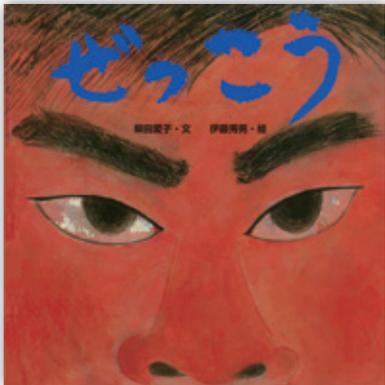
Makoto Oishi (1925-1990) was an author of books for young children. His *Kuro Is Lost* won the Shogakukan Prize for Literature in 1963, and *The Child Who Couldn't Sleep* received the Noma Prize for Children's Literature and the JAWC Special Award in 1990.

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

No Longer Friends

Text by **Aiko Shibata**

Illus. by **Hideo Ito**



Ages 5+

248 x 245 mm

32 pages

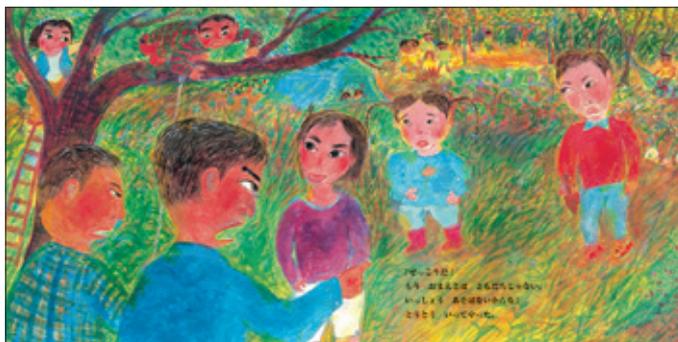
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591073018

Rights Sold: China

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Feelings after a Fight

Text by **Aiko Shibata**

Illus. by **Hideo Ito**



Ages 5+

248 x 245 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591070444

Rights sold: China and Korea

The cover shows a boy lying face-up on a tatami mat, both hands supporting his head from behind. His eyes are filled with tears. What happened?

The boy's name is Tai, and he attends "Play Island," an after-school care facility for children that is right next door to his house. There he always plays with his best friend Kota, but today they had a fight. Play Island has these rules about fighting:

Use only bare hands.

Fight one-on-one.

When one child wants to end the fight, the fight must end.

In other words, fighting is not necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes children grow closer to one another after a fight. When the fight between Tai and Kota that day ends in a clear victory for Kota, Tai escapes to his home, full of frustration. He cries as he hugs his mother, but his feelings stay. After a while, his teacher Aiko comes to the house and invites Tai and his mother to have some of the gyoza dumplings that everyone has made together. Tai doesn't want to go back, but his mother goes anyway. In fact Tai does want to go, and yet he doesn't—his feelings are all a jumble, a true reflection of the ups and downs of a young child's heart. (Hico Tanaka)

About the Author

Aiko Shibata (1948–) is a childcare specialist. After working at a private kindergarten for some time, in 1982 she established The Apple Tree—a nursery school for children from ages two to five—with three colleagues, and serves as its representative. Shibata also lectures and contributes articles to magazines on childcare and early education. Her aim is to promote childcare focused on "drawing near to the hearts and minds of children." In 2002 she received the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize for *Kenka no kimochi* (Feelings after a Fight). She has authored many works on raising children, such as *Kosodate wo tanoshimu hon* (How to Enjoy Raising Your Child) and *Kodomo wo shikaritaku nattara yomu hon* (Read This Book When You Feel Like Scolding Your Child).

Hideo Ito (1950–) is a native of Tsushima in Aichi Prefecture, and graduated from the Department of Western Art at the Nagoya Junior College of Plastic Arts. In 1992 he received the Shogakukan Award for Art for his *Umi no natsu* (Umi's Summer). *Kenka no kimochi* (Feelings after a Fight) won him the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 2002. In 2010 *Ushio* (Ushio) appeared on the IBBY Honor List and won the JBBY Award.

The Most Beautiful Village in the World

Yutaka Kobayashi



Ages 5+

220 x 285 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591041901

Rights sold: China, Korea and

Taiwan

The story is set in the Afghan village of Paghman, home of Yamo, the young boy protagonist and narrator. It's a place surrounded by the bounty of nature: fruit trees burst into bloom in the spring, and in the summer Yamo's whole family joins in harvesting apricots, plums, and cherries, breaking into song as they pick.

This year, for the first time, Yamo goes along when his father takes their harvest to the market in town. He is filling in for his older brother, who is off fighting in the war. After they have sold their fruit, his father uses the income to buy a lamb.

Author Yutaka Kobayashi's artwork portrays the village, the market, a simple eatery, a mosque—people going about their daily lives—all with great warmth and care. Readers can genuinely feel the deep love of the family, enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the landscape, and experience the fullness of the villagers' lives. Then, on the final page we are stunned to learn: "This winter, my village was destroyed by the war, and now it's all gone." This shocking statement registers keenly, prompting the young reader to think in real terms about the meaning of war and its impact.

Kobayashi based the story on his first-hand experiences during a visit to war-torn Afghanistan. Paghman is modeled on a small village that welcomed him warmly into its midst; its characters are based on people he met who were carrying on with great determination in spite of the hardships. Thanks to being selected for inclusion in elementary school textbooks, the story has been read by countless Japanese schoolchildren. Kobayashi has subsequently written two additional stories about Yamo and his village: *Boku no mura ni sakasu ga kita* (The Circus Comes to the Village), and *Sekai-ichi utsukushii mura e kaeru* (Returning to the Most Beautiful Village in the World). (Yumiko Sakuma)

About the Author

Yutaka Kobayashi (1946–) is a Nihonga artist and picture-book creator. He decided to become an artist while studying in England after graduating from Rikkyo University. In 1979, his very first submission was accepted for the Japan Fine Arts Exhibition (Nitten), and in 1983 he received a Special Excellence Award in the Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition. He is a frequent visitor to the Islamic countries of Asia and the Middle East, and treats subjects taken from those visits in his paintings and picture books. His *Kuraudeia no inori* (Claudia's Prayer; text by Yasuko Murao) received the Japan Picture Book Awards Readers' Prize in 2008. *Sekai ichi utsukushii boku no mura* (The Most Beautiful Village in the World) and *Boku wa otōto to aruita* (I Walked with My Little Brother), which portrays two children seeking refuge from fighting in wartime, have been selected for inclusion in elementary school textbooks. These and other stories told through the eyes of children from other cultures have received wide acclaim.

Mother Legh: The Woman Who Lived among Hansen's Sufferers in Kusatsu

Text by **Shigeru Nakamura** Illus. by **Yutaka Kobayashi**



Ages 9+
257 x 221 mm
32 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4591136461
Rights sold:

Some eight decades ago, an elderly British missionary named Mary Helena Cornwall Legh lived in Kusatsu, Gunma Prefecture, where she worked among a population of people suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy). She was addressed and referred to as Kaasama (Mother) by all who knew her. This biographical picture book tells the story of the love and faith with which she lived her life.

Cornwall Legh was inspired to come to Japan in 1907, at the age of 50, by the words of a minister she had first heard speak when she was only a child: "To go out into the world as a missionary, to share the burdens and suffering of those who live there, is one of the noblest things a person can do." She wanted to dedicate the rest of her life to being a good neighbor to those experiencing hardship. Having learned that Kusatsu was a gathering place for Hansen's patients because the hot springs there were thought to be good for skin diseases, and in response to the entreaties of Kaoru Shukuzawa, who suffered from the disease himself, she moved to Kusatsu in 1916. She proceeded to establish a church, clinic, kindergarten, and convalescent home for Hansen's patients, and poured herself into treatment of the disease as well as the education of children. Her life story, researched and coordinated for this publication by Chiyo Saito, is an object lesson in what it means to be a good neighbor.



About the Author

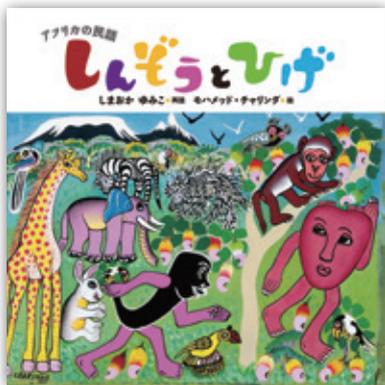
Shigeru Nakamura (1944–) was born in the city of Akita, and graduated from Rikkyo University. He is a student of British economic history as well as British church history. From 1968 until 2012 he taught at Ferris Jogakuin Junior and Senior High School. He authored *Kusatsu "Yorokobi no Tani" monogatari: Konworu Rii to Hansen-byo* (The Tale of Kusatsu's "Valley of Joy": Cornwall Legh and Hansen's Disease), and co-authored *Shashin-shu Konworu Rii joshi monogatari* (A Pictorial Biography of Mary Helena Cornwall Legh), among other titles.

Yutaka Kobayashi (1944–) is a Nihonga artist and picture-book creator. He decided to become an artist while studying in England after graduating from Rikkyo University. In 1979, his very first submission was accepted for the Japan Fine Arts Exhibition (Nitten), and in 1983 he received a Special Excellence Award in the Ueno Royal Museum Grand Prize Exhibition. He is a frequent visitor to the Islamic countries of Asia and the Middle East, and treats subjects taken from those visits in his paintings and picture books. His *Kuraudeia no inori* (Claudia's Prayer; text by Yasuko Murao) received the Japan Picture Book Awards Readers' Prize in 2008. *Sekai ichi utsukushii boku no mura* (The Most Beautiful Village in the World) and *Boku wa otōto to aruita* (I Walked with My Little Brother), which portrays two children seeking refuge from fighting in wartime, have been selected for inclusion in elementary school textbooks. These and other stories told through the eyes of children from other cultures have received wide acclaim.

Heart and Beard

Text by Yumiko Shimaoka

Illus. by Mohamed Charinda



Ages 6+

266 x 266 mm

43 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591144718

Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author

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

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

False Tears

Text by **Rintarō Uchida**
 Illus. by **Masulira**



Ages 6+
 256 x 220 mm
 36 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591108284
 Rights sold:

A feudal lord has been residing in the capital for a time while taking care of some business, but now he is ready to return to his domain. When he goes to say farewell to a woman he has been seeing while in town, she becomes distraught and bursts into tears. The daimyo and his retainer are taken aback by the intensity of her reaction. But the retainer notices that the woman is not really crying—she is only pretending to, all the while wetting her face with water from a teacup hidden behind her.

Once he realizes her ruse, the retainer decides to teach the woman a lesson. He switches the teacup for one filled with black ink. Unaware of this move, the woman continues to wet her face as before, still feigning inconsolable distress. She soon looks quite the horror, with her eyes and cheeks stained black. Realizing that she has only been putting on an act, the daimyo thrusts a mirror in her face. With her falseness exposed, shame and anger drive the woman into a frenzy.

This comical treatment of a sly and cunning woman is based on the traditional kyogen play Suminuri (Black Crocodile Tears). Kyogen plays were performed as comic interludes during performances in the noh theater.



About the Author

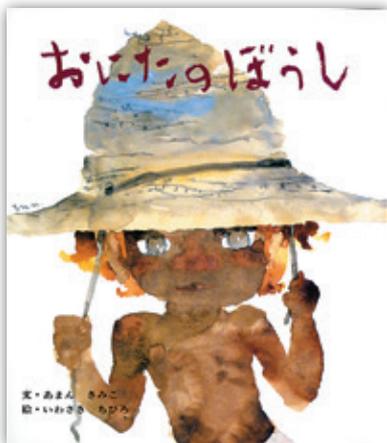
Rintarō Uchida (1941–) was born in Fukuoka Prefecture. He began writing poetry at the age of 19 while working as a sign painter, and published his first children's book when he was 38. Audiences are drawn to the unique worlds he creates with his rhythmically distinctive yet highly readable prose. Among his enduring bestsellers are *Kāsan no kokoro* (A Mother's Heart), *Tottemo ii koto* (Something Special), and the *Oretachi tomodachi* (We're Friends) series. His many awards include the Japan Picture Book Awards Grand Prize in 1986 for *Sakasama raion* (Upside-Down Lion); the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award in 1997 for *Usotsuki no tsuki* (The Lying Moon); and a Japan Picture Book Award in 2009 for *Suya-suya tanuki ga neteitara* (While Tanuki Was Sleeping). The Swedish edition of the picture book *Obake densha* (Monster Train) was awarded a Silver Star in the Peter Pan Awards. Uchida's poetry collections include *Bokutachi wa naku* (We Cry), which won the Mitsukoshi Sachio Juvenile Poetry Prize in 2011, and *Umi ga waratteiru* (The Sea Is Laughing).

Masulira (1969–) grew up in Shizuoka Prefecture, and graduated from Waseda University with a degree in art history. She studied at the Setsu Mode Seminar while still in college, and went on to hone her skills at the Shin'ichi Fukui Illustration School (F-School) and the Atosaki Workshop for aspiring picture-book writers. She currently lives in Chiba Prefecture.

Onita's Hat

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Chihiro Iwasaki**



Ages 5+

245 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591005293

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

The story in this picture book takes place on the night of Setsubun, the traditional last day of winter now celebrated on February 3 or 4 each year, when it is customary for families to scatter beans inside and outside the house to the chant of *Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi* (Out with demons! In with good fortune!).

Onita is a good-natured demon boy who lives in the toolshed at Makoto's house. He retrieves lost marbles for Makoto and shines his dad's shoes—though always when no one is looking. But on the night of Setsubun, shouts of “Out with demons!” rise from every house around, and he feels as though he has nowhere to go. “Why do people assume all oni are bad?” he wonders. “There're all kinds of oni, just like there're all kinds of people.” Pulling a big straw hat down over his head to hide his horns, Onita wanders out along the streets. He finds a house where an impoverished little girl and her ailing mother live. The girl is busy nursing her mother, and she is hungry from not having had anything to eat. Feeling sorry for her, Onita prepares a warm meal and takes it to her. As the girl is finishing her food, she says, “I wish I could scatter some beans . . . If demons come, they'll probably make Mom worse.” It saddens Onita that the girl, too, thinks all oni are bad. He quickly departs, leaving behind his straw hat with a small pile of black beans under it. The girl scatters the beans quietly so as not to wake her mother, and as she does so, she thinks, “That boy must have been a god. I just know Mom's going to get better.”

Readers cannot help but be touched by Onita's kindness as well as feel his pain. The evocative artwork by Chihiro Iwasaki perfectly complements this stirring tale of a quiet winter's night.

About the Author

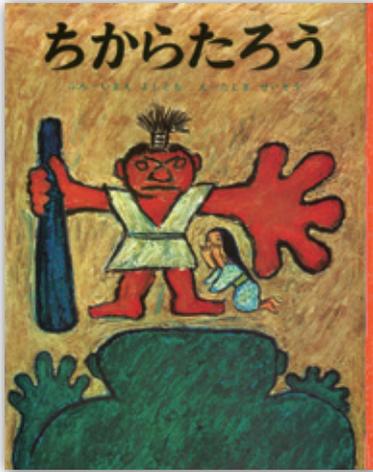
Kimiko Aman (1931–) was born in Dalian, China, and graduated from Japan Women's University in Tokyo. After enrolling in a creative writing class for children's stories sponsored by the Japan Association of Writers for Children in 1965, she submitted the story *Kuma shinshi* (Bear Gentleman) to Jōji Tsubota's magazine *Biwa no mi gakkō* (Loquat School). In 1968 she received the JAWC New Talent Award for *Kuruma no iro wa sora no iro* (A Car the Color of the Sky), a collection of eight fantasy stories, including *Kuma shinshi*, centering on a taxi driver named Matsui. Stories from this collection were subsequently adopted for inclusion in many elementary-school language arts textbooks. She has received numerous other awards, including the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for the picture book *Chii-chan no kage okuri* (Chii-chan and the Shadow Figures).

Chihiro Iwasaki, a native of Fukui Prefecture, was inspired by a desire to see peace and happiness come to children everywhere, and devoted her life to drawing pictures of young people. Her subjects are brought to life through her gentle blending of watercolors and soft pencil lines. Beloved by readers around the world, her illustrations appear in many picture books, among them *Ame no hi no orusuban* (Staying Home Alone on a Rainy Day) and *Ofuro de chapuchapu* (I Love Bathing).

Strongman Taro

Text by **Yoshitomo Imae**

Illus. by **Seizo Tashima**



Ages 6+

265 x 210 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591003787

Rights sold:

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

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

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



About the Author

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

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

Faceless

Text by **Akira Sugiyama**

Illus. by **Takehiro Karube**



Ages 6+

257 x 222 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591119426

Rights sold:

The Japanese title, *Nopperabo*, refers to a spectral figure who by all appearances is a perfectly normal person until he turns around to show that he has no eyes or nose or mouth—no face at all.

A mother sends her boy out to gather firewood, admonishing him to be sure to come home while it's still light outside, because the woods can be scary after dark. But the boy dawdles over one thing and another and has wandered deep into the hills when he realizes the light is beginning to fade. Knowing he must hurry, he stops at a dilapidated cabin he finds to ask for directions, but the people there are faceless. He takes to his heels, and when he reaches a road seeks help from a samurai carrying a lantern, only to discover that he, too, has no face. Page by page, the story grows increasingly more frightful, until finally the boy reaches home and rushes inside, into his mother's comforting arms. Young readers can close the book reassured that all is well.



About the Author

Kimiko Aman (1931–) was born in Dalian, China, and graduated from Japan Women's University in Tokyo. After enrolling in a creative writing class for children's stories sponsored by the Japan Association of Writers for Children in 1965, she submitted the story *Kuma shinshi* (Bear Gentleman) to Jōji Tsubota's magazine *Biwa no mi gakkō* (Loquat School). In 1968 she received the JAWC New Talent Award for *Kuruma no iro wa sora no iro* (A Car the Color of the Sky), a collection of eight fantasy stories, including *Kuma shinshi*, centering on a taxi driver named Matsui. Stories from this collection were subsequently adopted for inclusion in many elementary-school language arts textbooks. She has received numerous other awards, including the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for the picture book *Chii-chan no kage okuri* (Chii-chan and the Shadow Figures).

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Explained in Pictures: The Tokyo Skytree

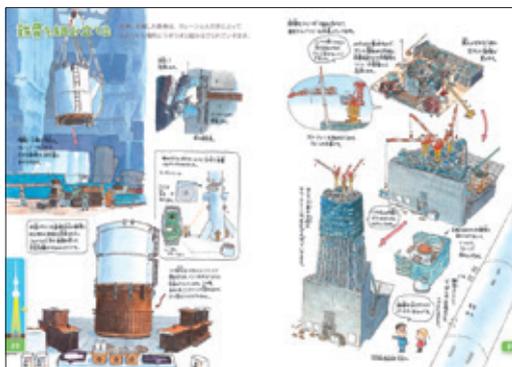
Yoh Morinaga



Ages 8+
 304 x 210 mm
 52 pages
 Hardcover
 ISBN 978-4591128602
 Rights sold:

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

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



About the Author ◀ * * * * *

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

Explained in Pictures: Construction Sites

Yoh Morinaga



Ages 8+

303 x 215 mm

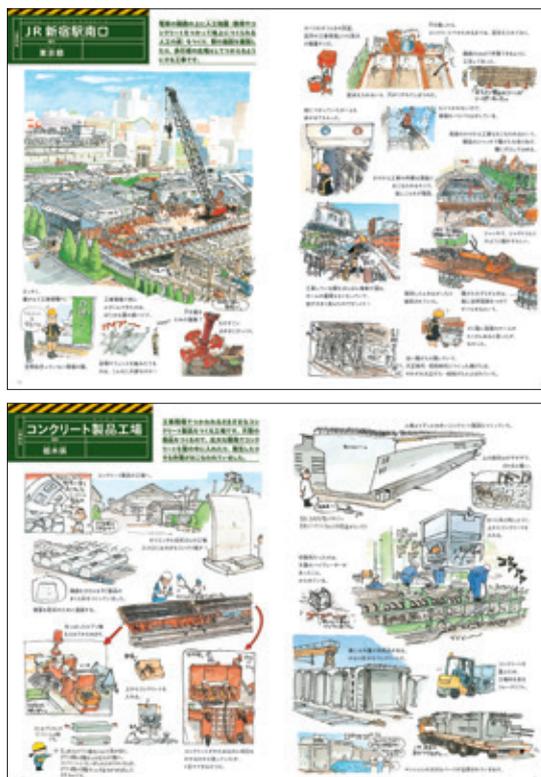
47 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591147160

Rights sold:

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



About the Author

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

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

Text by **Tomohide Atsumi** Illus. by **Bunpei Yorifuji**



Ages 8+

216 x 182 mm

47 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591125564

Rights sold: China and Korea

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

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

About the Author

Tomohide Atsumi (1961–) was born in Osaka Prefecture. He is a professor in the Graduate School of Human Sciences at Osaka University. He lived in Nishinomiya (between Kobe and Osaka) at the time of the Great Hanshin (Kobe) Earthquake of 1995 and got involved in recovery activities as a volunteer. Since then he has continued to participate in disaster-related volunteer activities and research. His publications include *Boranā no chi* (Volunteer Knowledge).

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

The POP Wonderland: Cinderella

Text by Michiyo Hayano

Illus. by POP



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

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

Ages 6+

216 x 262 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591100431

Rights sold: France, Spain and The United States



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



Little Red Riding Hood



Thumbelina



The Little Mermaid



Snow White

About the Author

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

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