

2019



# POPLAR

Foreign Rights Catalog

## About Us

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

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

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

## Contact

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Tokyo, 102-8519 JAPAN

<https://www.poplar.co.jp/foreignRights/>  
[foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp](mailto:foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp)

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# Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghost Series

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**

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

The "Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghost" series that started with *Spaghetti ga tabetai yo* (I Want to Eat Spaghetti) in 1979 gained children's solid support with enchanting characters and stories with imaginative ideas. The series has continued to be read beyond generations from parents to children. A new book is published every year as Ms. Kadono's lifework, and the number of fans continues to grow as a long-selling series of children's literature.

The series started up again with a new character, Dorara, in 2010. 13 volumes have been published so far.



Acchi Makes  
a Delicious Dish



Acchi and Docchi the  
Little Brother



Acchi, Bon and Dorara



Acchi and Dorara's  
Curry



Acchi and the Secret of  
a Castle



Acchi, Bon and  
a Mysterious Cook



Socchi and  
Mysterious Candies



Socchi wants to become  
older sister



Acchi and Pancake

NEW



Ages 6+  
217 x 154 mm  
79 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-16113-5  
Rights sold: China and Vietnam

40 titles  
in 2 languages,  
4 m copies sold!



## Acchi's Spaghetti Special

Acchi's close friend, Ecchan, who had gone abroad, came to eat spaghetti. Then, Dorara also appears and...!?



## Acchi and Dorara

From the author of “Kiki’s Delivery Service” comes the story of Acchi, a cute little ghost, who is a cook at a restaurant. Acchi goes on the road to think of a new recipe and meets Dorara, Dracula’s granddaughter, on his way. She is cooking ‘Green Caterpillar Gratin,’ which Acchi finds delicious.

Acchi asks her how to cook it, but Dorara replies that Acchi should think of a recipe on his own. What kinds of dishes will Acchi make at the end? Children will enjoy a joyful story of friendship, as well as the unique and delicious dishes described in the story.

### About the Author

Eiko Kadono is the author of “Kiki’s Delivery Service,” on which Hayao Miyazaki, Japan’s best-known animator, made a film by the same name. She won the Noma Children’s Literature Award and the Shogakukan Children’s Publication Culture Award. Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Author Award in 2018.

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

# Brazil and My Friend Luizinho

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Yukio Fukuhara**



Ages 10+

223 x 178 mm

133 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-16118-0

Republication of Ms. Eiko Kadono's debut work published in 1970, celebrating her winning the Hans Christian Andersen Author Award.

Based on her experience of traveling over a two-month voyage to Brazil as an own-expense emigrant and staying there for two years from 1959, it freshly depicts Luizinho, a boy in the same apartment who taught her Portuguese, as well as lively interactions with various people. It is a precious work that can be said to be the origin of Kadono's literature.

The book includes at the end an original essay portraying her progress thereafter as a writer, looking back at the time.



## About the Author

Eiko Kadono is the author of "Kiki's Delivery Service," on which Hayao Miyazaki, Japan's best-known animator, made a film by the same name. She won the Noma Children's Literature Award and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award. Winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Author Award in 2018.

Yukio Fukuhara was born in Niigata in 1945. He studied graphic design and was working as a designer when he made his debut with *Brazil and My Friend Luizinho* (published by POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd.). Thereafter, he has published a number of works in children's books under the pen name of Yukio Fukuhara (with his first name displayed in the Japanese *hiragana* syllabary rather than the Chinese characters). His works include *Sakura no sakuhi* (The Day Cherry Blossoms Bloom) (published by Froebel-Kan Co., Ltd), *Mitsubachi no jōu* (Queen Bee) (published by SEKAI BUNKA PUBLISHING INC.), *Ichigotsumi* (Strawberry Picking), *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Hansel and Gretel* (which were published by CHILD HONSHA Co., Ltd.). He is a member of Japan Children's Book Artists Society.

# The Do-You-Have Bookstore

Shinsuke Yoshitake



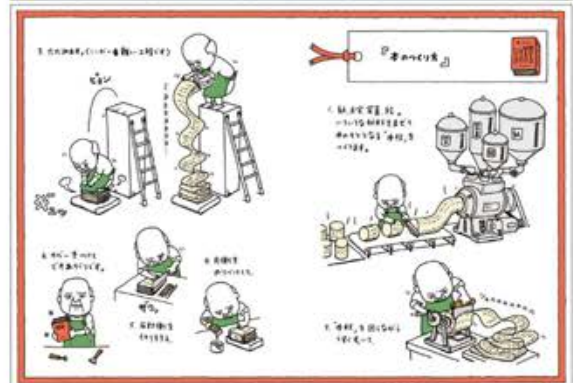
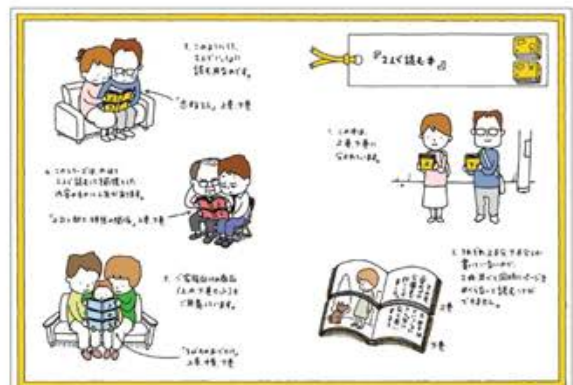
208 x 154 mm  
 103 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4591154441  
 Rights sold: China, English (USA), France, Italy, Korea and Taiwan

**In 6 languages,  
 350,000 copies sold!**

The Do-You-Have Bookstore on the edge of town specializes in books that have something to do with books. Ask the owner, “Do you have a book about so-and-so?” and he will almost invariably reply, “Yes!” before ducking back among the shelves to fetch it. Every day, book lovers come into the store looking for all sorts of different books for all sorts of different reasons.

Readers will encounter an array of fanciful books and devices they may well find themselves wishing were real: “Moonlight books” printed with a special ink that’s only visible in moonlight. “Duo books” that require two readers to dock their books together in order to read them. A “reader support robot” that plugs your ears when it’s noisy, urges you on if you start to lose steam, scolds you if you read in the dark, nudges you awake if you nod off, and otherwise works to make your reading experience more pleasurable. A “cover changer” with a slot like a toaster—to drop your book in and have it pop back up with a more intelligent-sounding title on the cover. And so forth.

Other sections feature special places and events relating to books; unusual aspects of the manufacture, design, and handling of books; different kinds of libraries and bookstores, and much much more, each offering highly whimsical takes on books and their place in our lives. The fertile imagination of author Shinsuke Yoshitake will make even the most avid book lover fall in love with books all over again.



## About the Author

Shinsuke Yoshitake (1973–) completed a graduate degree in plastic arts and mixed media at the University of Tsukuba. In addition to working as a commercial artist and producing sculptures and other art projects on commission, he has published books of sketches, including *Shikamo futa ga nai* (And There’s No Lid) and *Ja kimi ga suki* (In That Case, I Like You). His sketches have won a following for the way they capture slices of life with an exquisite eye for detail.

Received a Special Mention in the 2017 Bologna Ragazzi Award (Fiction Section)

# Pop!

Asako Mori

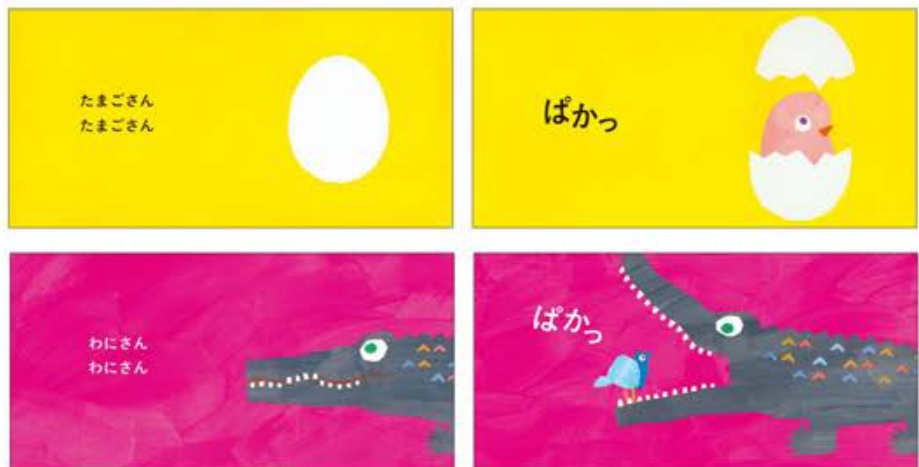


Ages 0+  
177 x 176 mm  
24 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591154878  
Rights sold: China

This picture book is built around the Japanese mimetic word *paka!*, which represents something popping open—with or without an actual popping sound.

The reader opens the book to see a plain white egg standing upright, with text on the facing page calling out, “Dear egg, dear egg.” When she turns the page, the text reads *Paka!* and the top has come off of the egg to show a cute little chick inside. Next comes an alligator, with the text calling out, “Mister Alligator, Mister Alligator.” Turn the page and—*Paka!*—the alligator’s mouth has popped open and a bird is perched on its teeth. A bentō boxed lunch, a bunny rabbit, and a set of dharma dolls follow in the same pattern, each popping open to reveal what’s inside.

Little ones will follow with glee, wondering what will appear next. During production, author Asako Mori had parents read versions of the book with their children to see what would elicit a laugh from, or hold the attention of, the youngest readers. The beautiful pictures rendered in bright colors make it perfect as baby’s first book.



NEW



## Swirl

This picture book is built around the Japanese mimetic word *kuru!*, which represents something swirling.

The elephant’s nose goes, “*kuru!*” The roly-poly bug goes, “*kuru!*”

With lots of “*kuru!*” which babies love, the reader will be fascinated every time she turns the page. This is the latest book by Asako Mori, a very popular author of *Pop!*

### About the Author

Asako Mori (1975–) was born in Tokyo. She graduated from Joshibi University of Art and Design in 1997. After working as an art designer for video productions, she established herself as an independent illustrator in 2005. In 2011 she published her first picture book, *Ana no naka* (Down the Hole). As the mother of one, she is currently neck-deep in parenting demands.

# No way! No way! Smiley Devil Girl

Illus. by **Aimi Hara**

Text by **KEROPONS**

Who is Smiley Devil Girl Niko-chan? A smiley devil girl in the middle of her terrible twos. She is energetic and a ball of fire, but she loves her Mom and Dad. She's growing healthily while facing difficulties and trouble. During the period of "terrible twos," which many parents have trouble with, she repeats her utmost "NO!" and Dad and Mom are troubled. But anyone, including Dad and Mom, must have had their "Niko-chan" moments. Now, "Niko-chans" everywhere are doing their best to grow up. This picture book was created to make Dad, Mom, children and everyone around smile (niko in Japanese), even in troubled times of childrearing.



Ages 1+

184 x 154 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15971-2

Niko-chan, who doesn't want to have a bath, runs around cutely and funnily, saying "No, No, Niko-chan says NO!" But in the end, she gets caught... It makes me laugh because she's like my child! A story of a two-year-old smiley devil girl, Niko-chan.



## I'll do it! I'll do it! Smiley Devil Girl.

Today, we are going out as a family. Mom tries to change Niko-chan's clothes, but Niko-chan seems to want to change her clothes by herself. "I will do it. Niko-chan will do it!" she cries. Will she be able to change her clothes properly?

It makes me laugh because she's like my child. A story of a two-year-old smiley devil girl, Niko-chan.

### About the Author

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

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



# Jump!

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 0+  
155 x 155 mm  
36 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591064764  
Rights sold: China, English  
(New Zealand), France,  
Korea, Russia, Spanish  
(Argentina), Taiwan and  
Vietnam

**In 8 languages,  
1.5 m copies sold!**

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*.

# Masks

Text by **Kotomi Wada**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**



Ages 3+

190 x 120 mm

16 pages

Boardbook

ISBN 978-4591058206

Rights sold: China

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.



## 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.

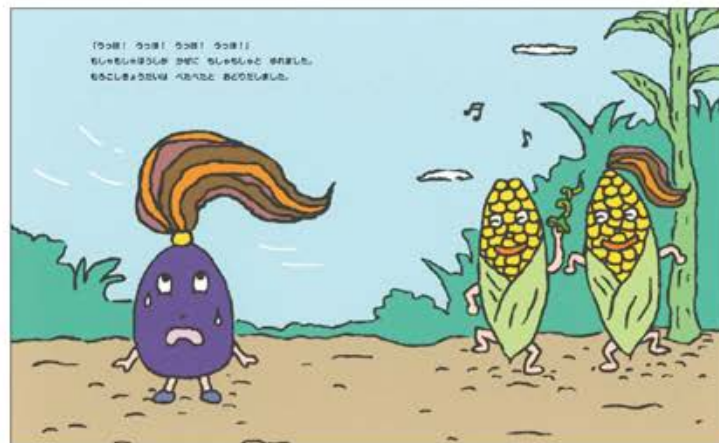
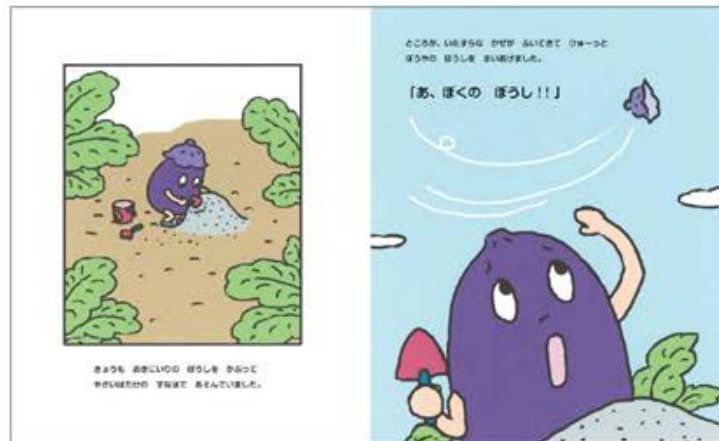
# Eggplant Boy

## Takuya Kusumi



Ages 4+  
264 x 215 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-15881-4

Eggplant Boy loves his little purple hat, but one day, his hat is blown away by the wind. His kind friends in the field say, “I will give you my hat” or “Please have my hat,” but Eggplant Boy goes, “This is not my favorite hat.” Then, a huge snake appears in front of him. His hat is on top of the snake’s head! Now, what should he do? This picture book attractively depicts Eggplant Boy’s cuteness and kind character.



### About the Author

Takuya Kusumi was born in Tokyo in 1963. He learned block printing from Tokuzo Okabe at Kanda Bigakko. He received the Bungeishunjū Manga Award for his manga *Chūgakusei Nikki* (Junior High School Student Diary) (published by Seirinkogeisha) that was published under the pen name of Q.B.B. (text by Masayuki Kusumi and illustrated by Takuya Kusumi). His manga works include *Toutou Robo ga kita!* (Finally, Robo came!) (Q.B.B./published by Gentosha Bunko), *Furuhon yatai* (Used Book Stand) (Q.B.B./published by Shueisha) and *Rakugo Manga Jigoku Gokuraku Ise Mairi* (Comic Storytelling Manga: Hell and Heaven, Visit to Ise) (text by Yukihisa Tokuda/published by Doshinsha Publishing Co.). His picture books include *Mushitachi no undōkai* (Insects' Sports Day) (text by Yukihisa Tokuda/published by Doshinsha Publishing Co.), *Maru Sankaku Shikaku* (Circle, Triangle, Square) (text by Masayuki Kusumi/published by Shogakukan) and *Kanji no uta* (Chinese Character Song) (poem by Hiroshi Kawasaki/published by Iwasaki Shoten). He has a large number of works in illustrations such as the *Ichien-kun to goen-jii* (1 Yen Boy and 5 Yen Grandpa) series (text by Masayuki Kusumi/published by POPLAR Publishing).”

# Sweet Sayaka

Text by **Shigenori Kusunoki**

Illus. by **Yōko Koba**



Ages 6+

265 x 216 mm

40 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15807-4

Shuto-kun, who is in the second grade, was talked to by a transfer student, Sayaka-chan, and is a little nervous.

He can't help but think about Sayaka-chan, but...

Mr. Shigenori Kusunoki, the author of *I Hope No One Is Mad at Me* and *Megane O Kaketara*, freshly depicts the feeling of falling in love for the first time. It is a heart-warming picture book.



## About the Author

Shigenori Kusunoki was born in Tokushima in 1961. After his career as an elementary school teacher and associate librarian at the Naruto City Library, he has currently been engaged in creative activities, mainly in children's literature, and lectures. His picture book *I Hope No One Is Mad at Me* (illustrated by Kiyotaka Ishii/published by Shogakukan) was assigned as a book for the National Youth Book Report Contest in 2009. The book received the 2nd JBBY Award in the Barrier-Free Category. Moreover, both *Fukubiki* (Lottery) (illustrated by Fukiko Karino/published by Shogakukan) and *Tomodachi yamonna, bokura* (We're Buddies, Us Three) (illustrated by Iwao Fukuda/published by Ehonnomori) received the 3rd Kindergarten Picture Book Award. He has a large number of other works including *Hitoride ehon kaimashita* (I Bought a Picture Book by Myself) (illustrated by Mieko Yuchi/published by Alicekan) and *Eetama icchou!* (One Good Ball!) (illustrated by Hisanori Yoshida/published by Iwasaki Shoten). Official website <http://www.kusunokishigenori.jp/>

Yōko Koba was born in Tokyo in 1972. She graduated from the Department of Painting, Tama Art University. She won the highest prize in the 4th Pinpoint Picture Books Competition in 2003. She works in the field of picture books and illustrations. Her picture books include *Ichinichi dake usagi* (Rabbit for One Day Only) (text by Tomoko Hara/published by Kumon Publishing) and *Ohiruneken* (Nap Ticket) (text by Shinichiro Oda/published by Kyouikugageki). Official website <http://dodohee.com/>

# It's Not OK!

Text by **Motoko Matsuda**

Illus. by **Fukiko Karino**



Ages 5+

263 x 215 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15822-7

I have just started elementary school. During summer vacation, I go to my Grandma's house, who lives alone in the mountains. My Grandma lives by growing enough vegetables for herself in the field. I love my Grandma. But monkeys come to my Grandma's field every day...

My Grandma, who lives alone in the mountains, fights with the monkeys using the local people's knowledge. Looking at my cool Grandma who faces the monkeys, I learn the "relationship between humans and wildlife." It is a picture book based on a modern theme, portraying his kindness and thoughtfulness toward Grandma.



## About the Author

Motoko Matsuda was born in Hiroshima. She has published a number of picture books and children's literature with a theme of nature in mountain villages. She won a Japan Picture Book Award and Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize in 1995 for *Obāchan ga iruto inonina* (I Wish Grandma Was Here) (illustrated by Kinji Ishikura/published by POPLAR Publishing). She has a number of major works including *Kuma wa doko e ikuno* (Where Is the Bear Going) (illustrated by Kayoko Furiya/published by POPLAR Publishing), *Itsumo miteiruyo* (I'm Always Watching) (illustrated by Teruyo Endo/POPLAR Publishing) and the *Irebano pakkon daibōken* (False Teeth Pakkon's Great Adventure) series (illustrated by Jun Okamoto/published by Bunkeido) and also has another picture book co-created with Fukiko Karino called *Obāchan wa kaguyahime* (Grandma Is the Shining Princess). She lives in Miwacho, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi.

Fukiko Karino was born in Kochi in 1945. After her career in advertising, she started drawing illustrations for children's picture books. She received the Children's Cultural Achievement Award in 2018. Her major picture books include *Hachikazuki* (Bowl-Bearer Princess) (text by Kimiko Aman/published by POPLAR Publishing), *Ninja Mohee* (text by Rinichiro Ichihara/published by Kochi Shimbun Sogo Insatsu) and her readings include *Nakayoshi omamori, kiita?* (Did the Friendship Amulet Work?) (text by Rafu Matsui/published by PHP Institute) and *Les Misérables* (text by Nobuyuki Mitamura/published by POPLAR Publishing).

# Magical Blue Dress

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 4+

263 x 216 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15851-7

As soon as I put on the blue one-piece dress at the shop, I thought, “Definitely this one!” I got changed straightaway and went out! Yes, this dress is a magic dress that makes wishes come true. If I press the buttons, I can fly in the sky or talk with animals, but when I was about to press the fifth button...? It’s OK, this is a magic dress!

It is a picture book by a picture book writer, Satoshin, packed with the girl’s emotions. Cute and colorful illustrations by Dolly are also entertaining.



## 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 mazgoze asobi* (Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!), *Dōbutsu senryū: Boku dāre?* (Animal Senryū: What Am I?), *Dōbutsu rensō: Sore dāre?* (Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?), and *Ma,ikka!* (It’s All Right). He also originated the *otete ehon* (literally “little handy picture-book”) game, in which the child holds her hands open like a book, and parent and child pretend they are reading a picture book together. In frequent appearances at schools and elsewhere around the country, Satoshin actively promotes this as a means of fostering fun parent-child communication and play. [www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s](http://www.ne.jp/asahi/satoshin/s)

Dolly (1986–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Kyoto Seika University. She works as an illustrator and manga artist, and also as a cut-paper artist. Picture books she has provided the artwork for include *Dōbutsu mazgoze 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).

# Gonra's Sweet Potatoes

Text by **Ikuko Nagai**

Illus. by **Junko Kusahara**



Ages 4+

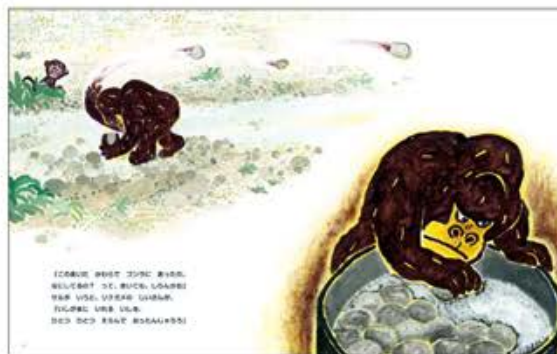
263 x 214 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15989-7

There is always a line in front of Gonra's baked sweet potato shop. Regular customers talk about "how tasty Gonra's baked sweet potatoes are." But the shop hasn't opened even after waiting for a while. The talk continues. "Gonra is always unfriendly." "Gonra's mind is filled with baked sweet potatoes." After a long, long wait, the shop finally opens! "Thanks for waiting," says Gonra. The baked sweet potato is "so tasty that it could melt your heart." It is a book that makes your stomach grumble and is also perfect for reading to children.



## About the Author

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

Junko 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).

# Yuna and Stevie

Text by **Kaoru Horigome**

Illus. by **Yuki Maruyama**



Ages 6+

262 x 214 mm

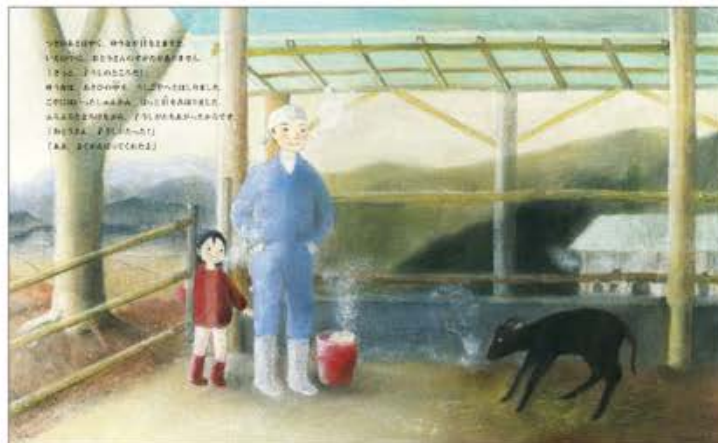
40 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15974-3

Yuna's family is a farm that raises cattle. A calf that was born on a winter day is blind. The calf was named Stevie and it was decided that Yuna will take care of it. Stevie moves its ears and listens to Yuna if she calls its name. Yuna grows up alongside Stevie. Two and a half years have passed and Stevie grew up to be a fine wagyu (Japanese cattle). "We will ship Stevie tomorrow," says Yuna's father. To his words, Yuna will...

—Preciously raised cattle are to be enjoyed as a delicacy. Feeling her father's and mother's "pride in supporting many people's diet," the main character will continue to grow.



## About the Author

Kaoru Horigome was born in Fukushima in 1958. She graduated from Iwate University Graduate School. She is a member of the Japan Juvenile Writers Association, and a coterie of Kisetsufu and Aooni Jido no Kai. She won the 41st Japan Association of Writers for Children New Talent Award for *Chocolate and the Blue Sky* (published by Soensha) and the book was assigned as one of the 58th National Reading Books. She won the 2nd Juvenile Pen Grand Award for *Akiramenaï kotonî shitano* (I Decided to Not Give Up) (published by Shin Nihon Shuppansha). Her major fiction works include *Kinîro no kyabetsu* (Golden Cabbage) (Soensha) and the *Aguri saïensu kurabu* (Agri Science Club) series (published by Shin Nihon Shuppansha), and her nonfiction works include *Inochi no baton –tsunami wo ikimuita kiseki no ushi no monogatari* (Life's Baton –Story of a Miracle Cow that Survived a Tsunami–) (published by Kosei Publishing) and *Omoide wo resukyū seyo!* (Rescue the Memory!) (published by Kumon Publishing). Working as a full-time farmer in Kakuda-shi, Miyagi, she aims to write stories rooted in the earth."

Yuki Maruyama was born in Tokyo. She started her activities as an illustrator in 1991 and has published a number of hand-drawn works with warmth. She won the second prize in the JACA Exhibition and her work was selected in the 115th Choice Exhibition of Illustration magazine (published by Genkosha). While she creates illustrations for general books, textbooks and PR magazines, she also actively participates in one-person exhibitions and group exhibitions. Her major works in children's literature include *Futsukazuki* (Young Moon) (text by Miku Ito/published by Soensha) and *Kamikakushi no kyōshitsu* (Spirited Away Classroom) (text by Etsuko Yamamoto/published by Doshinsha Publishing Co.)."



# Cleaning Up Can be Fun!

Planning by **Haruko Niitsu**

Text by **Izumi Motoshita** Illus. by **Ayuko Tsujimura**



Ages 3+

248 x 247 mm

31 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15696-4

“Hoshino-san’s family is not good at cleaning. A strange creature appears in front of the family, which is anxious before Grandma comes to stay! “I am Kaji kaji. Let’s enjoy cleaning together, kaji!” As they start cleaning and tidying up following Kaji Kaji’s advice, they start to enjoy cleaning. After reading this book, both adults and children will want to start cleaning. This is a completely new, how-to picture book that includes columns with illustrations.

- Supervised by Ms. Haruko Niitsu, an environment Meister of Haneda Airport
- Includes columns that show how to clean (3-minute tidying up, how to squeeze towels, how to wipe tables, etc.)

## About the Author

Planning by Haruko Niitsu

Haruko Niitsu was born in Shenyang, China in 1970. Employee of Japan Airport Techno Co., Ltd. Environment Meister. Since arriving in Japan at the age of 17, she has been engaged in cleaning for over 25 years. In 1997, she became the youngest winner of the National Building Cleaning Skills Competition. Her manner of cleaning became a topic of discussion as it was featured in NHK’s *Purofessionaru shigoto no ryūgi* (Professional Work Style) and TBS’s *Kinsuma*.

She is currently a cleaning skills instructor at Haneda Airport International Terminal, Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

She has published many books including *Sekaiichi seiketsu na kūkō no seisōnin* (The Cleaner of the World’s Most Immaculate Airport) (published by Asahi Shimbun Publications), *Seisō wa yasashisa* (Cleaning Is Kindness) (published by POPLAR Publishing), *Sōji wa “tsuide ni” yarinasai!* (Clean “Incidentally”!) (published by SHUFU TO SEIKATSU SHA) and *Rakushite jitan no “sōji waza” 76* (76 Easy Time-Saving “Cleaning Skills”) (published by Shogakukan). She has also released a DVD called *Purofessionaru shigoto no ryūgi biru seisō Niitsu Haruko no shigoto kokoro wo komete, atarimae no nichijō wo* (Professional Work Style, Building Cleaner Haruko Niitsu’s Work: Normal Life with Warmth) (released by NHK Enterprises).

Text by Izumi Motoshita

After her career at a publishing house, she started work in children’s books. She won a Japan Picture Book Award and Kodansha Publishing Culture Award for *Futtekimashita* (Started to Fall) (published by Kodansha). She has published many works including the *Suppon pon no suke* (Adventures of a Naked Boy) series (published by Suzuki Publishing), the *Kyōgen ehon* (Kyōgen Picture Book) series (published by Kodansha), *Otanjōbi no kēki chan* (Birthday Cake Girl) and *Kobuta shokudō* (Piglet’s Restaurant) (both of which were published by Kosei Publishing), *Mekakushi oni* (Blindfold Demon) (published by Holp Shuppan), *Remon pai wa merenge no kanata e* (Lemon Pie to the Other Side of Meringue) (published by HOME-SHA), and the *Obakeno bakeron* (Bakeron the Ghost) series (published by POPLAR Publishing).

Illus. by Ayuko Tsujimura

Ayuko Tsujimura was born in Kagawa and lives in Tokyo.

She graduated from the Department of Japanese Painting, College of Art and Design, Musashino Art University. She mainly works in children’s books. Her illustration works include *Naniga attemo zutto issho* (We Will Be Together No Matter What) (published by Kinnohoshi Co.), *Onēchan tte mou taihen!* (Being an Older Sister Is Hard!) (published by Iwasaki Shoten), the *Obake no Pō-chan* (Pō-chan the Ghost) series (published by Akane Shobo), the *Obakeno bakeron* (Bakeron the Ghost) series, and *Oryōri ken Poppī* (Cooking Dog Poppy) series (published by POPLAR Publishing).

# The Animal Buses and the Lost Item

Shiho Kotera



Ages 3+  
207 x 290 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-15942-2

The “Funny Animal Bus” characters created and popularized by stationery and fancy goods maker Q-Lia, and subsequently turned into an animation series on Japanese TV, are here adapted to the picture-book form for the first time. The marvelously endearing characters are both animal and vehicle at the same time. In this story, young trainees still studying to become full-fledged buses that can carry passengers step up to deliver a lost item to its owner.

The central character is Fanfan—a young panda bus. He may be a bit of a scatterbrain, but he tries harder than anyone else, and he’s popular among his peers. As he heads to school each day, he vows to do his very best so he can become a fully qualified bus as soon as possible. At school, he and the other trainees study the rules of the road and practice on an off-road driver’s training course to get the hang of S-curves, uphill starts, and such. For today’s final period, they get to go out onto the regular streets for the first time, and when they pass by the transit center they find Dartan the elephant bus looking down in the dumps. One of his passengers left a round, slightly concave object behind, and he’s at a loss as to what to do with it. The trainees help him figure out that it’s a cymbal, and that it must belong to a member of the village orchestra he transported to the mountaintop concert hall earlier. Realizing somebody needs to deliver it back up the mountain before the concert is scheduled to begin, Fanfan tucks the cymbal inside his passenger compartment and dashes off. The other trainees follow close behind in case he needs help. The mountain road is an extremely difficult route, and Fanfan encounters various obstacles that slow his progress. The worst is when he starts across a bridge without realizing it has been washed away in the middle, and falls into the water. He fears all his efforts will come to naught, but then a hippo bus rescues him from the water and the other trainees find another route where the bridge is intact. They help him up the final steep climb to the top by pushing him from behind.

Thanks to his friends’ help, Fanfan delivers the cymbal to its distraught owner at the concert hall just in the nick of time. To the villagers’ delight, the show can go on, with even the animal buses joining in on stage.

NEW



Text by Masumi Asano  
Illus. by Shiho Kotera

## The Animal Buses and the Bakery

This is a village where Animal Buses, mysterious creatures that are both animal and vehicle at the same time, live. Fanfan, a trainee panda bus, finds a fox’s very tasty bakery during his training on a winding road. But the fox is distressed because there are no customers.

“I wonder what I can do to help the fox...”

Fanfan’s and his pal’s grand bakery advertising plan begins!

### About the Author

Shiho Kotera (1991–) was born in Toyama Prefecture. In 2013 she joined Q-Lia, where she has been engaged in designing stationery and fancy goods. In 2014, the doodle of a “panda bus” she drew in her sketchbook inspired a cast of “Funny Animal Bus” characters that also became an animated television series (with two seasons as of 2017). Cats are her favorite animal. Her published titles include *Animaru basu to wasuremono* (The Animal Buses and the Lost Item).

# The Underpants

Hikaru Tanaka



Ages 3+

303 x 215 mm

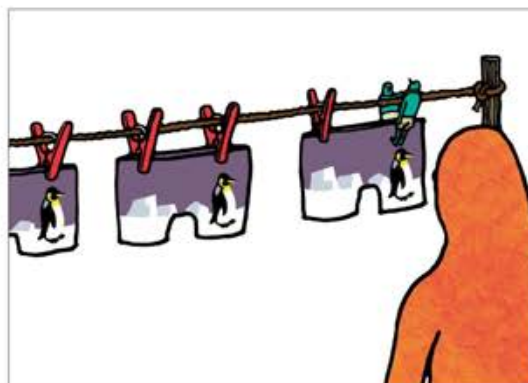
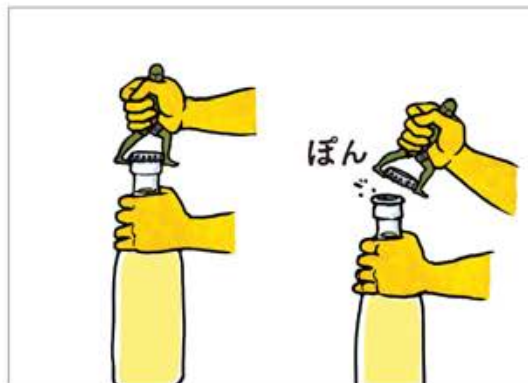
36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-16049-7

Warning: This book won't make you smart.

Slippery sloppily The Underpants appear out of nowhere. One by one they start to move only to be surprised by the unexpected. This surreal world draws you in and somehow you just like it. The perfect book if you're looking for something new that will make you think.



## About the Author

Hikaru Tanaka is from Kyoto. After dropping out of the Sculpture Course, Faculty of Art, Kyoto Seika University, he worked at Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd. for ten years. He currently belongs to Grape Company. He has also published many manga works such as *Sarariman Yamazaki Shigeru* (Salaryman Shigeru Yamazaki) (published by Pony Canyon) and *Retasu niko bun no suteki* (Wonderfulness of Two Lettuces) (published by Shogakukan). This work is the first picture book written by him.

# 1 Minute Story - What's Your Favorite?



One story in one minute that makes you smile! A collection of short, magical stories.

The book contains lots of short stories of children's favorite themes such as "animals," "vehicles," "food" and "ghosts." With pages on which you "play" by moving and tapping the picture book and "view-only" pages on which you only look at colorful pictures, you can enjoy this book for a long time without getting bored.

You will surely find your favorite story in this book!

Ages 0+

183 x 183 mm

191 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-16217-0



## 1 Minute Story – Read Me!



### About the Author

accototo, Etsuko Arai, Kotori Inoue, Satoshi Iriyama, Tomoko Ohmura, Jin Kitamura, Yukimi Konno, Kazuto Sasaki, Kaoto Satomi, Keiko Shibata, serico, Shion Tokita, Shinichi Nakayama, Akira Hasegawa, Natsuko Hayashi, Harapekomegane, 100%ORANGE, Yukiko Hirano and Yoshiko Misumi

# Bashful Bunny White

Kaori Tajima



Ages 5+

243 x 221 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591150245

Rights sold: China, Taiwan  
and Thailand

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 opens 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.



NEW



## Little Bunny White and Sis Hop Home

Bashful Bunny White always hides behind her older sister. Then, her sister says to her, "Don't cling to me so closely!"

Looking for a place to hide, she finds the shadow of a soft serve sign.

Looking closely, there are lots of shadows in town. Stepping on one shadow to another, she goes home with her older sister.

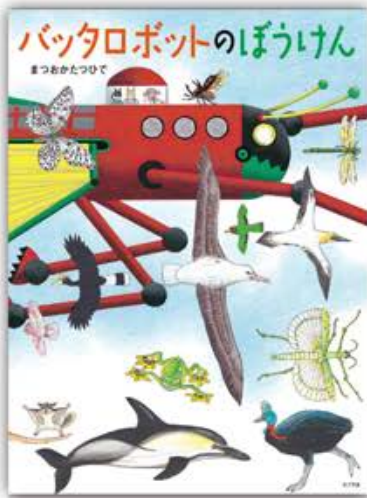
The sisters' interaction in this picture book will warm your heart.

### 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).

# Robot Grasshopper's Big Adventure

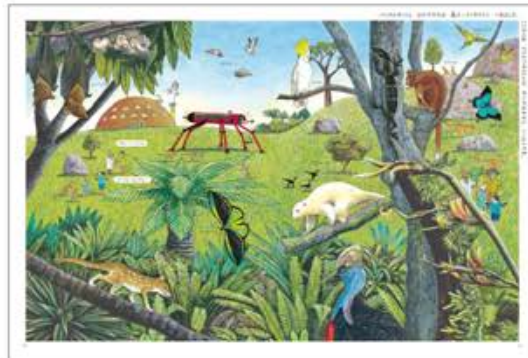
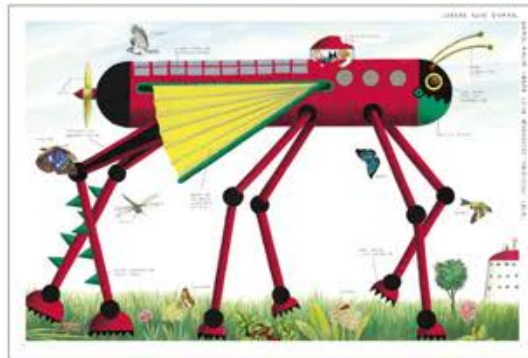
## Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 5+  
310 x 231 mm  
40 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-15882-1

A picture book on natural science in which the characters go on an adventure in mother nature from Borneo to Australia and New Zealand on a magical robot. Lots of animals and insects that your father, your mother or you have never seen appear in the book. This picture book will surely satisfy one's curiosity about natural science.

It is filled with curiosity and knowledge of creatures all over the world.



### 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*.

# Settle the White and Black of It, Good Zebra

Text by **Ikuko Nagai**

Illus. by **Junko Kusuhara**



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

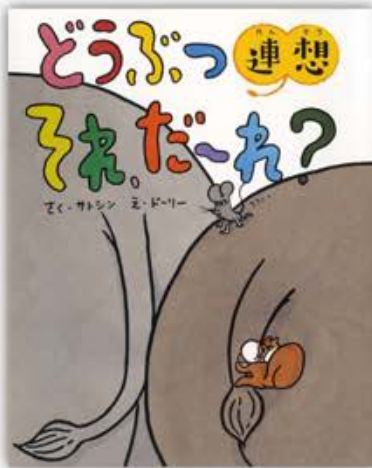
Ikuko Nagai (1955–) was born in Hiroshima Prefecture and graduated from Tama Art University with a degree in oil painting. She made her debut as a picture book illustrator in 1979 with the translated title *Pinocchio*. She subsequently collaborated on numerous books with text by Teruo Teramura, including 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/](http://www.nagai-ehon.com/)

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

# Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?

Text by **Satoshin**

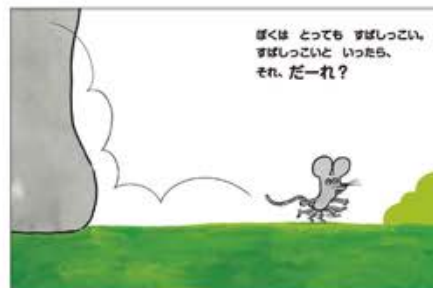
Illus. by **Dolly**



Ages 3+  
282 x 216 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4882645603

“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 mazgoze asobi* (Mix-and-Match Animal Fun!), *Dōbutsu senryū: Boku dāre?* (Animal Senryū: What Am I?), *Dōbutsu rensō: Sore dāre?* (Animal Associations: Who Do You Think?), and *Ma, ikka!* (It’s All Right). He also originated the *otete ehon* (literally “little handy picture-book”) game, in which the child holds her hands open like a book, and parent and child pretend they are reading a picture book together. In frequent appearances at schools and elsewhere around the country, Satoshin actively promotes this as a means of fostering fun parent-child communication and play.

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

Dolly (1986–) was born in Osaka and graduated from Kyoto Seika University. She works as an illustrator and manga artist, and also as a cut-paper artist. Picture books she has provided the artwork for include *Dōbutsu mazgoze 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 Most Beautiful Village in the World

Yutaka Kobayashi



Ages 5+

220 x 285 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4591041901

Rights sold: China, English  
(USA), 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.



A Circus Comes to My Village

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)



Going Back to the Most Beautiful Village

## 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 Mura) 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.

# Picture Book Tokyo

Yutaka Kobayashi



Ages 5+  
242 x 255 mm  
44 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-16220-0

Tokyo is a mysterious city. The present and the past overlap and continue to live.

—From Edo to Tokyo, a travel picture book that makes you feel the “city’s memories”—

A picture book writer, Yutaka Kobayashi, depicts his hometown “Tokyo” in his unique style. Tokyo is a city where the present and the past overlap and continue to live. If you observe the ground of Tokyo, which is covered with asphalt and tiles, you start to see the geographical features and traces of people’s lives in the past. By feeling the accumulated strata, the view in front of you will look different and make you realize that “you are here in the present.” This is a picture book that teaches you such facts.



## 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 Muraō) 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.

# Bunny with Glasses

Keiko Sena



Ages 5+  
245 x 210 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4591004692  
Rights sold: China, English  
(USA) and France

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.

# 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: China, English  
 (New Zealand, USA), France,  
 Germany, Korea, Maori,  
 Spanish (USA), Taiwan, The  
 Netherlands, Poland, Russia  
 and Vietnam

**12 languages sold!**



**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.

# 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, English  
(USA), France, Korea and

Taiwan

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.



# 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

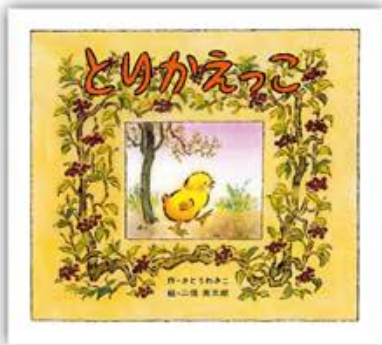
Gaku Onoki (1924–1976) was self-taught as an artist, working in Western-style painting and in printmaking. He studied in Europe from 1961 to 1962 and then began making prints, authoring and illustrating books for children. His works were purchased by the Slovenian government at the Eighth International 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 Eruifu* (Elf, the One-Legged Ostrich), *Sayonara Chifuro* (Farewell to Chifuro), and *Shirasagi choja* (The Millionaire White Heron).



# I Say, You Say

Text by **Wakiko Satō**

Illus. by **Eigoro Futamata**



Ages 5+

225 x 250 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-00518-7

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.

# I Love You a Lot!

Mamoru Suzuki



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

Ages 3+  
 150 x 165 mm  
 32 pages  
 Hardcover  
 ISBN 978-4-591-07232-5  
 Rights sold: China and English (USA)

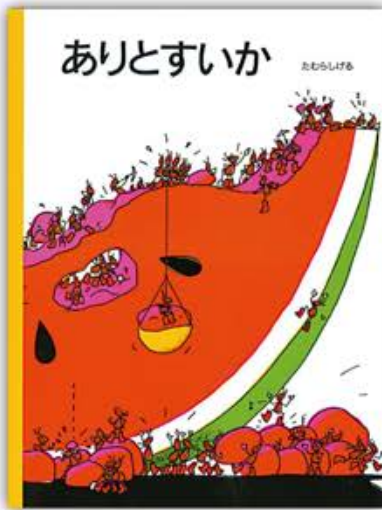


### About the Author

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

# The Ants and the Watermelon

Shigeru Tamura



Ages 5+

246 x 190mm

32 pages

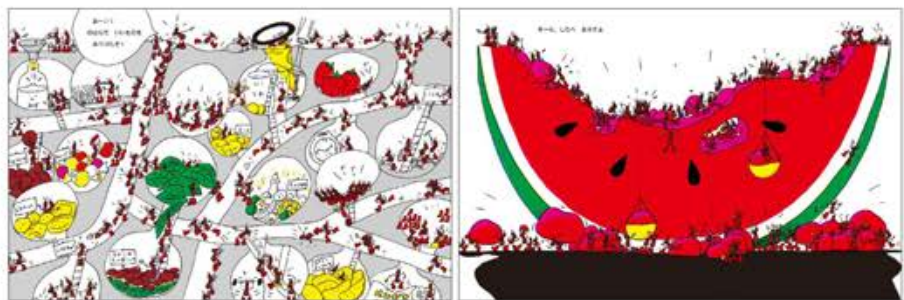
Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-07154-0

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 pictures 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.

# When I was a Dinosaur

Tatsuhide Matsuoka

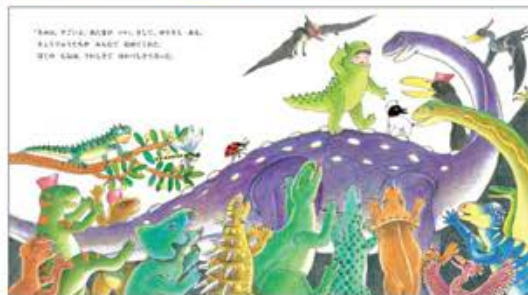


Ages 5+  
257 x 237 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-12495-6  
Rights sold: English  
(Canada), Korea and Taiwan

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.



## 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*.

# How are You Doing, Mom?

Text by Ryuji Goto

Illus. by Miho Takeda



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

Ages 5+

227 x 226 mm

30 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-09210-1

Rights sold: China, Korea,

Taiwan and Vietnam



## 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."

# We Met Spring

Text by **Kyōko Hara**

Illus. by **Kōshirō Hata**



Ages 5+

257 x 221 mm

35 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-09715-1

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 Hirota 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

# Kuma-Kuma Chan's Travels

Kazue Takahashi



172 x 133 mm

52 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15294-2

Rights sold: English (USA),

China and Spain

This is the third installment in the *Kuma-Kuma Chan* series, which has won a wide following in Japan, especially among women, and is now spreading its fan base elsewhere in Asia, Europe, and the United States through translations. The main character in the series is Kuma-Kuma, a cute and cuddly bear (*kuma* means “bear” in Japanese) who lives by himself in the mountains and likes to go on trips from time to time. The stories are narrated by his penpal, a city boy who doesn’t always understand the things Kuma-Kuma relates in his letters.

Kuma-Kuma flies off to a south sea isle to lie in the sun and drift into a lazy snooze . . . (turn page) . . . in his imagination. He climbs to the summit of a mountain to view the sunrise while drinking a fresh-brewed cup of coffee . . . (turn page) . . . in the story that he is writing. He flies up into the sky like a bird and looks down on the earth below . . . (turn page) . . . in anticipation of which, he makes a point of getting to know birds better now. He travels back to before he was born to find out what kind of animal he was in a previous life . . . in his dreams. Instead of physically setting out for one place or another, he travels freely all over the world inside his head. But there are also days when he finds it impossible to travel even in this way, in which case he climbs up onto the roof and lies gazing up at the ever-changing clouds and passing birds all day long.

Kuma-Kuma writes down his travel accounts and sends them to his narrator friend, but he scrawls them out in such a hurry that the boy has trouble reading the writing. The boy is left to imagine for himself where Kuma-Kuma is traveling and what transpires there. The story ends as he looks forward to the day when he will get to see Kuma-Kuma again—somewhere on his travels.



**Kuma-Kuma Chan,  
the Little Bear**



**Little Kuma-Kuma Chan's  
Home**

## About the Author

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kuma-Kuma Chan The Little Bear* in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyāko the Cat*, *The Squirrel Telephone System*, *Little Bear Sees In the New Year*, and *Rainy Day Bear*. Titles she has illustrated include *Tell Me a Story* (text by Kyoko Hara) and *Somebody's Canvas Bag* (story by Miyako Moriyama). <http://kumaneikonikki.jugem.jp>

# A Look at Animal Faces

Text by Masae Takaoka    Illus. by Akio Kashiwara  
 Editorial Supervision by Tadaaki Imaizumi



Ages 4+  
 296 x 225 mm  
 48 pages  
 Softcover  
 ISBN 978-4-591-15941-5

Arrange, compare and realize! An illustrated encyclopedia on animals that fosters “ability to discover.” Faces of animals of the same type are displayed across the page. Animals of other types that are similar but different are also in the mix. “They are similar, but what are the differences?” “They are the same type, but they have different faces!” It is a new style of a picture book through which readers will be able to learn how to tell the differences in animals’ habits and types by enjoying the comparisons.

Red pandas, giraffes, gorillas and chimpanzees, elephants, penguins, guinea pigs and hamsters, cheetahs, goats and sheep, lions, and seals and sea lions.



## About the Author

Masae Takaoka was born in Ehime. She is a freelance editor and writer. Her works include the *Hontono ōkisa* (Real Size) series (six volumes in total), *Nitamono zukan docchi ga docchi!?* (Illustrated Encyclopedia of Similarity: Which Is Which?) (both of which were published by Gakken Plus), *Zurāri kaeru* (Frogs in a Row), *Zurāri kingyo* (Goldfish in a row) (both of which were published by Alicekan), *Kami no daikenkyū* (Grand Research on Paper), *Iro no daikenkyū* (Grand Research on Colors) (both of which were published by Iwasaki Shoten), *Semi to watashi wa onaidoshi* (The Cicada Is the Same Age as Me) (published by Fukuinkan Shoten), *Komichiwa kirin no akachan* (Hello, Baby Giraffe) and *Rakko no tanjōbi kēki* (Sea Otter’s Birthday Cake) (both of which were published by Holp Shuppan).

Akio Kashiwara was born in Hyogo. As an employee of a design production, Kyoda Creation Co., Ltd., he is in charge of planning, designing and illustrations of stationery, books, web contents, and character development. His design and illustration works include *Shimashima guruguru* (Stripes and Circles), *Aka aka kuro kuro* (Red Red Black Black), *Bun bun kiyo* (Buzz Buzz Yellow) (all of which were published by Gakken Plus), *Akachango oshaberi ehon* (Picture Book of the Baby’s Language), *Nekotoba jiten* (Cat Language Dictionary) (both of which were published by SHUFUNOTOMO Co.), and *Sawatte oshite yubiasobukku chon chon chon* (Touch, Push, Finger Play Book: Tap, Tap, Tap) (published by Hikarinokuni).

Tadaaki Imaizumi was born in Tokyo. After graduating from Tokyo University of Fisheries, he has worked as a special researcher at the National Museum of Nature and Science and researcher at the Fuji Natural Zoo Association. Over four years from 1973, he participated in the “Ecological Investigation to Protect the Iriomote Cat” commissioned by the Japan Wildlife Fund and the Ministry of the Environment. He is currently the Director of the Japan Animal Science Research Institute. He has published many books including *Neko wa fushigi* (Cats Are Mysterious) (published by Eastpress), *Kiken dōbutsu tonō tatakai kata manyuaru* (Manual on How to Fight with Dangerous Animals) (published by Jitsugyo no Nihon Sha), and *Yabai unchi no seibutsu zukan* (Illustrated Encyclopedia on Poop’s Surprising Organisms) (published by SEKAIBUNKA PUBLISHING). He has also provided supervision for *Omoshiroi! Shinka no fushigi zannen na ikimono jiten* (Interesting! Wonder of Evolution: Encyclopedia on Disappointing Creatures” (published by Takahashi Shoten).



# Letters from Coco

Ryo Sakamoto



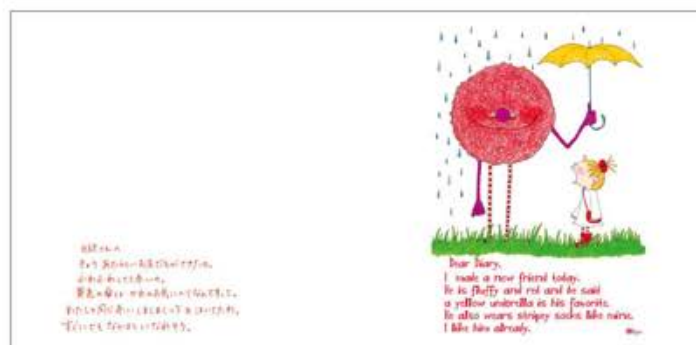
148 x 148 mm

167 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-16034-3

This is an illustrated book on COCO, an innocent girl who loves red boots and whistling. Written in both English and Japanese, you can fully enjoy a fun and rich world of COCO. Various popular monsters, animals and her friends including Kyle appear in the book! It is an illustrated book that makes not only COCO fans but also anyone who reads it happy, including over 100 illustrations, character introduction and original mini stories.



## About the Author

After majoring in art at universities in the United States and Italy, Ryo Sakamoto received a master's degree in film from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). She is the creator of Coco, a girl who is good at whistling. She published her first Coco's picture book *Toujours Ensemble!* (Always Together!) in France. Her works include *Coco-chan no enikki* (Coco's Illustrated Diary), a small book of Coco's drawings (published by POPLAR Publishing), *Pateishie no monstā* (Pâtissier Monster) (text by Genki Kawamura/ published by Magazine House), and *Makaron no kaikata* (How to Raise Macarons) (text by Genki Kawamura/published by Shogakukan).

# Letters from the Forest

Text by **Kyōko Hara**

Illus. by **Kazue Takahashi**



“The secret friend is a little fox!?”

Story of an elementary school girl, Mayu and a little fox, Konta Mayu, who is in the first year of elementary school., found a mysterious mailbox in the forest near her Grandpa's house. She tried putting a letter in the box and received a reply on the next day. The one who sent her the reply was a cute little fox, Konta. The two become closer as they exchange letters...

Ages 6+

200 x 160 mm

71 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-16281-1

NEW

## Secret Forest Friends

The friend Mayu met in the forest is a little fox, Konta. It is a secret to Mom and Dad. But one day, a serious accident happens to Mayu in the forest! Konta tries to get help for Mayu and leaves the forest for the first time. Konta is nervous to even cross a big road...

### 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.

Kazue Takahashi (1971–) made her debut as a picture-book author with *Kuma-Kuma Chan The Little Bear* in 2001, and also works as an illustrator for other authors. Her picture books include *Nyāko the Cat*, *The Squirrel Telephone System*, *Little Bear Sees In the New Year*, and *Rainy Day Bear*. Titles she has illustrated include *Tell Me a Story* (text by Kyoko Hara) and *Somebody's Canvas Bag* (story by Miyako Moriyama). <http://kumanekonikki.jugem.jp>



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