

# POPLAR PUBLISHING



Foreign Rights Catalog 2020

# 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 "Butt Detective" "Little Mouse" and "Hide & Seek." It has also published long-selling storybook series, such as "The 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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[foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp](mailto:foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp)

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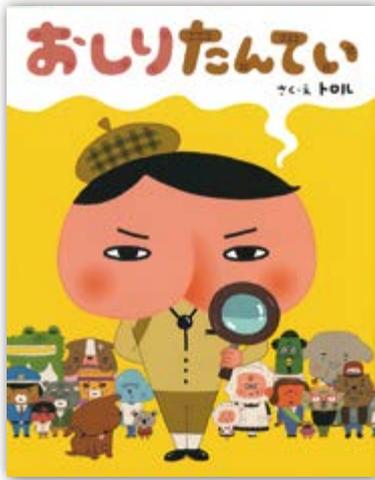
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# Butt Detective series

## Troll



Butt 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 Butt 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 Butt Detective.

### Key selling points

- Two series total 8 million copies sold in Japan
  - 2.5 million copies sold annually in Japan
  - First print number of the latest volume in Japan is half million.
  - TV animation programs started from Dec. 2018 in Japan.
  - A film animation released in 2019 /release in 2020 in Japan.
- ★English sample translation is available.



Ages 3+

266 x 207 mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-13090-2

Pub month: Dec. 2012 - Present

Rights sold: China, France, Korea,  
Norway, Spain & Catalan,  
Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam



Butt Detective 41 seconds promotion  
video (Japanese)



Vol.2



Vol.3



Vol.4



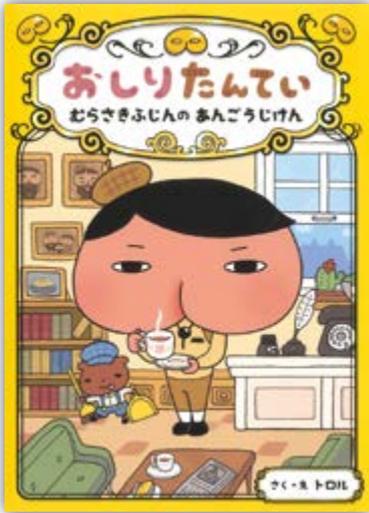
Vol.5



Vol.6



Vol.7



Ages 6+  
 216 x 155 mm  
 88 pages  
 Hardcover with jacket  
 ISBN 978-4-591-14618-7  
 Pub month: Aug. 2015- Present  
 Rights sold: Czech, China,  
 Finland, Korea, Norway,  
 Taiwan and Vietnam

**In 10 languages,  
 10 m copies sold!**

Butt Detective series so popular among the picture-book set now has a companion in this illustrated chapter-book series targeted at elementary-age children. This is the first volume in the series and contains two all-new stories.

In the title work, Butt Detective is in his office reading the newspaper during tea time, and an article about a serial burglar wanted by the police has just caught his eye when a woman dressed from head to toe in purple comes in the door. She needs him to decode a message she recently discovered at the back of her safe, she says. It was apparently placed there by her ancestors on the farm that has long been in the family, and she is convinced it will lead her to treasure if she can break the code. The detective thinks she must be the woman people call “Lady Purple” mentioned in another article in that day’s paper—the owner of a sweet potato farm who loves to dress in purple. Although he senses something suspicious about her, he works with her to solve a number of different puzzles, and in the end succeeds in learning the location of the treasure as well as his client’s true identity: though disguised as Lady Purple, this is actually the male burglar the detective had read about in the paper.



File.2



File.3



File.4



File.5



File.6



File.7



File.101



File.8



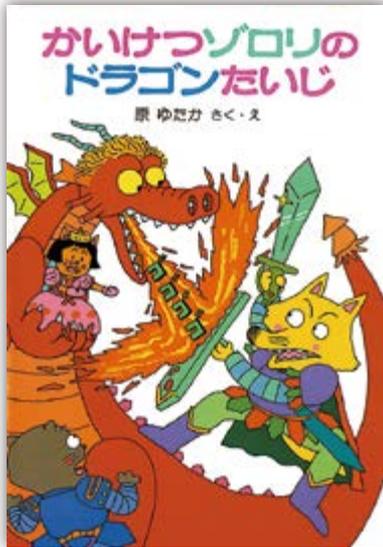
File.9

\* \* \* \* \*

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

# The Zorori series

Yutaka Hara



Zorori, a male fox, and his two henchmen, the twin boars Ishishi and Noshishi, become entangled in an endless variety of incidents in which they mess things up, or look out only for themselves, yet somehow or other wind up being the heroes who help the weak.

Illustrations appear on every page and are sometimes broken up into cartoon-style boxes.

## Key selling points

- 35 million copies sold
- best-selling children's book series in Japan
- published since 1987, 66 volumes, ongoing series
- TV animation programs will start from 2020 in Japan.
- The books full of tricks that will enthrall the readers — its riddles and mazes are not exceptions!

Ages 6+

218 x 155 mm

88 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-02654-0

Pub month: Nov. 1987 - Present

Rights sold: China, Korea and Taiwan



Zorori's PV with English subtitles  
(3 minutes 40 seconds)



### KAIKETSU ZORORI

The fox protagonist, who aspires to be the King of Pranks, travels from place to place with his twin boar bandit apprentices Ishishi and Noshishi.



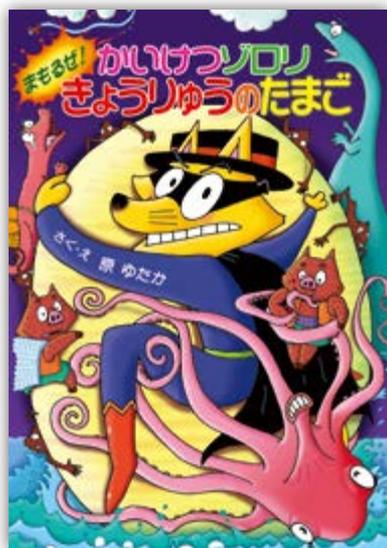
### ISHISHI

Noshishi's elder brother. They have a great regard for Zorori and travel with him as his apprentices.



### NOSHISHI

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

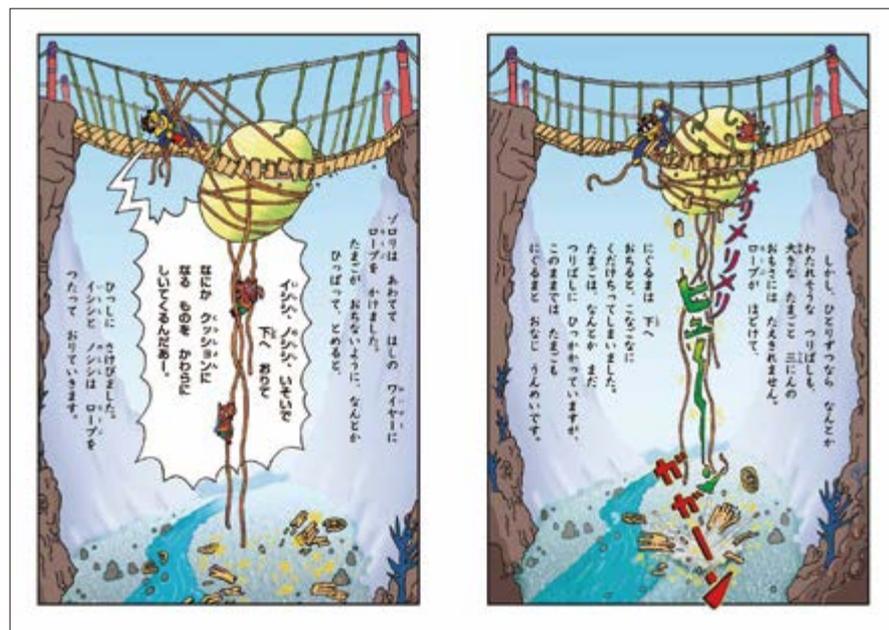


Vol.40

★English sample translation is available.

## Zorori Saves the Dinosaur Egg!

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



## Latest Volumes

NEW



Vol. 66  
A Star Is Born



Vol. 65  
Zorori's Space Operation



Vol. 64  
Zorori's Robot Operation



Vol. 63  
Zorori Slays the Dragon 2

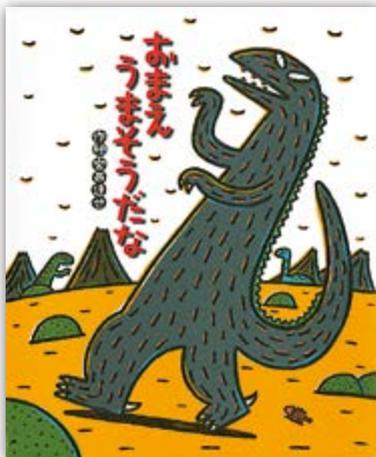
## Experience the joy of reading through Zorori !



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

# Tyrannosaurus series

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 6+

265 x 215 mm

40 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-07643-9

Pub month: March 2003 - Present

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

**In 6 languages,  
15 m copies sold!**

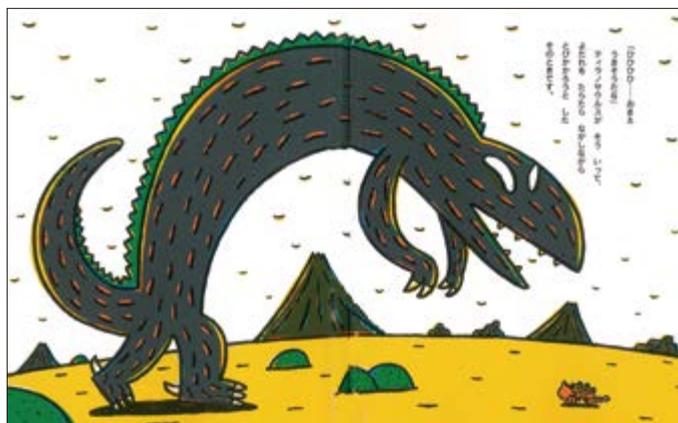
## You Look Yummy!

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 15 titles to date, with combined sales in excess of 15 million. In 2010 and 2015, the series became an animated film.

★English sample translation is available.



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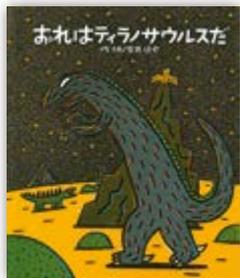
Tatsuya Miyanishi (1956–) won the Kodansha Award for Picture Books for *It's My Lucky Day!* and the Kenbuchi Picture Book Grand Prize for *Squeak Squeak*. His distinctive use of bright colors and endearingly drawn characters, together with his signature themes of friendship and family love, have earned him a passionate fan base. A series featuring a tyrannosaurus with 15 titles to date has been particularly popular.

# You Are My Best Friend

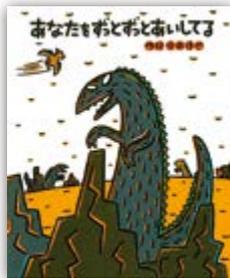
There is a mean, violent tyrannosaurus on land, and everyone hates him. One day, a cliff falls apart, and the tyrannosaurus falls down into the ocean. An elasmosaurus, who lives in the ocean, helps him, and the tyrannosaurus says “thank you” for the first time in his life. They become friends, and the 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.



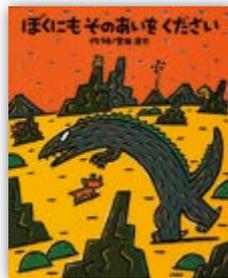
★English sample translation is available.



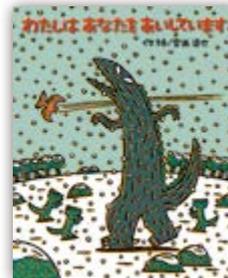
I Am a Tyrannosaurus



I Will Love You Forever



I Want That Love



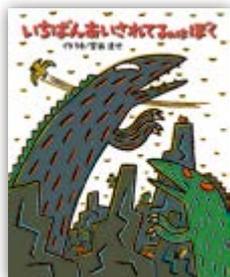
I Love You



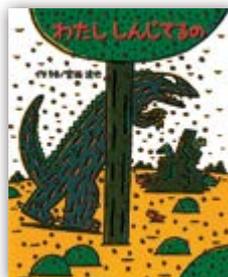
Thank You for Your Love



The Only Chance in One's Life



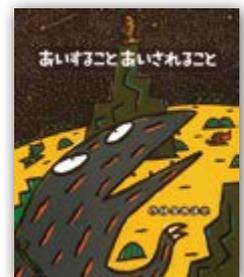
I am Loved the Most



I Believe in You



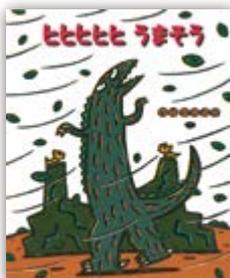
Together Forever



To Love, to Be Loved



The Gentleness and Consideration



Hee Hee Hee Hee Umasou



Stars Twinkled

NEW



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 10 million copies.

★English sample translations are available.



Vol. 2



Vol. 3



Vol. 4



Vol. 5



Vol. 6



Vol. 7



Vol. 8



Vol. 10



Vol. 11



Vol. 12



Vol. 13



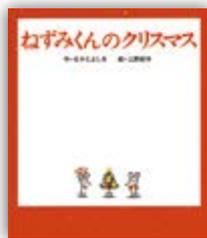
Vol. 14



Vol. 15



Vol. 18



Vol. 19



Vol. 20



Vol. 22



Vol. 23



Vol. 24



Vol. 25



Vol. 26



Vol. 27



Vol. 28



Vol. 29



Vol. 30

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Vol. 2 Little Mouse Wants to Eat Apples           | Vol. 19 Little Mouse's Christmas              |
| Vol. 3 Again! The Little Mouse's Vest             | Vol. 20 Little Mouse's Present                |
| Vol. 4 Little Mouse and his Best Friend           | Vol. 22 Little Mouse Plays Hide and Seek      |
| Vol. 5 How much do You Weigh, Little Mouse?       | Vol. 23 Little Mouse Plays on a Seesaw        |
| Vol. 6 Little Mouse's Birthday                    | Vol. 24 What do You Want to be, Little Mouse? |
| Vol. 7 Once Again! The Little Mouse's Vest        | Vol. 25 That's Why! The Little Mouse's Vest   |
| Vol. 8 Little Mouse Breaks a Glass                | Vol. 26 Little Mouse Goes to the Sea          |
| Vol. 10 Little Mouse and Elephant                 | Vol. 27 What's the Matter, Little Mouse?      |
| Vol. 11 Little Mouse Plays on a Swing             | Vol. 28 Here is a Treat, Little Mouse         |
| Vol. 12 Little Mouse and a Concert                | Vol. 29 Little Mouse has Lied                 |
| Vol. 13 Let's Swap! The Little Mouse's Vest       | Vol. 30 Let it Rain! Let it Rain!             |
| Vol. 14 Little Mouse and Pancakes                 |   |
| Vol. 15 Little Mouse and a Snowman                |   |
| Vol. 18 All Over Again! Little Mouse and Pancakes |   |

# Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghosts series

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Yoko Sasaki**



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

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 Ghosts” 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. This is one of the most popular series of modern children’s literature in Japan.

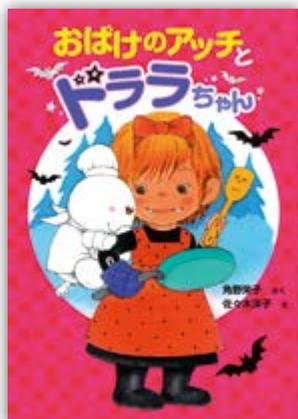
In 2019, 42 volumes have been published so far.

## Key selling points

- ★40th anniversary in 2019
- ★4 million copies sold
- ★Eiko Kadono won the Hans Christian Andersen Author Award in 2018!

## 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.



Ages 6+  
220 x 151 mm  
80 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-11950-1  
Pub month: Feb. 1979 - Present  
Rights sold: China and Vietnam



★English sample translation is available.

# Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghosts series



Acchi Makes a Delicious Dish



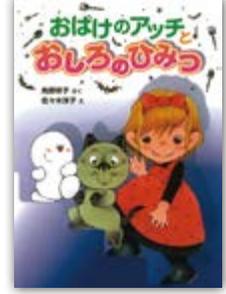
Acchi and Docchi the Little Brother



Acchi, Bon and Dorara



Acchi and Dorara's Curry



Acchi and the Secret of a Castle



Acchi, Bon and a Mysterious Cook



Acchi and Dracula's Soup



Socchi and Mysterious Candies



Socchi wants to become older sister



Acchi and Pancake



Cocchi and Exciting Barber Shop



Acchi and the Cake of a Castle



Acchi, Dorara and Dorara



Acchi and Bakery of Clouds



Socchi and An Audition



Acchi's Spaghetti Special



Acchi and Docchi's Fruit Punch



Acchi and Happy New Year with Rice Cakes

NEW

\* \* \* \* \* 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.

# Red Dot — Magnets Are Fun!

Daisuke Shimizu

NEW



Ages 2+  
160×160 mm  
12 pages  
Boardbook and sleeve case  
with hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-16406-8  
Pub month: Nov. 2019

A magnetic play book that nurtures children's growth and intelligence as they say "I tried it!" and "I did it!"

1. Get in the habit of thinking on their own
2. Learn various perspectives
3. Stimulate curiosity, the feeling that "I want to do more!"

This picture book lets you affix magnets to it to answer questions related to color, number, shape, and size through activities such as "Line up by Color!" "Place the Same Shapes Together!" and "Put Two Circles!" Children's ability to think and answer on their own is nurtured through actually moving their hands, giving rise to trial and error. Children's curiosity and imagination are stimulated as they choose colors and combine shapes. This new style of picture book nurtures growth and intelligence by leaps and bounds as children and adults can have fun playing together.

★Includes 30 magnets

## Red Dot — Can You Find It?

Answer questions such as "Which circle is red?" and "Which one is bigger" by pointing your finger and saying "This one!"

★Play in any number of ways! Includes example questions for various developmental stages.

★English sample translation is available.

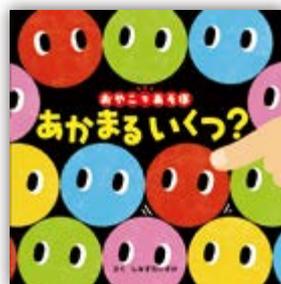


## Red Dot — How Many Can You Find?

Answer questions such as "There's one red circle. Which is it?" by pointing and saying "This one!" This book is a collection of questions for children who have just started learning ideas such as color, shape, number, length, and thickness.

★Play in any number of ways! Includes example questions for various developmental stages.

Instead of just remembering what is written, children think and answer for themselves, leading to a joyful "I did it!" As children joyfully say "I did it!" more and more, the parents' joy will also increase! This new style of picture book nurtures growth and intelligence by leaps and bounds as children and adults can have fun playing together.



\* \* \* \* \*  
Daisuke Shimizu Born in Osaka in 1976. Works for Kyoda Creation Co., Ltd. He is an art director and illustrator, using various touches to do planning, illustration, and design of picture books and children's books. Main titles include "Is that an Animal?" (Nagaokashoten, Ltd.), "Boys' Picture Drawing Battle" (Hikarinokuni), "Can You Poop Well?" and "Who's House is This?" (both by Cosmic Publishing). Also in charge of character design for the NTT Docomo Red Hurricane's official character, "Red Hurry (R)" and holds workshops geared towards children.  
Doing his best as a father to raise two children. His hobbies are cameras, running marathons, and DIY. <http://dice-k432.com/>

# Poko and Moko, the Little Lamb Twins

Jun Ichihara



Ages 1+

187 x 186 mm

38 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-14673-6

Pub month: Oct. 2015

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.

NEW



Ages 1+

187 x 186 mm

34 pages

Hardcover with belt

ISBN 978-4-591-16248-4

Pub month: April 2019

## Poco and Moco are Twins – Find Moco in the mall!

The twin Poco and Moco come to the mall to buy their favorite sweets doughnuts. But Moco gets lost! Poco searches the mall from toy store, clothes shop, food department, . . . Please help Poco find Moco with five pop-up pages and picture puzzles. The book ends with a heartwarming story.

This book has five pop-up pages.



\* \* \* \* \* 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 *MOIMOIO* (Discover 21, Inc.). His original characters “Poppets Town” were adapted into anime by Canadian company Decode Entertainment in 2009. The program is broadcast in about 100 countries.

# 1 Minute Story - What's Your Favorite?



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

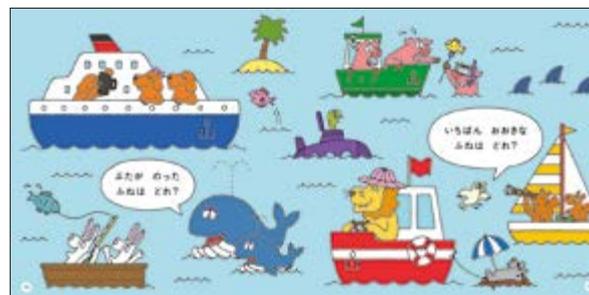
The book contains lots of short stories of children's favorite themes such as "animals," "vehicles," "food" and "ghosts." With pages on which you "play" by moving and tapping the picture book and "view-only" pages on which you only look at colorful pictures, you can enjoy this book for a long time without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

You will surely find your favorite story in this book!

Ages 0+  
183 x 183 mm  
175 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-16217-0  
Pub month: March 2019



## 1 Minute Story – Read Me!



1 minute promotion video (Japanese)

Ages 1+  
183 x 183 mm  
191 pages  
Hardcover  
ISBN 978-4-591-16218-7  
Pub month: March 2019



\* \* \* \* \*  
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

# No way! No way! Smiley Devil Girl

Illus. by Aimi Hara

Text by KEROPONS



Ages 1+

184 x 154 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15971-2

Pub month: Sept. 2018

Rights sold: China and Taiwan

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.

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.



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).

# Hide and Seek series

Koji Ishikawa



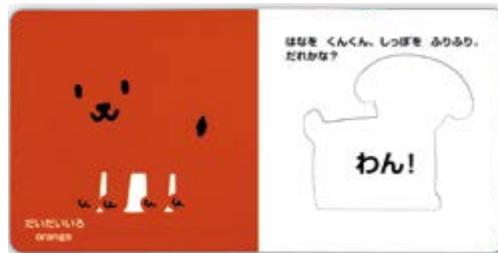
Ages 0+  
 160 x 160 mm  
 32 pages  
 Boardbook  
 ISBN 978-4-591-09237-8  
 Pub month: May 2006 - Present  
 Rights sold: China, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam

**In 4 languages,  
 3 m copies sold!**

## 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 2.24 million copies. Thirteen titles have been published so far.

★English sample translation is available.



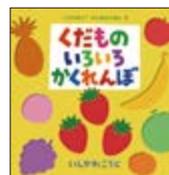
Vehicles, Ships & Airplanes



Toys



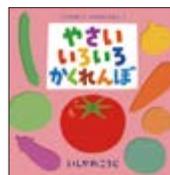
Clothes



Fruits



Animals' Patterns



Vegetables



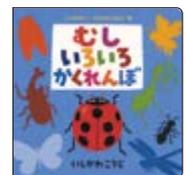
Sea Animals



Birds



Christmas



Insects



Halloween



Animal Puzzle



Black & White

**NEW**



Animal Puzzle 30 seconds. promotion video (Japanese)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Koji 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 pubs, 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.

# Jump!

Tatsuhide Matsuoka



Ages 0+

155 x 155 mm

36 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-06476-4

Pub month: June 2000

Rights sold: China, New Zealand, France, Korea, Russia, Argentina, Taiwan and Vietnam

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

Turn the pages to see all kinds of animals jumping high in this delightful book that has sold 1,110,000 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.

★English sample translation is available.



\* \* \* \* \*

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

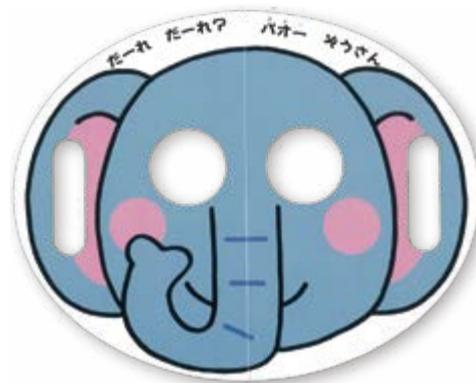
Boardbook

ISBN 978-4-591-05820-6

Pub month: Jan. 1999

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 870,000 copies since it first appeared.

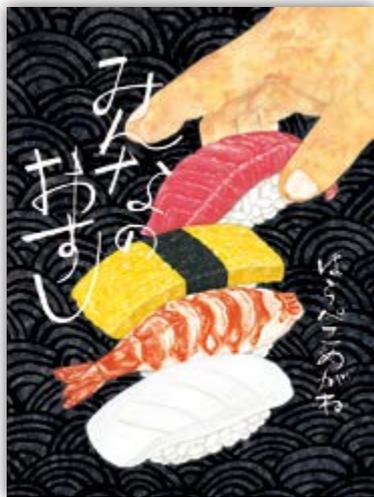


\* \* \* \* \*  
 Kotomi Wada (1958–) is a specialist on early childhood education and an author of picture books. She developed interest in creating picture books through her own child-rearing experiences. She has authored numerous picture books and books of drills intended to stimulate children’s minds, 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.

# Sushi For All

## Harapekomegane



Ages 3+  
265×190 mm  
51 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16251-4  
Pub month: Oct. 2019

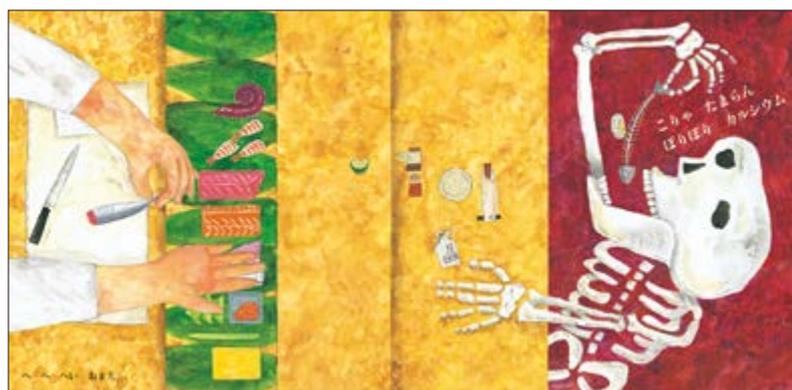
“Weeeeeelcome!  
My sushi is everyone’s sushi.  
Even for customers that are a little different,  
I will make the perfect sushi.  
Taking whatever you eat, and turning it  
into sushi — that’s my job.”

Interesting, and maybe a little scary? A story about a sushi store where hungry customers gather.

This is a sushi restaurant, and the sushi chef is excited to make sushi today. The customers are grandfathers returning from work and friendly parents and children. A mysterious customer visits the sushi restaurant, and finally the sushi chef’s secret is revealed.

This work was created by the unit called Harapekomegane, who are continuing their creative activities on the themes of food and people. Realistic, delicious illustrations and colorful characters are popular in their work. In this work, the daring picture-change mechanism raises the appeal of this unit’s illustrations and characters even further. The punchline, which is realized just as they imagined it, is also memorable. A sushi-making picture book that both children and adults can enjoy.

★English sample translation is available.



\* \* \* \* \*  
Harapekomegane (Shinya Harada · Kaori Seki) After graduating from the Faculty of Design at Kyoto Seika University in 2005, worked as a graphic designer and then became an illustrator in 2008. Formed Harapekomegane in 2011. Picture books include “*Fruit Punch*” (NIJINOEHONYA), “*Full of Yakisoba Noodles*” (Akane Shobo), “*Fruit Search*” (PHP Institute, Inc.), and “*Cheers! Drinks!*” (Iwasaki Shoten). Additionally, he is also widely engaged with the theme of “people and food,” such as being in charge of the jacket art for “*Gochi-Song DJ Music*” (DJ Misoshiru (Miso soup) and MC Gohan (Rice)).

# The Animal Buses series



Ages 3+  
207 x 290 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-15942-2  
Pub month: July 2017

## The Animal Buses and the Lost Item

Shiho Kotera

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 Animal Buses and the Bakery

Text by Masumi Asano  
Illus. by Shiho Kotera

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!



## The Animal Buses in the Forest at Night

Text by Masumi Asano  
Illus. by Shiho Kotera

This is a village where animal buses live, which are strange creatures that are both an animal and a ride. Trainee poodle bus Moko is afraid of dark places, but she has to overcome this fear to become a proper bus. She goes into the night forest alone to practice, and there she finds a lost cat. The cat's house is on the other side of the daaaaaark forest!

“I-I-I understand. Hop on!”

Do your best to become a proper bus, Moko! The third entry in the series.

NEW



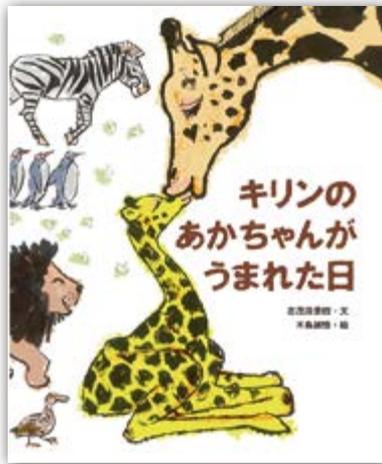
\* \* \* \* \*  
Shiho Kotera (1991–) was born in Toyama Prefecture. In 2013 she joined Q-LiA, where she has been engaged in designing stationery and fancy goods. In 2014, the doodle of a “panda bus” she drew in her sketchbook inspired a cast of “Funny Animal Bus” characters that also became an animated 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).

Masumi Asano Born in Akita Prefecture in 1977. Winner of the 13th Ohisama Grand Prize in the Fairy Tales category for her work “*Ohisama*” (Shogakukan Inc.). Has works such as “*A Small Button and Pouch*,” “*What is Spring?*” (Shogakukan Inc.), and “*Little Ms. Toilet*” (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.). Is also active as a voice actor under the name of Masumi Asano, and has had numerous appearances.

# The Day a Baby Giraffe Born

Text by **Kageki Shimoda**

Illus. by **Seigo Kijima**



Giraffes' couple Sky and Kohane live in Kitano Zoo. Kohane is expecting a baby, while Sky is anxious about becoming father. All the other animals in the zoo look forward to seeing the baby. The author, Kageki Shimoda, portrays birth of a new life from father's point of view. This book is a sequel to *The Day a Giraffe Comes* which won the Japan Picture Book Awards Readers' Prize in 2013.

This book has a pop-up page.

Ages 3+

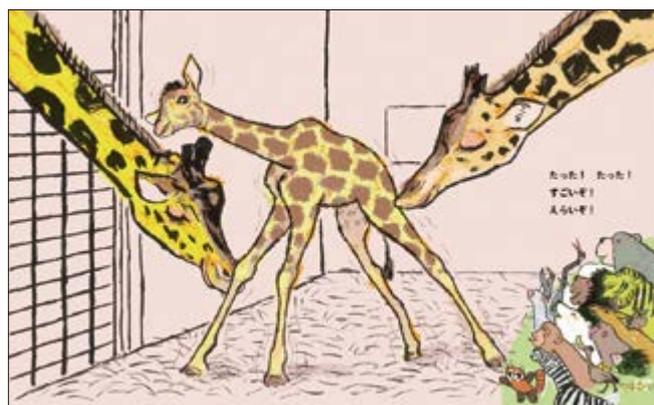
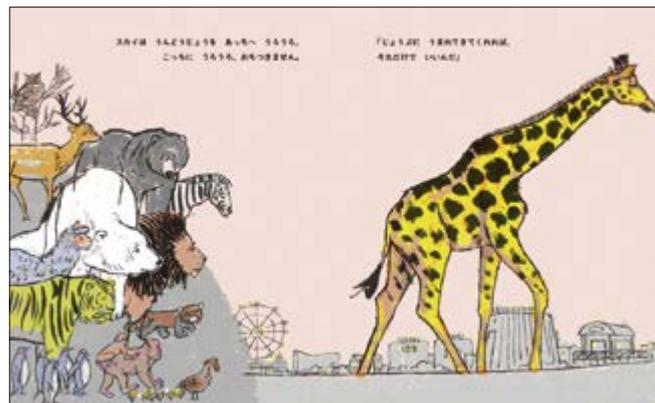
264 x 216 mm

36 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16314-6

Pub month: July 2019



\* \* \* \* \*  
Kageki Shimoda, born in 1940, won the Naoki award for "Kiroyi Kiba." He writes mysteries, historical fiction and essays, as well as picture books.

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* (The Day a Giraffe Comes; story by Kageki Shimoda). In 2015 he created his first solo picture book, *Shirokuma yubinkyoku* (Polar Bear Post Office).



# We are Twins!

Text by **Satoshin**

Illus. by **Tsuga Takeuchi**



Ages 4+

243 x 211mm

32 pages

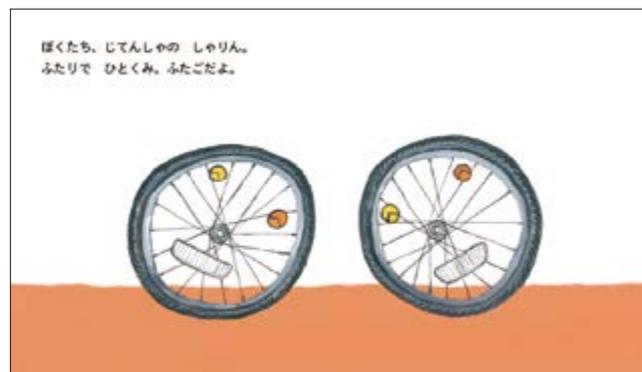
Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16284-2

Pub month: May 2019

“We are a pair of shoes. Two shoes make a pair. So, we are twin.” This book takes many pairs of things familiar with children such as shoes, chopsticks, and castanets.

Satoshin, who performs picture book read-aloud live to children across Japan, got inspired to write about twins by the lives. Many pairs familiar with children such as shoes, chopsticks, and headphones appear on this book. Of course, he encourages to work cooperatively even though some are not twins. This book is filled with Satoshin’s love with twins. Tsuga Takeuchi’s heartwarming illustrations are also attractive.



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

Tsuga Takeuchi was born in Nagano Prefecture. His major works include *Erai erai!* (text by Yuko Masuda/published by Soensha Co., Ltd.) and *Kusabira* (text by Izumi Motoshita/published by Kodansha Ltd.)

# Panda Kid's Errands

Koji Ishikawa



Panda kid is asked by his mother to go out and shop for the ingredients for dinner. Just when he has bought all the things he needs, he falls accidentally and gets all the things flown away!! The story of this picture book is to help Panda kid find all the lost items back. There are also recipes of their dinner on the end of this book.

★English sample translation is available.

Ages 2+

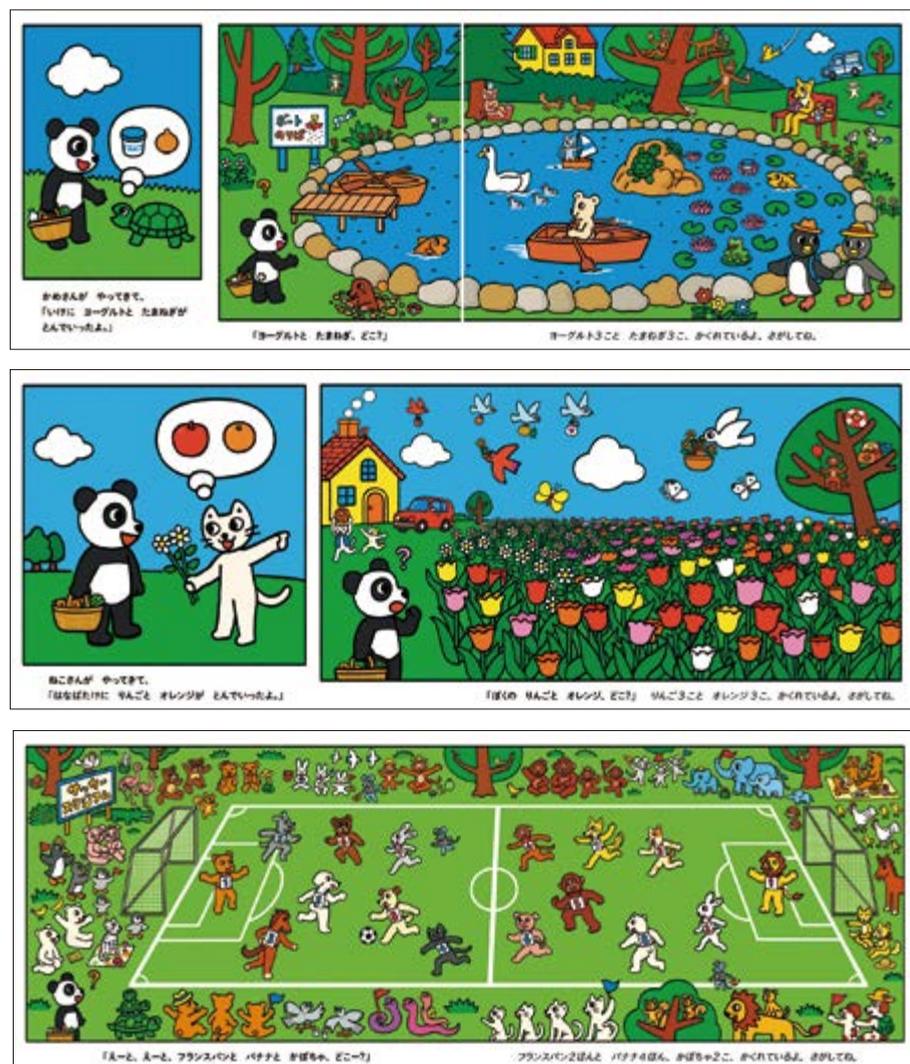
196 x 255mm

31 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16279-8

Pub month: May 2019



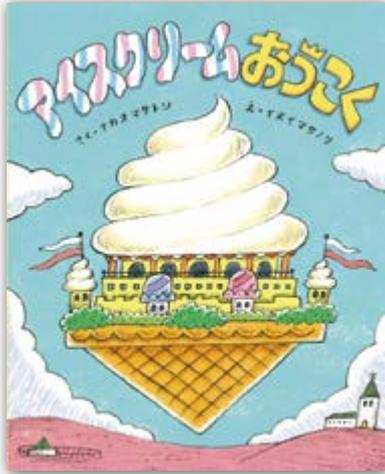
\* \* \* \* \*

Koji 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 pubs, 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.

# The Ice-cream Kingdom

Text by **Masatoshi Nakao**

Illus. by **Masanori Inui**



Ages 3+

264 x 217mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

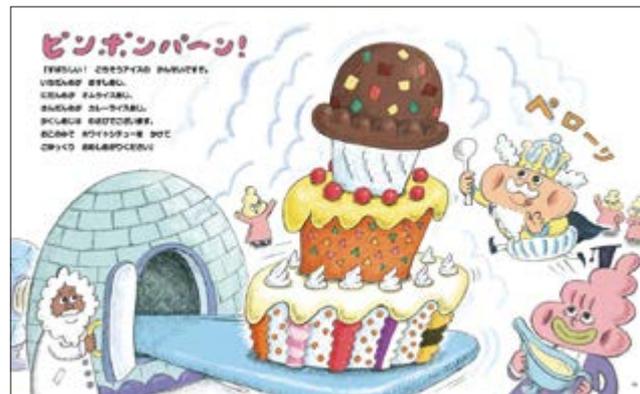
ISBN 978-4-591-16293-4

Pub month: June 2019

This book is a story of a king who loves ice creams. He eats many funny ice creams. It is highly recommended for reading aloud to children.

A king, who loves ice creams, lives in a kingdom in a certain place. He eats ice creams from morning to night. He always thinks about ice creams. His retainers always bother with ice creams because the king asks the most delicious ice-cream all over the world. His concern is that he never satisfies with any ice creams. One day, he lacks energy because of the concern...

★English sample translation is available.

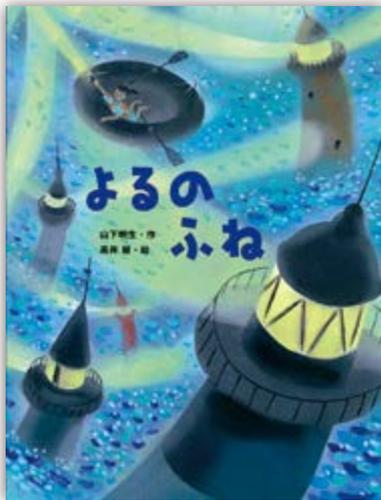


Masatoshi Nakao (1982-) was born in Wakayama Prefecture. He was working in the production of educational TV programs when he made his debut as a picture-book author in 2012 with *Urenai yakisoba pan* (The Yakisoba Sandwich Nobody Wants; illustrated by Inunco, co-authored by Mai Tominaga). His other titles include *Dondon kuru kuru* (It Keeps Coming and Coming; illustrated by Akiko Iwata); *Yōkai bā* (Kooky Creature Boo!), written with Mariko Ishikawa under the creative-team name Soratobu Enban (“Flying Saucer”); and *Zōkin resurā* (Rag Tag Wrestlers), illustrated by Masanori Inui. In 2016 he received the Wakayama Picture Book Grand Prize for *Itterasshai Unchi-kun* (Goodbye, Mr. Poopy), another collaboration with Masanori Inui.

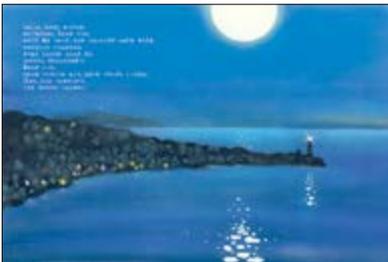
Masanori Inui was born Hyogo Prefecture in 1983. He graduated from Kanazawa College of Art. After working as high school art teacher, he went around the world. Then he became illustrator and works for magazine, ads, and textile design. He was accepted for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition 2015. He won a Japan Association of Audiovisual Producers Awards in 2018 for animated picture book, *Niger Story* (original text by Hideko Fukuda /originally published by Shinra Co., Ltd.)

# Night Boat

Text by **Haruo Yamashita**  
 Illus. by **Ken Kuroi**



Ages 6+  
 287 x 217 mm  
 38 pages  
 Hardcover with jacket  
 ISBN 978-4-591-12426-0  
 Pub month: April 2011



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.



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.

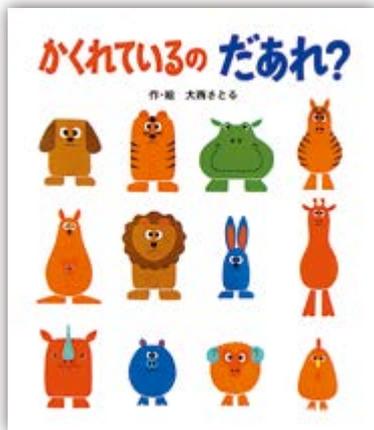
Ken Kuroi (1947–) was born in Niigata Prefecture and graduated from the Niigata University Faculty of Education with a degree in art. He worked as a children's book editor with a major publisher before turning freelance as an illustrator. In 1983 he was awarded the Sanrio Art Prize for a series of illustrations 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](http://www.kenoffice.jp/index.html)



# 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.

★English sample translation is available.

Ages 3+  
245 x 215 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-01257-4  
Pub month: Nov. 1983

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

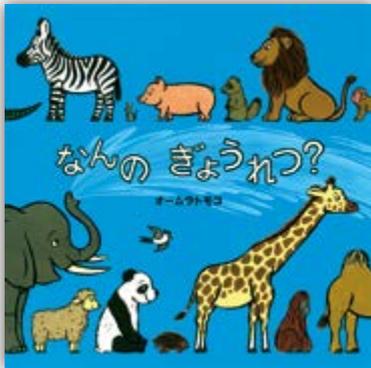


**12 languages sold!**

\* \* \* \* \* 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.

# Long, Long Line

## Tomoko Ohmura



Ages 3+  
227x 226 mm  
36 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-11079-9  
Pub month: Aug. 2009

Rights sold: Catalan, China,  
English (New Zealand),  
France, Germany, Italy,  
Korea, Poland, Russia, Spain,  
Sweden, Thailand, Taiwan,  
the Netherlands and Vietnam

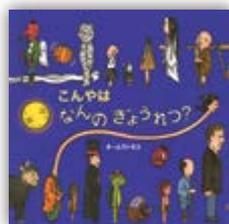
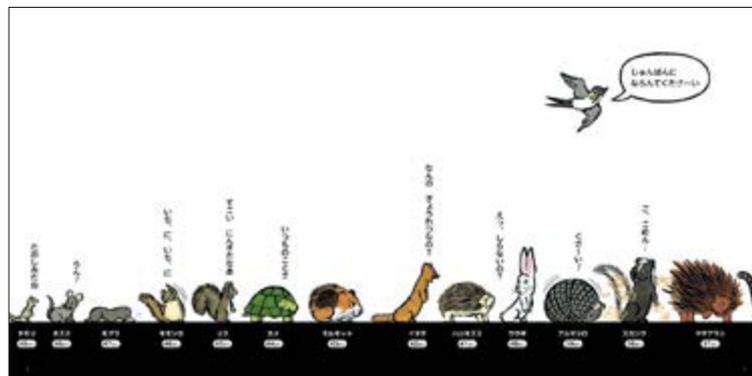
**15 languages sold!**

★English sample translation is available.

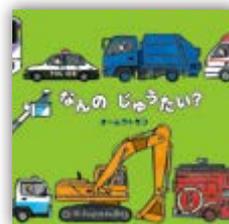
When Frog joins the queue, he is the 50th one in line. In front of him are Lizard and Mouse and Mole . . . and way up ahead at the front is Elephant. From Elephant to Frog, the animals are lined up in order of their size, large to small, all waiting for something to begin.

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.



Long, Long Line: Monsters



Long, Long Line: Vehicles



Long, Long Line: Insects

\* \* \* \* \*  
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 *Long, Long Line* (winner of Peter Pan Prize by IBBY Sweden in 2014 and Prix Nord Isère Jeunes Lecteurs 2011-2012 in France).

# Picture Book Tokyo

Yutaka Kobayashi

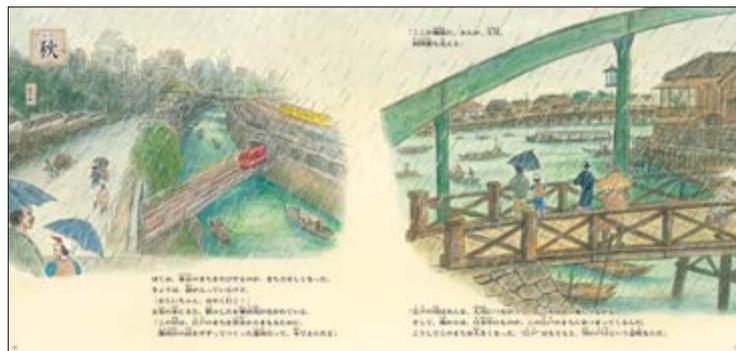
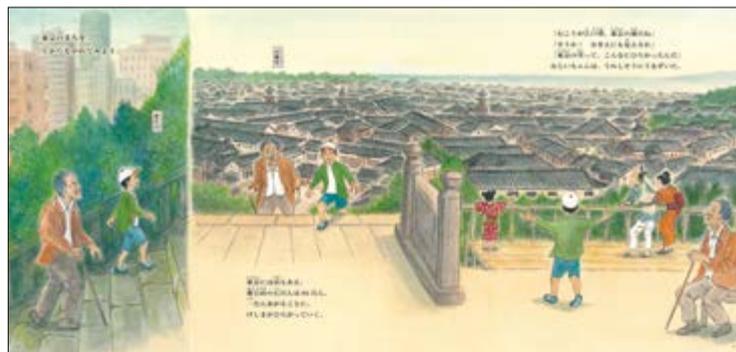


Ages 5+  
242 x 255 mm  
44 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16220-0  
Pub month: March 2019  
Rights sold: Taiwan

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.



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.

# The Most Beautiful Village in the World

Yutaka Kobayashi



Ages 5+  
220 x 285 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-04190-1  
Pub month: Dec. 1995

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

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

# Hozuki's Ghost Tales series

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**

Illus. by **Yoshika Komatsu**



Ages 9+  
207×154 mm  
142 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-15979-8  
Pub month: Sept. 2018

## The New Kid Can See Ghosts!

A new series created because of passionate requests from readers after the completion of the “Hozuki Clinic of Internal and Monster Medicine” series (7 volumes, published 2006 - 2011)

Written from the childhood perspective of Masaki Hashimoto, classmate to famous ghost physician Kyojuro Hoozuki. A mysterious and humorous story of Kyojuro and Masaki confronting an incident caused by a ghost and solving a mystery.

The story begins when a dark shadow shaped like a person clings Masaki, who doesn't have any energy after his best friend moves away during spring break... Meanwhile, the Hoozuki twins, Kyoshiro and Kyojuro, transfer into the 4th year elementary school class at the beginning of the new school year, and Kyojuro is in same class as Masaki. Kyojuro leaves a terrible impression with his brusque, unsociable manner. Then, Kyojuro tells Masaki that he is from a clan that can see ghosts...!

## Possessed Kid

At the start of the elementary school 4th grade, Kyojuro Hoozuki, a boy with an unusual name, came to Masaki's class. Kyojuro leaves a bad impression with his brusque, unsociable manner, but he lets Masaki know his secret, that the Hoozuki clan is a family that can see ghosts.

One day, a few weeks later, Masaki's classmate Chihiro says “There are two of my friend Minako now! Please ask for Hoozuki's help and investigate it!” Chihiro and Kyojuro's parents have been good friends since childhood, so Chihiro knew the secret that the Hoozuki clan can see ghosts.

Kyojuro and Masaki go to the park where Chihiro met the two Minakos, and there they meet Minako's friend, Konami. The two of them pass by in a similar manner, and they look exactly the same! Kyojuro sees that Minako is possessed by a ghost...



NEW

Ages 9+  
207×154 mm  
126 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16392-4  
Pub month: Oct. 2019

\* \* \* \* \*  
Yoko Tomiyasu (1959–) won the Shogakkan Children's Literature Award for *The Rustling Oak Lodge*; the Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award in 1997 for her *Little Princess Suzuna* series; the Sankei Children's Book Award in 2001 for *The Sky Myth*; the Noma Prize for Children's Literature for *Bon Invitation*.

# Hozuki Clinic of Internal and Monster Medicine series

Text by **Yoko Tomiyasu**

Illus. by **Yoshika Komatsu**



Ages 8+

208 x 154 mm

143 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-09029-9

Pub month: Jan. 2006 – Dec.

2011

Rights sold: China, Taiwan  
and Vietnam

## Even Monsters Get the Flu!

One Saturday Kyohei, a fifth-grader, wanders into an unfamiliar back alley and up the front steps of Hozuki Clinic—which he's amazed to learn is the only specialist in monster medicine in the entire world. Rushing out on an emergency house call, its head physician, Dr. Kyojuro Hozuki, presses Kyohei into looking after things at the office, and the boy must deal with a constant stream of frightful monster patients, from Hundred-Eyes to Two-Mouths to No-Face. Not only that, but Kyohei is soon called away to Mt. Suzaku to help with the doctor's errand. As it turns out, there's an ogre hiding in a cave who needs to get a shot to prevent the horrid Ogre Flu from spreading to the other monsters and causing total mayhem. Dr. Hozuki lures the wild child-eating ogre out with Kyohei's tasty scent, and then—just when Kyohei's about to be snatched up—sticks the needle right into the monster's arm. Success!

As a reward for his work, the doctor hands Kyohei a mysterious bell shaped like a hozuki, or Chinese lantern plant, which serves as the key to the way between the boy's own world and that of the Hozuki Clinic. Ring it, and it'll bring him here again. Despite his scare, Kyohei decides that he does want to come back to see Dr. Hozuki so he can continue being the only assistant to the only monster doctor in the world.

Yoko Tomiyasu, who has captivated countless fans with her masterful works of fantasy, does so again in the opening volume to her popular series about the mysterious Dr. Hozuki, his inquisitive young assistant Kyohei, and the monster-related troubles they set out to solve. Boys and girls alike enjoy this series filled with bright humor and skillful storytelling.



\* \* \* \* \*

Yoshika Komatsu Born in Saitama Prefecture in 1977. Graduated from Musashino Art University, Department of Visual Communication Design. Activities center around working on illustrations for children's books. Works with Yoko Tomiyasu include "Dragon's Nest," the "Hozuki Clinic of Internal and Monster Medicine" series (the above are published by Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.), "The God of Shrines," and "Go There! Bokko-kun" (the above are published by KAISEI-SHA, Ltd.), and, additionally, multiple works such as the "Hyaku Taro from Edo" series and "The Day When Tsumugi Became Family" (the above are published by Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.).

# Magic Garden Story series

Yasuko Ambiru



Ages 8+

205 x 153 mm

143 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-09749-6

Pub month: April 2007 - Present

Rights sold: China, Korea,  
Taiwan and Vietnam

## The Magic Garden and Mysterious Herb Recipes

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

Then the herb witch Topaz, a distant relative, leaves her a small cottage in her will. Against her parents' initial opposition, Jarett takes up residence there, together with six kittens. Following the recipes in a book left by Topaz, she mixes herbs from the garden, and when she gives these mixtures to her neighbors as medicines, they are very helpful. A continuing theme of the series to which this story belongs is the many different efficacies of herbs and aroma essences. The series has been highly popular in Japan, with 23 volumes published so far.



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



NEW



2. Herb Tea Party
3. The Magic of Peppermint
4. A Village Festival with Three Little Witches
5. Magic Tea with a Winter Fairy
6. A Piano Lesson at the Magic Garden
7. The Witch of Rose Valley
8. Three Little Witches and Potpourri
9. Magical Night with Seven Fairies
10. A Willful Princess and Magic Roses
11. Queen's Purple Magic
12. Witch's Getting Ready for Winter
13. The Magic of Perfume
14. Rosemary and Magic of Venus
15. Happy Recipies at a Cafe
16. Magical Effect of the Herb
17. Jarett's Brilliant Magic
18. Present of the Magic
19. Teatime of the Witch
20. Easter at the Magic Garden
21. Three Little Witches and the Fortune Teller
22. A Mysterious Key
23. Magical Effect of the Honey

## Herb Lessons from the Magic Garden



### Vol.1 Tea Party

With a lot of illustrations, photos and main characters, the book demonstrates how to make various kinds of herb tea and sweets for a tea party. It also introduces many kinds of herbs.



### Vol.2 Christmas



# Letters from the Forest

Text by **Kyoko Hara**  
 Illus. by **Kazue Takahashi**



Ages 6+  
 200 x 160 mm  
 71 pages  
 Hardcover with jacket  
 ISBN 978-4-591-16281-1  
 Pub month: May 2019

“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...



## 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...



\* \* \* \* \*  
 Kyoko Hara was born in Tokyo and graduated from Wako 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), *Ne, ohanashi kikasete* (Read Me a Story), the *Kuma no Bearu 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 *Nyako 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>

# The Spy Girls series

Text by **Kumiko Kun**

Illus. by **Yuki Takahashi**



Ages 10+

190×135 mm

219 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-15946-0

Pub month: Aug. 2018

## The Spy Girls – Deadly Hot Spring

Kit has a short haircut, a round face, glasses, and is 150cm and 40kg; she is of average appearance, but has a clear mind and excellent reflexes.

Akari has long hair and long limbs, and is 168cm and 48kg; she looks like an adult on the outside, but tends to daydream a lot.

Moyoyo is 1/4 American, 154cm, and 63kg; she's a little chubby, has blue-gray eyes and fair skin, her Japanese is a little strange, and she eats and sleeps a lot.

This trio of 6th grade elementary schoolers – GOKKO– yearn to be spies, and, when they debut in Hakone, their great work puts the adults to shame!

Together with a suspicious helper, they pursue the mystery of a lying old lady in this hilarious neighborhood mystery.

## The Spy Girls – Secret Mission For A Young Lady

Using a small art museum as a secret base, this group of three elementary school girls, known as GOKKO, secretly engage in spy activities.

The mission this time is to infiltrate a prestigious private girl's school as a substitute for a young lady who refuses to attend school.

While doing so, they get involved in an unexpected incident...

These spy-loving girls and their great work put the adults to shame! A comical school mystery.



NEW

Ages 10+

190×135 mm

167 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16418-1

Pub month: Nov. 2019

\* \* \* \* \*  
 Kumiko Kun Born in Tokyo; a writer. Intently studies children's hearts and has written more than 100 picture books and novels. Set in Hakone, a land that she's in love with, this series depicts the friendships and activities of various types of girls who are full of curiosity. Representative works include "12 Year Old's Password", "Wind, Summer, and 11 Years Old," "The Summer King," and "I've Come to Love that Time."

Yuki Takahashi Born in Hiroshima; an illustrator. Her drawings of girls flying freely in space and time have gained popularity, and she is active in various genres such as books, magazines, advertisements, and CD jackets. Yuki Takahashi's website: <http://takahashiyuki.com/>

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

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



Ages 9+  
207 x 205 mm  
175 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-15031-3  
Rights sold: China, Korea and  
Taiwan

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

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



Mr. Fabre's  
Insect Class 2



Mr. Fabre's  
Insect Class 3



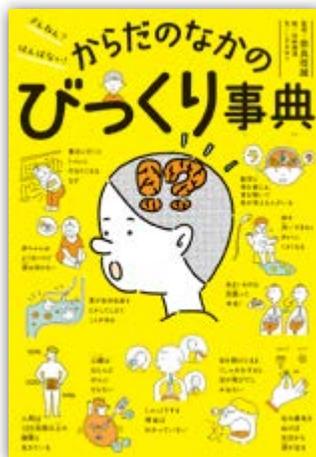
\*\*\*\*\*  
Daisaburo Okumoto (1944–) was born in Osaka, graduated from the Department of French Literature at the University of Tokyo, and subsequently completed his graduate studies in the same department. A specialist on French literature, he is now professor emeritus of Saitama University. He is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

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

# Pity or Wonder? The Mysteries in Our Bodies

Supervised by **Nobuo Nara**

Text by **Yu Kozaki** Illus. by **Tokuhiro Kanoh**



Ages 8+

188 x 128 mm

159 pages

Softcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16041-1

Pub month: Dec. 2018

There are so many mysterious things about our bodies!

Do you really know about your body?

Maybe you think you do, but you really don't.

This book collects such surprising facts all over.

Such as

- There is only one of your nose holes working at a time.
  - If you keep your eyes open while you are sneezing, your eyes will pop out!
  - The truth why you always have room for desserts.
  - It is still a mystery why you have tears when you feel sad
- ...etc. Let's grab a topic and talk to others!



NEW

## More! Pity or Wonder? The Mysteries in Our Bodies

Here comes the sequel of favorably reviewed *Pity or Wonder? The Mysteries in Our Bodies*

Do you know that...

- It is bad for both physically and mentally to get up early.
- Eat too much chocolate won't make you nosebleed.
- The superficial area of the wrinkles in your brain is about one page of newspaper.

Besides the surprising facts, this book also provides you ways for learning based on these physical tips. Let's give it a try!

Ages 8+

188 x 128 mm

159 pages

Softcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16347-4

Pub month: Aug. 2019



Nobuo Nara graduated from Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMD), Faculty of Medicine in 1975, Medical PhD. After working at TMD as a professor, he becomes an honorary professor of TMD, a visiting professor of Juntendo University and an executive director of Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education from 2015. He is an expert in hematology and medical pedagogic. He writes not only medical professional books but also simple ones for people as their enlightenment to health. He also attends on TV programs. He is author/supervisor to *Utsukushii jintai zukan* (The Beautiful Picture Book of Human Bodies/ published by Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd), *Koredewakaru byouin no kensa* (Learning about the Examination of Hospital), *Idenshishindande naniga dekiruka* (What Can a Genetic Testing Do/ both published by Kodansha Ltd.), *Saikoniutsukushii jintazukan* (The Most Beautiful Picture Book of Human Bodies/ published by X-Knowledge Co., Ltd.), *Jintaidaizukan* (The Picture Book of Human Bodies/ published by Takarajimasha, Inc.)...etc.

# Gaming Careers



Ages 9+  
210 x 148mm  
143 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16348-1  
Pub month: Nov. 2019

“Liking Games” can lead to your future job!

Jobs in the game industry are roughly divided into three categories — “Making,” “Selling,” and “Playing” — and each profession is introduced in detail via manga cartoons. Work content is of course detailed, but also includes complete information such as annual salary and work styles! Esports related jobs that are currently attracting a lot of attention, such as professional gamers, are also listed. This book helps children develop their career by finding a future from things that they like.

Major Professions Introduced

[Jobs Making Games]

Producer / Director / Planner

Graphic Designer / Sound Creator / Scenario Writer / Programmer /  
Debugger

[Jobs Selling Games]

Advertising / Sales / Artwork

[Jobs Playing Games]

Pro Gamer / Game Commentator / Game Writer

\* \* \* \* \*

Research Cooperation: SEGA Games Co., Ltd.

SEGA Games Co., Ltd. plans, develops, sells, and operates games for home consoles, PCs, and smart devices. These games include a series of games such as “Sonic” and “Puyo Puyo,” as well as a variety of online games such as “Phantasy Star Online 2” and “Chain Chronicle,” providing games both domestically and internationally. In addition, the company has more than 16 overseas development and sales locations, and has created and globally rolled out the “Total War” and “Football Manager” series, which have become popular overseas.

# Dotoku: From the Other Side

## –For moral questions without answers...

Text by **Hiroshi Yamazaki**

Illus. by **Yo Kimura and Haruhito Nisawadaira**



Ages 6+  
190 x 210mm  
91 pages  
Softcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-15806-7  
Pub month: March 2018

Bullying is bad, but why is that? This picture book explores this and other questions to teach children critical thinking skills and different perspectives. 13 questions give parents and children opportunities to start conversations around modern social issues such as LGBT, life, and lying. The latter half of the book consists of diverse responses from elementary school children as well as celebrity representatives from different fields to help with the thinking process.

The book has been implemented in 7000 schools across the nation—about a third of all Japanese elementary schools. Actual classes have been designed around the book, making a considerable contribution to the education system.

★English sample translation is available.



\* \* \* \* \*  
Hiroshi Yamazaki as copywriter, Yo Kimura as art director, and Nisawadaira as art director work for a Japanese ad agency.

# The I Wonder Bookstore

Shinsuke Yoshitake



208 x 154 mm  
103 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-15444-1  
Pub month: June 2017

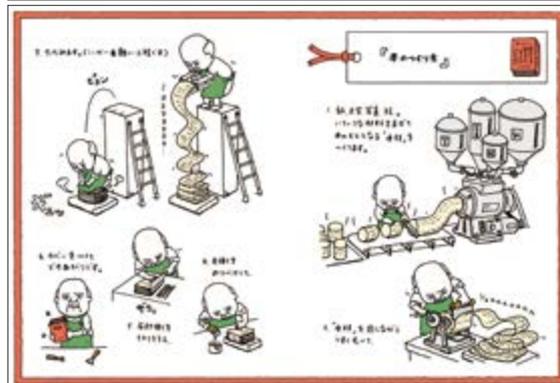
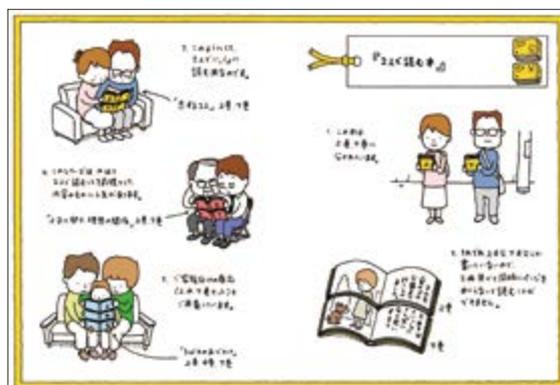
Rights sold: China, France,  
Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain,  
Taiwan and The United States

**In 8 languages,  
460,000 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.



\* \* \* \* \*  
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)

# Nature & Science Picture Books with Photographs series

NEW



38 Ice – the Magic of Winter and Water

Ages 6+  
206 x 262mm  
36 - 48 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
Pub month: July 2002 - Present

This series introduce animals and plants living in neighbors, such as roly-poly bugs, earthworms, cankerworms, bats, ...etc. They live close to human, but their life remains mysterious. Beautiful, powerful photographs give a sense of wonder of nature and science to young readers.

★38 volumes as of November 2019

Recommended titles!



7 Bats Living in Town



9 Carnivorous Plants



10 Jellyfish



18 Mushrooms: The Weightless\*



20 Weird Snowbanks and Strange Ices\*



26 Insects Living with Ants

NEW

NEW



37 Small Hunter Jumping Spiders



36 Icicles



35 Here and There Ticks



34 The Mushroom Restaurant



33 Slime Molds — Jewels of woods



32 Finding Heart-shaped in Woods



31 Fish Eggs



30 Find Insect Galls



29 Flowers of Vegetables



28 Even Fish Sleep



27 Rocky Shore Company



26 Insects Living with Ants



25 I'm Shield Bug



24 Slugs -- Here It Is



23 Caterpillars



22 Lethocerus in Rice Paddies



21 The Mystery of Actiniae



20 Weird Snowbanks and Strange Ices



19 The Tree Sap Restaurant



18 Mushrooms: The Weightless



17 Insects Faces\*



16 Spiders' Strings



15 Frogs in Rice Paddies



14 Secrets of Snakes



13 Bamboo, Me, and Grandpa



12 Cocoons: Capsules of Life



11 Earwig Family



10 Jellyfish



9 Carnivorous Plants



8 Where Are Cankerworms?



7 Bats Living in Town



6 The Adventure of Rice-fish



5 The Poo Restaurant\*



4 Come to My Ranch



3 The Mystery of Earthworms



2 Shota and Fermented Soybeans



1 Find Roly-poly bugs

\*English sample translation is available.

# A Family in Hiroshima – Their Vanished Dreams

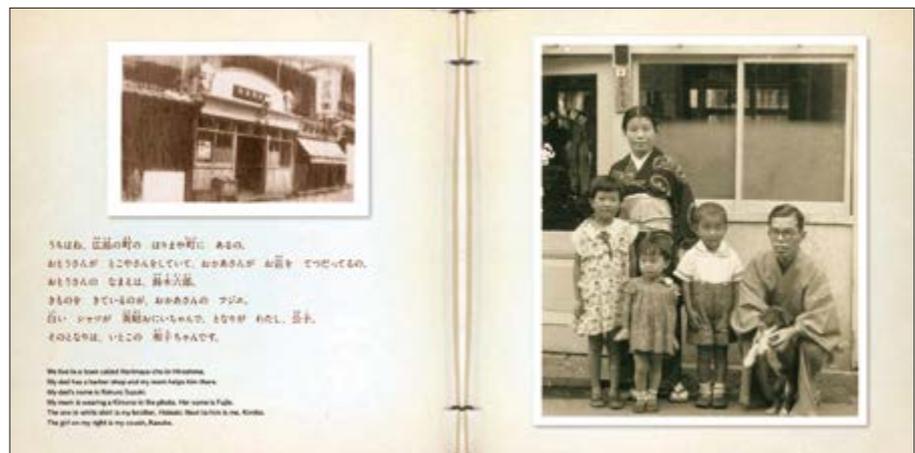
## Kazu Sashida



Ages 9+  
226 x 225mm  
41 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16313-9  
Pub month: July 2019

On the day, an atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima completely eliminated a happy six-member Rokuro Suzuki family.

Before the atomic bomb was dropped, families lived happily in Hiroshima city. Rokuro Suzuki, who run a barbershop, lived happily with his wife and four children. The father liked taking pictures and he took a lot of family pictures. On the day, suddenly, the family was annihilated by the atomic bomb. With his evocative pictures, through a vanished family, this photo book appeals for cruelty of atomic bombs and wars to readers.



\* \* \* \* \*  
Kazu Sashida started writing books after she worked at a publishing house. She continues to go to Tohoku to help rebuild the region.

# The Underpants

Hikaru Tanaka

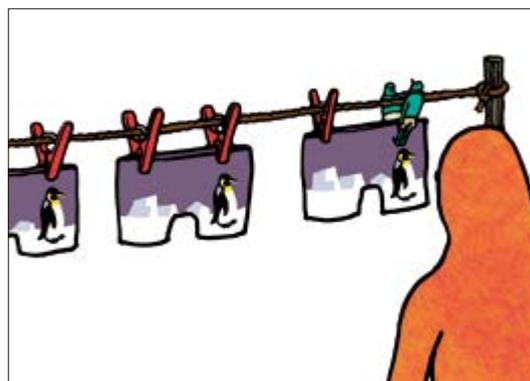
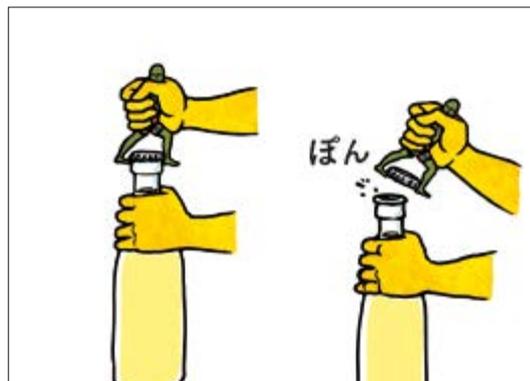
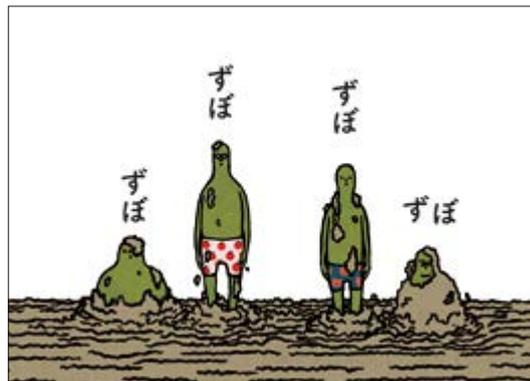


Ages 3+  
303 x 215 mm  
36 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16049-7  
Pub month: Feb. 2019

★English sample translation is available.

Warning: This book won't make you smart.

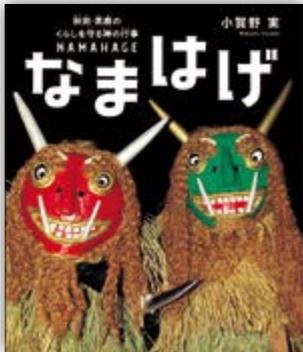
Slippery sloppily The Underpants appear out of nowhere. One by one they start to move only to be surprised by the unexpected. This surreal world draws you in and somehow you just like it. The perfect book if you're looking for something new that will make you think.



\* \* \* \* \*  
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 *Sararīman 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.

# Namahage — Deities Who Protect the Good People of Oga in Akita Prefecture

Minoru Ogano



Ages 9+  
264 × 215 mm  
48 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16267-5  
Pub month: April 2019

Congratulations! Registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

It's not just "Where are the crying children?!" Here you can see true form of the "Namahage," not what is for sightseeing.

The Namahage is now known all across Japan. But most people have an image of the Namahage as a demon that scares children. In this photo and picture book, you will see not only images of the Namahage that's made for sight-seeing, but also the true form of the Namahage and how important it is for the local people. The author has been taking pictures of the Namahage for 35 years and uses powerful photos and article pages to tell the Namahage's story.



Minoru Ogano Born in Gunma Prefecture in 1958. Graduated from Osaka University of the Arts, Photography Department. Became a freelance photographer in 1990 after working as an employed cameraman. Reports on a wide range of children's worlds, centered on vehicles, and is active in atlases, learning magazines, and travel magazines, etc.

# The New Year is Here

Tomoko Akiyama



Ages 3+  
242 × 270 mm  
32 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16065-7  
Pub month: Dec. 2018

A picture book that takes in people's lives and depicts the joy of celebrating New Year's by looking at the Naoko family's holidays, as they sell New Year's decorations.

The end of this year has come to Naoko's house. After passing through the Kaminarimon Gate in Asakusa, in Gasa market (New Year's decorations market for suppliers) she buys New Year's decorations and shimenawa ropes. In a corner of the shopping district, Naoko sells New Year's decorations every year.

After finishing her sales with no trouble, Naoko's family is now busy preparing for the new year. Year-end cleaning, traditional New Year's foods to be prepared and...

"Happy New Year!"

On January 2nd the neighborhood has a Lion Dance, and the busy New Year events are finally over. Japanese New Year's rituals in the city are drawn with humorous and detailed brushwork through Naoko's family, a real model.



Tomoko Akiyama Born in Tokyo in 1950. Graduated from Joshibi University of Art and Design, Department of Painting. Studied abroad at the University of Bordeaux and the Fine Arts School of Bordeaux in France from 1978 ~ 81. A wide variety of readers support her picture book style, which draws warmth and details about the lives of activities of people while interviewing them.

# Concerning Your Existence

Arie Nashiya



195 x 127 mm  
335 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16356-6  
Pub month: Aug. 2019

## A Japanese novel nominated for 2020 International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Honor List!

Hisui Ishizaki is in the eighth grade. Her home room teacher is very fond of encouraging students to read books. She even divides her students into teams in order to make them compete for the number of books they read. However, Hisui has difficulty with reading and takes time to finish reading a book, so she feels embarrassing about it.

Her classmate Koharu Inokuma submits a card recording herself reading a book by hand but the teacher finds she is bad at writing, types her comments on a new card, and replaces her card with it. Koharu asks to take a Japanese language make-up exam with PC for the same reason as the teacher replaced her handwritten card. She believes her request is reasonable, but the teacher rejects it.

This is a story about people having troubles that are not easy to be noticed, and their conflicts about how to deal with it.



Arie Nashiya was born in Tochigi Prefecture. She lives in Kanagawa Prefecture now. She won the 39th new face prize in Juvenile Literature Prize held by Kodansha Ltd. with *Deribarai Age* (Delivery Age), and another new face award held by Japan Juvenile Writers Association with *Pianississimo*. She is author to *Puranetariumu* (Planetarium), *Puranetariumu no atode* (After the Planetarium), *Suri-suta-zu* (Three Stars), *Shabondama domei* (Alliance of Soap Bubbles), *Koisurunetsukikkyu* (Emotional Hot Balloons), *Waraukiirooni* (The Laughing Yellow Oni/ all are published by Kodansha Ltd.), *Soraironochizu* (The Sky-Color Map/ by Kinnohoshi Co.,Ltd.), *Kokoroya* (A Heart Shop/ SHINKOSHUPPANSHA KEIRINKAN Co.,Ltd. ), *Kizunakisu* (SAY-ZAN-SHA PUBLICATIONS LTD.), *Natsu no kaidan* (Stairs of Summer), *Sunou · teia-zu* (Snow · Tears), *Kimisuki kokoseitachino sho-tosuto-ri-zu* (Short Stories of Senior-High Students/ all are published by Poplar Publishing Co. Ltd.)... etc.

# Artificial Soul

Text by **Madoka Sato**

Illus. by **Kenji Urata**



Ages 12+  
195×127 mm  
175 pages  
Hardcover with jacket  
ISBN 978-4-591-16205-7  
Pub month: Feb. 2019

The newly created “Model School” in addition to having a fully furnished super security system equipped with security cameras and microphones, is said to have stationed one android (Guardroid) in the class as a <Watcher Role> to prevent bullying. Mika, a 6th grade elementary school student, has made new friends in the clean and comfortable school building, and is excited about her new life, but, soon, the “search for the Guardroid” began within her class... What is a true heart? What is the difference between a human heart and a Guardroid heart?

—This is a story set in the Tokyo of the near future, but it may be the story of “Tomorrow’s Tokyo,” and gives a good look at a society where AI and humans coexist.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Madoka Sato A Japanese author living in Italy since 1987. Made her debut in 2006 at the 22nd Nissan Children’s Story and Picture Book Grand Prix with “*Light Blue Flippers*”. Major works include the “*Super Kids*” series, “*Rejection: Heart, Corpse, 200 km/h*” (both published by Kodansha Ltd.), the “*Magic Out*” series trilogy (Froebel-Kan Co., Ltd.), and “*105 Degrees*” (Asunaro Shobo, Assigned reading book for the 64th National Book Report Competition for Youth). Has also worked on many Italian translations, and works include “*Gu-gu-su-su*” (Author: Giovanna Zopori / Illus: Simona Mulazzani, Soensha, Ltd.) and “*Yokubari School*” (Author: Fabrizio Sirei, Kodansha Ltd.) Member of the Japan Children’s Literary Association. Writer of the “*Seasonal Winds*” fan magazine.

Kenji Urata Born in Okinawa Prefecture in 1984. Graduated from Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts Graduate School. Actively participates in exhibitions, mainly in Okinawa, and works on creative activities, such as the “Exhibition of Works Created by Art Teachers” and the “Mabuni peace project.” <http://www.kenjiurata.com>



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