



POPLAR
PUBLISHING



Foreign Rights Catalog 2021

POPLAR

About Us

POPLAR Publishing Co., Ltd., a leading independent publisher of children's books in Japan, has been in business for more than 70 years. 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" "The 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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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 8.3 million copies sold in Japan.
- Two series total 14 m copies sold in the world.
- 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, 2020, and Aug. 2021 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: Catalan, Korean,
Norwegian, Polish, simplified
Chinese, Spanish, Thai, tradi-
tional Chinese, and Vietnamese



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, Estonian,
 Finnish, Italian, Korean,
 Norwegian, Polish, simplified
 Chinese, Thai, traditional
 Chinese, and Vietnamese

11 languages 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.



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

The Zorori series

Yutaka Hara



Ages 6+

218 x 155 mm

88 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-02654-0

Pub month: Nov. 1987 - Present

Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, and traditional Chinese

Zorori Slays the Dragon

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

- 36.6 million copies sold in the world
- best-selling children's book series in Japan
- published since 1987, 68 volumes, ongoing series
- TV animation programs started from 2020 in Japan.
- The books full of tricks that will enthrall the readers — its riddles and mazes are not exceptions!



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.



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?

Vol.40

★English sample translation is available.



From Latest Volumes



Vol. 68
Space Alien of Terror

NEW



Vol. 67
Search for the Red Diamond



Vol. 66
A Star Is Born



Vol. 64
Zorori's Robot Operation



Vol. 63
Zorori Slays the Dragon 2

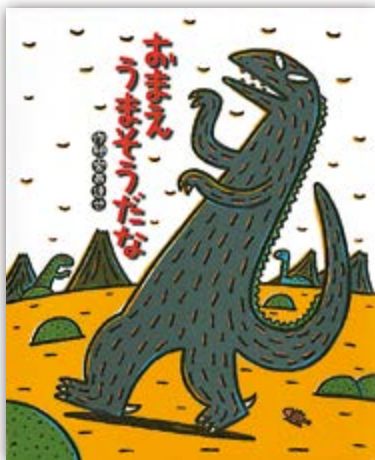
Experience the joy of reading through Zorori !



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

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: English (Canada, Korea, and USA), French, Korean, Polish, simplified Chinese, Spanish (Spain), and traditional Chinese

**In 7 languages,
19.5 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 tyrannosaur 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 tyrannosaur realizes that the little one has misunderstood and thinks he was being called “Yummy” as a name. And so it is that a tyrannosaur takes on the task of raising a baby ankylosaur. Yummy looks up to the tyrannosaur in everything he does, and says repeatedly, “I want to be just like you, Daddy!” Although the tyrannosaur 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 tyrannosaur in 15 titles to date, with combined sales in excess of 19.5 million. In 2010 and 2015, the series became an animated film.

Key selling point

- 4 million copies sold annually in China (Mainland)

★English sample translation is available.



* * * * *

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



Together Forever



To Love, to be Loved



The Gentleness and Consideration



Hee Hee Hee Hee Umasou



Stars Twinkled

Nezumi-kun Little Mouse series

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**

Illus. by **Noriko Ueno**



The Mouse's Vest

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

The problem of bigger and bigger animals trying on the tiny vest is clear even to small children, and they are pulled along by the anticipation of what will happen next. With the visual appeal of the bright red vest and the highly expressive and amusing pencil drawings, the book has been a perennial bestseller. The series of sequels this first volume spawned has grown to 36 titles, a clear measure of Little Mouse's popularity.

Ages 3+

244 x 215 mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-00465-4

Pub month: Aug. 1974 - Present

Rights sold: Catalan, Galician, Italian, Korean, Romanian, simplified Chinese, Spanish, traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese

★English sample translation is available.

★45th anniversary in 2019!



**In 9 languages,
19 m copies sold!**

Latest Volumes



Vol. 32
The Really Little
Mouse



Vol. 33
Little Mouse and
Monster



Vol. 34
Little Mouse and
Naughty Bim



Vol. 35
Little Mouse's Sports
Festival



Vol. 36
Detective Little Mouse

* * * * *

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

The authors describe the friends, such as Cat, Duck, Rabbit, Pig, Lion and Elephant, making the most of each animal's characteristics, and write humorous and charming stories. "Little Mouse" series won four awards, including the Kodansha Award for Picture Books, and has sold more than 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. 31

- Vol. 2 Little Mouse Wants to Eat Apples
- Vol. 3 Again! The Little Mouse's Vest
- Vol. 4 Little Mouse and his Best Friend
- Vol. 5 How much do You Weigh, Little Mouse?
- Vol. 6 Little Mouse's Birthday
- Vol. 7 Once Again! The Little Mouse's Vest
- Vol. 8 Little Mouse Breaks a Glass
- Vol. 10 Little Mouse and Elephant
- Vol. 11 Little Mouse Plays on a Swing
- Vol. 12 Little Mouse and a Concert
- Vol. 13 Let's Swap! The Little Mouse's Vest
- Vol. 14 Little Mouse and Pancakes
- Vol. 15 Little Mouse and a Snowman
- Vol. 18 All Over Again! Little Mouse and Pancakes
- Vol. 19 Little Mouse's Christmas
- Vol. 20 Little Mouse's Present
- Vol. 22 Little Mouse Plays Hide and Seek

- Vol. 23 Little Mouse Plays on a Seesaw
- Vol. 24 What do You Want to be, Little Mouse?
- Vol. 25 That's Why! The Little Mouse's Vest
- Vol. 26 Little Mouse Goes to the Sea
- Vol. 27 What's the Matter, Little Mouse?
- Vol. 28 Here is a Treat, Little Mouse
- Vol. 29 Little Mouse has Lied
- Vol. 30 Let it Rain! Let it Rain!
- Vol. 31 Little Mouse Wants to Transform!

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 2020, 43 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: simplified Chinese and Vietnamese



★English sample translation is available.

Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghosts series



Acchi Makes a Delicious Dish



Acchi and Docchi the Little Ghost



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



Acchi and Croquette Dads

NEW

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

Magic Garden Story series

Yasuko Ambiru



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

1) Vol.2 to Vol 24: 151 pages

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 24 volumes published so far.

★English sample translation is available.



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



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 Recipes at a Cafe
16. Magical Effect of the Herb
17. Jarett's Brilliant Magic
18. Gift 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
24. Jarett and Magic Coin

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.

Ages 8+
205 x 153 mm
62 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-13650-8
Pub month: Nov. 2013
Rights sold: Korean

Color illustrations throughout



Vol.2 Christmas

Picture Book Classics: A Child's First Collection

Text by **Hatsue Nakawaki**

Illus. by **AJIADO CO.,LTD.** Commentary by **Keisuke Nishimoto**



Ages 1+
176 x 186mm
30 pages 1)
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4-591-15187-7
Pub month: March 2018

1) Vol.2 to Vol.80: 22 to 46 pages

These books deliver beautifully-written folktales and famous works from Japan and around the world with friendly illustrations. This is a series that children can read as they grow, from one-year-olds who are being read to for the first time to six-year-olds who can read by themselves.

Feature 1: The lineup of this collection is extensive, and includes 80 volumes.

This collection offers a wide-ranging lineup, with Japanese folktales that have been passed down since ancient times, widely-known folktales from around the world (including the Grimms' fairytales), and famous works from around the world that are beloved by children and adults, represented by Anderson's fairytales. Children can read these books based on their own interests.

Feature 2: Easy to carry

These books are a perfect size for children to carry in their hands, and are the right length for busy moms and dads to read aloud with ease.

Feature 3: Friendly illustrations

These books make use of real animation illustrations overseen by the animation planning and production company AJIADO CO.,LTD., which has worked on programs such as *Manga Nippon Mukashi Banashi* and *Nintama Rantaro*. Enjoy these friendly, genuine illustrations by veteran creators.

Feature 4: A sense of security

At the end of each volume is a complete commentary by Keisuke Nishimoto, a scholar of children's literature, so you can deepen your understanding of the story with your child. These books are also made to be sturdy (with case binding) so that small children won't break them even if they handle one of these books.



Hatsue Nakawaki : Hatsue Nakawaki was born in Tokushima Prefecture in 1974, and grew up in Kochi Prefecture. She studied folklore at the University of Tsukuba. She debuted at 17 years old, winning the Botchan Literary Prize for her work *Sakana no You ni* in 1991 while she was in high school. In 2012 she won the Joji Tsubota Award for *Kimi wa Ii Ko*, which was also made into a movie. Besides the works that she has created, she also tells folktales, and her works include the folktale picture book *Yuki Onna* and collections of folk tales *Onna no Ko no Mukashibanashi* and *Chaachan no Mukashibanashi* (won the Sankei Children's Book Award JR Prize).

AJIADO CO.,LTD. : AJIADO CO.,LTD. is an animation planning and production company founded in 1978. They have worked on numerous animations for TV, including *Manga Nippon Mukashi Banashi*, *Chibi Maruko Chan*, and *Nintama Rantaro*. They have also created animation in a wide range of fields, including commercials and movies such as a film version of *Kaiketsu Zorori*.

Keisuke Nishimoto : Keisuke Nishimoto was born in Nara Prefecture in 1934, and is an emeritus professor at Showa Women's University. He is active in a wide range of fields as a critic, folklore researcher, and writer of children's stories, and has authored over 600 books. His main works include *Nishimoto Keisuke Jido Bungakuron Korekushon* (3 volumes) (the Iwaya Sazanami Literature Award Special Prize) and *Moichido Yomitai Kodomo no Tame no Bungaku*; his picture books include *Ojiichan no Gokuraku Gokuraku* and *Mayonaka no Tanjokai*.



★English sample translation is available.

■ Japanese Folktales.

- | | | | |
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| 1 Momotaro | 21 Kintaro | 41 The Ugly Duckling | 61 The Emperor's New Clothes |
| 2 The Three Little Pigs | 22 Hansel and Gretel | 42 The Wizard of Oz | 62 Journey to the West |
| 3 The Little Mermaid ★ | 23 Sleeping Beauty | 43 The Three Charms | 63 The White Hare of Inaba |
| 4 The Rolling Rice Ball | 24 The Hare and the Tortoise - Aesop's Fables - | 44 The Rolling Pancake | 64 The Adventures of Maya the Bee |
| 5 Little Red Riding Hood ★ | 25 Kaguya-hime | 45 A Dog of Flanders | 65 The Tongue-Cut Sparrow |
| 6 The Gigantic Turnip | 26 Goldilocks and the Three Bears | 46 The Straw Millionaire | 66 Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves |
| 7 Crick-Clack Mountain | 27 The Bremen Town Musicians | 47 The Pied Piper of Hamelin | 67 The Wild Swan |
| 8 The Ant and the Grasshopper - Aesop's Fables - | 28 The Mouse's Wedding | 48 A Little Princess | 68 Picking Nara Pears |
| 9 Grandfather Cherry Blossom | 29 The Old Man with a Lump | 49 The Young Man Who Slept For Three Years | 69 The Nutcracker |
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| 13 Cinderella | 33 The Snow Queen | 53 The Tengu's Magic Cloak | 73 The Red Shoes |
| 14 The Grateful Crane | 34 Gonbei the Duck Hunter | 54 Puss in Boots | 74 The Sumo Wrestling Mice |
| 15 Kasa Jizo | 35 The Frog King | 55 Aladdin | 75 Heidi |
| 16 The Golden Goose | 36 The Monkey and the Crab | 56 The Blue Bird | 76 The Golden Axe - Aesop's Fables - |
| 17 The Story of the Zodiac | 37 The Elves and the Shoemaker | 57 Bunbuku Chagama | 77 The King with Donkey Ears |
| 18 Chikarataro | 38 The Story of Setsubun | 58 Swan Lake | 78 The God of Poverty and the God of Fortune |
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| 20 Rapunzel | 40 Alice in Wonderland | 60 Pinocchio | 80 The Three Billy Goats Gruff |

Smiley Devil Girl series

Illus. by **Aimi Hara**

Text by **KEROPONS**



No way! No way! Smiley Devil Girl

Ages 1+

184 x 154 mm

32 pages

Hardcover

ISBN 978-4-591-15971-2

Pub month: Sept. 2018

Rights sold: Polish, simplified

Chinese, and traditional

Chinese

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.



★English sample translation is available.



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



It's mine! It's mine! Smiley Devil Girl

NEW

* * * * * **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).

Ready!

Text by **Keropons**

Illus. by **Inunco** Collaboration with **Chanky Matsumoto**



A picture book that'll see you yelling "Dosukoi!" (Ready!) and making open-hand strikes!

This sumo picture book is designed for children to join in through the fun of repeating "Ready!" "Fight! Keep going!" and "Come on!". You can enjoy reading this in a variety of ways—put your child on your lap and make open-hand strikes, or pretend to fall over while lifting your legs like a sumo at a nursery school or a storytelling group. What sumo wrestler will you fight next? This story keeps you excitedly turning the pages.

★English sample translation is available.

Ages 2+

206 x 205 mm

34 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16596-6

Pub month: March 2020



Keropons : Keropons are a musical unit made up of Yuko Masuda (“Kero,” born in Tokyo) and Akiko Hirata (“Pon,” born in Hiroshima). In addition to working on creating lyrics, melodies, and choreography for children’s songs, they also hold concerts for parents and children that both children and adults can enjoy, and seminars for childcare workers. On top of this, they have published many popular and humorous picture books with well-paced stories that are comforting to listen to. They have worked on the *Oni no Ko Niko chan* (Smiley Devil Girl) series (illustrations by Aimi Hara; Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.) and *Sebon chan* (illustrations by Akiko Tanji; Kinnohoshi Co., Ltd.), and have also been involved individually with picture books under their own names, Yuko Masuda and Akiko Hirata.

Inunco : Inunco is an artist born in Higashiosaka. Her unique world, supported by a wide range of layers, overflows with pathos and humor influenced by Japanese art for mass audiences such as ukiyo-e, otsu-e, and hikifuda. She has published a number of picture books as well as TV programs for children and visuals for exhibitions. Her own works include *Okame Ressha* (Kogakusha), and she has created illustrations for works such as *Konpira Inu* (text by Kyoko Imai; Kumon Publishing Co., Ltd.), *Neko no Tamatama* (text by Mitsuru Kuramoto; Kogakusha.), *Momorin* (text by Tatekawa Shinosuke; Akane Shobo), and *Ochanwan Kazoku* (text by Kirin Hayashi; Hakusensha). She has also worked on numerous picture books and paper works under the name Aozoratei with her husband, the collage artist Chanky Matsumoto, who was responsible for sticking down the collage parts of this work.

Underworld Bus

Text by **Nao Arita**

Illus. by **Masashi Anraku**



Ages 3+

286 x 21 5mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16682-6

Pub month: June 2020

Keywords

morality, discipline, ethics,
Hell, scary books, bus,
transport, lies, bad things

Tetchan has picked up someone's lost property. He's not at all apologetic about it, and gets on the bus clutching the toy that he wanted. But even though this bus should be the one that he usually takes, today it somehow looks different.

The driver is... a skeleton. The other passengers seem uneasy. Then, the next bus stop is announced. "Hell, Itchome," he hears. It looks like Tetchan has unknowingly taken the bus to Hell.

Each of the passengers had a reason for riding this bus. But while they have all forgotten their own reasons, Enma, the King of Hell, has not. The driver tells them about the many "bad things" that they have done until now. The passengers regret the things that he tells them, but it's too late. Once they get off the bus, they will all turn into ogres.

Rather than saying "you must not do bad things," this book asks its readers why something is a bad thing (to do to someone). Its themes include mutual understanding and the importance of thinking about other people's feelings—how do your actions make the people around you or the people you are talking to feel?

At the end of the story, Tetchan, who has taken something that is important to someone else, is about to have "something" stolen that is important to him. Then, for the first time he finally understands the feelings of the child he took from, and changes completely when he gets off the bus.

As you can see by looking at the time in the clock, this story actually depicts events that last only a few minutes. It incorporates the authors' message that regret, even for doing something wrong without really thinking about it, is a feeling that lasts for a long time in our lives.



* * * * *
Nao Arita : Nao Arita was born in Fukuoka Prefecture in 1979. Her first work as a picture book writer was *Oppai chan* (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.), for which she won the 24th Kembuchi Picture Book Village Alpaca Prize. Her other works include *Toireko chan* (responsible for illustrations/Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.), and *Onara hime* (responsible for text/Shinnihon Shuppansha).

Masashi Anraku : Masashi Anraku was born in Hiroshima in 1975. He creates nostalgic, humorous, and powerful illustrations based on the theme of "Japan," including murals on restaurant walls, signboards, bird's eye views, video images, and more. He created *Karee Jigoku Ryoko* (PIE International) and *Gaikotsu sensei no Himitsu Kyoshitsu* (Mainichi Shogakusei Shimbun) under the name Higeraku Shoten. His kamishibai video site Showa Japanese Retro Story is in the process of being updated.

Look out! There's a cockroach!

Yasushi Tsukamoto



Ages 4+
256 x 220 mm
33 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16751-9
Pub month: September 2020

Keywords

Cockroach, Goki-chan, Laugh, Panic, Family, Love, Cat, Read aloud

The protagonist is the most hated creature in modern society? And yet everyone is left smiling at the end!

This is a gem of a cockroach story that shows “family love”!

As the representatives of pesky insects in Japan, cockroaches are hated more than they need to be.

But someone has created a picture book that puts these pitiful creatures in the spotlight.

Yasushi Tsukamoto, the creator of the picture book *Yakizakana no Noroi* (The Curse of the Roasted Fish), uses a specific family to depict **a scary encounter with a cockroach (an experience that everyone, from adults to children, has probably had at least once)** in a humorous and delightful fashion. This picture book’s roaring laughter and panic makes it perfect to read aloud.

Raise your voice and read, and laugh out loud!

And try to think just a little about the cockroaches near you.



* * * * *
Yasushi Tsukamoto:Picture-book creator Yasushi Tsukamoto was born in Tokyo in 1965. He is a member of the Japan Writers' Association. His numerous other works include his main picture books, *Yakizakana no Noroi* [*The Curse of the Roasted Fish*], which won the sixth LIBRO Children's Book Award grand prize and the ninth Kindergarten Picture book Grand Prize; *Kono Sushi Nāni* [*What's This Sushi?*], *Tomei Ningen no Shokuji* [*The Invisible Person's Food*], and *Moju Haraheri Kuma* [*The Wild and Hungry Bear*] (all from Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.); *Kotowaza Hiroyuki* ★*Daruman* [*Proverb Hero* ★*Daruman*] (Froebel-Kan ; *Fune Hikoki Basu Kisha* [*The Boat-Plane-Bus-Steam Train*] (Kumon Publishing Co., Ltd.); *Arigato Gozaimasu* [*Thank You Very Much*] (Fuzambo International); *Shinde Kureta* [*Died for Me*] (poetry by Shuntaro Tanikawa/Koseishuppan), which won the 25th Kembuchi Picture Book Village Grand Prize and the Bibakarasu Prize; *Sono Ko* [*The Other Boy*] (poetry by Shuntaro Tanikawa/Shobunsha); and *Senso to Heiwa wo Mitsumeru Ehon—Watashi no 'Yamete'* [*A Picture Book to Search for War and Peace—My Call to Stop*] (text by the Association of Kyoto University Volunteers for Freedom and Peace/ Asahi Shimbun Publications), which won the seventh Kindergarten Picture book Grand Prize.

Each year, he holds read-aloud events for picture books and live painting in libraries, event venues, and book stores across Japan.

The Pirate Who Died

Masakatsu Shimoda



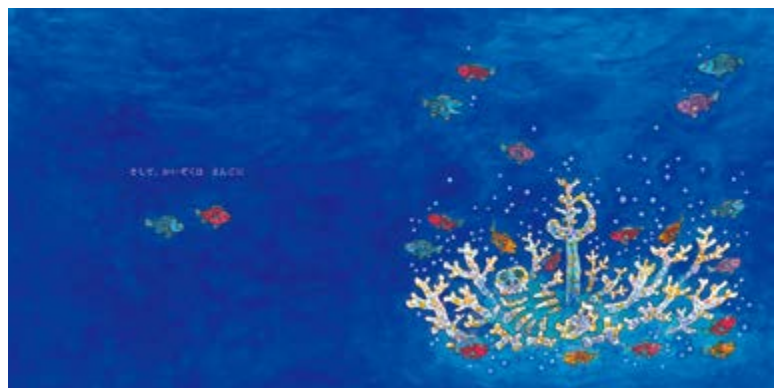
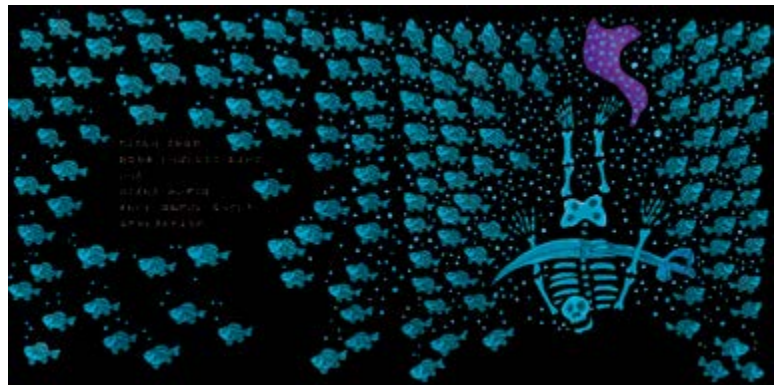
Ages 5+
256 x 255mm
39 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16014-5
Pub month: Jan. 2020

Keywords

death, life, The Cat That Lived A Million Times, View of life and death, Minimalism

This picture book considers life by looking at death. What does this picture book make you feel?

There was once a pirate who lived as he pleased and had everything that he wanted. This book begins when the pirate is killed and thrown into the sea. The creatures of the sea take the pirate's jewelry, clothes, nails, and eyes, and the pirate's heart changes. This book hopes that when parents and children read it, they will talk about what it means to die, and what it means to live.



* * * * *

Masakatsu Shimoda : Masakatsu Shimoda was born in 1967 and grew up in Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture. He is a painter and artist. Starting in 1994 he traveled around China, Tibet, Nepal, India, and Europe, and painted the portraits of the people he met while walking around. After returning to Japan, he began taking on drawing jobs. He is currently involved in creative activities such as illustrations and picture books, as well as creating dinosaurs made out of cloth—in 2018, his works appeared in a Comme des Garçons Homme Plus show in Paris Fashion Week, and were favorably received.

Long, Long Line series

Tomoko Ohmura



Long, Long Line:

Ages 3+

227x 226 mm

36 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-11079-9

Pub month: Aug. 2009

Rights sold: English (excluding Canada and USA), French, German, Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Swedish, Thai, traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese

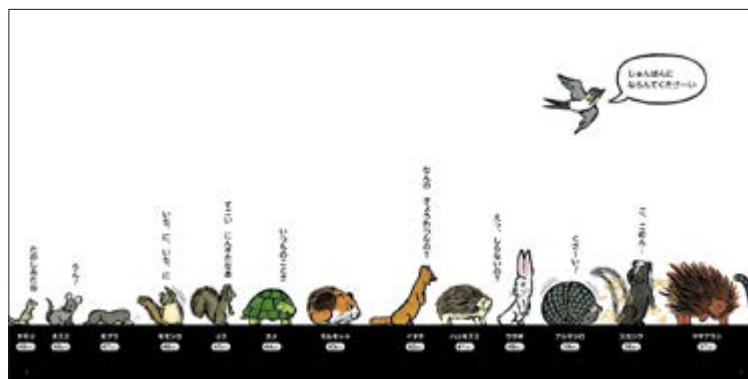
10 languages sold!

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.

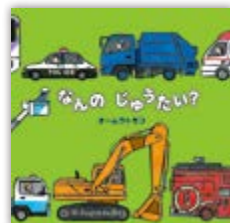
It turns out that they are all standing on the back of a whale, waiting for a giant “whale-coaster” ride. Monkey and Dog find themselves next to each other and, predictably, are having trouble getting along. Sheep sees Wolf ahead of him in line and hangs back, too scared to move ahead. Some of the animals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

★English sample translation is available.



Long, Long Line: Monsters



Long, Long Line: Vehicles



Long, Long Line: Insects



Long, Long Line: Sea Animals

NEW

* * * * *
Tomoko Ohmura : 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).

Animal Buses series



Animal Buses Lost & Found

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.

Ages 3+

207 x 290 mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-15471-7

Pub month: July 2017

Rights sold: Korean, Polish,
and simplified Chinese



★English sample translation is available.



Animal Buses and the Bakery

Text by Masumi Asano
Illus. by Shiho Kotera



Animal Buses in the Forest at Night

Text by Masumi Asano
Illus. by Shiho Kotera



Animal Buses and the Birthday

Text by Masumi Asano
Illus. by Shiho Kotera

NEW

©Q-lia ©Animalbus Partners

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

Masumi Asano: Masumi Asano Born in Akita Prefecture in 1977. Winner of the 13th Ohisama Grand Prize in the Fairy Tales category for her work “*Ohisama*” (Shogakukan 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.

Mr. Ruraru series

Hiroshi Ito



Mr. Ruraru's Yard

Ages 3+
233 x 247 mm
32 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-06942-4
Pub month: Sept. 2001
Rights sold: simplified Chinese
and traditional Chinese

★English sample translation is available.

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

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

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

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

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

Soft colors and simply drawn characters appeal to the eyes of children, while boldly designed pages keep their interest as the story progresses. The series has 9 titles.



Mr. Ruraru's Treat



Mr. Ruraru's Violin



Mr. Ruraru's Bicycle



Mr. Ruraru's Bookshelf



Mr. Ruraru's Telescope



Mr. Ruraru Sunday Carpenter



Mr. Ruraru's Fishing Pole

NEW

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

Sushi For All

Harapekomegane



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

“Weeeelcome!
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 : 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 Underpants

Hikaru Tanaka



Ages 3+

303 x 215 mm

36 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16049-7

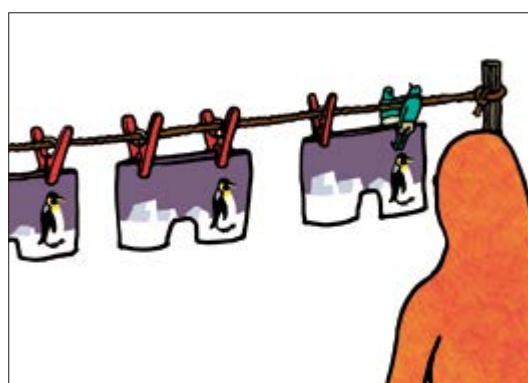
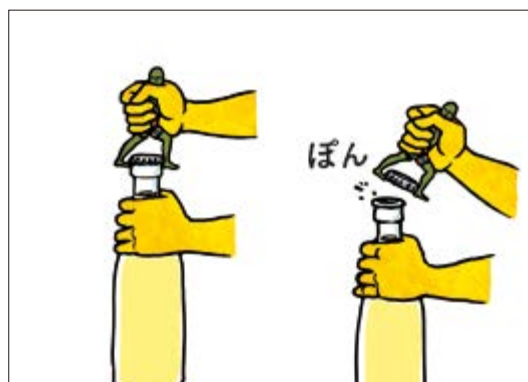
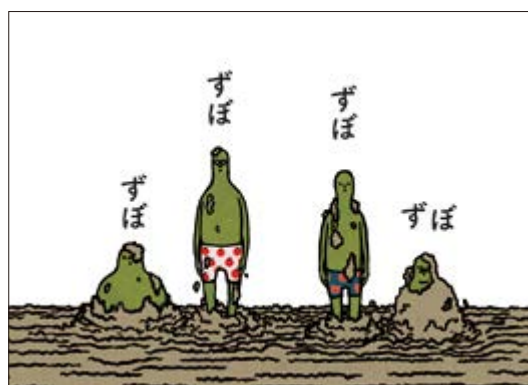
Pub month: Feb. 2019

★English sample translation is available.

When the Japan Picture Book Awards 2020!

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 : 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.

Ferocious Feline Sumo Slamefest !

Ayako Ishiguro



Ages 3+
243mm x 211mm
36 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-15905-7
Pub month: July 2018

Keywords

sumo, fairies, fairy cat, children's sumo, cat fairy, kappa

Thrills and spills! A fairy cat (nekomata) sumo wrestler created by Ayako Ishiguro.

Today is the day of a sumo tournament that is held once every century. Come and see! Nyankonoyama the fairy cat (nekomata, traditional Japanese fairy tale creature), the unbeaten and unrivalled grand champion, is entering the ring.

He will face Gamanonuma, Takotsubomaru, and his greatest match against Kujiranoumi. “Today is the day! We won’t let Nyankonoyama go undefeated!”

Now, how will the battles go?

Let’s go! I look forward to a purrrfect fight!

★English sample translation is available.

Key selling points

- Keep going, you’re still in! After this, the story develops with simple and easy-to-understand repetition, and the powerful and unforgettable illustrations show great battles. Fairies full of individuality appear one after another.
- This is a story with a sense of security from the absolutely unbeatable Nyankonoyama, and the shouts of “Slam!” really make you feel good.
- This book includes folded pages so you can enjoy the impressive illustrations on a larger scale.



Ayako Ishiguro : Ayako Ishiguro was born in Chiba Prefecture in 1973. She is an artist who enjoys drawing fairies, made-up creatures, and animals. Her works include *Bakeneko Zorozoro* (Akane Shobo), *Imoto Kaigi* (Billiken Shokai), *Ookina Neko to Chiisana Neko* (Kogakusha), and *Etoeto Gassen* (Wave Publishers). She has also worked on illustrations and pictures for works such as Natsuhiko Kyogoku’s *Tofu Kozo Sugoroku Dochu Furidashi* (Kodansha), and Ko Machida’s *Gendaiban: Ehon Otogi Zoshi Tsukumogami* (Kodansha). She has held energetic solo exhibitions both in Japan and overseas. She is a mother of two who loves cats, but is currently infatuated with reptiles. Her favorite sumo wrestler is Chiyonofuji.

I Missed You

Text by **Yuichi Kimura**
 Illus. by **Tsuga Takeuchi**



Ages 5+
 265 x 217 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover with jacket
 ISBN 978-4-591-15512-7
 Rights sold: Korean and
 simplified Chinese

★English sample
 translation is available.

Daddy Wildcat is on his way home to his wife and son, thinking with great satisfaction about how much his son admires him, when he spots a tasty-looking mouse trying to make himself scarce. Licking his chops, he is about to pounce, when the little creature cries out with great bravado, “I’m not scared of you!” and declares that if the wildcat tries to eat him, “My daddy will teach you a lesson!” As the wildcat scoffs that a mouse’s father is still just a mouse, Daddy Mouse appears. He looks ineffectual and weak compared to the wildcat, but he boldly steps between the boy and the fierce beast, brandishing a small stick in front of him. Even though the tip of the stick is trembling noticeably, the wildcat finds himself identifying with Daddy Mouse’s desire to protect his son. When Daddy Mouse finally screws up his courage and takes a swing at him, the stick barely pricks his toe, but the wildcat lets out an exaggerated yelp and takes to his heels. As he races away, Daddy Wildcat says to himself, “He made me want to hurry home and see my son.”

The spare dialogue and the bold and vibrant artwork exquisitely express the unevenness of the contest between the two fathers, as well as the emotional progressions they each go through during the face-off. The younger mouse’s confidence in his father, briefly shaken when he see the stick quavering, is reaffirmed when the wildcat turns tail. Both fathers’ great love for their sons comes through loud and clear despite their sharply contrasting circumstances.



* * * * *

Yuichi Kimura : Yuichi Kimura (1948–) is a native of Tokyo and graduate of Tama Art University. He worked in art education and as an idea man for children’s programming on TV before becoming a children’s book author. His work spans picture books and nursery tales for younger children, chapter books for older ages, plays, comics, and more. Many of his stories address aspects of friendship, a theme of keen interest to children, and because he is realistic in his approach, rather than merely emphasizing harmony, he strikes a chord with his young readers. In addition to *Arashi no yoru ni* (*One Stormy Night* . . . , tr. 2003) and its sequels, his major titles include *Ningen gokko* (Playing People); *Inai inai bā asobi* (Peekaboo Game) and the *Akachan no asobi ehon* (Baby’s Play Books) series of which it is part; *Dō suru dō suru ana no naka* (How Can We Get Out of the Hole?); and a collection of nursery stories he himself selected, *Kimura Yūichi ohanashi no heya* (Yūichi Kimura’s Chamber of Tales).

Tsuga Takeuchi : Tsuga Takeuchi (1957–) was born in Nagano Prefecture. A graduate of the Woodblock Print Department of the Sōkei Academy of Fine Art & Design, he worked as an illustrator before becoming a children’s book author at age 39. His vibrant artwork and slightly comical stories have made him a favorite among young readers. Picture-book titles he has illustrated include *Erai erai!* (Bravo Bravo!), *Bukyabukya bū* (Oinky Boink Boink), *Guruguru Gurupon* (Gurupon, the Child Wizard), and *Henteko resutoran* (A Collection of Very Funny Restaurants).

A Family in Hiroshima – Their Vanished Dreams

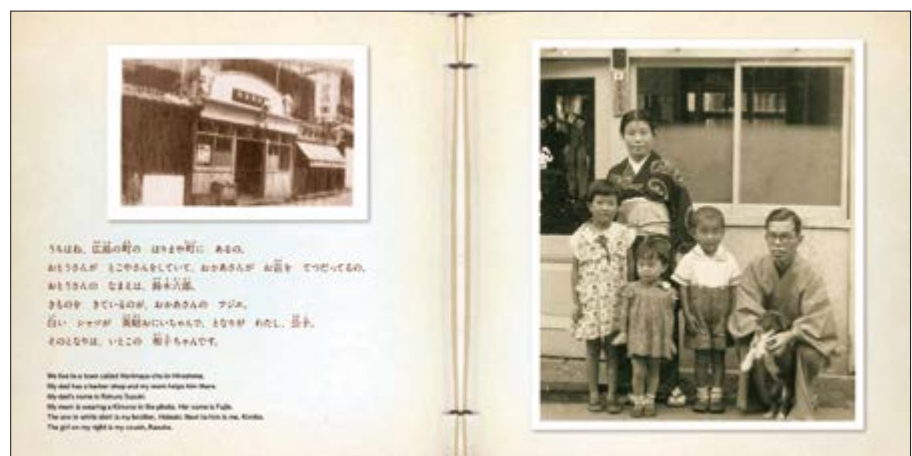
Kazu Sashida



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

★Written with both Japanese and English.

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

Differences Between Octopuses and Squid

Photos by **Ryo Minemizu** Text by **Natsumi Ikeda**
 Edited by **Chikatoshi Sugimoto**



Ages 5+
 221 x 286mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover with jacket
 ISBN 978-4-591-16350-4
 Pub month: July 2020

Keywords

Octopus, Squid, Marine life

This picture book with trendy photographs will help you become familiar with living creatures!

It's fun just looking, but reading properly is even more fun! This new photography picture book is packed with the latest knowledge about octopuses and squid, and helps readers to gain a scientific perspective.

On the same level as a book for adults, this book contains up-to-date knowledge about cephalopods, written in a way that is both fun and easy to understand. The dynamic and beautiful photos of living creatures by Ryo Minemizu, a photographer who works around the world and has won a National Geographic prize, and the comical, easy-to-understand, illustrations, make this book a page-turner for both adults and children!

Look carefully and compare!



The right answers and explanations



Ryo Minemizu : Ryo Minemizu was born in Osaka Prefecture in 1970. He is an underwater photographer who specializes in marine life, and the representative of the Ryo Minemizu Photo Office. In addition to still photography for children's books and specialist texts, he also films for television programs. He began diving when he was 20 years old, and has spent over 27,000 hours underwater to date. He won the 5th Nikkei National Geographic Photo Award (2016) Grand Prix. His works include *Pictorial book of the most beautiful squid and octopus in the world*, *Jewels in the night sea*, and *Tokimeku Kurage zukan*.

Natsumi Ikeda : Natsumi Ikeda was born in Saitama Prefecture in 1984. She is a freelance editor who loves living things. She has been involved in the editing of many animal and plant picture books and children's books. Her own works include *Minna Wakuwaku Suizokukan* [Excitement for Everyone, the Aquarium] and *Shiikuinsan Oshiete! Iruka no Himitsu* [Tell Me, Caretaker! The Secrets of Dolphins] (Shinnihon Shuppansha).

Chikatoshi Sugimoto : Chikatoshi Sugimoto was born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1983. He is a researcher at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University. He has been devoted to research about squid and octopuses for 15 years; he observes their behavior each day as he rears them in water tank, with the aim of clarifying the ways in which squid and octopuses are intelligent.

Nature & Science Picture Books with Photographs series



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 2020



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

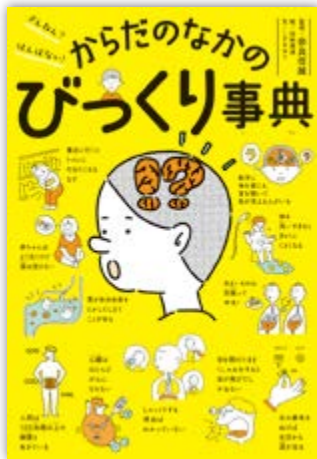


*English sample translation is available.

The Mind-Blowing, Shocking, Unbelievable Encyclopedia series

Supervised by **Nobuo Nara**

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



The Mind-Blowing, Shocking, Unbelievable Encyclopedia of the Human Body!

Ages 8+
 188 x 128 mm
 159 pages
 Softcover with jacket
 ISBN 978-4-591-16041-1
 Pub month: Dec. 2018
 Rights sold: Korean and simplified Chinese

★English sample translation is available.

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!



More! The Mind-Blowing, Shocking, Unbelievable Encyclopedia of the Human Body!



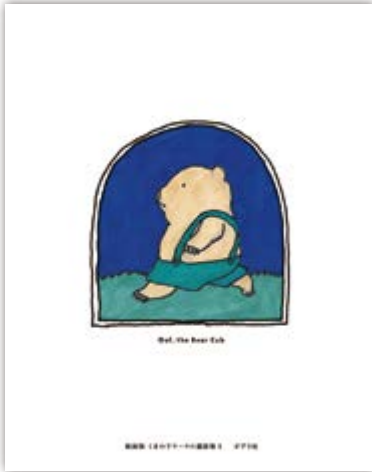
The Mind-Blowing, Shocking, Unbelievable Encyclopedia of the Human Brain!

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 jint aizukan* (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.

Oof, the Bear Cub series

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illust. by **Yosuke Inoue**



An enduring best-seller, beloved for over 50 years since their creation!

Since their publication in 1969, the stories of *Oof, the Bear Cub* have been read by lots of different people in many different forms: in books of stories for children, as picture books, as picture-card shows, and in textbooks. To celebrate the more-than 50 years since Oof was created, we are releasing anniversary editions of two series of books.

Oof, the Bear Cub

Oof the bear cub is always surprised at the world, and is always asking, “why?” This masterpiece of children’s literature offers vibrant depictions of the strange things in life and the joys of living, and has been loved and read again and again across generations.

In *Is Oof Made of Pee?*, Oof considers hens who lay eggs every day, and concludes with a bit of a swagger, “They’re made of eggs!” When Little Fox retorts, “In that case, since all you ever produce is pee, you must be made of pee!” they get into a fight. It gets Oof to thinking about what he could be made of. When Oof falls down and feels the pain, he cries and sheds tears, and when he rolls over the ground and enjoys it, he realizes; it’s Oof that do that, not pee.

In *Why Does This One Butterfly Make Oof Cry?*, Oof is oblivious when other insects die, but when a butterfly that wanders into his room dies, he breaks down in tears; the story is about the preciousness of life. *Is One Bear Worth a Hundred Mice?* makes readers think about how different kinds of living things can coexist. While young readers are entertained by the interactions between Oof and the other animals, parents are struck by how deep some of Oof’s questions go, giving the book an appeal across generations.



Vol.1 Oof, the Bear Cub

Ages 9+
191 x 153mm
137 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16818-9
Pub month: Nov. 2020
Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, and traditional Chinese



Vol.2 Hello, Oof!



Vol.3 Oof and His Friends



Vol.1 Why Don't Fish Have Tongues?

Ages 6+
 206mm x 170mm
 67 pages
 Hardcover with jacket
 ISBN 978-4-591-16821-9
 Pub month: Nov. 2020
 Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, and traditional Chinese

Stories of Oof the Bear Cub

This newly-published series sees 10 familiar works from the Oof, the Bear Cub Picture Book series recompiled, with two works in each volume, as nursery tales for children. Enjoy Yosuke Inoue's vivid pictures in full color. We recommend this series as works for children to read alone for the first time.



Vol.2 Congratulations, Mom!



Vol.3 Oof Rides a Red Sleigh



Vol.4 The Naked Sun



Vol.5 Oof Shines



Toshiko Kanzawa : Toshiko Kanzawa was born in Fukuoka Prefecture in 1924, and spent her early childhood in Hokkaido and Karafuto (Sakhalin). She graduated from Bunka Gakuin's Faculty of Literature, and actively participated at the forefront of a wide range of literature, including poetry, nursery songs, picture books, nursery tales, full-length works, and children's literature. In addition to the *Oof, the Bear Cub* children's tales and picture books (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.), she has created numerous other works that have also been read again and again over the generations, including *Chibikko Kamu no Boken* [The Adventures of Little Kamu] (Rironsha), *Usagi no Moko* [Moko the Rabbit] (Shinnihon Shuppansha), and *Furaipan Jiisan* [Frying-pan Grandfather](Akane Shobo). There are anthologies of her nursery tales: *The Toshiko Kanzawa Collection: Five Volumes* (Akane Shobo), and *Kanzawa Toshiko no Ohanashi no Jikan: Zen 5 Kan* [Toshiko Kanzawa Storytime: Five Volumes] (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.). She has been awarded many prizes, including the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize, the Shogakukan Award for Children's Publishing Culture, the Japanese Children's Songs Award, the Robo-no-Ishi Literary Award, the Iwaya Sazanami Literature Award, and the Mobil Children's Culture Award. She lives in Tokyo Prefecture.

Yosuke Inoue : Yosuke Inoue was born in Akasaka in Tokyo in 1931. He graduated from Musashino Art University's Department of Western Painting. He developed diverse creative activities, including manga, tableaux, set design, and picture books. His own picture books include *Around the Corner* (Fukuinkan Shoten) and *Wacky Rail Rides* (Billiken Shokai), and he worked on numerous children's books in addition to the *Oof, the Bear Cub series* (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.). His art books include *Mokuhan: Tokyo Hyaku Kaku Fu* (Kyoto Shoin), *Illustration NOW* (Rippu Shobo), *Inoue Yosuke DoKu Gashu 1931-2016*, and *Inoue Yosuke Ehon Gashu 1931-2016* (both published by Tamagawa University Press). He has won many prizes, including the Bungeishunju Manga Award, the Tokyo Illustrators' Club Award, the Shogakukan Award for Painting, the Japanese Picture Book Award Grand Prize, and the JBBY Award. He passed away in 2016.

Little Apple series

Text by **Eiko Kadono**

Illus. by **Kuniko Nagasaki**



Little Apple

Ages 6+

218 x 154 mm

63 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-07775-7

Pub month: Sept. 2003

Rights sold: simplified Chinese
and traditional Chinese

★English sample
translation is available.

One day Mai receives a present box from her grandma. The contents were a great number of apples and a handmade stuffed doll named Little Apple. But Little Apple has an angry look on her face, and Mai doesn't like her. When Mai's friend Haru comes over to play, though, Little Apple's scowl disappears and is replaced with a happy, smiling face. This angers Mai, and she shuts Little Apple up in a closet. When Mai gets up in the middle of the night and goes to check on her, she finds Little Apple chomping away at the apples Grandma had sent. Mai tries to stop her, but Little Apple starts making all sorts of demands. "If I don't do as she says, there'll be trouble," worries Mai. "If you don't treat me better, I'll put a curse on you," threatens Little Apple. Will Mai and this, the world's most self-centered doll, ever become friends? Defying readers' expectations at every turn, the story moves in unpredictable and entertaining ways toward its conclusion, in which Little Apple smiles a smile to end all smiles. The author further snares the attention of young readers with mildly horror-story-like episodes, a far cry from the cheery moralism of conventional tales about good little girls and boys. The underlying theme of this masterpiece of children's literature is how friendships are formed, as well as the diverse realities that make up a child's world, from imitative play to the pleasures of fantasy.



Little Apple's
Flower



Little Apple and
Mr. Curse



Little Apple Runs
Away

NEW

* * * * *

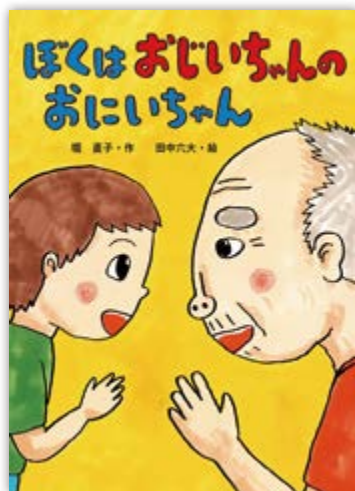
Eiko Kadono : Eiko Kadono (1935–) was born in Tokyo. She moved to Brazil for two years when she was 25, and wrote her maiden work, *Ruijinnyo shōnen, Burajiru o tazunete* (Brazil and My Friend Luizinho), a story about a boy who loves to dance the samba, based on her experiences there. Seven years after its release she began writing and publishing children's stories. Among the many accolades she has received are the Robō-no-Ishi Literary Award in 1984 for *Watashi no mama wa Shizuka-san* (My Mama is Shizuka) and *Zubon senchō-san no hanashi* (Tales of an Old Sea Captain). She won the Noma Prize for Children's Literature, the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award, and a place on the IBBY Honor List in 1985 for *Majo no takkyūbin* (tr. *Kiki's Delivery Service*), which was adapted into a wildly popular animated film by renowned director Hayao Miyazaki. She won the Hans Christian Andersen Author Award in 2018.

Kuniko Nagasaki : Kuniko Nagasaki (1970–) is a native of Tokyo. Since graduating from Tama Art University's Department of Textile Design she has worked as a freelance illustrator of magazines, books, and advertising. In addition to illustrating, she has published collections of her pictures, including *Nagasaki Kuniko no shishū no hon* (Kuniko Nagasaki's Embroidery Book) and *Daydream Nation*. She has also illustrated many picture books, among them *Panda no Ponpon* (Ponpon the Panda) and *Shōto torippu* (A Short Trip). She is known for her bold compositions and charming characters. Her style makes ample use of her design skills, and her work in various genres is highly regarded. Kuniko Nagasaki's MARBLE RAMBLE, a collection of manga versions of great literature, was chosen as a Jury Selection work in the Manga Division of the Japan Media Arts Festival.

My Grandpa Thinks I'm His Older Brother

Text by **Naoko Hori**

Illus. by **Rokudai Tanaka**



Ages 7+

216 x 155mm

63 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16625-3

Pub month: April 2020

Rights sold: Korean and traditional Chinese

Keywords

grandfather, grandmother, older person, family, nursing care, life, dementia, summer vacation, bonds, grandchild

From the day that he called me by the name of Mamoru, his big brother, I became an older brother to my grandpa.

This is the story of a summer in the life of a first-grade boy who earnestly accompanies his aging grandfather, despite being confused by how his grandfather has changed.

Synopsis

During the summer vacation, Kaito's grandpa comes to live with his family from a far-away town. But his grandpa calls Kaito "Mamoru," the name of his grandpa's older brother who died when he was seven years old.

Even though Kaito's grandpa has always been kind, he cries like a child, tries not to go in the bath, and causes trouble for his daughter, Kaito's mother, so Kaito is asked to look after him.

One day, after seeing the sparrows taking dust baths in the garden, Kaito and his grandpa bathe together, and have a fun time. Kaito's parents thank him for this. But his grandpa hates getting in the bath more and more, and starts failing to use the toilet. A decision is made: Kaito's grandpa will go to a facility for older people. Kaito is sad about this, but accepts the new circumstances, and his love for his grandpa, and their relationship, are strengthened.

Key selling points

- This childhood tale depicts a first-grade boy who is confused by the changes in his aging grandfather, but although he is shocked and resistant, as they spend their days together, he gradually accepts his grandfather as he is now, and earnestly accompanies him.
- The text is written from the perspective of the main character (the boy), and the pictures have been drawn with an easy touch, creating warm emotions that appeal to readers.

* * * * *
Naoko Hori : Naoko Hori was born in Gunma Prefecture, and graduated from the Literature Faculty of Showa Women's University. She won the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize for Newcomers for her debut work, *Oretachi no Habataki wo Kike* (Doshinsha Publishing Co., Ltd.), and the Sankei Children's Book Award for *Tsumujikaze no Maria* (Shogakukan Inc.). Her many works include *Tsunobue ga Hibiku* (Doshinsha Publishing Co., Ltd), the *Yurei Mama* series (Kaisei-sha Ltd.), the *Gin no Tategami* series, *Inu to Maho no Hito Sashiyubi!*, *Wanko no Happii Gohan Kenkyukai!* (all published by Akane Shobo), *Oka no Ue no Kasuteraya san*, *Haiku Gaaru*, (both published by Komine Shoten), and *Noichigo Keeki no Tanjobi* (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.).

Rokudai Tanaka : Rokudai Tanaka was born in 1980 in the Tokyo metropolitan area, and graduated from Tama Art University's Graduate School. He has created picture books such as *Densetsu no Ikimono wo Sagase! Nesshii*, *Tsuchinoko*, *Kappa wa Doko Da?*, *Udon Tai Ramen*, *Haapika Sennin* (all published by Kodansha), *Fushigina Eki* (Kotsu Shimbunsha), and *Oshikko Mora Sataa* (Akane Shobo), and has worked on the illustrations for children's books such as *Boku wa Nandemo Dekiru Mon*, *Omoshiritori* (both published by Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.), the *Nichiyobi* series (Kodansha), and the *Otono Sama* series (Kosei Publishing Co. Ltd.), as well as the manga *Kukkii Kan no Machimeguri* (Seirinkogeisha).

Ali-Baba's Cat Is Listening

Text by **Etsuko Shindo**

Illus. by **Miho Satake**



Ages 11+
206mm x 153mm
222 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16582-9
Pub month: Feb. 2020

Selected as a White Ravens 2020!

A moving fantasy about Shaykh, a kitten who can understand both humans and objects!

Hirakegoma is a store where folk crafts from around the world are gathered. After the storekeeper falls asleep, a glass and dolls from far-off countries tell their surprising life stories. Shaykh, a Persian cat who is being looked after at the shop, becomes one of their friends, and forms mysterious connections with the people and the objects...

Synopsis

Ali-Baba is a linguist from Iran who lives alone in Tokyo, and has recently taken in a Persian kitten named Shaykh. Sheik is a cat from a Philosopher's family said to bring good fortune in the bazaars in Iran, and can understand human speech.

One day, Ali-Baba goes on a trip overseas, and Shaykh is left in the care of his friend Ishizuka, who runs a folk craft store, for a week. Then, on the first night in Ishizuka's store, Shaykh finds that he can speak to the folk crafts.

A decorative band for a camel ridden by a bride from a nomadic people in Afghanistan (Himo-neesan), a blown glass made in the ancient city of Herāt in Afghanistan (Aoi-gurasu-kun), the lid of a beehive box used to keep bees in Iran (Tairu-baasan), animal dolls created by a teacher in a school in the Amazon in Peru (the Yanchas from the Amazon)—the folk crafts from far-off countries take it in turns to tell their surprising life stories each evening.

Then, Naghmeh, a girl from Iran, and Takeru, a Japanese-Peruvian boy come to the store...

Shaykh hears the stories of the folk crafts, full of ups and downs, and imagines the people of the far-off countries to whom the crafts are connected. You'll surely be touched by him as he tries to fulfil the wishes entrusted to him by the folk crafts in this unique fantasy.

From the White Ravens 2020 catalog

"The book's theme – recognizing vulnerable existences around us and respecting their cultures – is fleshed out with human characters like Shaykh's owner, who fled his country years ago, and immigrant children who come to the shop. The captivating illustrations of exotic goods will definitely spark young readers' imaginations."

The White Ravens 2020 © Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek

★English sample translation is available.

Ponko the Foal's Time in Ekashi's Forest

Text by **Taichi Kato**

Illus. by **Yayoi Ohno**



Ages 10+

194mm x 133mm

191 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16838-7

Pub month: Dec. 2020

Ponko is a foal that has escaped from a ranch and is living in a forest. She grows from a young filly to an adult as she spends her days with an old tree, Ekashi, and the strange stink bugs in this beautifully subtle tale.

Ponko is a Dosanko filly who was born on a ranch in Hokkaido. She hated the ranch and ran away, and is now living in the wild. This is Ponko's forest. She goes where she wants to, and walks as she wants to. Freedom is here. Her main conversational partner is the elderly tree, Ekashi. One day, she is walking along a grassy area, when strange "fluffy creatures" appear. Then...

Set in the wilds of Hokkaido, this story beautifully depicts the growth stages of Ponko, a Dosanko horse, from foal to filly, and then to adult. Readers of this generation will surely be touched by the unique way that she faces herself when she is a filly, knowing that she is becoming an adult, and really empathize with her.

This book also tells us about the way the Ainu people live from Ponko's perspective. In the summer 2020, Upopoy (National Ainu Museum and Park) opened in Shiraoi Town, Hokkaido, as a hub for the revival and development of Ainu culture. Now, when people are talking more seriously about the importance of respecting the dignity of Japan's indigenous people and creating a culture that overflows with diversity, we believe that a work in which readers can naturally come into contact with Ainu culture within the story will play an important role in children's reading experience.

This is a tale filled with wishes to pass on to the future, within a story overflowing with the sparkle of subtle sensitivity by Taichi Kato, who lives in Hokkaido and has led children's literature in Japan for many years.

Keywords

Puberty, Hokkaido, Ainu

* * * * *

Taichi Kato : Taichi Kato was born into a farming family in Takinoue Town, Mombetsu District, Hokkaido, in 1934. He now lives in Otaru City. After graduating from Hokkaido University, he became an employee of Sapporo City in 1958. He was responsible for the practical work involved in the establishment of Sapporo Art Park; following this, he left his job, aged 52. In 1987, he became a professor of Wakkanai Hokusei Junior College. After five years of employment here, he devoted himself to literary activity. He has worked on many titles set in Hokkaido. His main works include *Shiroi Epuron Shiroi Yagi* [*White Apron White Goat*] (Kaisei-sha Ltd.); *Fubuki da Hashire* [*It's a Blizzard, Run*] (Iwasaki Shoten); *Fubuki no Ie no Nonko* [*Nonko of Blizzard House*], for which he won the first Kita no Jido Bungakusho prize; *Sogen: Bokuto Kokkoushi no Daichi* (Akane Shobo), which won the 26th Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize; and *Tooku e Iku Kawa* [*The River that Flows Far Away*] (Kumon Publishing Co., Ltd.), which won the 22nd Akai Tori Literary Award.

Yayoi Ohno: Yayoi Ohno was born in Chiba Prefecture. She became familiar with plants from a young age under her grandfather, who loved gardening. After working at a landscaping company, she became active as a freelance illustrator and a landscaper. Her main picture books include *Joro-san* [*Mr. Watering Can*] (Kaisei-sha Ltd.), *Bonsai Ehon* [*A Bonsai Picture Book*] (Asunaro Shobo), *Kusaki to Mita Yume: Makino Tomitaro Monogatari* [*Plants and a Dream: The Story of Tomitaro Makino*] (Shuppan Works Inc.), and *Minna no Engeiten: Shunkashuto wo Tanoshimu Niwazukuri* [*A Gardening Shop for Everyone: Creating a Garden to Enjoy in All Four Seasons*] (Fukuinkan Shoten).

The Sky Colored Taxi series

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Takushi Kitada**



White Hat

Ages 8+

216 x 176 mm

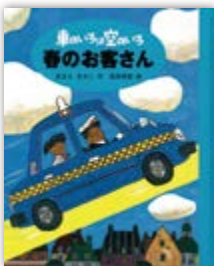
125 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-06442-9

Pub month: April 2000

Rights sold: simplified Chinese



Spring Passenger



Taxi in the Stars

Goro Matsui's taxi is sky blue, and he always keeps it clean and shiny. Numerous heartwarming stories about the mild-mannered driver and his sometimes rather unusual passengers have been collected in three volumes under the series title *The Sky Colored Taxi*. The present volume, *White Hat*, contains eight such tales.

The title story is about Matsui and a white butterfly. One day Matsui is driving along when he sees a small white hat on the side of the road. When he stops the car and picks it up, a white butterfly flies out from underneath. Imagining that the little boy to whom the hat must certainly belong will be disappointed at losing the butterfly he had caught, Matsui places a summer citrus from a box of fruit his mother had sent him under the hat. When he gets back into his car, he finds a little girl in the back seat who says she is lost. After learning that she wants to go to Blossom Lane, he begins driving in that direction, but then he realizes the girl has disappeared, and when he looks out the window he sees lots of white butterflies fluttering over a field in front of an apartment house.

In *Block 3 Sycamore Street*, Matsui picks up a woman who appears to be about 40. When he nears the address of the title, on a street he's never been on before, the woman asks him to wait while she goes into a small house. When she returns, she tells him that she had lived in that house until the end of World War II, and it was 22 years ago on this day that she lost her three-year-old twin sons in an air raid. Each time she thinks of them, she feels as if she has gone back in time to the age she was then. Matsui delivers the woman back to the train station, but the passenger who alights from the car is an elderly old lady.

Filled with warmth and evoking much nostalgia, these tales continue to win the hearts of succeeding generations of readers as they are passed down from parent to child.



★English sample translation is available.

* * * * *
Kimiko Aman : Kimiko Aman (1931–) received the Japan Association of Writers for Children New Talent Award in 1968 for *White Hat* and Special Award in Akaitori Award for Children's Literature in 2001 for *The Sky Colored Taxi* series. She has received numerous other awards, including the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for the picture book *Chii-chan and the Shadow Figures*.

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

The Klutzy Witch series

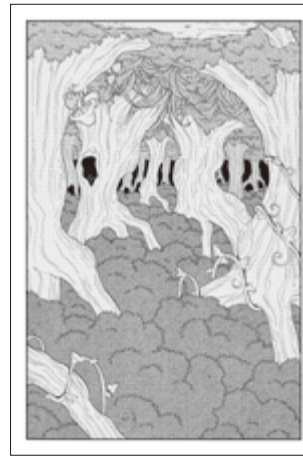
Text by **Satoko Narita**

Illus. by **Enaga Senno**



The Klutzy Witch is a Princess

Fuka, a little witch, is training to be a better witch like her mother, a queen of Silver Castle. She is a lively girl and cares about her friends, but she gets into trouble sometimes. Karin, a princess of Green Castle, is Fuka's best friend; and Chitose, a prince of Blue Castle, is her friend from childhood. Fuka goes to the Wood of Wolf to look for a tunnel with them, but they find a hole instead. This is an exciting story of adventure and friendship. It's the first in the series.



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



The Klutzy Witch and Dark Palace

Fuka hears that her mother had an accident at an ancient monument. A letter is delivered to Fuka. It reads "Don't worry," but different characters soon appear on the letter, saying "Don't get out of the castle." Fuka doesn't know what the letter really means. And then a mysterious figure, Kotori, comes and tells Fuka that she should go meet a person who knows a way to help her mother. It's the latest title in this popular series.

* * * * *

"The Klutzy Witch" series is Satoko Narita's debut work. It's sold more than 1.4 million copies so far.

Enaga Senno draws illustrations for children's books.

The Klutzy Witch series delivers exciting stories about adventure, first love, friendship and a family secret. Eighteen titles have been published, with sales totaling more than 1.4 million copies in Japan.



- The Witch of Devildom
- A Promise with the Prince
- A Sweet Party
- The Ghost Island
- The Princess of Water Country
- The Labyrinth of Treasure
- The Last Fort
- Going to the Woods After School
- The Ring of the Other World
- The Phantom of the Kingdom of Mirror
- The Circus of Devildom
- A Promise with a Fairy
- The Knight of Randall
- The Klutzy Witch's First Love
- The Mission for a Successful Date



The Klutzy Witch and Friends

This is the first collection of short stories in the series. Each story tells how Fuka met her friends for the first time.



Success or Failure? Amazing Legends of Science

Edited by Yoshihiro Iwahori



Ages 9+

172mm x 122mm

183 pages

Softcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16847-9

Pub month: Dec. 2020

A collection of 95 shocking, hilarious, and surprising legends that have gone down in science history!

Darwin played music to earthworms!?

The Nobel Prize was created because someone mistakenly published Nobel's obituary!?

This is a huge collection of ridiculous and surprising episodes from great scientists that have gone down in history! Behind the development of science were great people overflowing with humanity, and looking at this side of things will surely pique your interest in science!?

<The scientists mentioned>

Einstein, Edison, Steve Jobs, Darwin, Hideyo Noguchi, the Wright brothers, Nightingale, Marie Curie, Katherine Johnson, and more

<Contents>

Chapter 1: Careless! Surprise! Great inventions were born this way!

Chapter 2: There's no way! New discoveries from strange things

Chapter 3: Involuntary tears! Tragedies and deep emotion in science history

Chapter 4: So sick! Biographies of eccentrics and oddballs

Chapter 5: Seriously! Behind-the-scenes science stories

Keywords

Science, Great people, History, Einstein, Hideyo Noguchi, Katherine Johnson, the Wright Brothers, Darwin, Nightingale, Marie Curie



* * * * *
Yoshihiro Iwahori: Yoshihiro Iwahori is a visiting professor at Nihon Pharmaceutical University, a pharmacist, and a Doctor of Pharmacy. He is representative director of the NPO OFFICE SHI-YOU, and the CEO of LLC Okutoeru. After graduating from a doctoral course at Meiji Pharmaceutical University's Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, he has worked for the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, hospitals, and dispensing pharmacies as a pharmacist, as well as being involved in the management and business administration of a variety of medical and educational institutions. He has authored numerous works: not only medical books but also business and educational books.

Pank Animal Notes: The Strongest of Africa's Beasts

Text by **Pank Machida**

Illus. by **Seiji Takezoe**



Ages 9+
207mm x 153mm
175 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16839-4
Pub month: Dec. 2020

Keywords

Animals, Pank Machida,
Ecology, Africa, Lion,
Elephants, Hogs, Giraffes,
Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus

These essays by animal researcher Pank Machida are aimed at children, and have been collated with plenty of color illustrations. This is a fun-to-read volume that will also really satisfy animal lovers.

- Pank Machida is an animal researcher who knows about the ecology of all kinds of living creatures, from bugs to wild animals.
- This book offers explanations about the overlooked ecology of the strongest animals that live in Africa (which are very popular) through witty story telling!
- Readers who are animal lovers (even adults) can be satisfied by its authentic content!
- Enjoy reading this book packed with full-color illustrations on every page!
- This book covers six types of animal: elephant/hippopotamus/rhinoceros/hog/lion/giraffe.

<What kind of content does it have? (extract)>

- What is an elephant's "sixth digit"?
 - Why can elephants sense a tsunami?
 - What do a hippopotamus and a capybara have in common?
 - Why do Sumatran rhinoceros have body hair?
 - Which three animals should you take along when slaying demons?
 - How do you calm a fierce wild giant forest hog?
 - Why do male lions kill lion cubs?
 - How do people transport giraffes that have been imported from overseas to zoos?
- etc.



Pank Machida: Real name: Hidefumi Machida. He was born in 1968 in Tokyo. He is the representative of ULTIMATE ANIMAL CITY, the chair of the Behavioral Evolution Ecology Research Center (an NPO), and the head of the Asia Bio Health Research Center. He is an animal expert and animal author who can handle all sorts of living creatures, from bugs to reptiles, birds, and wild beasts. He has prior experience raising and treating more than 3,000 species, and is focused on researching animal ecology and abilities, as well as ways that humans and animals co-exist. He is also concentrating his efforts on the fields of nature conservation and medical treatments for animals.

Seiji Takezoe: Seiji Takezoe was born in Aira City in Kagoshima Prefecture in 1981. His main field of work is Kagoshima Prefecture, including its outlying islands. After completing his course at the Graduate School of Engineering, Hiroshima University, he worked as an engineer and a staff member at an NPO before becoming a freelance illustrator. He is engaged in creation in a wide range of fields, including magazines, company newsletters, PR, websites, product packaging, and posters, and also regularly carries out event displays and exhibits. His hobbies are cycling and watching sunsets.

Remembering the Taste of Home in a Faraway Land – Living in Japan as a “Refugee”

Text by Natsuki Yasuda, Photos by Natsuki Yasuda

Collaboration from the NPO The Japan Association for Refugees



Ages 11+
195 x 135mm
231 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16420-4
Pub month: Nov. 2019

This non-fiction book looks at the journeys taken by “refugees” living in Japan through the cooking of their home countries.

Are so-called “refugees” special people who exist a world away? No, they’re not. Each of them is a person with a home country, a family, and their own life, just like anyone else around the world.

This book doesn’t use statistics or common opinion to talk about “refugees” as one big group—it looks at the stories of each of their lives. By doing so, it understands “refugees” as “our neighbors,” and thinks about understanding refugee issues and encouraging discussions about a society in which we all co-exist.

Contents

- Chapter 1. Syria: The scent of calm “normality”
- Chapter 2. Myanmar: Carrying smiles from the kitchen
- Chapter 3. The Rohingya people: Working towards a bridge between the Rohingya people and Japan
- Chapter 4. Nepal: Escaping from torture and coming to Japan
- Chapter 5. Bangladesh: Dreaming of reuniting with family
- Chapter 6. Cameroon: Mother and daughter torn apart
- Chapter 7. Cambodia: A taste that survived civil war

Keywords

refugees, human rights, war, conflict, natural disaster

Natsuki Yasuda : Natsuki Yasuda was born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1987. She is a photojournalist associated with *Dialogue for People*. When she was 16 years old, she covered children in poverty in Cambodia as a friendship reporter for Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (Children without Borders). She now promotes coverage of refugees, the poor, and disasters in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and within Japan. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, she has continued to document the disaster area, mainly Rikuzentakata City. Her works include *And still, to the sea - life in Rikuzentakata* (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.) and *Communicating with photographs –face to face with children around the world* (Nihon Shashin Kikaku). She is a graduate of Sophia University. She currently appears on TBS Television’s *Sunday Morning* as a commentator.

The Little Birds Downstairs

Sumiko Yatsuka



Ages 11+
195 x 127mm
207 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16724-3
Pub month: Aug. 2020

A 14-year-old girl finds a little girl in a room where she shouldn't be...
A powerful, wholeheartedly written work showing the problem of "lost children" from the perspective of a middle school girl!

Mizuki's father is dead, and she lives in a two-person household with her mother. She is in her third year of middle school, dedicating her youth to volleyball. Although she is worried that she has no relatives other than her mother, she is surrounded by her club teammates and Airi, who lives in the same apartment block, and so she spends each day happily as a middle school student.

One day, Piiko, her pet parakeet, escapes, and Mizuki finds him caught by the window in the room downstairs where Mr. Shibata, an old man, lives alone. When she calls for him to help her, she feels the presence of a little girl who shouldn't be there...

Message from the Author

The distance between people is something very difficult.
It's difficult, but I want the courage to step into it.
When I was writing this book,
I felt that I was always searching for that courage inside myself.
And I wished to see the light spreading in front of me.

Keywords

Sumiko Yatsuka, Yukihiro Nakamura, Akane Sakagawa, Kisetsufu, youth, lost children, social awareness, mother-child household, volleyball, YA, middle school student, older elementary school student, fifth year of elementary school, sixth year of elementary school

* * * * *
Sumiko Yatsuka : Sumiko Yatsuka was born on Innoshima Island in Hiroshima Prefecture. She won the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize for *Seishun Koro Fenikkusumaruru* (Bunkeido) and the Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature for *Watashi no, Suki na Hito* (Kodansha). *Ashita no Hikoki Gumo* (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.) was selected for the International Youth Library's catalogue, The White Ravens 2017. Her numerous other works include *Ashita ni Tsuzuku Rizumu* and *Oretachi no Asu ni Mukatte* (both published by Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.), *Inochi no Pareedo* (Kodansha), and *Bokura no Yama no Gakko* (the PHP Institute). Her non-fiction works include *Chiisana Chiisana Bebi Fuku* (Shinnihon Shuppansha). She is a member of the Japan Juvenile Writers Association. She also wrote *Kisetsufu* and *Matsubokkuri*.

A Contrarian Japanese Prince and a Black Cat from Tang China

Senshu Watanabe



Ages 11+
194 x 135mm
302 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-16492-1
Pub month: Jan. 2020

Keywords

Emperor Uda, Kanpyo Gyoki, Minamoto no Sadami, black cat, Sugawara no Michizane, Records of the Three Kingdoms, Xiang Yu, tsundere, Yoko Tanji

This is a thrilling story set in the Heian period (794–1185), about a black cat from Tang China that understands human speech and Sadami, the seventh child of Emperor Koko, who insists that he doesn't like cats!

Synopsis

In 884, a black cat that understands human speech lives in Suzhou in Tang China. He is the king of the cats in Suzhou, and aims to spend his whole life lazing around. One day, he is captured by a merchant and taken to Japan, where he ends up in the care of the seventh child of Emperor Koko, Sadami. “I don’t like cats. I’m only taking care of it because my father told me to, so I have no choice,” says Sadami. Days of strange happenings begin for the black cat from China, who sometimes dreams of being chased down and surrounded by enemies on all sides.

He may be a cat that aims to laze around, but on the voyage to Japan a sailor who tried to help him died after being thrown into the sea, and so he decides that he will live out his life after helping someone. In the end, when danger visits Sadami, who is now enthroned as emperor, the cat remembers this decision and moves to help him...

Reading Notes

Sadami = Emperor Uda was Japan’s oldest cat blogger!

Emperor Uda (867–931) was a real historical person. His father, Emperor Koko, had given up his title and become a commoner, but after Koko’s death Uda was reinstated as royalty and enthroned. In Emperor Uda’s diary, the Kanpyo Gyoki, he writes endless praise for the black cat he was given by his father, excusing himself by saying “because I received it from the late emperor I simply have to take care of it”—the diary is famous as the cat diary of the “tsundere”* emperor. This book is written from the perspective of a black cat brought to Japan from Tang China, and depicts the cat and Emperor Uda. Enjoy the uniqueness of the cat’s perspective and a story of characters with human kindness.

*Tsundere: A person who can be aloof and cold but also has a softer side

* * * * *

Senshu Watanabe : Senshu Watanabe was born in Tokyo in 1975, but lived in Beijing when he was in elementary and middle school. He attended the Graduate School of Engineering at Doshisha University, before entering Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Engineering, which he left having passed the course but not his thesis. His works include *Pekin Wanpaku Monogatari*, *Bungaku Shonen to Unmei no Sho*, *Sankogushi Bakuchi Den*, and the *Homakitan* series; he has edited/translated works including *The Investiture of the Gods*, *Records of the Three Kingdoms*, *The Legend of the White Snake*, *Journey to the West*, and *Ukihashi no Soba no Tanmu* [Tang Mu beside the Floating Bridge].

Artificial Soul

Text by **Madoka Sato**

Illus. by **Kenji Urata**



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.

Ages 12+

195×127 mm

175 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16205-7

Pub month: Feb. 2019



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>

Love All; Play series

Asami Koseki



Vol. 1 : Love All; Play

Ages 13+
148mm x 105mm
346 pages
Softcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-12268-6
Pub month: April 2011

Keywords

Love All; Play, Badminton, Ryo Mizushima, Full of individuality, Teammates, Growing up, Vibrant youth, High school student, Team play, Youth, Sports

A novel about youth badminton that depicts incredibly genuine male high school students as they push straight ahead!

<Content>

Ryo Mizushima started badminton after a strange event during his time in middle school. He accepts an offer to move up to the specialist Yokohama Minato High School, where he finds teammates who are full of individuality, including an upper classman who is an ace player, good-looking and excels at both academia and sports, a pair of twins who are invincible at doubles, and a cool boy who has returned from overseas. Mizushima has gained irreplaceable friends, and challenges ever-higher heights!



Vol. 2 : Love All; Play
– The Place Where the
Wind is Born



Vol. 3 : Love All; Play
– Become the Wind
that Leads You to Your
Dreams



Vol. 4 : Love All; Play
– You're Shining!

* * * * *
Asami Koseki : Asami Koseki is from Kyoto Prefecture, and graduated from Nara Women's University. She currently lives in Kanagawa Prefecture and works in a bookstore. Her debut work was *Nando demo Kimi ni Atataikai Kokoa wo* [I'll Make You Hot Cocoa However Many Times] (Poplar Publishing Co., Ltd.). Her second work, *Love All; Play*, attracted attention. She has also released *Dearapisu* (Tokyo Sogensha).

I'm Conscious of Your Existence

Arie Nashiya



Selected as a White Ravens 2020!

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.

★English sample translation is available.

[From the White Ravens 2020 catalog](#)

“Based on the belief that all people have the right to be respected for their personality and individuality, this novel encourages young people to appreciate who they are and who others are.”

The White Ravens 2020 © Stiftung Internationale Jugendbibliothek

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

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Arie Nashiya : 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 *Deribarui 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.

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