



POPLAR
PUBLISHING



Foreign Rights Catalog 2023

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.

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Contents

Children's Fiction.....	2
Baby Books.....	4
Picture Book.....	6
Children's Fiction.....	20
YA	32
Science / Children's Non-fiction.....	35
Shinsuke Yoshitake	39

The Sky Colored Taxi series

Text by **Kimiko Aman**

Illus. by **Ken Kuroi**



Ages 8+

191 x 153 mm

126 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17555-2

Pub month: Nov. 2022

Rights sold: simplified Chinese

★English synopsis and sample translation are available.

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 four 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 sent by his mother living in his hometown 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.

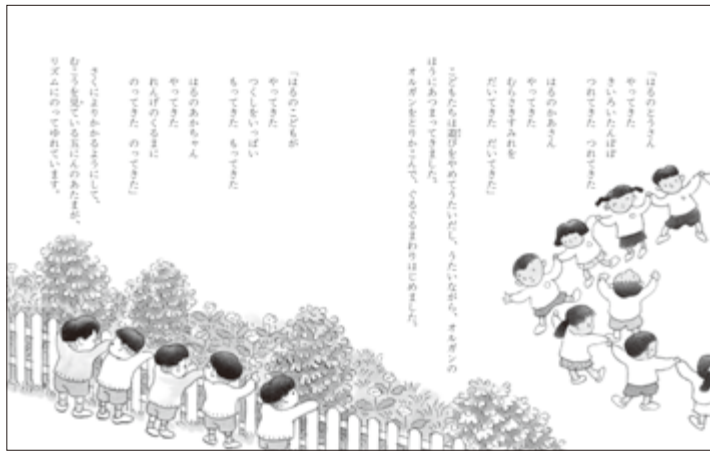
In *Block 3 Sycamore Street*, Matsui picks up a woman who appears to be about 40. When he nears the address of the title, on a street he's never been on before, the woman asks him to wait while she goes into a small house. When she returns, she tells him that she had lived in that house until the end 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.





Spring Passenger



Taxi in the Stars



It Can be a Dream



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*.

Ken Kuroi : Ken Kuroi (1947–) was born in Niigata Prefecture and graduated from the Niigata University Faculty of Education with a degree in art. He worked as a children’s book editor with a major publisher before turning freelance as an illustrator. In 1983 he was awarded the Sanrio Art Prize for a series of illustrations he produced for the magazine *Shi to meruhen* (Poems and Märchen).

www.kenoffice.jp/index.html

Pop!

Asako Mori



Ages 0+
177 x 176 mm
24 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-15487-8
Pub month: July 2017
Rights sold: simplified Chinese

★English sample translation is available.



NEW



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

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

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



Swirl

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

★English sample translation is available.

Here I Come!

I’ll roar! I’ll fly! I’ll give you a fright!

An entertaining picture book where a wide of variety characters including a dinosaur, an owl and a ghost, warn you “here I come” just before they jump out and surprise you. A very fun book to read, with an ending perfect for children who want to be mischievous.

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

Matching Card series

Kimika Warabe



Age 1+

85 × 113mm

Case, Cards x32,

Instruction sheet

ISBN 978-4-591-17511-8

Pub month: October 2022

Keywords

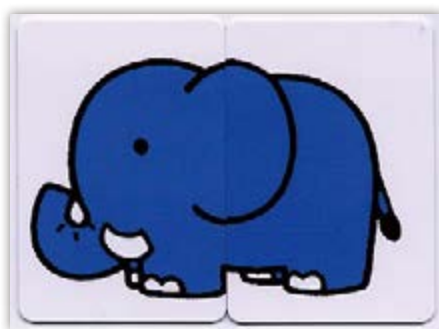
Names of objects, shapes, colors, cards, picture-matching, mental training.

Over 850 thousand copies sold for this series!

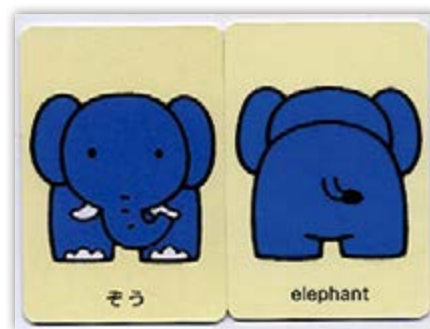
Animal Pictures Matching Cards

A big hit both at kindergarten and at home. This is the Animal Pictures edition of the Matching Card Series.

Arrange the pair of cards just right, to create 16 different animals. The reverse side has the front and back views of each animal, providing another fun way to play. The thick cards are easy for toddlers to hold and manufactured to be strong and difficult to rip. Contains 32 cards in total.



Front



Back



Vehicle Matching Cards

A matching pair card set. The reverse of the cards show the front and back view of each vehicle, for another fun way to play. You can learn the names for 16 types of vehicles. Ideal as a first card game, with 32 cards in total.

Other Cards



Insect Pictures Matching Cards



Sea Creature Pictures Matching Cards



Fruit and Vegetables Picture Matching Cards

Kimika Warabe: Born in Amakusa city, Kumamoto prefecture, Kimika Warabe drew illustrations throughout his time studying at Chuo University, and became a freelance illustrator after graduation. Alongside publishing several picture books on the theme of children's mental training, he provided several kindergarten educational works. He has also produced several types of goods for smaller children, including towels and tableware.

Wait! Wait!

Hitomi Kondo



Ages 3+

146 × 296mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17349-7

Pub month: April 2022

Keywords

Tom's Box, Akifumi Doi, Atosaki Juku, Picture books without words, Design, Art, Kaori Nakajima, Musashino Art University

Whoosh!
Off sailed the hat on the wind.
Wait for me!
If I chase the hat,
where will I end up?

Content

Where can she go to while chasing her hat which was blown away by the wind?

A gentle, endearing vignette of everyday life, drawn from a child's perspective. The minimalist use of words in fact provides rich insight to the little girl's feelings.

Full of delights from the main character to everyone around her, this story is packed with the fascination of reading picture books that kids will want to experience over and over!

★English sample translation is available.



Hitomi Kondo: Born in 1988. From Saitama Prefecture, lives in Kagawa Prefecture. Graduated from the Department of Scenography, Display and Fashion Design, Musashino Art University. Worked as a character merchandise designer, and learned about picture books at the "Atosaki Juku" picture book workshop. This is her debut book.

Why Mr. Young Became an Orchestra Conductor

Text by **Yoshio Nakae**

Illus. by **Toshihiko Koike**



Ages 3+

231 × 186mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17368-8

Pub month: April 2022

Beautiful music and a gentle spirit...
both began from a tiny encounter.

Content

Mr. Young, the main character, is a famous orchestra conductor. The concerts he leads always draw huge audiences. One day, a journalist from the newspaper asked him “Mr. Young, why did you become a conductor?” He thought back to why he began his musical journey...

This is a story about the power of music and gratitude for everyone around who has helped you.



Keywords

Music, conductor, orchestra, picture book, emotion, repaying kindness, old ladies, precious, compassion, gifts, presents, spirit, The Mouse's Vest, Noriko Ueno, piano, Chopin, musical competition

★English sample translation is available.

Testimonial

This wonderful picture book reaches out to us, showing what is precious as musicians, and indeed in life.

As I read it, I was suddenly whisked back to memories of my childhood. It reminded me so much of why I began my musical journey.

(Kyohei Sorita, received second prize at the XVIII International Chopin Piano Competition)

Yoshio Nakae: Born in Kobe in 1940. Graduated from the School of Fine Arts, Nihon University College of Art. After working as an advertising designer, he is now dedicated to creative projects. His major works include “The Mouse’s Vest” (illustrated by Noriko Ueno) (winner of the Picture Book category of the Kodansha Publishing Cultural Prize, Ministry of Health and Welfare Children’s Welfare Cultural Promotion Prize) and subsequent series, as well as Mischievous Rara (illustrated by Noriko Ueno) (Japan Picture Book Award).

Mr. Good Good Good Man

Taro Oono



Ages 3+

193 × 268mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17373-2

Pub month: May 2022

Keywords

Self-affirmation, affirming others, nonsense, happy attitude, surrealism

Drawn by a popular creator with over 80,000 followers on Twitter!
A mysterious man who brings good vibes to himself and everyone around him!

Where are they? Where could they be?
Where are the people who need help?
If they get his help, they are happy.
The good that Mr. Good does is a special kind of good.

Content

A mysterious gentleman, Mr. Good, works at doing good in the world. Whenever someone has a problem, whoever it might be, such as children who are fighting, little girls who are lost, elderly people who lost their wallets, or children who can't play on the playground, he pats his head and mumbles the magic words "Good good goody, good good good"... and then... what on earth just happened? An incredible solution just appeared!

Mr. Good pumps out good vibes to boost the self-esteem of everyone around him. Dive into his happy, off-beat, make-believe world, and bathe in the good energy!

★English sample translation is available.



Taro Oono: Illustrator and GIF creator. From Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, father of two. The "Pin the diaper on the baby" and "Baby which grows one day per like" GIF games launched on Twitter have generated huge buzz and popularity. His images feature a peaceful outlook drawn with a gentle appearance.

Transforming Animals

Shimizu



Age 3+

206 × 206 mm

48 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17450-0

Pub month: August 2022

Rights sold: Korean and simplified Chinese

What will the animals act out next?

★Gained the #1 spot in the Amazon Hot New Releases Ranking!
(July 7 2022, Hot New Releases in Children's Picture Books)

Content

It's time for a imitation party with entertaining animals!

These animals love to copy things! They work together as a team, attaching and detaching themselves to act things out!

The rabbit and the frog turned into a carrot! The bear and the snake turned into pancakes! What on earth could be next?

The surprises don't stop in this imaginative picture book from an author popular on social media.

★English sample translation is available.

Keywords

Big brother, little brother, big sister, little sister, losing out, discovery, exploration, finding yourself, birthdays, daifuku (rice cake), care for people, mother, looking for something, family, patience, discontent, unfairness



Shimizu: An illustrator and picture book author, born in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan. Shimizu produces unique illustrations in wide range of fields including for advertisement design and product development.

Twitter: @shiroiinu432

Tyrannosaurus series

Tatsuya Miyanishi



Ages 3+

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), Korean, Polish, simplified Chinese, Spanish (Spain), Thai, traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese

**In 6 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 tyrannosaur on land, and everyone hates him. One day, a cliff falls apart, and the tyrannosaur falls down into the ocean. An elasmosaurus, who lives in the ocean, helps him, and the tyrannosaur says “thank you” for the first time in his life. They become friends, and the elasmosaurus thinks the tyrannosaur is very kind. When the elasmosaurus asks if the tyrannosaur 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 39 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: Italian, Korean,
Romanian, simplified Chinese,
Spanish, traditional Chinese,
and Vietnamese

★English sample translation is available.

★45th anniversary in 2019!



**In 7 languages,
22 m copies sold!**

Latest Volumes



Vol. 34
Little Mouse and
Naughty Bim



Vol. 35
Little Mouse's
Sports Festival



Vol. 36
Detective Little
Mouse



Vol. 37
Little Mouse's
PiPi Picnic



Vol. 38
Little Mouse Is a
Photographer



Vol. 39
Little Mouse,
Who Is It?

NEW

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. Nakae received the Children's Culture Achievement Award in 2020.

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 22 million copies worldwide.

★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. 32



Vol. 33

- 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!
- Vol. 32 The Really Little Mouse
- Vol. 33 Little Mouse and Monster

A Year in the Life of Nekomata Cat Spirits

Ayako Ishiguro



Age 3+
263 × 216 mm
36 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17184-4
Pub month: December 2021

“Nekomata,” are Japanese cat spirits that are said to live for hundreds of years. This is the story of a Nekomata family!

The year starts in February for Nekomata, who are similar to humans but also quite different. This book follows one year in the life of a family of Nekomata cat spirits, and their quintuplet kittens.

These five kittens were born just this year, and the story unfolds as they grow up. On February 22nd they celebrate “Cat’s Day” with a grand parade. In October they blend in with the other spirits for Meowloween. In November they celebrate Beaujolais Meowveau Day, and then in December they eat chicken with eyeballs for Christmeows. An elaborate two-page spread illustrates each month of the delightful Nekomata year, which is similar to that of humans, but also quite different! Many Japanese seasonal activities and foods are featured, as well as some peculiar things unique to Nekomata!

The whole family can search the pictures for details, while looking at the detailed corner-to-corner artwork, and learn the names of the Nekomata events. Whether a child or an adult, once you start reading this, you won’t be able to stop! An immersive picture book, where you can enjoy stepping into the Nekomata world all year round.

Featuring a Nekomata Birthday picture search at the end of the book.

Keywords

Seasons, calendar, events, spirits, cats, everyday life picture boo, Nekomata

★English sample translation is available.



Ayako Ishiguro: Ayako Ishiguro was born in Chiba Prefecture in 1973. She is an artist who enjoys drawing fairies, made-up creatures, and animals. 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.

The Birds That Visit My Yard

Eriko Ishikawa



Ages 5+

276 × 217mm

33 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17382-4

Pub month: June 2022

Mum and me have gone to live at grandpa's place, where he was living alone. Bit by bit, our emotions come closer, and we become a family.

Content

The main character and his mother have to move in with his grandfather, who was living alone. He does not know the town or the house, and is not close to his grandfather. His grandfather said "you'll get used to it soon," but he did not respond.

One day, he came home from school to find his grandfather up a tree in the yard making something. He said he was making a bird feeder. He could hear the birds up in the sky, but never see them. "I wonder if they'll really come..." Then they waited patiently for the birds to not scare them off, because wherever they are, the birds should be watching the yard. As time slowly passed, the birds started coming, and before long, the boy and his grandfather were growing closer emotionally.

A story about family which is full of kindness.

★English sample translation is available.

Keywords

Family, changing schools, grandfather, wild birds



Eriko Ishikawa: Born in Fukuoka Prefecture. Her main works include "When We Played on the Slag Heap," (Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, winner of the Picture Book category of the 46th Kodansha Publishing Cultural Prize), "Make a Sweet Kaki From an Astringent Kaki" (Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, recipient of the FY 2019 Special Prize for Cultural Materials (publications) of Child Welfare Recommended by Social Security Council of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare as well as the Recommended Work Prize in the 2020 Children's Welfare Cultural Awards), "Garden of Wonder" (text by Rie Muranaka, KAISEI-SHA Publishing, recipient of the 35th Joji Tsubota Literary Award), "The Rabbit and The Hedgehog: Another Good Day" (text by Masakazu Hara, published by hidamarisha, recipient of the 5th Book House Café Grand Prize), "Kokun" (created by Rie Muranaka, Doshinsha Publishing, recipient of the Barrier Free Books Division of the 7th JBBY Award), and many others.

Picture Guide to the Undone Chore Ghouls Living in Your House

Text by **Yu Kozaki and Takahisa Yano**

Illus. by **Akira Nishitake**



Age 5+

262 × 210 mm

64 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17445-6

Pub month: July 2021

Keywords

Ghouls, Chores, Independent research, Field Guide, Family

There are ghouls who appear when you don't finish your household chores! These ghouls mainly make their home in the houses where people live. There are most likely some in your house too!

Content:

The clothes left lying around, the messy dining table, the unreplaced empty roll of toilet paper... These small nameless household chores appear as ghouls! We will introduce them through this field guide.

A book for the whole family to enjoy while thinking more about these nameless chores.

★English sample translation is available.



Akira Nishitake: An artist and experimental manga comic artist, whose works cross several genres including paintings, manga, calligraphy, ceramics and AR, expanding both in Japan and overseas. Chairman of the manga group CHOJIN CLUB.

Yu Kozaki: Children's book writer, author. Widely published author of study mangas for children and adults, and magazine and book editor.

Takahisa Yano: Creative Director and Copy Writer for an advertising agency. Has worked with various projects including content creation and solutions to societal issues.



Journey Through Sadness

Kumiko Kondo



Ages 5+

263 x 215mm

32 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16943-8

Pub month: Feb. 2021

Rights sold: Korean and simplified Chinese

Selected as a White Ravens 2022!

Even if when a life ends, we can continue living with that precious spirit if we remember. Hope awaits in an adventure in rich nature full of kindness and sadness.

<Content>

“Candy died today.”

Journey Through Sadness is an extraordinary story starts off with a startling line, but as you read, surprise becomes a gentle line of comfort and understanding that envelopes the reader.

The young protagonist of the story explores inside their own “heart of sadness” to discover that their beloved dog Candy is always nearby, safe in their cherished memories. *Journey Through Sadness* is filled with hope for tomorrow based on understanding and living with sadness.

Simply gazing upon the vibrant illustrations of the forest and beyond calm the heart with gentle grace. An additional discover awaits readers who turn the book upside down. A compassionate voice whispers, “You and Candy are always alive, together.”

A heartfelt storybook that can bring comfort and understanding to readers of all ages, from children to adults.

★English sample translation is available.



Kumiko Kondo: Born in Osaka, now living in Shiga prefecture. She is a children’s book author and illustrator who loves reptiles, insects, monsters, and ghosts. Her lively, humorous illustrations can be enjoyed in a wide range of published works.

My Hat

Yoko Sano



Ages 5+
 224 x 251 mm
 32 pages
 Hardcover with jacket
 ISBN 978-4-591-17418-0
 Pub month: June 2022
 Rights sold: Korean

★English sample translation is available.

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

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

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

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

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



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

Night Boat

Text by **Haruo Yamashita**

Illus. by **Ken Kuroi**



Ages 6+

287 x 217 mm

38 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-12426-0

Pub month: April 2011

Rights sold: simplified Chinese

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

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

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

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

★English sample translation is available.

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

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

Oof, the Bear Cub series

Text by **Toshiko Kanzawa**

Illust. by **Yosuke Inoue / Gen Hirose**

NEW



Illus. by Gen Hirose

Ages 3+

271 × 211 mm

25 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17513-2

Pub month: Oct. 2022

Oof the Bear Cub's Treasure

Acorn, roly-poly drop

One more, roly-poly plop

Oof the Bear Cub has found something great in the autumn mountains again. He made sure to put it in his pocket. But plop, out his treasure falls right from the hole in his pocket, into a mouse's bag! "It's all right. I'll just find something better" says Oof as he keeps on walking. This time he finds something small, red, round and flat, that is very pretty!

Oof, the Bear Cub's treasure is an original work which was published via magazine in 1968, but not included in the "Oof, the Bear Cub" anthology.



Vol.1 Oof, the Bear Cub
Illus. by Yosuke Inoue

Ages 9+

191 × 153mm

137 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16818-9

Pub month: Nov. 2020

Rights sold: Korean, simplified Chinese, and traditional Chinese

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.

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.2 Hello, Oof!



Vol.3 Oof and His Friends

★English sample translation is available.



Vol.1 Why Don't Fish Have Tongues?
 Illus. by Yosuke Inoue

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. 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, tableaus, set design, and picture books. 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.

Gen Hirose: Born in Tokyo in 1968. Known for his expressive work with its relaxed linework and unique use of color. Gen Hirose currently lives in Tokyo and works with illustrations and picture books.

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

Rights sold: Korean

NEW



Ages 11+

194 x 134mm

239 pages

Hardcover with jacket

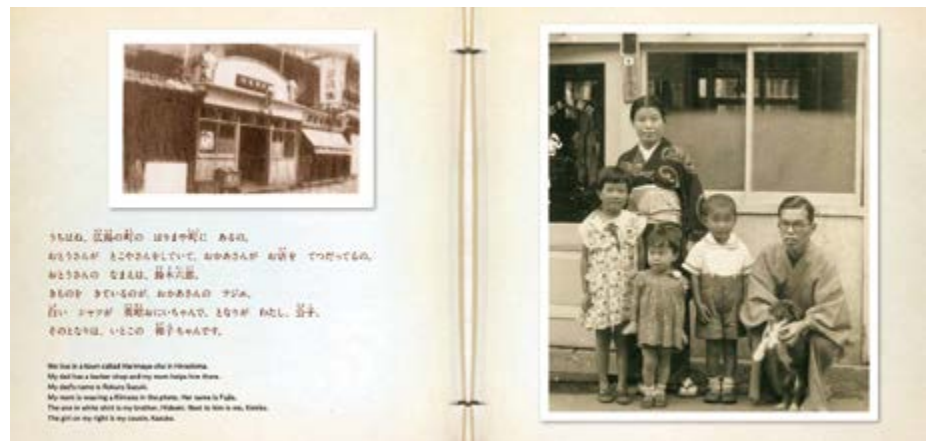
ISBN 978-4-591-17395-4

Pub month: July 2022

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.

★Both Japanese and English written.



Tracing the Paths in Hiroshima

A non-fiction work that traces the path of author, Kazu Sashida, from the production of her picture book, “A Family in Hiroshima – Their Vanished Dreams.” published in July 2019 and chosen as assigned reading by the Japan Association of School Libraries, to the reaction to its release and how it will link to Sashida’s work in the future.

The family lost in the war, the family that survived, and those living today...

Through the family photos of Rokuro Suzuki, who died by the atomic bomb in the war, this book contemplates the importance of “family, life, war, and peace.

Keywords

HIROSHIMA, peace, war, atomic bomb, life, Family, photograph, future

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.

Kuroro Space Explorers

(1) The Warawara Village and the Shining Jewel

Rihito Uchu



Ages 6+

216 × 153 mm

96 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17131-8

Pub month: December 2022



The Kuroro Homepage (in Japanese)

The story of the Kuroro Space Explorers as they visit different planets, overcoming challenges to complete various missions

Content:

The Kuroro Space Explorers take on missions on many different planets, and this time they are heading to Earth! But they are in trouble as soon as they land, when they are swept up in a tornado... Will they really be able to succeed in their mission?

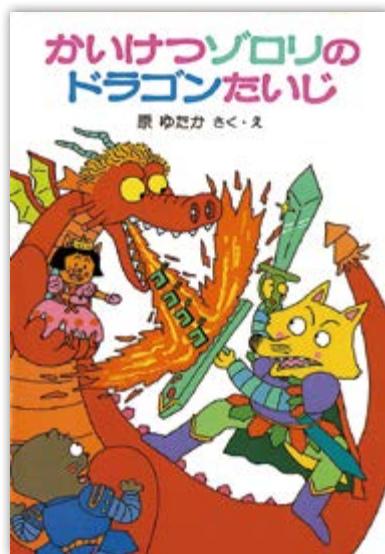
★English synopsis and sample translation are available.



Rihito Uchu: A creator team travelling the universe of the heart. They warmly share their journeys with the world, humorously and from a unique point of view.

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, Thai, and traditional Chinese

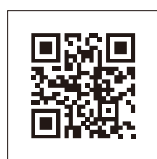
Zorori Slays the Dragon

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, 72 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!
- 35th anniversary in 2022!



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



KAIKETSU ZORORI

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



ISHISHI

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



NOSHISHI

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

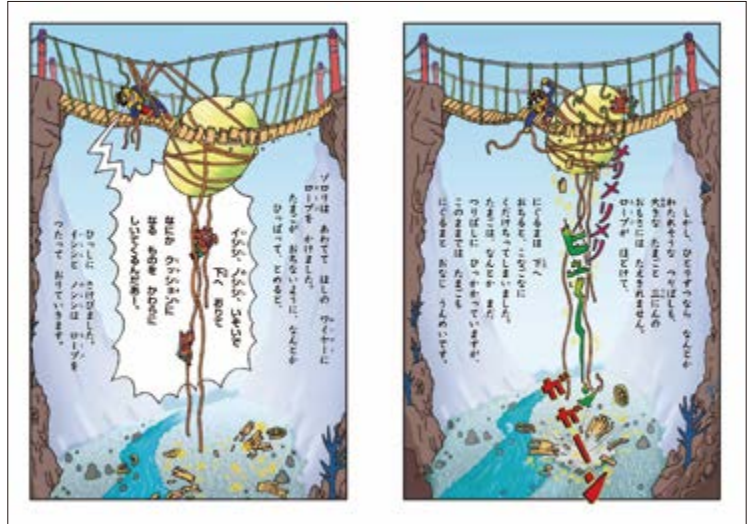


Vol.40

★English whole page sample translation is available.

Zorori Saves the Dinosaur Egg!

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



From Latest Volumes



Vol. 68
Space Alien of Terror



Vol. 69
Zorori's Monster Festival



Vol. 70
Dungeon of Horror



Vol. 71
Ninja Ghost is Here!



Vol. 72
Save The Dinosaur Mother

NEW

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.

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 2022, 46 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: Korean, simplified Chinese, and

Vietnamese



★English sample translation is available.

Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghosts series



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

NEW



Acchi and Happy New Year with Rice Cakes



Acchi and Croquette Dads



Socchi Goes to the Zoo



Acchi and Dodon the Gluttonous Baby



Chi and Ki Run Away from Home

Eiko Kadono : Eiko Kadono was born in Tokyo, and graduated from the Waseda University School of English Department of English Language and Literature. Her first book – *Brazil and My Friend Luizinho* (POPLAR Publishing) – was inspired by her experiences in Brazil. She thereafter devoted herself to children's literature, authoring *Shizuka is My Mother* (Kaisei-Sha), and winning the Robo no Ishi Literature Award for the *Tales of an Old Captain* (Fukuinkan Shoten) and the Noma Literary Prize for Children's Literature and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *Kiki's Delivery Service*. In celebration of her career, she was awarded the Iwaya Sazanami Award in 2011, the Tonen-General Award for Children's Culture in 2013 and the Hans Christian Anderson Author Award in 2018. The author of many long-running, best-selling series such as *Acchi, Kocchi and Socchi the Little Ghost*, which begins with *I want to Eat Spaghetti!*.

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

Magic Garden Story series

Yasuko Ambiru



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 25 volumes published so far.

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, traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese

★English sample translation is available.

1) Vol.2 to Vol 25: 151 pages



Special edition. Volumes 1 to 3 are included.



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.



NEW

2. Herb Tea Party
3. The Magic of Peppermint
4. A Village Festival with Three Little Witches
5. Magic Tea with a Winter Fairy
6. A Piano Lesson at the Magic Garden
7. The Witch of Rose Valley
8. Three Little Witches and Potpourri
9. Magical Night with Seven Fairies
10. A Willful Princess and Magic Roses
11. Queen's Purple Magic
12. Witch's Getting Ready for Winter
13. The Magic of Perfume
14. Rosemary and Magic of Venus
15. Happy 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
25. Jarett's Mint Collection

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



Vol.2 Christmas

Color illustrations throughout



Just Go Away!

Text by **Chiyoko Hana**

Illus. by **Umibatari**



Ages 9+

172 x 112mm

220 pages

Softcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17429-6

Pub month: July 2022

Keywords

Afterlife, ghosts, love-comedy



Just go away! I'm so tired of being possessed. This sucks!

I have zero friends, and now this boy has the audacity to possess me?

Winner of the Fantasy/Mystery prize at the Kiminovel awards!

This is a story of a girl with zero friends and a predisposition towards possession, and a self-centered ghost boy with amnesia, that will make you laugh, cry, and your heart skip a beat?

The start of a new series gaining a lot of attention!

Content:

Reika is a first year junior high school student with a “predisposition towards possession” that makes her easily possessed by ghosts! Her unfortunate junior high school life has been spent constantly helping ghosts that possessed her to move on, until one day she gets haunted by a boy who has lost his memories. He’s self-obsessed, selfish, and really cheeky. She calls this ghost, who can’t even remember his own name or where he came from “Gonbei (John Doe)” for the time being, and she does her best to help him rest in peace, but...

What’s this? This feeling isn’t friendship or empathy?

With characters full of personality and a shocking twist, you won’t be able to look away!

★English synopsis and sample translation are available.



Just go away! But he won't! What am I gonna do?

Friendship, love, and ghosts are things that never go as expected. Am I really haunted by bad luck too? The second installment of the ups-and-downs of a ghostly love-comedy.

Chiyoko Hana: Born in Aichi prefecture. Winner of the first Kiminovel grand prize in the Fantasy/Mystery section. This work is her winning work with some revisions and a new title, which forms her first literary work. Her special skills are getting cats to play with her and speed-drinking Café au Lait.

Umibatari: An illustrator from Miyagi Prefecture, who mainly makes illustrations music videos and merchandise. She enjoys drawing cute things and boys, and their current obsession is drinking fermented milk drinks.

Sora's Words Fall from the Sky

Katsuhiko Takayanagi



Age 10+
195 × 127 mm
231 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-17106-6
Pub month: September 2021

A Haiku coming of age story that will enrich your heart.

Content:

I don't care whether it's conveyed or not.
This three line poem will set my heart free.

* * *

After he entered middle school, Sora stopped attending his classes because he was bullied over a mole on his face. He meets an eccentric classmate Haseo, in the school infirmary, who invites him to play a Haiku game called Nazoku.

Swept along by Haseo's enthusiasm, Sora begins to enjoy Haiku himself, and starts a three person Haiku group together with Ms. Kitamura, the school nurse. Sora feels that his experience with bullying means he can understand the feelings of Yumi, a lively girl who has recently joined the group, but is actually quite distressed after being hurt recently. By experiencing Haiku together with Haseo and Yumi, Sora gradually begins to understand the appeal of its world of free and deep expression.

When a New Years Haiku Contest is organized at their school, Sora determinedly faces his own wounded heart, and his entry is...

A refreshing coming of age novel, from an up-and-coming Haiku poet.

★English synopsis and sample translation are available.

Keywords

Haiku, Tanka, Poetry Gathering,
Attending the School Infirmary,
Poet

Katsuhiko Takayanagi: Born in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture in 1980, he completed the first half of the doctorate program in education at Waseda University, specializing in expressions in the haiku works of Basho. He has received numerous awards for his research, criticism, and haiku composition, and is currently the editor in chief for the Taka Haiku Association. He is a judge for "NHK Haiku" on the television channel E-tele, "KODOMO Haiku" for the Yomiuri Shimbun Newspaper, and Japan's National High School Haiku Championship. (Haiku Koushien). His hobbies are swimming and visiting aquariums.

The Pink Blossoms We Saw Over Our Tears

Text by **Sara Minase**

Illus. by **Hanako**



Ages 10+

172 × 112mm

262 pages

Softcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17319-0

Pub month: March 2022

Keywords

Heart fluttering, promise, sending letters, correspondence, Pure Love Awards

★English synopsis and sample translation are available.

“Always be my friend”

They met in hospital when she was a fifth grader, and they parted with that promise.

For six years, I’ve only been in touch with you by letter. Would it be weird to fall in love with you...?

Mio’s heart was fluttering before they met again, but what amazing story was waiting for her...?

The selection panel were all crying! Prizewinning work at the 3rd Pure Love Awards!

Content

Mio is a freshman at senior high. While hospitalized with a leg injury in fifth grade, she met Takeru, a boy one year her senior.

When she left hospital, they promised each other to “always be my friend.” Even now they have kept that promise, keeping in touch by letter. One day, an older boy in the school soccer club confessed his love to Mio, but she didn’t know what love was, and struggled to reply. It was Takeru that was on her mind. Around that time, Takeru moved in nearby, and they met again. Although the older Takeru was just how Mio imagined, as she opened her heart to him, her unease slowly began to grow. You’re like Takeru, but not quite him... who are you really...?

When she took the plunge and visited his house, Mio found out something she had never imagined...

He had been trying to keep his distance from Mio. What were, in fact, Takeru’s true feelings?

A tender and deeply emotional pure love story that had the entire editorial team crying!



Sara Minase: From and lives in Kanagawa Prefecture. Writes fiction for a novel posting website. This work won the Grand Prize at the 3rd Pure Love Novel Awards. Loves cats, cake, and gazing up at the sky.

Hanako: Illustrator. Active across genres including inserts and cover art for books. Recently bothered by pain in her lower-left wisdom tooth.

Marumi and Usagi

Text by **Ao Omae**

Illus. by **Paru Itagaki**



Ages 11+

195 x 128mm

167 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17311-4

Pub month: March 2022

<Outline>

The setting of this fantasy novel is Sunset Town, a place that looks majestic at dusk. On the night of the festival, when people step outside, something “special” happens to their bodies. One person can shoot beams from the eyes, another can make ice cream flow from the hands, and another can turn one leg into a piano keyboard. Each person changes in a different way. But nobody knows why this is happening or how they can return to the way they used to be. When a ban on going outside is put in place, the townsfolk realize the importance of human connections.

★English synopsis and sample translation are available.



Ao Omae: Born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1992. Now lives in Kyoto Prefecture as a novelist. After earning a bachelor’s degree in literature from Doshisha University, his writing debut, the short novel “I Put Her in the Bathtub and Burned Her,” won the best work award in the Granta Japan with Waseda Bungaku open competition. In 2021, “I Don’t Need Anything That’s Not Interesting” was selected as a finalist for the Sakunosuke Oda Prize. That same year, “Mistaking a Rock and Fried Chicken” won the Japanese Titles Only Grand Prize. In addition to novels, Omae is involved in creative pursuits that include playwriting, tanka poetry, and essay writing. This book is his first work for children.

Paru Itagaki: Debuted in 2016. After Shukan Shonen Champion published a standalone episode of Itagaki’s “Beast Complex,” the magazine published her series “Beastars,” which received the grand prize at the 11th Manga Awards in 2018. Her other accolades are the manga newcomer prize at the 21st Agency for Cultural Affairs Media Arts Festival, the up-and-coming prize at the 22nd Osamu Tezuka Culture Awards, and a youth category prize at the 42nd Kodansha Manga Awards.

Nature & Science Picture Books with Photographs series

NEW



39 Thunder

This series introduces animals and plants living in neighborhoods, such as roly-poly bugs, earthworms, cankerworms, bats, ... etc. They live close to humans, but their lives remain mysterious. Beautiful, powerful photographs give a sense of wonder of nature and science to young readers.

★39 volumes as of 2022

Recommended titles!

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



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



38 Ice - the Magic of Winter and Water



37 Small Hunter Jumping Spiders



36 Icicles



35 Here and There Ticks



34 The Mushroom Restaurant



33 Slime Molds - Jewels of woods



32 Finding Heart-shaped in Woods



31 Fish Eggs



30 Find Insect Galls



29 Flowers of Vegetables



28 Even Fish Sleep



27 Rocky Shore Company



26 Insects Living with Ants



25 I'm Shield Bug



24 Slugs -- Here It Is



23 Caterpillars



22 Lethocerus in Rice Paddies



21 The Mystery of Actiniae



20 Weird Snowbanks and Strange Ices



19 The Tree Sap Restaurant



18 Mushrooms: The Weightless



17 Insects Faces*



16 Spiders' Strings



15 Frogs in Rice Paddies



14 Secrets of Snakes



13 Bamboo, Me, and Grandpa



12 Cocoons: Capsules of Life



11 Earwig Family



10 Jellyfish



9 Carnivorous Plants



8 Where Are Cankerworms?



7 Bats Living in Town



6 The Adventure of Rice-fish



5 The Poo Restaurant*



4 Come to My Ranch



3 The Mystery of Earthworms



2 Shota and Fermented Soybeans



1 Find Roly-poly bugs

★English sample translation is available.

Welcome to the Hidden World of Nests!

Text by **Yoshiko Sugahara** Illus. by **Fukazou**
 Editor: **Teruyuki Komiya**



A trivia book that introduces the surprising secrets hidden in the nests of various animals, with up-close illustrations and explanations. Packed with cross section illustrations to understand the structure of nests, and accurately illustrate how they are made, making it easy to understand how well they are made and what secret features they have! Whether you are an animal lover or not, this book is full of new and surprising information for everyone.

Content

Many animals in the world make nests. You have probably even seen an animal nest yourself. It might look like they have just made a hole, or gathered some twigs, but it's impossible to tell how amazing a nest is just by looking. What is it like on the inside? How is it used? How does the animal live inside it? Take a peek into the wonderful world of nests!

★English sample translation is available.

Age 8+

210 × 148 mm

143 pages

Softcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17374-9

Pub month: July 2022

Keywords

Animal, Nest, Encyclopedia,
 Reference guide, Biology,
 Nature, Science



Yoshiko Sugahara: Writer and Editor. With a focus on children's books and practical guides, she performs several roles when producing a book, including content research, composition planning, and writing.

Fukazou: Manga Artist and Illustrator working widely with study manga, comic essays, and cut illustrations for children's books and practical guides.

Teruyuki Komiya: Served as animal care director at the Tama Zoological Park and Ueno Zoological Gardens, and director of the Ueno Zoological Gardens from 2004 to 2011.

There Are Many Forms of Life! Picture Book of Insect Metamorphosis

Text by **Toru Kawabe and Mami Maehata** Illus. by **Norio Hirai**



Age 8+
263 × 218 mm
287 pages
Hardcover
ISBN 978-4-591-17529-3
Pub month: November 2022

Keywords

Insect, Metamorphosis, pupa, larva, ecology



Featuring the development of eggs, larvae, pupa and adult stages, or in other words metamorphosis, for a wide range of insects, explained with photos. This large volume book has a total of 288 pages, that introduce the metamorphoses of 222 species of insects overall. This book includes all of the basic data about each insect, like its size and where to find it, with tons of amazing ecological photos. Be wowed by the abundance of special trivia in this brand new unique illustrated insect encyclopedia.

Content

There are a surprising number of insects living on this planet. Insect species not only look different, but also have many different kinds of life cycles. To understand the life cycles of insects, you mustn't forget that they are living creatures that go through "Metamorphosis." In this book, we explain the life cycle of 222 insects, including bugs both familiar and rare with many pictures. Enjoy the unique life cycles of these bugs that survive and go through metamorphosis in a range of environments. We hope that you can get a sense of the rich and vast world within the insects around us, that you would never be able to guess just from their appearance.

The tiny bugs living their lives around us also have their hidden cute and cool sides! So check out the fascinating secrets of bugs in this book.

From the Table of Contents

Introduction

How do insects grow?

How do we split insects into groups?

Chapter 1: Lepidoptera, insects that go through complete metamorphosis and turn into pupae. Part 1

Chapter 2: Insects other than Lepidoptera that go through complete metamorphosis and turn into pupae. Part 2

Chapter 3: Insects that go through incomplete metamorphosis, and do not turn into pupae.

★English sample translation is available.

Toru Kawabe: A field explorer and assistant teacher at ISIS Edit School. Owner of the "Insect Explorer" and "Bug exploration forum" websites and co-owner of "Imokatsu.com." Toru Kawabe enjoys taking ecological pictures, full of his love for living things that starts with the insects hidden all around us, and sharing them through various forms of media.

Mami Maehata: Staff Member at the Itami City Museum of Insects. Co-owner of "imokatsu.com." Mami Maehata focuses on photography and outdoor survey and rearing of caterpillars (the larvae of lepidoptera and sawflies) hoping to spread their appeal through her contributions to books and magazines, and events etc. In 2021, she planned the "Fascinating Caterpillars" exhibit at the Itami City Museum of Insects.

Norio Hirai: A professor at the School of Agriculture of the Graduate School of Osaka Metropolitan University, and a specialist in Insect Physiology and Ecology. Norio Hirai is conducting research into conservational ecology for butterflies and aquatic animals and fauna.

World's Heroes & Heroines Comic Series



Vol. 1 Edison

Ages 10+

226 x 160 mm

126 pages

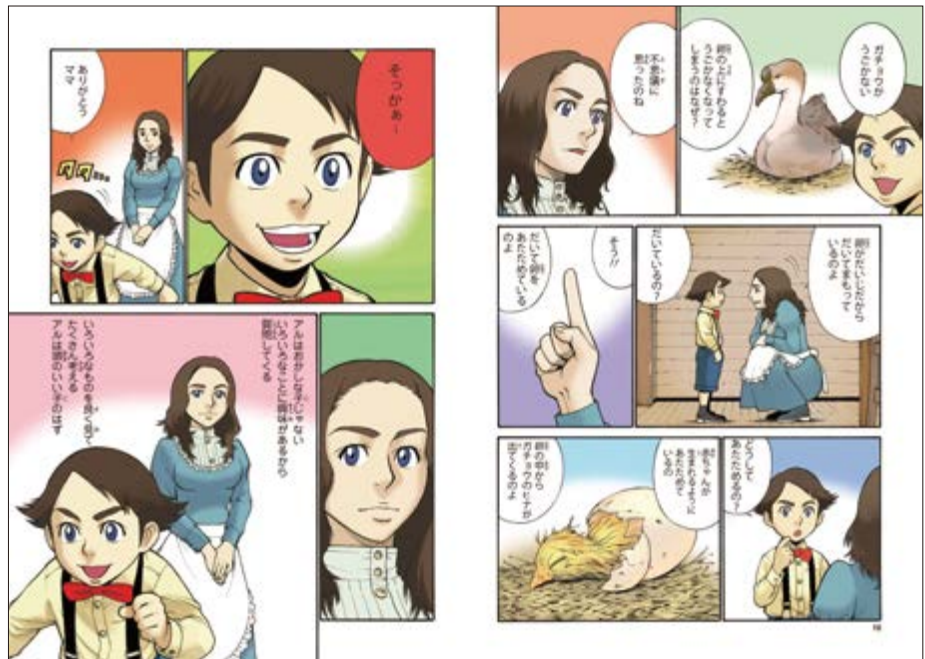
Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-12553-3

Pub month: Aug. 2011 - Present

Rights sold: French and traditional Chinese

This comic series features scientists, doctors, masters of invention, and those who worked for ordinary people. The comics tell their childhood stories, as well as well-known episodes from history. Children can easily understand how these people lived, and it serves as a great start to reading biographies. The series has 52 titles so far.



Vol. 52 Antonin Careme

NEW

3. Nightingale
4. Helen Keller
5. Hideyo Noguchi
6. Madame Curie
7. Yukichi Fukuzawa
8. Mother Teresa
9. Tadataka Ino
10. Joan of Arc
11. Christopher Columbus
12. Beethoven
13. Galileo
14. Basho Matsuo
15. Gandhi
16. Favre
17. Shibasaburo Kitazato
18. Ichiyo Higuchi
19. Coco Chanel
20. Kenji Miyazawa
21. Queen Elizabeth I
23. The Wright Brothers
26. Cleopatra
27. Nobel
28. Marie Antoinette
29. Grace Kelly
30. Soseki Natsume
31. Clara Schumann
32. Chiune Sugihara
33. Louis Braille
34. Maya Plisetskaya
35. Gogh
36. Catherine the Great
37. Hokusai Katsushika
39. Rontgen
40. Lincoln
41. Mary Anning
42. Jigoro Kano
43. Maria Theresa
44. Inazo Nitobe
45. Emmeline Pankhurst
46. Kinue Hitomi
47. Leonardo da Vinci
48. Jenner
49. Sarah Bernhardt
50. Chopin
51. Katherine Johnson
52. Antonin Careme

That Book...

Naoki Matayoshi and Shinsuke Yoshitake



Ages 9+

208 x 154mm

192 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-17432-6

Pub month: Jul. 2022

Rights sold: English(world),

Italian, Korean, simplified

Chinese, Spanish(world), Thai,

and traditional Chinese

Keywords

The I Wonder Bookstore, Spark, Peace, Yoshimoto, But Look Now, books about books, gifts, best seller, children

You'll smile, you'll cry, and you'll roar with laughter at the final twist. A collaboration between Akutagawa-winning author and comedian Naoki Matayoshi and popular picture-book author Shinsuke Yoshitake, this is a hilarious, moving journey of books.

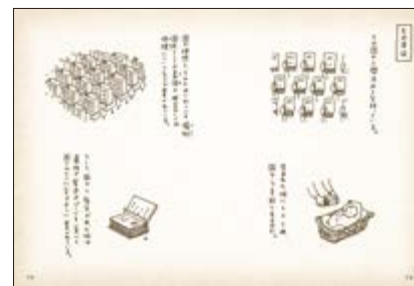
★English synopsis and sample translation are available.

Summary

There once was a book-loving king who was very old and nearly blind. One day, he called two men to his castle and said, "I love books. I've read many in my day. In fact, I think I've read most of them. But my eyes are so bad now, I can't read. Still, I love books, so I want to hear stories about them. I command the two of you to travel the world searching for anyone who knows of unusual books. When you find them, ask them about those books. Then come back here and tell me their stories."

The two men set out on their journey and collected many stories for the king. When they returned, they began to tell him their stories each night...

A collaboration between Akutagawa-winning author and comedian Naoki Matayoshi and popular picture-book author Shinsuke Yoshitake, this is a hilarious, moving journey of books.



1 minute 28 seconds promotion video (Japanese)

Contact

Asia...Poplar Publishing (foreign-rights-sales@poplar.co.jp)

The rest of the world...English Agency Japan / New River Literary Ltd (likangqin@newriveragency.com)

Naoki Matayoshi: Born in 1980 in Neyagawa, Osaka Prefecture. Is a member of the comedy ensemble Peace, part of the Yoshimoto Kogyo entertainment company. In 2015, his debut novel *Spark* won the Akutagawa Prize and became a bestseller with over three million copies sold. In 2017, published the romance novel *Theater*, and in April 2022, expanded *Humans*, originally a newspaper serial, for publication as a paperback. His other titles include *A Hundred Views of Tokyo* and *Second Assistant to the Librarian*. His YouTube channel Whirlpool and his subscription website Moonlight Jottings are also popular.

Shinsuke Yoshitake: Born in 1973 in Kanagawa Prefecture and graduated from Tsukuba University with a master's degree in visual arts. Made his debut as a picture-book author in 2013 with *Maybe It's an Apple*. Is the author of many books, including the picture books *There's a Reason* and *It Won't Come Off*, the collection of illustrations *Exercises in Delicacy*, and the essay *Can't Help Thinking*. His work has been translated into many languages and has won the MOE Bookstore Prize; the Sankei Children's Book Award for Art; the Shoko Ikeda Memorial In Other Words, I'm Nobody Prize; the Bologna Ragazzi Award Special Prize; and other awards. Is the father of two children.

But Look Now

Shinsuke Yoshitake



Ages 5+

217 x 149mm

48 pages

Hardcover with jacket

ISBN 978-4-591-16982-7

Pub month: June 2021

Rights sold: Catalan, French, Italian, Korean, simplified Chinese, Spanish, Thai, and traditional Chinese



But Look Now 2 minutes 49 second promotion video showing all pages

Every child becomes an adult. “But Look Now” is a heartwarming picture book highlighting those moments we want to hold onto.

Key selling points

- 9 languages, 350,000 copies sold
- Won first prize at the 2021 MOE Picture Book Sellers’ Awards

Author’s Awards

- *The Boring Book* was selected for The New York Times the 10 Best Illustrated Children’s Books of 2019.
- *The I Wonder Bookstore* was the runner-up in the Children’s Book General Election.
- *Still Stuck* received first prize at the 9th MOE Picture Book Store Awards and a special mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Awards.

★English sample translation is available.

You wanted it so badly...but look now.
I cleaned your room so much...but look now.
You were so small...but look now.

The children we raise can be so this and so that, but eventually they grow up and become adults. That’s why all these little things about everyday family life become filled with their own little pains of nostalgia. “But Look Now” is a book for everyone – whether children or former children – that is at once kindly heartwarming and a bit of a happy tearjerker.



Shinsuke Yoshitake : Born in Kanagawa Prefecture in 1973. Earned a degree in Plastic Art and Mixed Media from the Master’s Program in Art and Design at the University of Tsukuba. Has published a diverse range of works, including standalone sketches spotlighting aspects of everyday life with a unique take, illustrations for children’s books, book cover designs, illustrated essays, and more. His debut picture book, “It Might Be an Apple,” received first prize at the 6th MOE Picture Book Sellers’ Awards, the 61st Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award for Art, and a prize at the 8th (Akiko Ikeda Commemorative) Watakushi, Tsumari Nobody Awards. “I Have a Reason” received first prize at the 8th MOE Picture Book Store Awards. “Still Stuck” received first prize at the 9th MOE Picture Book Store Awards and a special mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Awards. “The I Wonder Bookstore” was the runner-up in the Children’s Book General Election. “The Boring Book” was selected for The New York Times the 10 Best Illustrated Children’s Books of 2019.

The I Wonder Bookstore

Shinsuke Yoshitake



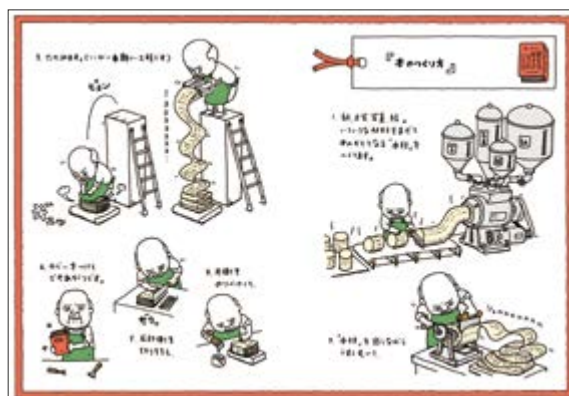
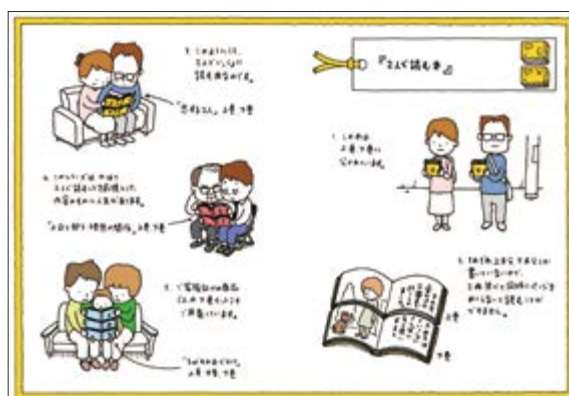
208 x 154 mm
103 pages
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-4-591-15444-1
Pub month: June 2017
Rights sold: English (world),
French, German, Italian,
Korean, simplified Chinese,
Spanish (world), Thai, and
traditional Chinese

**In 9 languages,
465,000 copies sold!**

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

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

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



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

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

POPLAR

