ABOUT JBBY AND THIS CATALOG

The Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) was founded in 1974 as the Japanese Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

JBBY is dedicated to enhancing international understanding, and to providing information on children’s books to people around the world. We promote IBBY’s mission in a broad range of ways. Our international network allows us to take advantage of the prolific information generated by IBBY and to encourage mutual understanding. Our mission is to create a peaceful future for children through books.

JBBY hosts international book exhibitions in Japan that provide information about global titles to Japanese readers. In addition, we provide information on Japanese children’s books to people around the world. We nominate titles for international recognition, as a means to deepen global understanding towards Japan.

In this catalog, we describe recent Japanese books recommended by a JBBY book selection team in several categories: picture books, chapter books and novels, and nonfiction. In addition we introduce Japanese winners of and nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, and the selected books for the IBBY Honour List since 1990.

We list these books by category and in order of target age, including cover images and synopses along with bibliographic information. We hope you will enjoy reading about these books. For further information, please contact us: info@jbby.org

Yumiko SAKUMA, JBBY President
**UCASA**

**Little Chick**


Before sunset, a chick goes outside. “Where are you going?” “I’ll be dark soon.” In sync with the text, silhouettes of plants in the background seem to worry about the chick and call out to it. Young readers will grow peacefully normal along with them. Yet when the sky grows dark, the chick pulls a leaf over itself and sleeps. The chick who is all alone, yet peacefully sleeping, shows trust in the world. The night sky, the ground, the plants, and the mother who surely appear, are looking after the chick. The collage illustrations do not over-describe, but color conveys time’s passing, and the overall feel impacts a warm sense of life. (Hisamatou)

**KARE-HAISU**

**Curry Rice**


Curry rice, made by pouring curry roux on rice, is a popular dish on Japanese tables. This book shows in detail how to prepare it after gathering onions, carrots, potatoes, and beef. “Curry rice, here we come!” The iron-ton-ton of cutting, the sour-pron of being fried, and the koto-koto-koto of boiling add enjoyable sounds to the warm illustrations. The fun of cooking and a love for curry rice overflow from this book. You want to eat curry rice right away. (Shiratori)

**GURU-GURU-GURU**

**Round and Round and Round**


When little girl Non-chan moves her finger in a circle—guru-guru-guru—everyone looks all around. Yet when she does this to the dragonfly Yama, she catches him. When a fierce bear charges and a scary ghost threatens to eat her, she does it to them too, and prevails. Then Non-chan thrips of a giant plant and does guru-guru-guru to a huge tower. What will happen? The veteran artist and illustrator achieve breath-keeping rhythm and pacing in this nonsense book that frees the heart. A message from the creators on the jacket is also fun. (Hirokata)

**KUMASAN**

**Bear**


This is a picture book version of the poem “Kumasan” by the well-known Japanese poet Mado Mi-sao. Spring has come and a bear cub wakes from hibernation. While gazing at the dandelions, he wonders, “Who am I?” Coming to a river, he sees it and his reflection in it reveals to him that he is a bear. The illustrations give a soft and humorous portrayal of the droopy bear walking from hibernation: the way he enjoys nature with his entire body, his uncertainty when he cannot remember who he is, his joy and satisfaction at rediscovering that he is a bear. (Oto)

**NEGARA**

**Little Birdie**


For small children going out alone is an adventure. A baby penguin goes out simply on an ice-covered path, walking and sliding ever so gingerly, doing his best not to fall along the way, and carefully negotiating bumps in the path and steep slopes. But just when he thinks he’s arrived safely at his aunt’s house, what should happen? This is the first in Gomi Tanari’s “The Outing” series of three books. The others are An Enigmatic Outing about a child who gets into every situation, and A Hunted Outing taking his own childhood as a model. Each book has its own amusing character. (Hirokata)

**ASSE**

**Yura no yta (Night Sounds)**


A drama about the brief time it takes to carry a boy to walk along the bank of a pond to his grandfather’s house one summer’s night. Nothing in particular happens, but there is abundant life: insects chirp in the trees; the whistle of a train is heard in the distance; as the frog jumps in, ripples on the water spread like a galaxy. The inspiration for this work was the shock the author felt aged nine upon reading Matsu Basha’s famous haiku, “The old pond & frog jumps in & the sound of the water.” The muted blue tone of the picture has been pain-takingly created by hand using cinnabar color separation. The pages breathe life stimulating all five senses. (Hirokata)

**USO-ICHIBA**

**Fish Market**


Kyo wakes up at four in the morning and accompanies his mother, father and grandmother to the fish market where they watch them work and explore the surroundings. There she sees many varieties of fish laid out at auction, the unloading of fish from the boats and her mother buying fish at the auction. At the same time, Kyo is on a mission. Her grandmother has entrusted her with the task of finding a kowari or red beam, which she locates successfully. At the end of the day, the red beam becomes a treat for her grandmother’s birthday with the whole family gathered around the table to celebrate. The artworks vividly depict the bustle of the workers at the fish market. (Oto)

**NOROBA**

** ware ni, ima (Where is Dad Now?)**


A little girl’s father has promised to read her a book at bedtime but phones to say he will be late. The girl wonders whether he might be now. First, she imagines him finishing his work, then getting on the train, travelling through the shopping arcade and along the river. There, she pictures him running into a kowari or water sprite who chooses him. Her father opens his umbrella and floats away, landing on a slide in the park. Then he runs home. The girl’s daydreams are deftly rendered through the dynamic composition and warm touch of the illustrations. (Oto)

**BAKE BAKETSU**

**The Ghost Bucket**

Text/Illus. Karibe, Takahiko | Tokyo: Kominune Shoten | 2017 | 32 pp. 31x42 cm | ISBN 9784336204398 | Ages 3 + | Night, Moon, Animals, Fish, Strange Apparitions, Puddles

A bucket is walking along on a moonlit night when it trips, making a salt puddle. A wabbit scratches the surface and the puddle shimmers. An owl hoots and the pudding hoots back. A boy comes to fish in it and elephants bathe in it. Fish pour down with the rain and a wolf comes to take a drink. With a shout of “Chikuchik,” the water is sucked back into the bucket. In this funny picture book of a crazy moonlit night, the identity of the bucket is only revealed at the very end. (Nokami)