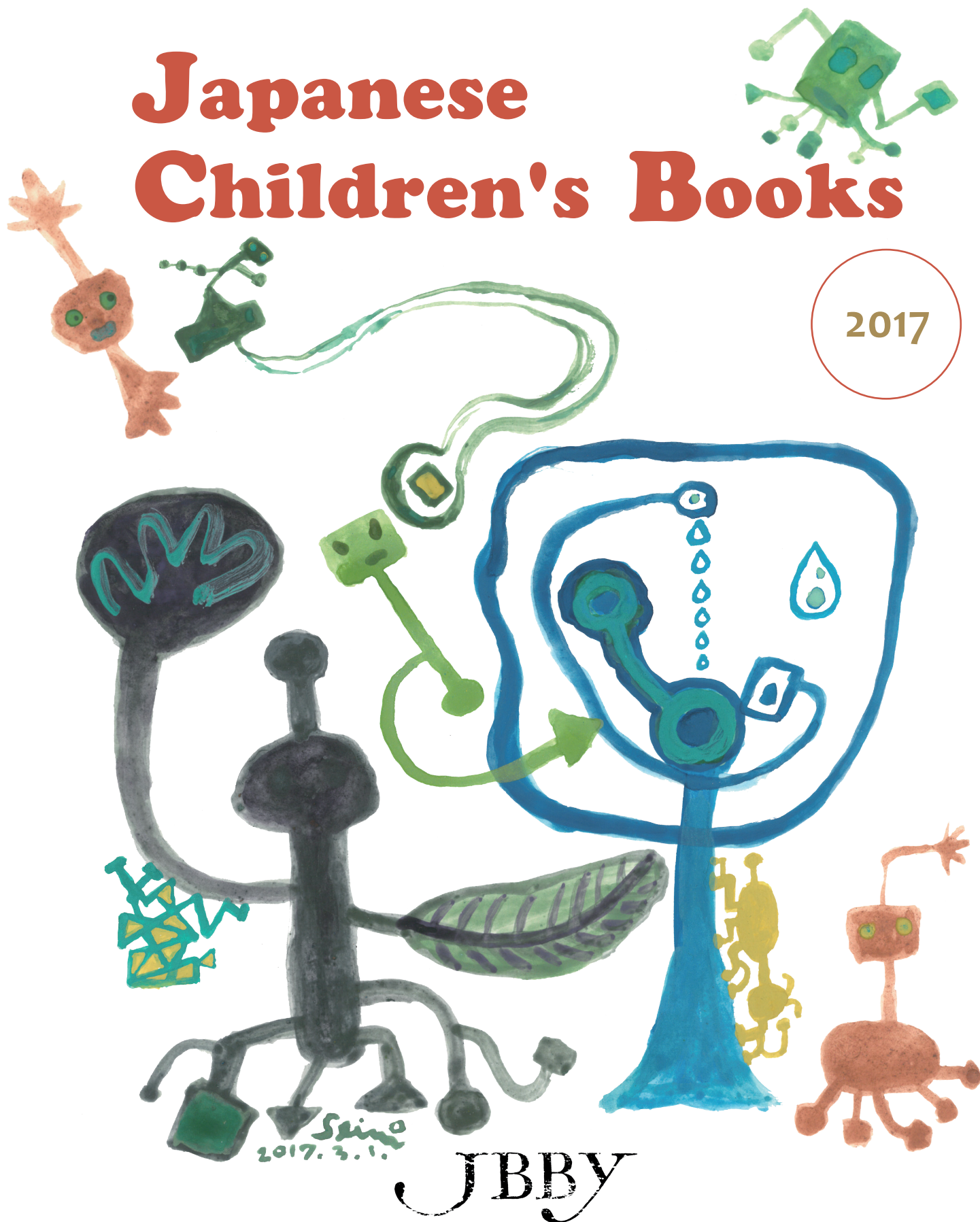


JAPANESE BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Japanese Children's Books

2017



Seino
2017.3.1.

Japanese Children's Books

2017

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Japanese Children's Books

ABOUT JBBY AND THIS CATALOG

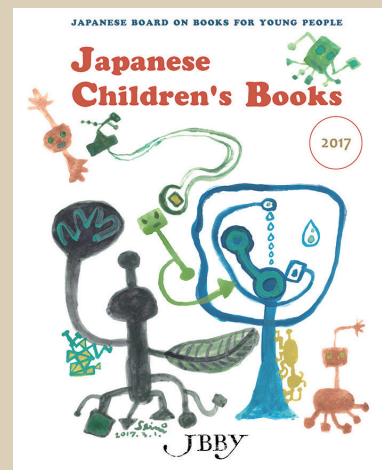
The Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) was founded in 1974 as the Japanese Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

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 introduce Japanese winners of and nominees for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards. In addition, we describe recent Japanese books recommended by a JBBY committee in several categories: picture books, nonfiction, and chapter books and novels. Our committee has also chosen to highlight wordless books, and books about peace.

We list these books by category and in order of target age. We include cover images and synopses along with bibliographic information. We hope you will enjoy reading about these books, most of which were published in 2016. For rights status or other information, please contact us: info@jbby.org



Cover illustration: Seizo Tashima

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD

WINNERS AND NOMINEES AFTER 2000

These authors and illustrators, among the finest creators of Japanese children's literature, were all nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards. Four became the the Hans Christian Award winners. We are honored to introduce them.



AKABA, SUEKICHI 1910-1990

WINNER OF THE 1980 HCA ILLUSTRATOR AWARD

Born in Tokyo, Suekichi Akaba emigrated to Manchuria at the age of 21. He worked in industry and began to paint while still there. He was awarded special recognition three times at the Manchurian National Art Exhibition. After returning to Japan at the age of 36, he worked in the Public Relations Office of the U. S. Embassy in Tokyo for 20 years. Akaba

mastered painting techniques on his own and created his first picture book, *Kasa jizo*, based on an old folktale, in 1961. His influences include traditional Japanese painting and Felix Hoffmann.



スーホの白い馬

Suho no shiroi uma

Suho and the White Horse: A Mongolian Folk Tale | Retold: Yuzo Otsuka | Illus. Suekichi Akaba | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1967 | ISBN 9784834001129

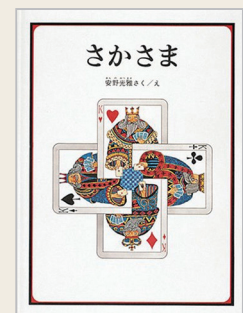


ANNO, MITSUMASA 1926-

WINNER OF THE 1984 HCA ILLUSTRATOR AWARD

Born in Tsuwano, a village located in a valley surrounded by mountains, Mitsumasa Anno developed a strong desire to experience places beyond these mountains while growing up. This is reflected in his books. He taught art in elementary school for ten years; his first two picture books reflect his love of playing with visual perception, and his drawings, often

compared to Escher, not only abound with visual trickery and illusions but also display a playful sense of humour. His more sophisticated picture books include *Anno's Alphabet*, which features "impossible" woodgrain letters of the Latin alphabet framed within decorative borders, containing objects beginning with each letter.



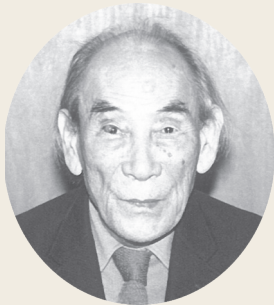
さかさま

Sakasama

Up-side Down | Text/Illus. Mitsumasa Anno | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1981 | ISBN 9784834008388



EVERY OTHER YEAR, IBBY PRESENTS THE HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD TO A LIVING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR WHOSE COMPLETE WORKS HAVE MADE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE. THE H. C. ANDERSEN AWARD IS THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION GIVEN TO AN AUTHOR AND AN ILLUSTRATOR OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

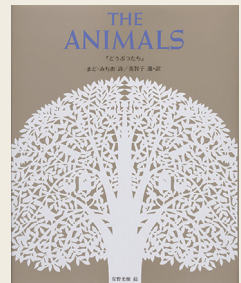


MADO, MICHIO 1909-2014

WINNER OF THE 1994 HCA AUTHOR AWARD

Michio Mado was born in Tokuyama. When he was a small child, his family left for Taiwan, leaving him behind with his grandfather for five years. He began to write poetry at the age of 19. In 1934, two of his poems were recognized by Kitahara Hakushu, the most respected poet of the time. This marked the beginning of Mado's career as a creator of nursery

rhymes, songs and poems for children. His most famous poem, *Zo-san* (Little Elephant), was published in 1952. Several generations of Japanese children have now grown up with his verses and songs and are familiar with his work. *The Animals*, co-published in the USA and Japan as a bilingual book, was translated by Empress Michiko of Japan.



どうぶつたち

Dobutsutachi/ The Animals

Text: Michio Mado | English translation: Empress Michiko | Illus. Mitsumasa Anno | Tokyo: Suemori Books | 1992 | ISBN 9784163753300 | Republished by Bungei Shunju, 2012



UEHASHI, NAHOKO 1962-

WINNER OF THE 2014 HCA AUTHOR AWARD

Born in Tokyo in 1962, Nahoko Uehashi completed a PhD on Australian Aborigines and currently teaches ethnology at university. Her literary debut came in 1989, then her work *Tsuki no mori ni, kami yo nemure* (O God, Sleep Ye in the Forest of Moon) won an award that brought her into the spotlight. In 1996, she began to write her historical fantasy series

Moribito (Guardian), which became a huge hit and received the Noma Award for Juvenile Literature as well as the Sankei Award for Children's Books and Publications. In the USA, the first volume received the Batchelder Award. In addition, Uehashi's fantasy series *Kemono no soja* (The Beast Player) has been translated into many languages. Uehashi's newest novel *Shika no ou* (The Deer King) received the Japan Booksellers Award in 2015.



精霊の守り人

Moribito 1: Seirei no moribito

The Guardian | Text: Nahoko Uehashi | Illus. Makiko Futaki | Tokyo: Kaisai-sha | 1996 | ISBN 9784035401506



CHO, SHINTA 1927-2005
1998, 2000 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

Born in Tokyo, Shinta Cho began his career as a designer and cartoonist at the Tokyo Daily Press after graduating from high school. His first book, *Shimbun ga dekiru made* (How the Newspaper is Produced) was published in 1950, and he has illustrated over 400 titles since. The secret to Cho's popularity with children lies in his flexible style and sense

of humour. He received the Kodansha Culture Prize for Children's Picture Book Publication, the Japan Picture Book Award Grand Prix, the Shogakukan Award for Children's Books and Publications, and the Iwaya Sazanami Award among many others.



へんてこライオンがいっぱい
Henteko raion ga ippai
Lots of Strange Lions | Text/Illus.
Shinta Cho | Tokyo: Shogakukan |
2002 | ISBN 9784097274407



HAYASHI, AKIKO 1945-
2008, 2010 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

Born in Tokyo in 1945, Akiko Hayashi graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Yokohama National University. Her first book, *Hajimete no otsukai* (Mii-chan's First Errand), was published in 1977. She is one of Japan's leading picture book writer-illustrators and has received numerous awards in Japan and abroad. These include the Sankei Award

for Children's Books and Publications for *Ofuro daisuki* (There's a Hippo in My Bath!), the Ezra Jack Keats Award (USA) for *Imouto no nyuin* (Little Sister Goes to Hospital), the 13 Juries Grand Prix (France) for *Hajimete no kyanpu* (I'm Going Camping), and many others. Her books have been translated into more than ten languages.



はじめてのおつかい
Hajimete no otsukai
Mii-chan's First Errand | Text: Yoriko
Tsutsui | Illus. Akiko Hayashi | To-
kyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1977 | ISBN
9784834005257



ISHII, MOMOKO 1907-2008
2002 AUTHOR NOMINEE

Born in Saitama in 1907, Momoko Ishii's first book *Non-chan kumo ni noru* (Non-chan Rides on a Cloud) was published in 1947. She has written 19 children's books and translated 120, including *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne in 1940 and *Rotten Ralph* by Jack Gantos in 1982. Her books have been translated into German, Danish, Russian, English, Pakistani, and Hindi.

Her immense contributions to children's literature in Japan have been recognized by awards such as the Minister of Education Award for Promotion of Art, and the Kikuchi Kan Award for achievement and contributions to post-war children's literature.



三月ひなのつき
Sangatsu hina no tsuki
Doll's Day for Yoshiko | Text:
Momoko Ishii | Illus. Setsu Asakura
| Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1963 |
ISBN 9784834000184



KADONO, EIKO 1935-
2016, 2018 AUTHOR NOMINEE

Born in Tokyo in 1935, Eiko Kadono moved to Brazil for two years when she was 25, and based on her experiences there she wrote her first work *Ruijinnyo shonen, Burajiru o tazunete* (Brazil and My Friend Luizinho). Since then she has written many books for children of several generations. Her chapter book *Majo no takkyubin* (Kiki's Delivery Service), written in 1984, won a number of prizes and was included on the IBBY Honour List. This story

was adapted into a wildly popular animated film by renowned director Hayao Miyazaki, and in 2014 it was made into a live-action film as well. Kadono has been decorated by the Emperor of Japan for her significant contributions to children's literature.



魔女の宅急便
Majo no takkyubin
Kiki's Delivery Service | Text: Eiko Kadono | Illus. Akiko Hayashi | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1985 | ISBN 978834001198



KAKO, SATOSHI 1926-
2012 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

Born in Fukui in 1926, Satoshi Kako graduated from the University of Tokyo and first worked in a laboratory at a chemical company. His first children's book was published in 1959 and since then, he has published more than 700 works, ranging from educational picture books on science or astronomy to nursery tales. His devotion to children stems from

his feelings of failure during his boyhood when Japan was in the midst of World War II. He once tried to become a soldier. After the war, he realized his lack of understanding had caused him to make this wrong decision. He resolved to devote the rest of his life to helping children grow healthy, both physically and mentally, so they could make sound judgments.



からすのパンやさん
Karasu no panya san
Mr. Crow's Bakery | Text/Illus. Satoshi Kako | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 1973 | ISBN 9784032060706



KATAYAMA, KEN 1940-
2014, 2016 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

Ken Katayama was born in Tokyo in 1940. After he graduated from the Department of Commercial Design at Musashino Art University, he began to work at an advertising company but soon resigned. In 1966, he published his first picture book, *Macchi no tori* (A Match Bird); his second picture book, *Yu-chan no mikisasha* (The Wonderful Mixer); was published in

1968. Although Katayama then stopped writing for a while, he resumed his artistic activity, inspired by his eldest son's birth, in 1979. Since then, he has published creative works embodying his dynamic, vivid, and unique style. He was awarded the Kodansha Culture Prize for Children's Picture Book Publication and the Shogakukan Award for Children's Books and Publications along with many other awards.



どんどんどん
Don don don don
Onward: Stomp, Stomp, Stomp | Text/Illus. Ken Katayama | Osaka: Bunken Shuppan | 1984 | ISBN 9784580813632



KANZAWA, TOSHIKO 1924-
2000, 2006 AUTHOR NOMINEE

Born in Fukuoka in southern Japan, Toshiko Kanzawa later moved to northern Japan and spent much of her childhood in Sakhalin, now a part of Russia. She began writing to support herself after giving birth to two children. Her first book, *Chibikko Kamu no boken* (The Adventure of Little Kam) was published in 1961. As in many of her books, this mythical

adventure story reflects Kanzawa's yearning for the nature of northern Japan. She was awarded the Noma Award for Juvenile Literature, the Shogakukan Award for Children's Books and Publications, the Kodansha Culture Prize for Children's Picture Book Publication, and many other prizes.



ちびっこカムのぼうけん
Chibikko Kamu no boken
Little Kam's Adventure | Text: Toshiko Kanzawa | Illus. Saburo Yamada
| Tokyo: Rironsha | 1961 | ISBN 9784652005033 | New edition, 1999



NASU, MASAMOTO 1942-
2012 AUTHOR NOMINEE

Born in 1942 in Hiroshima, Masamoto Nasu became a victim of the atomic bomb when he was only three. After graduating from university, he worked as a car salesman in Tokyo and later returned to Hiroshima to help run his father's calligraphy school, where he met many children. In 1967, he joined a Hiroshima juvenile literature study group and began

to write stories for children. In 1970, his first long story *Kubinashi jizo no takara* (The Treasure of Headless Jizo) received honorable mention in the Gakken Child Literary Prize competition. Nasu began publishing his most famous book series, *Zukkoke sannin-gumi* (Hilarious Threesome), in 1978 and has been awarded many prizes.



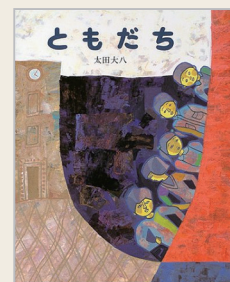
それゆけ ズッコケ三人組
Soreike zukkoke sannin-gumi
Hilarious Trio series, 50 volumes | Text: Masamoto Nasu | Illus. Kazuo Maekawa | Tokyo: Poplar | 1978 | ISBN 9784591007761



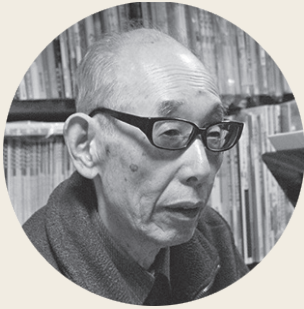
OHTA, DAIHACHI 1918-2016
1970, 2002-2006 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

Born in Nagasaki, Daihachi Ohta spent his early childhood in Vladivostok. He began to illustrate picture books when he was still a student at Tokyo's Tama Imperial Art School. His first book was published in 1949, and since then, his illustrations have embellished approximately 150 picture books and 250 children's novels. His style varies by genre,

which ranges from traditional Japanese tales to modern European stories. Ohta's work is notable for harmonizing traditional and modern elements, for meticulous attention to detail, and for high quality of printing. His works have been translated into many languages.



ともだち
Tomodachi
Friends | Text/Illus. Daihachi Ohta
| Tokyo: Kodansha | 1985 | ISBN 9784061322912 | New edition, 2004



SATO, SATORU 1928-2017

2004 AUTHOR NOMINEE

Born in 1928, Satoru Sato is a pioneer in Japanese fantasy literature for children. In his first book, *Daremo shiranai chiisana kuni* (A Little Country No One Knows), he borrowed the idea of *Korobokkuru* (little people, the descendants of little gods) from legends of the Ainu people, aboriginal people who live in the northern regions of Japan. Sato's

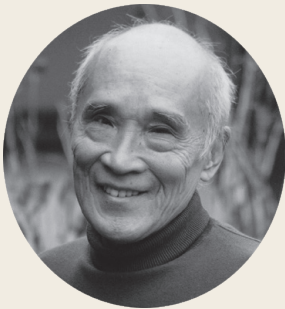
emphasis on "reasoned imagination" and "logical composition" have made his fantasy world real for young readers. His works have been awarded the Mainichi Publication Culture Award and the Iwaya Sazanami Award among others, and translated into English, French, German, and Spanish.



だれも知らない小さな国

Daremo shiranai chiisana kuni

A Little Country No One Knows | Text: Satoru Sato | Illus. Tsutomu Murakami | Tokyo: Kodansha | 1959 | ISBN 9784061335233 | New edition, 2015



TANIKAWA, SHUNTARO 1931-

2008, 2010 AUTHOR NOMINEE

Shuntaro Tanikawa was born in 1931 in Tokyo. After graduating from high school, he published his first collection of works, *Nijuoku-konen no kodoku* (Two Billion Light-Years of Solitude). Soon after that, he began to write theatre scripts and song lyrics. In 1965, his first picture book *Shiritori* (A Word Game) was published, followed by numerous picture books

and juvenile literary works. Tanikawa has been vigorously active in many arenas, ranging from translation to poetry readings around the world. He was awarded the Translation Culture Award of the Japan Society of Translation, the Yomiuri Literature Prize, and the Noma Award for Juvenile Literature among other prizes.



そのこ

Sono ko

The Other Boy | Text: Shuntaro Tanikawa | Illus. Yasushi Tsukamoto | English translation: Sawako Nakayasu | Tokyo: Shobunsha | 2011 | ISBN 9784794967664



TASHIMA, SEIZO 1940-

2018 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

Born in Osaka, Seizo Tashima spent his childhood in Kochi Prefecture. He has been active at the front lines of picture book development since the 1960s, receiving the Golden Apple Award at the 2nd Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB) in 1969; he continues to produce powerful, passionate, and ceaselessly innovative works. He has published

more than 150 picture books of great variety; some funny and fun, others serious stories of war, as well as folktales and books for babies. Running through all of his works, we can sense a consistent spirit; the wellspring of his art is the vigor and vitality of life and a slow-burning anger at war, destruction of the environment, discrimination, and the logic of power that threatens life.

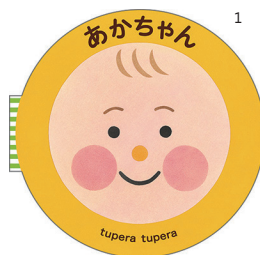


ふきまんぶく

Fukimanbuku

Fukimanbuku, the Girl and the Flowers | Text/Illus. Seizo Tashima | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 1973 | ISBN 9784033310107

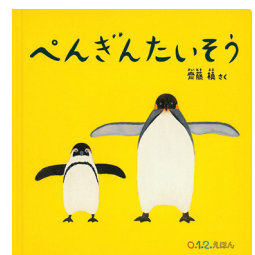
RECENT PICTURE BOOKS



あかちゃん
Akachan (Baby)

Text/Illus. tupera tupera | Tokyo: Bronze Publishing | 2016 | 22 pp. | 20×21 cm | ISBN 9784893096166 | Ages 0+ | *Infant; Mother; Round book*

A round board book for babies. The baby's round face alternates with his toys, and he starts off smiling happily, but then his mood changes and he starts crying. The hungry baby needs his mother's breast—which he is given in the form of a double page spread! Author tupera tupera made content and design, including size and shape, integral to this picture book, which is ideal for showing baby while talking naturally. <Hiromatsu>



ぺんぎんたいそう
Penguin taisou (Penguin Stretching Exercises)

Text/Illus. Saito, Maki | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 20 pp. | 21×19 cm | ISBN 9784834082531 | Ages 0+ | *Animal; Exercise; Infant*

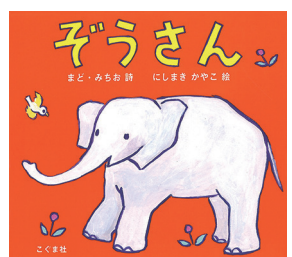
A mother penguin and her children exercise together. First they take a deep breath. Then they exercise their necks, arms and legs, bend in the middle, jump up and down, and end by wiggling their bottoms. The humorous illustrations of the penguins' actions and expressions make readers want to join in. There is actually a YouTube video with the author and some children doing the exercises while the book is being read aloud. The exercise routine has become a huge hit in Japanese kindergartens and nursery schools. <Doi>



しろいちょうちょがとんでるよ
Shiroi choucho ga tonderuyo
(Look, A White Butterfly)

Text/Illus. Murakami, Yasunari | Tokyo: Hisakata Child | 2016 | 24 pp. | 21×21 cm | ISBN 9784865490695 | Ages 0+ | *Infant; Color; Rhythm of language*

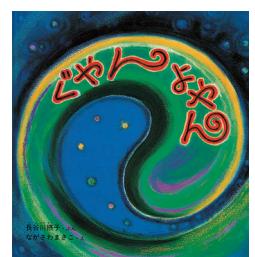
A white butterfly is fluttering through the blue sky over a green plain. As it alights on buds, colorful flowers burst forth. With a simple design in soft colors, and pleasingly rhythmical words, this beautiful picture book is perfect for relaxed reading time snuggled up to your baby. A first book to enjoy with children up to the age of two, who respond directly to your feelings as you read to them. <Hiromatsu>



ぞうさん
Zosan (Elephant)

Text: Mado, Michio | Illus. Nishimaki, Kayako | Tokyo: Koguma-sha | 2016 | 22 pp. | 20×21 cm | ISBN 9784772102322 | Ages 1+ | *Poetry; Elephant; Nursery song*

The children's poem "Elephant" is often sung in Japan. This picture book gives the poem one line per spread, so that readers can sing while turning the pages. The first line—"Elephant, Elephant, your nose is long, isn't it?"—is an insult, apparently. Michio Mado, author of the poem as well as a winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, once said the line means, "Silly Elephant, you're the only one with such a long nose!" as if teasing. Unfazed, the Elephant replies, "That's right! My mom's nose is long too." Why does he say that? To find out, you'll have to sing the next part. <Miyakawa>



ぐやんやん
Guyan yoyan (Guyan Yoyan)

Text: Hasegawa, Setsuko | Illus. Nagasawa, Masako | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 24 pp. | 22×21 cm | ISBN 9784834082746 | Ages 2+ | *Infant; Rhythm and sound; Abstract art*

The book is filled with rhythmical nonsense words like "guyan yoyan" matched with vibrant abstract illustrations done in oil. The shapes conjure up images of waves, galaxies and cells. Some sounds are sharp and staccato while others seem to roll and surge. The colors move from blue to red and back to blue again. The profusion of sounds and colors are great fun for little children, and many enjoy moving their bodies in imitation of the sounds. <Doi>



6

そおっと そおっとね

Sootto sootto ne (Gently Does It)

Text/Illus. Tanji, Akiko | Tokyo: Holp Shuppan | 2015 | 24 pp. | 18×18 cm | ISBN 9784593560981 | Ages 2+ | *Infant; Helping; Daily life*

A little girl is carrying a cake with a strawberry on top of it. She holds it carefully with both hands so as not to break it or drop it as she makes her way to the table, negotiating a number of obstacles like a cat running around her feet and a ball rolling by. Simple illustrations with thick outlines against a background with a lot of space show the tension in her shoulders and the tips of her toes, her look of intense concentration, and her look of satisfaction upon safely reaching her goal. Young readers will empathize with her adventure from the kitchen to the table and savor her sense of achievement. <Hiromatsu>



7

のっていこう

Notte iko (Let's Go For a Ride)

Text/Illus. Kiuchi, Tatsuro | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2015 | 24 pp. | 21×23 cm | ISBN 9784834081527 | Ages 3+ | *Transportation; Journey; Parents and children*

Told in the first person, this story follows a boy and his father as they ride a bus, then a train, and finally a ropeway to the top of a mountain. Monorails, boats, and other types of vehicles are woven into illustrations wherever the pair changes to a new mode of transport, and the view of the sea from the mountaintop is stunning. The illustrator, who is also a commercial artist, uses muted tones like those in wood block prints, and his inventive compositions paint a happy day in the life of a boy and his father. <Doi>



8

みんなにゴリラ

Minna ni gorira (Everybody Gorilla)

Text/Illus. Takabatake, Nao | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 34 pp. | 20×20 cm | ISBN 9784591150559 | Ages 3+ | *Gorilla; Transformation; Book with holes*

A picture book with holes, which can be enjoyed even by the very young. A mother who says "clean up!" is, on the next page, a gorilla who says "oo-oo." A father leaving for work becomes a gorilla who says "oo-oo," too! A pet dog, the lady next door, a local shopkeeper, a robber, and the policeman who catches the robber all transform into gorillas. At the end, the boy narrating gets to transform as well. A humorous read that will make anyone chuckle. <Nogami>



9

ぱれーど

Pareto (Parade)

Text/Illus. Yamamura, Koji | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2015 | 32 pp. | 22×21 cm | ISBN 9784061332744 | Ages 3+ | *Rhythm; Drum; Era*

This illustrated nonsense book is perfect for bedtime reading. A little boy picks up a drum and begins to march. All kinds of things—toys, keys, frogs, houses, clocks—sprout legs and begin to follow. When they come to a page full of big black holes, everyone jumps in and then out again. Finally, the boy in front catches up with himself and falls fast asleep. The author, Koji Yamamura, is also an animator whose short and humorous film *Mount Head* was nominated for an Academy Award. <Doi>



10

ドンのかち

Don no kuchi (Don's Mouth)

Text/Illus. Koshida, Mika | Tokyo: Kosei Shuppansha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 22×24 cm | ISBN 9784333027248 | Ages 3+ | *Eating; Family; Dog*

A little girl is worried because she eats too slowly. Her parents always finish eating first. Noticing that her dog, Don, eats very fast, she decides to watch him closely to see how he does it. She gives him some food and then eats some dried squid to practice her own chewing. Finally, she shows off her new skills by gobbling up some *okonomiyaki*, savory pancakes, that her father has made for her. The distinctive lines of the illustrations accentuate the humor and warmth of this story. <Doi>



11

ポテトむらのコロケまつり

Poteto mura no korokke matsuri
(The Croquette Fair in Potato Village)

Text: Takeshita, Fumiko | Illus. Deguchi, Kazumi | Tokyo: Kyoiku Gageki | 2016 | 32 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784774620329 | Ages 3+ | *Deliciousness; Size; Making something*

Granny Potato in Potato Village has a huge harvest of potatoes. She makes all kinds of dishes, but she can't eat them all, so she decides to enlist everyone in the village to attempt to make the biggest croquette the world has ever seen. The villagers get together to discuss the ambitious plan and prepare for the big day. Through making croquettes, an ordinary, everyday food, the whole village enjoys the camaraderie of working together. There are playful illustrations throughout the book, including on the jacket and inside covers. <Hiromatsu>



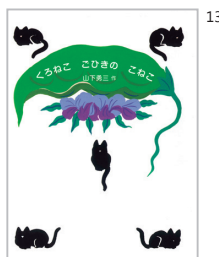
12

みつてくれる?

Mitsukete kureru? (Will You Find Me?)

Text/Illus. Matsuda, Nanako | Tokyo: Akane Shobo | 2016 | 32 pp. | 22×31 cm | ISBN 9784251098917 | Ages 3+ | *Infant; Sister; Cat*

Today Mom will be coming home with a new baby. But the little girl hasn't yet accepted the fact that she has become an elder sister, and she decides to hide with their cat Kuro. "Will everyone still cuddle me when the baby comes?" she anxiously asks the animals, birds and insects. But as she works out her frustrations playing in nature, her misgivings give way to a feeling of happiness welling up in her. Readers with mixed feelings about the arrival of a new sibling will be drawn into the story by the cozy warmth of the coloring and composition of the delightful pictures in this book. <Hiromatsu>



13

くろねこ ごひきのねこ

Kuroneko gohiki no koneko
(Black Cats Five Black Kittens)

Text/Illus. Yamashita, Yuzo | Tokyo: Hamonicabooks | 2016 | 32 pp. | 26×21 cm | ISBN 9784907349141 | Ages 3+ | *Cat; Mother; Adventure*

A bean pod bursts open and five black kittens pop out. They all look identical, but have different personalities: Swimmer, Climber, Scratcher, Jumper, and Wailer. They pool their individual talents to set out on a journey to find their mother. Their delightful and poetic adventure is told through illustrations painted with bold brushstrokes and gorgeous colors. The author, a well-known illustrator and graphic designer, passed away in 2008. He created this picture book in the 1980s, but it was only discovered and published in 2016. <Hiromatsu>



14

もうぬげない

Mo nugenai (Still Stuck)

Text/Illus. Yoshitake, Shinsuke | Tokyo: Bronze Publishing | 2015 | 28 pp. | 18×22 cm | ISBN 9784890396098 | Ages 3+ | *Change the clothes; Failure; Fantasy*

A three-year-old boy tries to pull his shirt off over his head, but it gets stuck. Unable to see, he imagines what it would be like if he could never get it off. What would happen if he got thirsty? What if his cat tickled his stomach? His mother comes in and tells him to take off his clothes, have a shower and change into his pajamas. But this time he can't get his clothes on. This book is a funny take on the typical problems little children face in daily life. <Doi>



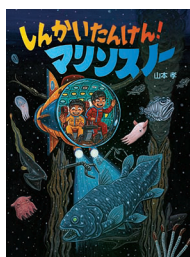
15

きょうはそらにまるいつき

Kyo wa sora ni marui tsuki
(There's a Round Moon in the Sky Tonight)

Text/Illus. Arai, Ryoji | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 30×22 cm | ISBN 9784032324501 | Ages 3+ | *Daily life; Blessedness; Nature*

Recipient of the Ezra Jack Keats Book Award and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, Ryoji Arai has created a brilliant new picture book. The first scene shows a baby in a carriage gazing up at the night sky. In the next scene, a full moon shines brilliantly against a dark blue background, while the text reads, "There's a round moon in the sky tonight." Through the windows of a home and a bus in the city, in the mountains and in a forest, the moon glows. The illustrations in Arai's book are like master paintings, filling the reader with an expansive sense of joy and peace. <Nogami>



16

しんかいたんけん! マリンスノー

Shinkai tanken! Marinsuno
(Deep Sea Expedition on the Marine Snow)

Text/Illus. Yamamoto, Takashi | Tokyo: Komine Shoten | 2015 | 32 pp. | 29×22 cm | ISBN 9784338261210 | Ages 3+ | *Ocean; Living things; Investigation*

Two brothers dive into bed and set off on a deep sea expedition. The bed is transformed into the Marine Snow, a deep sea explorer. The blue sea grows darker and familiar fish and ocean life give way to strange deep sea creatures. Readers behold the dramatic spectacle of a megamouth shark suddenly appearing in front of them, being chased by a bluntnose sixgill shark, and then saved by a giant squid. The densely packed illustrations give substance to the fantasy of this picture book which, while being highly entertaining, also stimulates an appetite for knowledge about the deep sea. <Hiromatsu>



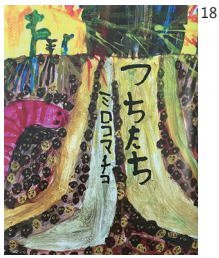
17

かくれんぼ 朝鮮半島のわらべうた

Kakurenbo: Chosen hanto no warabe uta
(Hide and Seek: Nursery Songs from Korea)

Text/Illus. Chi, Kimiko | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 28×23 cm | ISBN 9784834082494 | Ages 4+ | *Nursery song; Korea; Children*

This Japanese artist, who mastered the techniques of Korean folk art, illustrates three nursery rhymes from the Korean Peninsula: "Hide and Seek"; "Looks Tasty, Yum Yum," in which every time children are about to eat a rice cake, it's snatched away from them by something—a ghost, a calf, and so on; and "The Snow Song," about making and eating rice cakes on snowy days. All three use rhythmic words and fun pictures to provide a view of how children in Korea live. <Sakuma>



つちたち
Tsuchi tachi (Grains of Earth)

Text/Illus. mirocomachico | Tokyo: Gakken | 2015 | 32 pp. | 31×24 cm | ISBN 9784052043079 | Ages 4+ | *Soil; Sun; Living things*

"Good morning!" the sun calls out to the earth, and the earth responds with dark grains, brown grains, and golden grains filling the page. Underground they exchange greetings with plant roots and worms, and on the ground they dance and sing while being kicked around by animals and dinosaurs. And in winter, they sleep. Dynamic illustrations with lively brushwork sensuously capture the soil that has covered the earth since ancient times. This is the fifth picture book by this young author, who has already won numerous awards at home and abroad, including a Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB) 2015 Golden Apple. <Hiromatsu>



カペリーちゃん
Kaperi-chan (Capeli)

Text/Illus. Tsutsumi, Arei | Tokyo: Futohsha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 29×21 cm | ISBN 9784892194122 | Ages 4+ | *Girl; Friendship; Adventure*

Capeli is a lighthearted, cheerful little girl who lives in the forest. One day her friend Jack the peacock falls ill, and she does everything she can to cure him. But even at the city hospital they don't know what's wrong with him, and she is wondering what to do when a fairy appears out of the mailbox, turns both of them into letters, and sends them to a turtle who is an excellent doctor. This is a fantasy adventure that draws on the *Flatland* two-dimensional world to create its own unique manga-like pictures. It is full of wordplay, such as a song in which the name of Caldecott, father of the picture book, is read back-to-front. <Hiromatsu>



たんぼレストラン
Tanbo resutoran (The Rice Paddy Restaurant)

Text/Illus. Hayashi, Masumi | Tokyo: Hikarinokuni | 2016 | 32 pp. | 30×21 cm | ISBN 9784564018725 | Ages 4+ | *Rice paddy; Living things; Life*

The rice paddy restaurant is closed over winter, when everyone's hibernating, but it reopens when the soil is plowed in spring, and by the time the paddy is flooded ready for planting it is in full swing. This picture book compares the food chain of living creatures in the paddy to a cheerful bustling restaurant. The illustrations are dynamic and humorous, and even young children will naturally grasp the relationship between eating and being eaten. It is modeled on paddies near to Lake Biwa (not far from Kyoto), and with around seventy creatures making an appearance, it will stimulate an interest in living creatures. <Hiromatsu>



おせんとおこま
Osen to Okoma (Osen and Okoma)

Text/Illus. Iino, Kazuyoshi | Tokyo: Bronze Publishing | 2016 | 32 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784893096180 | Ages 4+ | *Girl; Edo-period; Mountain*

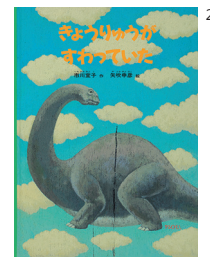
This picture book takes a fresh look at nature and human relationships during the Edo period. Osen is a pretty girl who stands outside teahouses to bring in customers. She is given a bamboo hairpin by Okoma, a girl who spends her life traveling through the mountains. When Osen puts it in her hair, a magical strength wells up in her and she has the feeling she can become something close to nature. Recalling what Okoma had told her before she departed, she begins to sing like a bird. Another of the characters is a wolf, now extinct in Japan. <Sakuma>



カワセミとヒバリとヨタカ
Kawase mi to hibari to yotaka
(The Kingfisher, the Skylark, and the Nightjar)

Text/Illus. Abe, Hiroshi | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2016 | 40 pp. | 26×21 cm | ISBN 9784097266457 | Ages 4+ | *Animal; Allegory; Philosophy*

The kingfisher is expert at fishing. He flies low over the water, takes aim, dives vertically and makes his catch. When the lark tries to imitate him, however, he almost drowns. The nightjar is expert at catching bugs. He flies horizontally in a straight line, catching the bugs in his big mouth, but when the lark tries to do the same, he chokes. But the lark can fly high in the sky and catch worms in the grass. The author used to work in a zoo, and portrays the birds' individual characteristics accurately and humorously in a way that is true to life. <Hiromatsu>



きょうりゅうがすわっていた
Kyoryu ga suwatte ita
(Dinosaur Pops Up in My Town)

Text: Ichikawa, Nobuko | Illus. Yabuki, Nobuhiko | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 27×20 cm | ISBN 9784834082296 | Ages 4+ | *Dinosaur; Birthday; Fantasy*

On his son's sixth birthday, a father tells him about the day he was born. The father was alone at home in a high-rise apartment building, waiting for his son to be born, when a huge dinosaur stuck its head through the window. That day marked the beginning of a strange, wordless, exchange between the father and the dinosaur sitting at the traffic lights. On Christmas night the dinosaur gave birth, then put the father on her back and set off on a walk. A gently humorous magical story celebrating birthdays and Christmas, with beautiful illustrations painted on wood. <Hiromatsu>



24

ゆき
Yuki (Snow)

Text/Illus. Kikuchi, Chiki | Tokyo: Holp Shuppan | 2015
| 32 pp. | 25×26 cm | ISBN 9784593560998 | Ages 4+ |
Seasons; Nature; Poetry

Snow begins falling in the forest. At first it falls in soft fluffy flakes, but it grows steadily thicker and soon begins to settle. Alarmed, the animals hurriedly prepare, and soon huddle together to sleep, while human children greet the snow with delight. Living beings are enveloped in a world devoid of color and sound by beautiful, cold white snow that is sometimes gentle and sometimes threatening. The author apparently based his illustrations on the snowy plains of his native Hokkaido, and his concise sentences and bold illustrations draw the reader into his richly poetic work. <Hiromatsu>



25

ちいさなりすのエメラルド
Chisana risu no Emerarudo
(Emerald, the Little Squirrel)

Text/Illus. Sonoda, Eri | Tokyo: Bunkeido | 2016 | 32 pp.
| 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784799901663 | Ages 5+ | *Squirrel;
Book; Bedtime*

Emerald the squirrel can't get to sleep because Garnet, the rabbit who always reads a picture book to her at bedtime, has been called out for work. And so Emerald goes around the neighborhood asking all the adults if they'll read to her. Her encounters and adventures along the way enable her to grow. This bedtime book features a story within a story, with meticulously detailed illustrations in pencil and pastel colors. The author studied residential architecture, and her depictions of interiors are particularly noteworthy. <Hiromatsu>



26

ネコヅメのよる
Nekozume no yoru
(The Night of the Cat Gathering)

Text/Illus. Machida, Naoko | Tokyo: Wave Shuppan |
2016 | 32 pp. | 26×22 cm | ISBN 9784872909432 | Ages
5+ | *Cat; Moon; Mystery*

At last the special night arrives. One cat slips away from home, followed by countless others who come from all over town to join a big gathering. In unison the throng of cats look expectantly up at the sky. Readers gulp nervously, dreading what's to come. But what is it that appears in the night sky? A thrilling and humorous picture book about a cat's secret. The author was widely acclaimed for her scary illustrations in the popular *Kaidan ehon* (ghost story picture books) series, and now shows herself to be in her element as a cat lover too. <Hiromatsu>

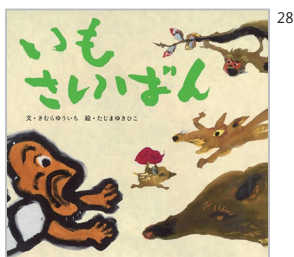


27

うらしまたろう
Urashima Taro (The Tale of Urashima Taro)

Text: Ozawa, Toshio | Illus. Kanaida, Etsuko | Tokyo:
Kumon Shuppan | 2016 | 36 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN
9784774324357 | Ages 5+ | *Folktales; Dragon King's palace; Turtle*

An illustrated version of the classic folktale Urashima Taro. A fisherman rescues a turtle. In return, the turtle invites him to the Dragon King's palace beneath the sea, where a princess shows him the kingdom's wonders. When Urashima Taro asks to go home, she gives him a jeweled box, warning him never to open it. Upon his return, however, he finds that many years have passed and much has changed. Shocked, he opens the box, turns into a crane and marries the princess, who was, in fact, the turtle he saved. The finely executed woodblock prints capture his journey under the sea. <Doi>

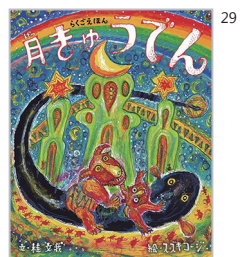


28

いもさいばん
Imo saiban (The Trial of the Potato Thief)

Text: Kimura, Yuichi | Illus. Tajima, Yukihiko | Tokyo:
Kodansha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 25×27 cm | ISBN
9784061332959 | Ages 6+ | *Nature; Boar; Live together*

An old man devotes himself to growing sweet potatoes, but every night someone sneaks in and steals some of them. Eventually he finds out that the thief is a family of wild boars. The boars and other animals feel that potatoes are the product of the earth, rain, and sun, and that humans are at fault for trying to keep them all to themselves! So which is the real thief? This is the question this picture book poses, leaving readers to ponder the issue for themselves. Readers are drawn in by the daring composition and bold lines of these humorous stencil-dyed illustrations. <Hiromatsu>



29

月きゅうでん
Gekkyuden (Moon Palace)

Text: Katsura, Bunga | Illus. Suzuki, Koji | Tokyo:
Shogakukan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 26×21 cm | ISBN
9784097266433 | Ages 6+ | *Rakugo; Fantasy; Space*

A picture book of cosmic proportions based on *rakugo*—a storytelling form that has influenced manga and anime, which is currently enjoying a revival in Japan. In this comedic tale a boy fishing in a river catches a great eel, who sends him flying through space. He arrives in a moon palace where an annual festival is underway, disguises himself as a lightning god, and joins the dancing! But the king finds out he is human and a chase ensues. Artist Koji Suzuki's bold composition and use of color, as well as the quirky characters, combine to make this book entrancing. <Nogami>



30

タケノコごはん

Takenoko gohan

(Rice Cooked With Bamboo Shoots)

Text: Oshima, Nagisa | Illus. Ito, Hideo | Tokyo: Poplar | 2015 | 42 pp. | 25×25 cm | ISBN 9784591145777 | Ages 6+ | *War; Rice; Doubt*

A well-known film director, Nagisa Oshima, describes an experience from his childhood during World War II. One day he and his classmates went to bid farewell to their teacher, who had been drafted and would soon leave to fight. The teacher served them all rice cooked with bamboo shoots. As they ate, a boy who had not cried since his father died in battle, suddenly burst out sobbing and pled, "Teacher, don't go to war!" Oshima, who had believed until then that the war was right, began to doubt what he had been taught. <Sakuma>



31

にしきのなかの馬

Nishiki no naka no uma

(The Horse in the Tapestry)

Text: Yaegashi, Naoko | Illus. Tsukasa, Osamu | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2015 | 32 pp. | 26×26 cm | ISBN 9784494015467 | Ages 7+ | *Folktales; Tohoku region; Love*

Aya, the daughter of a wealthy family, receives a white colt soon after her mother dies. She names him Saburo and cares for him so devotedly that her father fears she will never marry and sells the horse. Saburo appears to Aya in a dream and tells her to weave a tapestry with him in the middle. She does as she is told and finds that she can still meet him inside the brocade. War, however, brings tragedy to the pair. The computer graphics have a translucent quality that captures the poignancy of their fate. <Doi>



32

あひる

Ahiru (Duck)

Text/Illus. Ishikawa, Eiko | Tokyo: Kumon Shuppan | 2015 | 32 pp. | 25×23 cm | ISBN 9784774324029 | Ages 8+ | *Life; Food; Growth*

One day, when a little girl comes home from school, a duck is in the chicken coop. A man in the next town has brought it over. The next day, the girl's younger brother takes the slightly weakened duck for a swim in the river. The day after that, when the girl comes home from school, the duck has disappeared. The girl's mother, cooking in the kitchen, tells her that the duck has died. The family eats boiled meat and vegetables that night. The girl's brother says, "Wait. This isn't duck, is it?" Mother kindly answers "no," but . . . <Miyakawa>



33

ひまなこなべ アイヌのむかしばなし

Hima na konabe: Ainu no mukashi banashi

(Little Pot of Leisure: An Ainu Folktale)

Text: Kayano, Shigeru | Illus. Doi, Kaya | Tokyo: Asunaro Shobo | 2016 | 32 pp. | 31×22 cm | ISBN 9784751528198 | Ages 7+ | *Ainu; Bear; Spirit*

The Ainu are the indigenous people of Japan. This picture book relates one of their folktales about a bear god who is killed by a human. Unable to forget an amazing dance by a youth at the ceremony to send him to heaven, he repeatedly comes back to earth in order to identify the youth, thus ensuring that the youth's family prospers with meat and furs aplenty. The story teaches that humans are kept alive by nature and other lives. Drawing on traditional Ainu patterns, the illustrations capture the essence of this tale and make it easy to follow. <Sakuma>



34

なつめやしのおむこさん

Natsume yashi no omukosan

(A Bridegroom for the Date Palm)

Text/Illus. Ichikawa, Satomi | Hyogo: BL Shuppan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 28×22 cm | ISBN 9784776407584 | Ages 8+ | *Date; Oman; Adventure*

A picture book set in Oman in the Middle East. The author has been to Oman many times, and meticulously portrays the daily lives of people who live there. A boy called Mansoor goes in search of a male tree so his date palm can bear fruit. Along the way, he loses the coffee pot he was to exchange, but somehow he manages to get hold of a sapling, and thanks to his tender care, his tree bears a lot of fruit. This work was first published in France. <Sakuma>



35

ことりぞ

Kotorizo (Twilight Fright)

Text: Kyogoku, Natsuhiko | Illus. Yamashina, Rie | Edit. Higashi, Masao | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten | 2015 | 32 pp. | 29×22 cm | ISBN 9784265079759 | Ages 9+ | *Ghost story; Spirit; Mask*

This book tells a ghost story about the spooking-away of a child at twilight. Such ghost stories, or *kaidan*, grew from reverence for the scale and darker side of Japan's natural world. In this book, a girl wearing a mask explores a house, a shrine, the base of a large tree, the outside of a deserted building, and a space between two houses—all of which can be spooky, especially as twilight falls. Is someone there?! The reader's heart pounds along with the girl's. The symbolic illustrations, composition and organization of the book are excellent. <Nogami>

RECENT CHAPTER BOOKS AND NOVELS



36

こぶたものがたり チェルノブイリから福島へ
Kobuta monogatari: Cherunobuiri kara Fukushima e
(A Tale of Two Little Pigs: From Chernobyl to Fukushima)

Text: Nakazawa, Shoko | Illus. Sasameya, Yuki | Tokyo: Iwasaki shoten | 2016 | 80 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784265840076 | Ages 6+ | *Piglet; Nuclear Accident; Fukushima*

A story about peaceful lives disrupted by nuclear accidents. Tanya, who lived in Chernobyl, had a piglet called Marumaru (Rolypoly), while Natsuko in Fukushima had a piglet called Momo (Peaches). The girls played with the piglets every day, looking after them as if they were part of their families. However, following the nuclear accidents both piglets were left behind when their families were evacuated. After Tanya visits Fukushima on a recreational visit organized by a Japanese NGO, a letter from her connects the two girls. <Sakuma>



37

おーばあちゃんはきらきら
Oobaachan wa kirakira
(Great-Grandma's Fantastic Stories)

Text: Takadono, Hoko | Illus. Komine, Yura | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2015 | 112 pp. | 21×16 cm | ISBN 9784834081473 | Ages 6+ | *Great-grandmother; Memory; Fantasy*

First grader Chi has a grandma, and she has a great grandma. Petite with light green eyes, little Chi's great grandma has a sparkle. She tells Chi that in her childhood, when she chased a large red bird far across a wide field, an old woman appeared in a light purple cloud. Great Grandma realized that it was herself as a grownup. <Miyakawa>



38

モンスターホテルでピクニック
Monsuta hoteru de pikunikku
(Picnic at Monster Hotel)

Text: Kashiwaba, Sachiko | Illus. Takabatake, Jun | Tokyo: Komine Shoten | 2016 | 63 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784338072298 | Ages 7+ | *Monster; Picnic; First love*

When monsters visit the town where humans live, they stay at Monster Hotel. A handsome human has asked devil princess Yasha to join him for a picnic, but she suffers from a rare condition that makes her turn into a warthog when she sees a butterfly. The other monsters at the hotel converge on the picnic place and try to catch all the butterflies before the couple arrive. This is the fifteenth volume in a series that relates the funny happenings at Monster Hotel. <Doi>



39

トンチンさんはそばにいる
Tonchin-san wa soba ni iru (Tonchin Is Near)

Text: Saegusa, Hiroko | Illus. Horikawa, Rimako | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2016 | 63 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784494011636 | Ages 8+ | *Mysteries of the heart; Difference; Empathy*

When Hinata comes to school in a new t-shirt, Yu circles around her many times and declares, "Polka dots. Twenty-four and a half!" Hinata and Mao count, and they find Yu is right: there are indeed twenty-four and one-half polka dots on Hinata's shirt. Yu sometimes says the oddest things. That same day in class, Yu tells them, "What's coming soon is . . . thunder!" and though the sky is cloudless, they hear thunder far off. Yu says that "Tonchin" tells him these things—but who is Tonchin? <Miyakawa>



40

おばけ道、ただいま工事中!?
Obake michi, tadaima kojichu!?
(Ghost Road, Under Construction?!)

Text: Kusano, Akiko | Illus. Hirasawa, Tomoko | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten | 2015 | 96 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784265054992 | Ages 8+ | *Friendship; Science fiction; Ghost*

Late at night, a boy wakes up to hear a voice calling him. A girl stands at his bedside. She informs him, "I am a ghost" and "I come from the Ghost Association." Her name is Sato, and she is in fourth grade like him. A paper that she holds before him reads, "Ghost Road, Under Construction. Apologies for the Inconvenience." The road turns out to be the way for departed souls to reach the ghost world, and it needs maintenance. The ghosts want to build a detour road . . . right through the boy's room! <Miyakawa>



41

ちゃあちゃんのむかしばなし
Cha-chan no mukashi banashi
(Cha-chan's Folktales)

Text: Nakawaki, Hatsue | Illus. Naro, Michinori | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 304 pp. | 21×16 cm | ISBN 9784834082357 | Ages 8+ | *Folktales; Region; Mother*

The clear Shimanto River flows through the mountain enclosed region of Hata, in northwestern Kochi Prefecture, Shikoku. In this book, an author from Hata region retells Hata tales from long-ago, much as she has told them to her own two children. She calls herself Cha-chan because that is what her children called her before they could say *okasan* (mother). Starting with "Izanami Izanagi," a tale of deities from Japanese myth, this collection offers some fifty tales in all. <Miyakawa>



42

きかせたがりやの魔女
Kikasetagariya no majo
(The Story-Telling Witch)

Text: Okada, Jun | Illus. Hata, Koshiro | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 142 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784036460700 | Ages 8+ | *Elementary school; Witch; Fantasy*

Did you know that every elementary school has a witch or a wizard living inside? The fifth grade boy who narrates this book goes to fetch a forgotten item at school one day—and meets a witch on the stair landing. From then on, the witch appears suddenly in odd-numbered months to tell the boy a story, based on her experiences in the world of witchery. Why does she want to tell him stories so much? Well, it's her secret. This book includes six stories told by the witch, which are both mysterious and hilarious. <Nogami>



43

ケンガイにっ!
Kengai ni! (Out of Range!)

Text: Takamori, Miyuki | Illus. Kato, Yasumi | Tokyo: Froebell-kan | 2016 | 224 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784577043486 | Ages 10+ | *Internet addiction; Food; Grandmother and grandchildren*

Fifth-grader Shun blames himself for the death of his younger brother in an accident. Gaming helps him forget, and he is now hooked on online role-playing games. During summer vacation, his parents send him to his grandmother's house in the country where there is no internet. Shun tries to run away, but he ends up staying and getting to know his grandmother. He also makes friends with twins in the neighborhood, one of whom is anorexic. Through these relationships, he confronts his own issues. This moving book explores issues faced by many children in contemporary Japan. <Doi>



44

ハルと歩いた
Haru to aruita (Walking Haru)

Text: Nishida, Toshiya | Tokyo: Tokuma Shoten | 2015 | 264 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784198640699 | Ages 10+ | *Father and son; Growth; Dog*

Yota has moved from Tokyo to his late mother's home of Nara. A year has passed, yet he has not made close friends or gotten used to his new city. After finishing his sixth and last year of elementary school, Yota finds himself caring for a lost French bulldog, which was left with him at the riverside by a homeless man. Yota walks his area with the dog, seeking its owner. While walking, Yota encounters neighbors, his mother's past, and himself. <Miyakawa>



45

ぼくたちのリアル
Boku tachi no Riaru (Our Riaru)

Text: Tomori, Shiruko | Illus. Sato, Makiko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 224 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784062200738 | Ages 10+ | *Friendship; Popular student; Trauma*

Aska starts fifth grade in the same class with Riaru, who lives next door to him, and a new student named Saji. Aska often feels inferior to Riaru, who excels in both soccer and academics. But Aska wonders—why does Riaru live only with this father? Also, why did Saji move here suddenly? As Aska unravels these mysteries, he gets to know both Riaru and Aska, and all three children grow. <Miyakawa>



46

ぼくが弟にしたこと
Boku ga ototo ni shita koto
(What I Did to My Brother)

Text: Iwase, Joko | Illus. Hasegawa, Shuhei | Tokyo: Riron-sha | 2015 | 160 pp. | 20×15 cm | ISBN 9784652201312 | Ages 10+ | *Divorce; Parents and children; Brother*

This book explores the feelings of children scarred by violence that grown-ups do not see. The author, a pioneer in Japan's YA genre with many works to her credit, portrays a sixth-grade boy who lives with his mother and his brother, who is four years younger, after a divorce. The main character hits his brother over little things, and remembers how his own father hit him. Observing his friend's family, however, he rethinks how a family should get along. The climax, when he and his brother begin to understand each other, is deeply moving. A masterful look at a family facing up to violence. <Nogami>



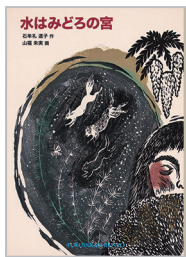
47

アリスのうさぎ

Arisu no usagi (Biblio Fantasia: Alice's Rabbit)

Text: Saito, Hiroshi | Illus. Moriizumi, Takehito | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 166 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784037272104 | Ages 10+ | *Library; Uncanny episodes; Listening to others*

This is a mysterious fantasy set in a city library. The narrator and main character works part-time at the children's book counter. There she meets a teen boy searching for a test prep guide that no one is sure exists; a girl who likes *Alice in Wonderland*, who chases a rabbit and gets trapped; and even a girl who has already died. Uncanny episodes like these, which the librarian can speak of to no one, happen one after the next. The author skillfully weaves psychological details into these curious stories. <Nogami>



48

水はみどろの宮

Mizu wa midoro no miya
(The Mountain Spirit And a Girl)

Text: Ishimure, Michiko | Illus. Yamafuku, Akemi | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 264 pp. | 17×13 cm | ISBN 9784834082517 | Ages 10+ | *Soul; Nature; Girl*

A girl of seven named Oyo lives with an old ferryman named Senmatsu, eager to help him now that she is big. Senmatsu tells Oyo, "People live nourished by the river—by what it brings and what grows near it. Why not receive what it has to give?" Taking with her a dog named Ran, who has accompanied a blind monk, Oyo follows the river upstream. She reaches a palace covered in water and meets Gon-no-Mori, a one thousand-year-old fox. This fantasy probes the origins of water and humanity. <Miyakawa>



49

レイさんといた夏

Rei-san to ita natsu (The Summer With Rei)

Text: Yasuda, Kana | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 239 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784062832397 | Ages 12+ | *Identity; Earthquake; Parents and children*

Rio, a girl in her first year of middle school, has just moved. As she huddles in a room strewn with her things, a ghost named Rei appears. Brown-haired with pierced ears and a jogging jacket, Rei cannot remember who she is and thus cannot pass into the world of the dead; she insists that Rio help her. Their clue is one faint memory from Rei's former life. As Rio's search for her identity overlaps with Rei's, strange and humorous developments await. <Nogami>



50

川床にえくぼが三つ

Kawadoko ni ekubo ga mittsu
(Three Dimples in the Riverbed)

Text: Nishigaki, Yoko | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2015 | 240 pp. | 19×26 cm | ISBN 9784092905825 | Ages 12+ | *Friendship; International travel; Future*

This book takes the form of a travel journal by Ayane, a second-year student in middle school. With her friend Hana, Ayane goes along on her aunt Fuko's eight-day research trip to Indonesia. Ayane's aunt studies ancient rock layers as a paleontologist. At the Solo River, the longest river on Java, Ayane helps perform an investigation of the riverbed, which is a layer from five hundred thousand years ago. There Ayane finds three depressions that look like dimples. <Miyakawa>



51

白をつなぐ

Shiro o tsunagu (Like A Blank Sheet)

Text: Mahara, Mito | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2015 | 272 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784092897434 | Ages 13+ | *Long-distance relay race; Parents and children; Friendship*

This is a moving account of a team of ten young men ranging in age from their early teens to early twenties. Seven are chosen to represent their prefecture in a grueling long-distance relay race. Before the race starts, one of them discovers a letter that is just a blank sheet. With each change in runner, the narrator shifts, so that we see the race from different perspectives and learn of the struggles and dreams, love life or family problems of each member, along with their reasons for running. The significance of the mysterious blank sheet of paper also becomes clear. <Doi>



52

少年たちの戦場

Shonen tachi no senjo (The Boys' Battles)

Text: Nasu, Masamoto | Illus. Hata, Koshiro | Toyo: Shin-nihon Shuppansha | 2016 | 222 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784406060219 | Ages 13+ | *History; Child soldier; Battle*

The author of the *Zukkoke Three* book series, which sold fifty million copies, wrote this short story collection around the theme of war. War is something adults do, but it invariably victimizes young people. These four stories all portray teenage boys, who themselves must fight in armed conflict: the civil war when Japan became a modern state, and the fighting in northeast China and Okinawa during World War II. With its depiction of teenagers who face desperate fates, it is a sharp indictment of war's cruelty. <Nogami>



53

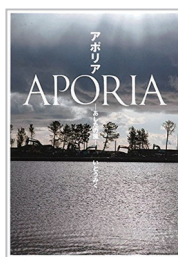
まぐ子

Makuko

(A Mysterious Girl Good At Scattering Things)

Text/ illus. Nishi, Kanako | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 256 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784834082388 | Ages 12+ | *Encounter; Coming-of-Age; Diversity*

Satoshi is in the fifth grade of elementary school. No longer a child but not yet an adult, he feels disoriented and out of step with the world around him. Then a pretty girl called Kozue transfers to his school. Kozue doesn't bother herself with the people around her, but leads a strange existence scattering all kinds of things, from pebbles to nuts and water. Satoshi is captivated by her, and eventually she confides her secret to him: actually, she is a space alien and will one day have to return to her own star. Through Kozue, Satoshi is able to accept diversity and redefine himself in such a way that he can eventually accept himself and be accepted by others. <Sakuma>



54

アポリア あしたの風

Aporia: Ashita no kaze (Aporia: Tomorrow's Wind)

Text: Ito, Miku | Photo: Shishido, Kiyotaka | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2016 | 271 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784494020485 | Ages 13+ | *Natural Disaster; Mutual Assistance; Meaning of Life*

In this YA novel set in the near future, a great earthquake and tsunami rock Tokyo. People of different ages and backgrounds witness death and try to find purpose, exploring what they can do for others. A middle school student named Ichiya was a shut-in, loathing himself for wishing to murder a classmate. In the earthquake, as he tries to save his mother, a man drags him to safety. The fact that he could not help his mom scars Ichiya's heart, but as he interacts with other people again, he reconsiders his life and grows. <Sakuma>



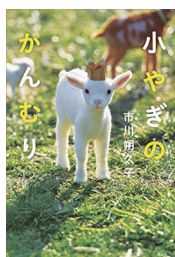
55

トニヤンクイがやってきた

Tonyankui ga yatte kita (The Dongyang Gui Came)

Text: Okazaki, Hidetaka | Tokyo: Shin-nihon Shuppansha | 2015 | 348 pp. | 20×13 cm | ISBN 9784406059534 | Ages 13+ | *World War II; Invasion; Resistance*

This book alternately tells the stories of Tsao Shin, a boy who lives in China, and Takeji, a boy in Japan, throughout the Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945) and World War II. The book's two perspectives give the war history depth. Tsao Shin's family are killed by Japanese soldiers, called *Dongyang gui* in Chinese, and he joins the Chinese resistance. Takeji's mother must go to China as a nurse, and Takeji's brother risks his life there as a probationary soldier. Takeji experiences the U.S. firebombing of Tokyo. <Miyakawa>



56

小やぎのかんむり

Koyagi no kanmuri (The Kid's Crown)

Text: Ichikawa, Sakuko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 252 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784062200059 | Ages 13+ | *Family; Friendship; Affection*

Natsume's father comes home from the hospital for bedrest, after being hurt in a car accident. Natsume has suffered verbal abuse and even violence from her father, and has wished to kill him. Running away from this part of herself, Natsume goes for a summer camp at an old temple in the mountains. It's her last summer of middle school. Over this summer, Natsume gets to know Raita, a five-year-old entrusted to the temple by his single mother. Natsume also meets Yosuke, a high school student who brings a young goat to graze on the grounds. In time, Natsume builds up the strength to face reality. <Miyakawa>



57

空はいま ぼくらふたりを中心に

Sora wa ima bokura futari o chushin ni (The Sky Holds the Two of Us)

Text: Murakami, Shiiko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 286 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784062202176 | Ages 13+ | *High school club; Tanka poetry; LGBT awareness*

This novel follows *To Write Poems Is To Pick Up One's Life*, about a high school tanka poetry club. The narrator in the first novel is Narihira, a boy in his final year. In this sequel, journal entries of a new boy named Toki, who has a crush on Narihira, also appear. The book features plentiful dialogue, including the Kansai dialect of Narihira's girlfriend Seira, and the club members' one-line tanka poems pierce the novel like skewers. Layers of differing language tell a story of family problems and romance. <Miyakawa>



58

ふたりの文化祭

Futari no bunkasai (Jun and Aya's School Festival)

Text: Fujino, Megumi | Tokyo: Kadokawa | 2016 | 256 pp. | 13×19 cm | ISBN 9784041038130 | Ages 13+ | *Adolescence; High school; Bibliobattle*

This novel follows the developing relationship between Jun and Aya, who are both sixteen. Jun is good looking and popular, while Aya is a shy bookworm. Although Aya remembers that they went to kindergarten together, Jun has forgotten, distracted by all the attention he gets. The two have to work together preparing for the school festival. As they do, they remember their childhood. The writer does an excellent job of capturing the awkward communication between teenagers of the opposite sex. <Doi>

RECENT NONFICTION



59

わたしのこねこ
Watashi no koneko
(I Want to Share Your Feelings, My Dear Cat)

Text: Sawaguchi, Tamami | Illus. Azumimushi | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 26×23 cm | ISBN 9784834082609 | Ages 4+ | *Animal; Ecology; Relationship*

This is the story of a little girl and her kitten, Kuro. The girl studies and even sleeps with Kuro in her eagerness to make friends and is delighted when Kuro comes to greet her on her way back from school. The text and illustrations convincingly portray the girl's eagerness, and the artist's cutout technique deftly captures the girl's hesitance and the kitten's innocent playfulness. <Doi>



60

ぞうきばやしのもうたいかい
Zokibayashi no sumo taikai
(Sumo Wrestling of Insects)

Text: Hirono, Takako | Illus. Hirono, Kenichi | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 24 pp. | 22×21 cm | ISBN 9784834082548 | Ages 2+ | *Insects; Ecology; Comparison*

At a tree stump in the woods, a sumo tournament begins. First up are the drone beetle and jewel beetle. The drone beetle pushes the jewel beetle out of the ring with his head. Victory! Next, the pill bug faces the praying mantis. The pill bug latches onto the mantis's front legs, and the startled mantis touches the ground. The pill bug wins! In this way, insects do sumo in unusual pairings, using unusual techniques. What will happen with the final pair: the stag beetle and the rhinoceros beetle? <Miyakawa>

20



61

イモリくん ヤモリくん
Imori-kun Yamori-kun (Newt and Gecko)

Text/Illus. Matsuoka, Tatsuhide | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 22×27 cm | ISBN 9784265029310 | Ages 7+ | *Water's edge; Living things; Adventure*

Newt loves the pond where he was born. But one day, a boy swipes him up in a bucket, takes him home, and puts him in the sink. Gecko, who lives at the house and meets Newt, makes a plan for him to escape and return to the pond. Now, Newt is good at swimming, but he cannot survive out of water; Gecko can go anywhere using his legs, but he cannot go *in* water. A great adventure begins as the two try to help each other. <Miyakawa>



62

さかなだってねむるんです
Sakana datte nemurun desu (Fish Sleep, Too)

Text: Shimada, Yasuko | Photos: Ito, Katsutoshi | Tokyo: Poplar | 2015 | 40 pp. | 21×26 cm | ISBN 9784591146408 | Ages 5+ | *Sleep; Fish; Biology*

Fish can't close their eyes because they have no eyelids. Can they sleep? If so, how? Through photos, the author shows how fish sleep in the sea and keep themselves safe by changing color, hiding under rocks, or using other fish as shields. To keep from drifting away, some fish anchor themselves by biting a piece of coral while others bury themselves in the sand. And some just go on swimming inside a school of fish even while they sleep. The vivid photographs present a humorous overview of the sleeping habits of fish. <Doi>

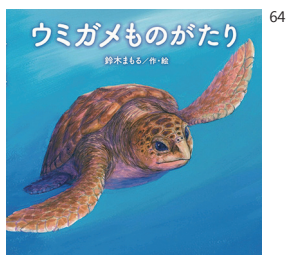


63

アマミホシゾラフグ
Amami hoshizura fugu (White-Spotted Pufferfish)

Text: Eguchi, Eri | Photos: Ookata, Yoji | Illus. Tomonaga, Taro | Tokyo: Holp Shuppan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 20×23 cm | ISBN 9784593583065 | Ages 6+ | *New variety; Pufferfish; Ecology*

The coral reefs near Japan's southern island Amami Oshima are home to many unusual fish. In the deep waters beyond, where living creatures are few, beautiful circles appear on the seabed. These stunning designs, long a mystery to scientists, are nests of the white-spotted pufferfish, a small relative of the blowfish. Only ten centimeters long, one white-spotted pufferfish creates a fantastic design in the sand some two meters across. This book depicts the fish in photos, with commentary from a cute cartoon character. <Nogami>



64

ウミガメものがたり

Umigame monogatari (Sea Turtle Story)

Text/Illus. Suzuki, Mamoru | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 26×26 cm | ISBN 9784494005208 | Ages 7+ | *Living things; Life; Journey*

In summer, a sea turtle mother comes ashore at a deserted beach. Using her hind legs, she digs a hole. In the hole, she lays about one hundred eggs. After covering the eggs, the mother turtle returns to the sea. Sixty days later, baby turtles are born. Only five centimeters across, the turtles flap their fins and somehow, with no one directing them, they head to the ocean. Will the baby turtles make it all the way to the ocean, and live? <Miyakawa>



65

つちはんみょう

Tsuchihanmyō (Oil Beetle)

Text/Illus. Tateno, Hiroshi | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 40 pp. | 29×25 cm | ISBN 9784034370704 | Ages 6+ | *Nature; Insects; Miniature*

"Long ago, people ground this insect into powder to make poison." So begins this picture book on the life of the oil beetle. The beetle's larvae, less than a millimeter long, look like poppy seeds. With plans to take up residence in a bumblebee hive, they embark on a perilous journey—not on their own power, but stuck to the bodies of various insects. Of four thousand larvae born at once, perhaps one or two will live to maturity. This book shows the life of the oil beetle up close, with magnificently detailed illustrations. <Nogami>



66

北極 いのちの物語

Hokkyoku: Inochi no monogatari
(The North Pole: A Story of Life)

Text/Photos: Terasawa, Takaki | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2015 | 40 pp. | 26×21 cm | ISBN 9784033324807 | Ages 8+ | *Polar bear; Arctic; Global warming*

In March, when the North Pole is at its coldest, a photographer heads outside. On his second day in a tent on a rise, looking out over the frozen sea, he spots a polar bear. "It's so beautiful. Over this pure white ice walks a wild polar bear. I was so moved I trembled." The polar bear's main food is seals. Those seals—where are they? What does the polar bear do in summer? This book uses the polar bear's life to reveal surprises and discoveries, linked together in photos and prose. <Miyakawa>



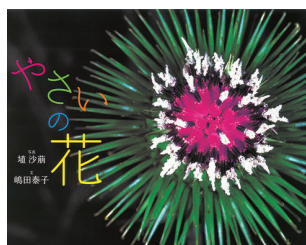
67

むし こぶみつけた

Mushikobu mitsuketa (I Found a Gall)

Text/Photos: Shinkai, Takashi | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 35 pp. | 21×27 cm | ISBN 9784591150023 | Ages 7+ | *Insects; Nature; Wonder*

Galls, or cecidia, are lump-like growths on the leaves and stems of plants, which form when insects lay eggs there. If you look closely, you will see galls here and there and in many colors. If you look inside, you will see insects growing. The galls are like cradles that protect the life inside. By showing a variety of cecidia in stunning pictures, this photo picture book opens our eyes to nature's wonders. <Sakuma>



68

やさいの花

Yasai no hana (Vegetable Flowers)

Text: Shimada, Yasuko | Photos: Hani, Shabou | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 40 pp. | 21×26 cm | ISBN 9784591149720 | Ages 5+ | *Vegetable; Flower; Photography*

We all know what vegetables are, but we often don't know their flowers. If a vegetable is the seed portion of a plant, it comes from a flower! Many such flowers are strikingly beautiful. For example, burdock is a relative of chrysanthemum, and its flowers resemble thistle. Cabbage and pak choi are related to canola, and may produce similar yellow flowers. Cucumber, pumpkin and bottle gourd are related to melon. Related plants have similar blossoms. This photo picture book surprises and delights with photos of gorgeous vegetable flowers, which often go overlooked. <Nogami>



69

くだものと木の实いっぱい絵本

Kudamono to kinomi ippai ehon
(Plenty of Fruits and Nuts)

Text/Illus. Horikawa, Rimako | Edit. Miwa, Masayuki | Tokyo: Asunaro Shobo | 2015 | 64 pp. | 25×19 cm | ISBN 9784751528075 | Ages 7+ | *Fruit; Nuts; Seasons*

A picture book about fruits and nuts that children love. While naming fruits and nuts of the four seasons, and describing their types and how they grow, this book also presents haiku and basic recipes. Tidbits of trivia appear throughout, and the realistic yet warm atmosphere of the illustrations is wonderful. Includes comic strip-like panels and other innovations. <Sakuma>



70

宇宙人っているの?

Uchujin te iru no? (Are There Extraterrestrials?)

Text: Naganuma, Takeshi | Illus. Yoshida, Hisanori | Tokyo: Kinnohoshi-sha | 2016 | 50 pp. | 29×22 cm | ISBN 9784323073576 | Ages 10+ | *Space; Planets; Living things*

Two children ask their father if there are living creatures elsewhere in the universe. Basing his observations on scientific fact, their father first tells them about life on Planet Earth and then explains how the existence of active volcanos under the oceans on moons orbiting Jupiter and Saturn may indicate the presence of living organisms. The children and their father then tackle the idea of life outside our solar system and imagine what forms organisms would have to take in order to survive. The author is a biologist, and his firm grounding in science makes his visions of creatures on different planets fascinating. <Doi>



71

築地市場 絵で見る魚市場の一日

Tsukiji shijo: E de miru uo ichiba no ichinichi
(A Day at Tsukiji Fish Market)

Text/Illus. Morinaga, Yo | Tokyo: Komine Shoten | 2016 | 31 pp. | 31×22 cm | ISBN 9784338282055 | Ages 6+ | *Aquatic products; Shipping; Food*

This picture book's theme is the Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo, which will soon relocate after eighty years. In the opening spread, we see how eight thousand trucks arrive in the dead of night, bringing fresh fish to Tsukiji. The trucks are unloaded, and tuna auctions begin. In the intermediate wholesalers' area, some six hundred stalls bustle. This book shows concretely how the fish make their way through the market, and what jobs people do there. <Miyakawa>



72

人類の歴史を作った 船の本

Jinrui no rekishi o tsukutta fune no hon
(The Boat Book: Boats Made Human History)

Text/Illus. Hisa, Kunihiko | Tokyo: Kodomonomirai-sha | 2016 | 40 pp. | 22×29 cm | ISBN 9784864121057 | Ages 8+ | *Boat; History; Trade*

Humankind began about two hundred thousand years ago in Africa. From there, humans crossed seas using boats and spread around the world. At first, manpower and wind power moved the boats, but now boats with diesel engines, and even nuclear-powered ships, traverse our world. The history of boats is a history of people. Why were boats first made? How have they been propelled? This illustrated reference book presents a history of boats using detailed drawings. <Nogami>



73

それでも、海へ

Soredemo umi e: Rikuzentakata ni ikiru
(Still Going Out Fishing: Rikuzentakata after the Tsunami)

Text/Photos: Yasuda, Natsuki | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 40 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784591148112 | Ages 10+ | *Sea; Fishing; Recovery*

This photo picture book shows a fisherman and his grandchild in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture. The town was rocked by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011. Nearly all its fishing boats were destroyed. The fisherman in this book survived by taking his boat far offshore, but seeing the suffering, he declined to fish for a long time. One day his grandson said, "I want to eat that white fish you used to catch, Grandpa." At that sentence, the man decided to return to sea. This book shows how he shares his catches, and the port begins coming back to life. <Sakuma>



74

ここで土になる

Koko de tsuchi ni naru
(Here We Will Return to Dust)

Text/Photos: Onishi, Nobuo | Tokyo: Alice-kan | 2015 | 40 pp. | 26×20 cm | ISBN 9784752007340 | Ages 10+ | *Dam; Husband and wife; Destruction of the environment*

The villagers of Itsukimura in Kyushu were evicted to make way for a dam. One couple, the Ogatas, refused to leave, staying behind to tend their ancestors' graves, which lay under an ancient gingko tree. Eventually, the authorities decided to relocate the graveyard and the tree above the flood line. They lopped off the tree's branches and cut its roots. The project, however, was suddenly halted. Through it all, the Ogatas continued to live in the abandoned village and farm their land. This is a powerful record in text and photos of the destruction of nature and local life for the sake of a dam. <Doi>



75

わたしが外人だったころ

Watashi ga gaijin datta koro
(When I Was a Foreigner)

Text: Tsurumi, Shunsuke | Illus. Sasaki, Maki | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2015 | 40 pp. | 26×20 cm | ISBN 9784834081688 | Ages 9+ | *Identity; History; War*

In this book, peace activist Shunsuke Tsurumi (1922–2015) explores the meaning of peace based on his experiences of studying abroad in America and serving as a soldier for Japan after the outbreak of World War II. The book reflects particularly on his sense of being a foreigner both in America and Japan, a feeling that he retains to this day, and emphasizes the importance of maintaining an objective viewpoint. This coupled with Maki Sasaki's surreal paintings stimulates the reader to ponder such profound subjects as the meaning of life and the reality of war. <Doi>



76

いのる

Inoru (Prayer)

Text/Photos: Nagakura, Hiromi | Tokyo: Alice-kan | 2016 | 40 pp. | 26×20 cm | ISBN 9784752007623 | Ages 9+ | Prayer; Peace; Life and Death

This picture book shows people at prayer throughout the world. Some people pray for children not to be caught up in war, for peace to prevail, or for the deceased to go to a good place. Others pray to overcome anxiety and keep peace in their hearts. Some pray to ask questions about happenings they may not have understood at first. Others pray to find the right path. With photos that show beautiful scenes of prayer in different cultures, the author speaks of how prayers can connect, and the world can slowly transform. <Sakuma>



77



世界のともし火シリーズ (36 巻)

Sekai no tomodachi shirizu (Friends Around the World Series: 36 vols. for 36 countries)

Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2014-16 | 40 pp. | 24×21 cm | ISBN 9784036480104 et al. | Ages 8+ | Culture; World; Life

In this series of photo picture books, renowned photographers show us the homes, schools, leisure activities, clothing, food, and homes of children in 36 countries. Each volume has as main character a child of about ten, and focuses on a day in the child's life: what time she wakes up, what he eats for breakfast, what kind of school she attends, what content he studies. The photos, text and illustrations provide plenty of detail.

Unique festivals and rituals, artifacts, and sports are shown, as well as other aspects of religion and culture. This series helps us see differences and similarities among ways of life in different places, deepening intercultural understanding. The end of each volume provides recent data on the featured country's population, history, and industries. <Sakuma>



78

広島の木に会いにいこう

Hiroshima no ki ni ai ni iku
(A Trip to the Hiroshima Trees)

Text: Ishida, Yuko | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2015 | 240 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784036450800 | Ages 8+ | Hiroshima; War; Tree surgeon

There are trees in Hiroshima city that miraculously survived the atomic bomb in 1945. The author explores the effect of the bomb on the trees and the neighborhood where they still stand. She also examines the effect of the 2011 nuclear accident on trees in Fukushima. The book follows the author's process of investigation, which allows readers to experience the excitement of discovering the story hidden within the trees. The writing style and the use of abundant photos and illustrations make this a very engaging and interesting read. <Doi>



79

勇者はなぜ、逃げ切れなかったのか

Yusha wa naze nigekirenakatta no ka
(Why the Hero Couldn't Escape)

Text: Tadokoro, Makoto | Tokyo: Kumon Shuppan | 2016 | 112 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784774324531 | Ages 10+ | Disaster; Disaster prevention; History

This nonfiction work by an archaeologist presents things the author discovered while excavating the sites of ancient disasters. He learned, for example, that for over a thousand years, local people had been passing on the knowledge of how far inland tsunami could come. He also determined through analogical reasoning why a hero who helped all the other villagers to escape died in the village clad in his armor. The descriptions of archeological digs and the presentation of historical research are fascinating, and readers gain important insights into surviving natural disasters. <Doi>



80

知里幸恵物語

Chiri Yukie monogatari (Yukie Chiri: The Girl who Gave Her All to Tell the Ainu Stories)

Text: Kanaji, Naomi | Tokyo: PHP Institute | 2016 | 159 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784569785646 | Ages 10+ | Ainu; Traditional; language

Born in 1903 in Noribetsu, Hokkaido, Yukie Chiri belonged to the Ainu, the indigenous hunter-gatherer people of Japan. She grew up on Ainu legends told by her grandmother and her aunt. Defying ethnic discrimination, she studied Japanese. Inspired by the linguist and ethnologist Kyosuke Kindaichi, she used the Japanese writing system to record her people's legends both in the Ainu language and in Japanese translation. She died at age nineteen. This book graphically portrays Hokkaido during Chiri's life and the significance of her legacy in preserving Ainu culture. <Doi>

WORDLESS BOOKS

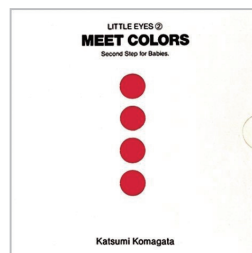


81

どうぶつのおやこ
Dobutsu no oyako (Animals' Families)

Illus. Yabuuchi, Masayuki | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1966 | 16 pp. | 19×25 cm | ISBN 9784834000740 | Ages 0+ | *Animal; Parents and children; Infant*

This textless book is illustrated with realistic pictures depicting rabbits, dogs, monkeys, bears, hippos, giraffes, lions and elephants with their offspring. This was an early work by Masayuki Yabuuchi (1940–2000), an animal artist who illustrated many children's books and animal guides. His firm grasp of animal ecology and his deep respect for his subjects is evident in his outstanding illustrations. This classic masterpiece is loved by a wide range of readers in Japan from infants to adults. <Doi>



82

どんないろ
Donna iro (Little Eyes 2: Meet Colors)

Design: Komagata, Katsumi | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 1990 | 12 pieces | 13×13 cm | ISBN 9784031320207 | Ages 1+ | *Color; Shape; Imagination*

Volume Two in this series of ten picture card books for babies. A set of twelve triple-fold perforated cards demonstrates amazing changes in simple figures through the joy of turning pages. Volume One for newborn babies consisted of only black and white shapes, but this second volume, for babies of four months or older, helps them to appreciate color. Each volume is designed to further deepen awareness of the world through the playful addition of numbers, objects, significance, and so forth. The debut infants' series by this world-renowned book maker and designer. <Hiromatsu>

24



83

ぞうのボタン
Zo no botan (Elephant Buttons)

Illus. Ueno, Noriko | Tokyo: Fuzambo | 1975 | 32 pp. | 20×21 cm | ISBN 9784572002068 | Ages 3+ | *Elephant; Button; Wonder*

This book was first published in New York in 1973, and it later came out in Japan. First, an elephant appears. On his tummy are four buttons. Turn the page, and the buttons are unfastened—and we see that a horse was inside. The horse has four buttons as well. Turn the page, and the buttons are unfastened—and a lion appears this time! The lion has four buttons too. What will happen when you turn the next page? <Miyakawa>



84

さわるめいろ2
Sawaru meiro 2
(Touch Picturebook with Braille: Mazes by Touch 2)

Design: Murayama, Junko | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2015 | 10 pp. | 25×21 cm | ISBN 9784097265757 | Ages 3+ | *Braille; Barrier-free society; Universal design*

Lines of colorful geometric mazes are traced with elevated dots of resin ink, raising the patterns to a height of 0.4 millimeters from the page. Designed as an accordion book, *Sawaru Meiro* has no binding and unfolds into a single long strip. The clever design allows children both with and without sight impairments to enjoy the mazes together. The first book in a series, *Sawaru Meiro* won many awards in Japan. <Doi>



85

どっとこどうぶつえん
Dottoko dobutsuen (Dottoko Zoo)

Illus. Nakamura, Norio | Tokyo: Fukuinkan shoten | 2014 | 32 pp. | 27×20 cm | ISBN 9784834081022 | Ages 3+ | *Animal; Design; Quiz*

This picture book portrays an unusual zoo in which the animals are made up of a minimal number of square dots. The panda, for example, is made up of just nine black squares on a plain white background, and the giraffe, lion, and hippo are similarly abstracted. All the pictures are designed to stretch the reader's imagination, and children can have fun looking at them from different angles trying to guess what the animal is. It won a special mention in the non-fiction category of the 2014 Bologna Ragazzi Awards. <Hiromatsu>



86

絵巻えほん びっくり水族館

Emaki ehon: Bikkuri suizokukan

(Picture Scroll Books: The Amazing Aquarium)

Illus. Cho, Shinta | Tokyo: Koguma-sha | 2005 | 26×26 cm
| ISBN 9784772101752 | Ages 4+ | *Picture scroll; Aquarium; Wonder*

This volume is part of a series of picture books based on picture scrolls. The story develops over the course of a three-meter long picture, which is folded accordion-style inside the book. The author is a pioneer of nonsense picture books in Japan. In this one, children on a school outing enter the aquarium through the open mouth of a fish on the front cover, to encounter an array of surprises, such as a walking shark, a shrimp bus, an old man dugong, and underpant squids. Also vividly portrayed are the excited reactions of the children all the way through to the exit on the back cover. <Hiromatsu>



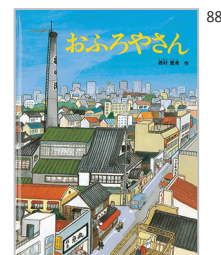
87

はるにれ

Harunire (An Elm Tree)

Photos: Anezaki, Kazuma | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1981 | 32 pp. | 26×19 cm | ISBN 9784834008579 | Ages 4+ | *Photography; Tree; Seasons*

The Japanese elm is a large, deciduous tree in the elm family. One such elm is the main character of this book. It lives in Hokkaido, standing in the scenery at autumn's end. When you turn the page, its leaves have dropped and snow is falling. Further into the book, grass at its base begins to bed, and spring arrives. Then comes early summer. The scenes' time of day varies from sunset, to a moonlit night, to noon, as we watch the elm live through the different seasons. <Miyakawa>



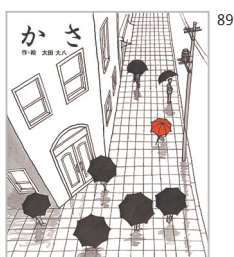
88

おふろやさん

Ofuroya san (The Bathhouse)

Illus. Nishimura, Shigeo | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 1983 | 32 pp. | 27×20 cm | ISBN 9784834009620 | Ages 4+ | *Public Bath; Family; Communication*

This book introduces a Japanese public bathhouse through pictures. A mother, father and two small children visit the bathhouse every evening. After going through the entrance to the building with its tiled roof and tall chimney, they go their separate ways into the separate bathing areas for men and women. The bathhouse is a place where people of all ages and occupations socialize while getting themselves clean. Everything from the landscape paintings and advertising posters over the bathtubs to the weighing scales and drink vending machines in the changing rooms is scrupulously portrayed in detailed pictures, bringing it alive in the reader's imagination. <Sakuma>



89

かさ

Kasa (Umbrella)

Illus. Ohta, Daihachi | Tokyo: Bunken Shuppan | 1975 | 28 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784580815339 C8793 | Ages 4+ | *Rain; Umbrella; Girl*

All pages of this book are monochrome, with the exception of a single, bright red umbrella held aloft by a girl. Her red umbrella passes a playground, where no one is playing due to the rain. Her red umbrella stops at a pond with waterbirds, passing the umbrellas of a boy and his mother. The girl carries another, black umbrella folded beneath her arm. As we watch her move through the rain, we wonder where she is going—and soon learn. <Miyakawa>



90

そら、にげろ

Sora, nigero (Quick, Fly Away!)

Illus. Akaba, Suekichi | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 1978 | 40 pp. | 23×25 cm | ISBN 9784039641205 | Ages 5+ | *Humor; Traditional culture; Seasons*

This is the best-known work by Suekichi Akaba, winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration. Totally wordless, it shows a man on a journey who is wearing a kimono with a bird pattern. A dog barks at the birds, startling them, and they fly out of the fabric. The poor traveler's struggle to catch them unfolds over eighteen spreads that show the passage of the four seasons. Paging through is exciting, like watching silent animation. Look out for the sub-stories! This masterpiece capitalizes on the picture book form. <Nogami>



91

旅の絵本 VIII

Tabi no ehon (Anno's Journey VIII)

Illus. Anno, Mitsumasa | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2013 | 56 pp. | 26×24 cm | ISBN 9784834080032 | Ages 5+ | *Journey; Japan; Landscape*

The eighth book in this popular series takes us on travels through towns and natural scenes, painted in fine brush strokes. Along the way, we encounter heroes and places from folktales. Since Volume I of this series came out in 1977 the settings have been overseas, but this volume shows Japan. It is set in the past, so we travel by horse and ox power and steam trains, through landscapes reminiscent of the author's youth. In a long postscript written after 3.11, the author expresses doubt about nuclear energy and how civilization is developing, and prays for children's future. <Hiromatsu>

BOOKS ABOUT PEACE



92

ぼくがラーメンたべてるとき
Boku ga ramen tabeteru toki
(As I Was Eating Ramen)

Text/Illus. Hasegawa, Yoshifumi | Tokyo: Kyoiku Gageki
| 2007 | 32 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784774610573 | Ages
3+ | *Peace; Ramen; World*

"As I was eating ramen . . . Micchan, next door, changed the channel." As we turn the pages of this book, we learn that while one boy is slurping ramen, another child near him is doing something else, and another child near that child is doing something else. We soon end up in a nearby country, and another country near that, and face the fact that in some places, children are having to work to support themselves, and still another boy has collapsed. The everyday act of eating helps us think of lives elsewhere in the world. <Miyakawa>



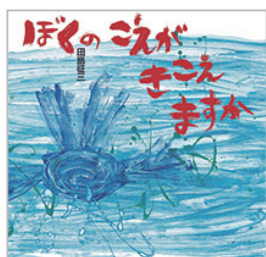
93

ぼくは弟とあるいた
Boku wa ototo to aruita
(I Walked with My Brother)

Text/Illus. Kobayashi, Yutaka | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten |
2002 | 36 pp. | 23×26 cm | ISBN 9784265033423 | Ages
8+ | *Brother; Grandfather; Seeking refuge*

This book portrays children who flee from war. The setting is the shore of the Black Sea, an area close to the author's heart. The "I" in the story is a boy who takes his young brother and walks to the faraway town where their grandpa lives. The two are far from their parents and anxious, but they meet many new people, sleep under the stars at ancient ruins, celebrate a baby's birth, and gather information. After many days, they reach their destination. The light they see spilling from their grandpa's house is wonderfully warm. <Sakuma>

26



94

ぼくのこえがきこえますか
Boku no koe ga kikoemasuka
(Can You Hear My Voice?)

Text/Illus. Seizo Tashima | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2012 | 32
pp. | 26×26 cm | ISBN 9784494019670 | Ages 6+ | *War; Death; Grief*

As a man is encouraged to fight for the country, he goes to a war. As he is ordered, he shoots men. At the same time, shells of the enemy hit him. His eyes and hair are burning, his face and foot are lost, then he is dead and his body is scattered, and he does not see or hear anything, but he feels something. This book is came out of a co-publishing project for peace from China, Japan, and Korea. The author Tashima, a nominee for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award, succeed in instilling and expressing the feelings and sensations elicited by war, in every illustration of this book. <JBBY>



95

盆まねき
Bon maneki
(Invitation to the Summer Festival of Bon)

Text: Tomiyasu, Yoko | Illus. Takahashi, Kazue | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2011 | 191 pp. | 21×16 cm | ISBN
9784035306108 | Ages 8+ | *War; Ghost; Fantasy*

In mid-August every year, the Japanese celebrate Obon, a festival during which families welcome home the souls of their ancestors. Little Natchan spends this time with her grandparents and great-aunt, who tell her strange tales of *kappa* (river imps) and rice fields in the moon. Natchan herself meets the ghost of a boy. Later, we learn that he is actually her ancestor who was killed during World War II. The author skillfully interweaves fantasy with reality to create an intriguing tale. <Doi>



96

3+6の夏 ひろしま、あの子どもはだあれ
San tasu roku no natsu
(Summer of Three Plus Six)

Text: Nakazawa, Shoko | Illus. Sasameya, Yuki | Tokyo: Chobunsha | 2015 | 119 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN
9784811322049 | Ages 9+ | *War; Hiroshima; Fantasy*

Three sets of twins, all ten years old, discover the ghosts of dead children in their sketchbooks and in photos. Elderly people they encounter in their lives help them find out who these ghosts were. At the same time, the children also learn more about World War II. This process of discovery unfolds like the solving of a mystery. The book vividly portrays the relationship between the ghosts, who have never grown up, and the elderly who keep them alive in their hearts, as well as the six children's growing understanding of the effects of war. <Doi>



97

パンプキン! 模擬原爆の夏

Panpukin! Mogi genbaku no natsu
(Pumpkin! Summer of the Mock Bomb)

Text: Reijo, Hiroko | Illus. Miyao, Kazutaka | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2011 | 95 pp. | 21×15 cm | ISBN 9784062170772 | Ages 10+ | War; Atomic bomb; School research project

Hiroka's local convenience store has a marker nearby that reads MOCK ATOMIC BOMB DROP AREA. The mock atomic bomb was round and painted orange, and nicknamed Pumpkin. Hiroka wonders about Pumpkin, so she makes the atomic bomb the subject of her summer research project for school. She soon finds, however, that the more she learns, the more there is to know. From her wonderings about an everyday object, comes a story about the importance of considering war and peace. <Nogami>



98

トンネルの森 1945

Tonneru no mori 1945
(The Tunnel Through the Woods, 1945)

Text: Kadono, Eiko | Tokyo: Kadokawa | 2015 | 200 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784040677132 | Ages 10+ | History; Parents and children; War

The author of *Kiki's Delivery Service* presents a story that is part frightening, part wondrous, about a child's experience during World War II. When bombings threaten her city, fourth grader Iko evacuates to the country with her mother and newborn brother. They learn that a deserter used the house where they are staying as shelter; soldiers even came to search, creating an uproar, but the man was not found. We feel the nebulous fears of a child living away from home and her father, and taste the terror of war. <Nogami>



99

ピース・ヴィレッジ

Pisu birejji (Peace Village)

Text: Iwase, Joko | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2011 | 194 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784036430901 | Ages 10+ | Military base; Friendship; Regional city

Kaede's town in Japan is home to a U.S. military base, which even now sends soldiers to war. Kaede is in sixth grade, and her father runs a bar catering to the soldiers. Kaede learns that Kiri, a friend a year older than her, has been giving soldiers anti-war pamphlets that Kiri's father wrote in English. Perhaps because of this, Kaede finds that Kiri avoids her. As the story progresses, Kaede and Kiri interact with people at the Peace Village, a beloved spot in town, and learn stories of their neighbors that alert them to complex realities. <Nogami>



100

八月の光・あとかた

Hachigatsu no hikari, atokata
(August Flash and Traces)

Text: Kuzki, Shaw | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2015 | 237 pp. | 15×11 cm | ISBN 9784094061802 | Ages 13+ | Hiroshima; Life; Atomic bomb

August Flash is a trio of linked stories: "The Doll's Face," "The Stone's Memory," and "The Water's Silence." On August 6, 1945, seventy thousand people in Hiroshima died instantly due to the atomic bomb. In each of these stories, the main character loses a loved one and observes scenes like hell itself. An inscription at the beginning reads, "For those who survived." By following each character through August 6 and succeeding days, the author probes what it is to lose something irreplaceable, yet somehow live on. The *August Flash* stories appear with two further works in this Hiroshima seventieth-anniversary edition. <Miyakawa>



101

世界の果てのこどもたち

Sekai no hate no kodomo tachi
(Children at the Edge of the World)

Text: Nakawaki, Hatsue | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2015 | 384 pp. | 20×13 cm | ISBN 9784062195393 | Ages 13+ | War; Repatriate; Friendship

This novel of World War II follows three women who meet as children in Japan-occupied northeast China. Tamako is a Japanese from a poor village. After the war, she gets separated from her family as they leave China, and she grows up an adopted Chinese. Mari is a Japanese born to a rich trader. She becomes orphaned in bombings in Japan. Mija is a Korean who used a name given by Japanese occupiers. After the war, she goes to Japan and faces discrimination. By giving three viewpoints, this novel shows how the same people can become both aggressors and victims. <Sakuma>



102

あなたこそたからもの

Anata koso takaramono (You Are a Treasure)

Text: Ito, Makoto | Illus. Taruishi, Mako | Tokyo: Otsuki Shoten | 2015 | 36 pp. | 21×19 cm | ISBN 9784272211111 | Ages 8+ | Constitution of Japan; Human rights; Flower

This picture book explores the Constitution of Japan. In simple language clear to young readers, and with pretty illustrations of children as flowers, it explains that we must uphold the lives and hearts of each individual. It also notes that Japan's constitution is the only one in the world that renounces war. The gestures and expressions of the characters are pleasant and funny; the book is inviting and warm. <Nogami>



103

さがしています
Sagashite imasu (Searching)

Text: Binard, Arthur | Photos: Okakura, Tadashi | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2012 | 32 pp. | 27×20 cm | ISBN 9784494007509 | Ages 8+ | *Hiroshima; Atomic bomb; Nuclear weapon*

From twenty-one thousand items donated to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the author selects fourteen, including a clock, work gloves, and a charred lunchbox, and explores their stories in words and photos. These items for which time stopped on August 6, 1945—with the dropping of Pikadon, the atomic bomb—become “storytellers,” each with a poignant tale of what the nuclear fission of uranium wrought. The back of the book profiles each “storyteller.” <Nogami>



104

被爆者 60年目のことば
Hibakusha: Rokuju-nen me no kotoba
(A-Bomb Survivors: Words 60 Years Later)

Text/Photos: Aida, Noriyuki | Tokyo: Poplar | 2005 | 42 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784591087312 | Ages 10+ | *Atomic bomb; Witness to history; Photo picture book*

In 2005, sixty years after atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, six people who survived the radiation were photographed and interviewed. This book introduces each of them, including Hara, who continues to draw the A-bomb dome, Yamaguchi, who in 1982 told a UN conference, “No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more nuclear bomb victims,” and Kataoka, who shares her past despite undergoing operations to treat the keloid scar tissue on her hands and face. Their eyes express an ardent desire for peace. A sequel came out seventy years after the bombings. <Doi>



105

ふるさとにかえりたい
Furusato ni kaeritai
(Longing For My Home Island: A Story of Nuclear Refugees in the Marshall Islands)

Text: Hanyuda, Yuki | Photos: Shimada, Kosei | Tokyo: Kodomonomirai-sha | 2014 | 32 pp. | 27×19 cm | ISBN 9784864120715 C8737 | Ages 8+ | *Nuclear test; Radiation exposure; Bikini Atoll*

This photo-documentary picture book shows what happened to the residents of Bikini Atoll after the U.S. government finished holding nuclear tests there in the 1950s. A woman named Rimiyo, who was thirteen, suffered radiation sickness and could not return to her home island. Moving among other islands according to U.S. orders, Rimiyo continued to miss home. The scourge of radiation that remains on her island even after sixty years, and Rimiyo’s wish for nuclear disarmament, come through clearly in this book. <Nogami>



106

これから戦場に向かいます
Kore kara senjo ni mukaimasu
(On My Way to the Battlefield)

Text/Photos: Yamamoto, Mika | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 50 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784591150962 | Ages 10+ | *War; Journalist; Camera*

A photo picture book by a female journalist who covered the world’s battlefields, her camera and pen in hand. She died in 2012 when she was reporting in Syria and got shot by a government soldier. Her photographs show us the citizens and children of Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq, Uganda, Chechnya, and Turkey. Her words tell us, “Using force to make someone yield may seem effective on the surface, but it only sows seeds of hatred.” This book makes one feel keenly the brutality and absurdity of war. <Sakuma>



107

平和の種をまく ボスニアの少女エミナ
Heiwa no tane o maku: Bosunia no shoujo Emina
(Plant Seeds For Peace: Emina, A Bosnian Girl)

Text/Photos: Otsuka, Atsuko | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten | 2006 | 44 pp. | 26×22 cm | ISBN 9784265006281 | Ages 10+ | *Community garden; Friendship; Work therapy*

In this nonfiction photo picture book, victims of war use a garden to revitalize their community. In Bosnia, three groups of people with different religions coexisted peacefully. But when civil war broke out, about half of Bosnians lost their homes. The main character of this book, a girl named Emina, works to bring people together through growing vegetables. Her attempt comes through in beautiful photos and prose. <Sakuma>



108

ガザ 戦争しか知らない子どもたち
Gaza: Senso shika shiranai kodomo tachi
(Gaza: Children Who Only Know War)

Text: Seita, Akihiro | Tokyo: Poplar | 2015 | 56 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784591145005 | Ages 10+ | *Children; Family; UNRUWA*

In the Eastern Mediterranean, the part of Palestine called Gaza has 1.8 million residents but has endured destruction due to conflicts with Israel. Many Gazans have lost their lives; survivors live surrounded by eight-meter high walls, as if in an internment camp. The author of this book entered Gaza as a worker in UNRUWA, a United Nations agency charged with helping Palestinian refugees. He shares the stories of children he met who have only known war, portraying their daily life through text and photos. <Nogami>



109

ゴジラ誕生物語

Gojira tanjo monogatari (The Story of Godzilla)

Text: Yamaguchi, Satoshi | Osaka: Bunken Shuppan | 2013 | 192 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784580821965 C8374 | Ages 10+ | *Giant monster movie; Antinuclear; Peace*

The movie *Godzilla* came out in 1954. In March that year, a thermonuclear weapon test at Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific caused a Japanese fishing vessel, the Daigo Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon No. 5), to be bathed in radioactive fallout. One man on board died. This incident sparked a movement to abolish thermonuclear and nuclear weapons. Godzilla himself grew out of fear regarding such weapons. In this book, a nonfiction novel, the staff of the original *Godzilla* put their hearts and ideas together to create the world's first giant monster movie. <Nogami>



110

生きる 劉連仁の物語

Ikiru: Ryu Ryennren no monogatari
(Survive: The Story of Ryu Renryen)

Text: Morikoshi, Tomoko | Illus. Taniguchi, Hiroki | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2015 | 240 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784494020423 | Ages 12+ | *Forced labour; Abduction; Japanese army*

Ryu is kidnapped from China and forced to serve in a Hokkaido coal mine during World War II. He escapes and lives alone in the forest for years, before being found on a snowy mountain in 1958. For thirteen years, he has survived by his wits in harsh nature, unaware of the war's end. This nonfiction book tracing half of his life is unique in Japan, in that it clearly describes the Japanese regime as an aggressor. Through Ryu, we learn there were people robbed of dignity and of much that gave their lives meaning. <Sakuma>



111

戦争がなかったら

Senso ga nakattara
(If There Were No War: Three Children, Ten Years)

Text: Takahashi, Kuninori | Tokyo: Poplar | 2013 | 200 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784591136539 | Ages 12+ | *War victim; Child soldier; Liberia*

Over a period of ten years, a photojournalist documents the lives of three children who fell victim to civil war in Liberia. Momo and Fayah were child soldiers who, at a sensitive age, lost the chance to get an education and find their life's work. They still suffer, unable to function in society after the conflict. Musu lost her right hand to the war as a girl. Thanks to media coverage, she became able to study in America and even received an artificial hand; she is unable, however, to assimilate to American life and returns to Liberia. Through Momo, Fayah, and Musu, we learn that war gives children terribly deep scars. <Sakuma>



112

1945-2015 若者から若者への手紙

1945-2015 Wakamono kara wakamono e no tegami
(1945-2015: Letters from the Young to the Young)

Photos: Ochiai, Yuriko | Edit. Kitagawa, Naomi/ Murota, Motomi | Tokyo: Korokara | 2015 | 221 pp. | 21×15 cm | ISBN 9784907239152 | Ages 13+ | *Letter; War; Survival*

Compilers gathered interviews of Japanese World War II survivors who were youth in 1945. Contemporary youth then read the interviews and wrote their thoughts in letter format. The elders cover many topics, including combat, life in Siberian labor camps, massive Tokyo air raids, the atomic bombs, malaria in the jungle, the student nursing corps, and Unit 731, which conducted human experiments to develop biological and chemical weapons. Overwhelmed by these accounts, the contemporary youth respond with stark honesty and attempt to bridge the gap between generations. <Sakuma>



113

はだしのゲン わたしの遺書

Hadashi no Gen: Watashi no isho
(Barefoot Gen: My Final Words)

Text/Illus. Nakazawa, Keiji | Tokyo: Asahi Gakusei Shimbunsha | 2012 | 221 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784904826799 | Ages 12+ | *Hiroshima; Manga; War*

The author of the manga *Barefoot Gen* describes his early life and the process of creating his famous work. Keiji Nakazawa was born in Hiroshima and experienced the atomic bombing, which he tried to forget. But when his mother died and no bones remained after her cremation, since radiation had invaded them, he determined to tell his story. In Japan, people once said not to show *Barefoot Gen* to children as it is unsightly. As this book conveys, however, what is truly ugly is war itself. <Sakuma>



114

いちご戦争

Ichigo senso (Strawberry War)

Text/Illus. Kyo, Machiko | Tokyo: Kawadeshobo Shinsha | 2014 | 128 pp. | 16×11 cm | ISBN 9784309275093 | Ages 12+ | *War; Girl; Dessert*

This manga book is deceptively cute. In it strawberries, shortcake, and sweets engage in "war" that is scary on every page. In a "pineapple-chunk toothpick campaign," falling toothpicks stab teen girl "soldiers." Elsewhere, strawberry ice cream looks like a sea of blood. The book takes the form of a notebook carried into battle by one of the girls; she keeps it in her chest pocket, and it saves her from a flying bullet. "Even if I die, this dream will go on," reads a note at the end. <Nogami>

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* Numbers are book numbers, not page numbers.
See book number near each cover image.

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JBBY BOOK SELECTION TEAM



DOI, YASUKO

Director and senior researcher at the International Institute for Children's Literature (IICLO). Besides researching reading activities and the history of Japanese children's literature, Yasuko Doi plans projects such as training courses for teachers and librarians, and lectures and symposiums for children's book authors from Japan and overseas. Co-editor of *Kodomo no hon hyakumon hyakuto* (One Hundred Questions and Answers About Children's Books) in 2013. Jury for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Awards. Former JBBY board member.



HIROMATSU, YUKIKO

Picture book author, critic, and curator. Former chief curator of Chihiro Museum, Tokyo. Yukiko Hiromatsu works include *Kyo no ehon ashita no ehon* (Picture Books of Today, Picture Books of Tomorrow), Series *Ima mukashi ehon* Vol. 1-11 (Picture Books Now and Then). She received the Japan Picture Book Award Translated Picture Book Award for *Hashire, Toto* (Run, Toto! by Eun young Cho) in 2014. She has sat on the jury of international competitions including Bologna Illustrators' Exhibition, Biennial of illustrations Bratislava (BIB), and the Nami Concours. JBBY board member.



MIYAKAWA, TAKEO

Researcher of Japanese children's literature, professor at the Musashino University. Chief director of the International Institute for Children's Literature (IICLO). Former JBBY vice president. Takeo Miyakawa has written a range of books including *Gendai jidobungaku no kataru mono* (What Modern Children's Literature Talks About), *Kodomo no hon no haru natsu aki fuyu* (Four Seasons of Children's Books).



NOGAMI, AKIRA

Served as managing editor of children's monthly magazines at Shogakukan; former president of Shogakukan Creative. Taught children's literature and culture at the Shirayuri University and the Tokyo Seitoku University. Akira Nogami's works include *Nihonjidobungaku no gendai e* (To the Modern Children's Literature of Japan), *Ekkyo suru jidobungaku* (Children's Literature Crossing Borders), and *Kodomo bunka no gendaishi* (Contemporary History of Children's Culture). Managing director of the Japan PEN Club, visiting professor at the Tokyo Junshin University. JBBY vice president.



SAKUMA, YUMIKO

Translator, editor, former professor at the Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College, and director of the Japan-Africa Children's Books Project (JACBOP). After working in publishing as an editor, Yumiko Sakuma began translating children's books. Her more than 200 translations include *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* by Michelle Paver, *Dusk* by Uri Shulevitz, and *Of Thee I Sing* by Barak Obama. Her translation of *Last Summer With Maizon* by Jacqueline Woodson made the IBBY Honour List. JBBY president.

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JBBY Secretariat
Fukuromachi 6, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 162-0828 Japan
Tel. [int. +81] 3 5228 0051
Fax [int. +81] 3 5228 0053
E-mail: info@jbby.org
<http://www.jbby.org/>

Book selection:
Yasuko Doi, Yukiko Hiromatsu, Takeo Miyakawa, Akira Nogami, Yumiko Sakuma

Translation: Cathy Hirano, Ginny Tapley Takemori, Avery Fischer Udagawa
Cooperation: Etsuko Nozaka, Kazuko Yoda

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