Japanese Children's Books

JBBY

Cover illustration by

Maki Arai

Born in Tokyo in 1965, Maki Arai is a painter of meticulously detailed saimitsuga artwork. She was awarded the Golden Apple BIB for Tanpopo (Dandelion; Kinnohoshi-sha) in 2017. The cover illustration comes from her picture book Asagao (Morning Glory: Kinnohoshi-sha).

Japanese Children's Books



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ABOUT JBBY AND THIS CATALOG

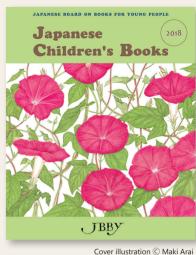
The Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) was founded in 1974 as the Japanese Section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

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

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

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

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



Yumiko SAKUMA, JBBY President

RECENT PICTURE BOOKS



ひよこさん Hiyoko-san (Little Chick)

Text: Soya, Kiyoshi | Illus. Hayashi, Akiko | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 20 pp. | 20×19 cm | ISBN 9784834083149 | Ages 0+ | Babies. Gettina lost. Mothers

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



カレーライス Kareraisu (Curry Rice)

Text/Illus. Konishi, Eiko | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 24 pp. | 22×21 cm | ISBN 9784834082807 | Ages 2+ | Cookina, Eating, Making

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



くまさん Kuma-san (Bear)

Text: Mado, Michio | Illus. Mashima, Setsuko | Tokyo: Kogumasha | 2017 | 24 pp. | 20×21 cm | ISBN 9784772102353 | Ages 2+ | *Bears, Poetry, Identity, Spring*

This is a picture book version of the poem "Kumasan" by the well-known Japanese poet Mado Michio. Spring has come and a bear cub wakes from hibernation. While gazing at the dandelions, he wonders, "Who am I?" Coming to a river, he sees his reflection in the water and remembers that he is a bear. The illustrations give a soft and humorous portrayal of the drowsy bear waking from hibernation, the way he enjoys nature with his entire body, his uncertainty when he cannot remember who he is, and his joy and satisfaction at rediscovering that he is a bear. (Doi)



ぱーおーぽのうた

Pa o po no uta (Pa-o-po Song)

Text/Illus. Kikuchi, Chiki | Tokyo: Kosei Shuppansha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 31×24 cm | ISBN 9784333027439 | Ages 2+ | Elephants, Rhythm, Animals

A small red elephant walks along singing. Marshalling his trunk like the adult elephants, he eats grass, drinks water, and splashes mud on his dry skin. Soon other herbivores such as the giraffe and gazelle join in (hyenas and other predators are shooed off), and soon many friends stomp the earth and call out in a grand parade. The creator of this book has earned international acclaim for inviting watercolors and ink drawings, but here offers a hymn to a strongly lived, fervently desired life by rough artwork. Rhythm, joie de vivre, and excited energy will pass right into toddlers. (Hiromatsu)



ゆっくりおでかけ

Yukkuri odekake (A Slow Outing)

Text/Illus. Gomi, Taro | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2016 | 24 pp. | 20×20 cm | ISBN 9784494014576 | Ages 2+ | Outings, Penguins, Character

For small children going out alone is an adventure. A baby penguin goes out slowly onto an ice-covered path, walking and sliding ever so gingerly, doing his best not to fall along the way, and carefully negotiating bumps in the path and steep slopes...but just when he thinks he's arrived safely at his aunt's house, what should happen? This is the first in Gomi Taro's "The Outing" series of three books. The others are *An Energetic Outing* about a child who bumps into everything, and *A Hurried Outing* taking his own childhood as a model. Each book has its own amusing character. (Hiromatsu)



ぐるぐるぐる

Guru-guru-guru (Round and Round and Round)

Text: Uchida, Rintaro | Illus. Nagano, Hideko | Tokyo: Kinnohoshi-sha | 2016 | 24 pp. | 21×28 cm | ISBN 9784323032238 | Ages 3+ | *Rolling, Girl, Nonsense*

When little girl Non-chan moves her finger in a circle—guru-guru—everyone looks all around. When she does this to the dragonfly Yanma, she catches him. When a fierce boar charges and a scary ghost threatens to eat her, she does it to them too, and prevails. Then Non-chan thinks of a grand prank, and does guru-guru-guru to a huge tower. What will happen? The veteran author and illustrator achieve breath-like rhythm and pacing in this nonsense book that frees the heart. A message from the creators on the jacket is also fun. (Hiromatsu)



けもののにおいがしてきたぞ Kemono no nioi ga shitekita zo (Beasts Smelling)

Text/Illus. mirocomachiko | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 27×32 cm | ISBN 9784265081486 | Ages 3+ |

Reasts Animal trails Monsters Rinds Smells

The author mirocomachiko won a Plaque at the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) in 2017 for this book. On animal trails thick with weeds and flowers and hidden by trees and bushes, the dark shapes of unknown creatures move, their eyes flashing. Boulders roll, the trail groans, strange birds take flight, and the trees and grasses quake. The dynamic brushwork, the repetition of the phrase "It's starting to smell like beasts," and the dense scenes, conjure up the scents of unknown creatures. This is a powerful picture book filled with the life force of wild things. (Nogami)



よるのおと

Yoru no oto (Night Sounds)

Text/Illus. Tamura, Shigeru | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2017 | 32 pp. | 30×22 cm | ISBN 9784032324808 | Ages 3+ | *Night, Sound, Nature*

A drama about the brief time it takes a boy to walk along the bank of a pond to his grandfather's house one summer's night. Nothing in particular happens, but there is abundant life: insects chirrup at his feet; the whistle of a train is heard in the distance; as the frog jumps in, ripples on the water spread like a galaxy. The inspiration for this work was the shock the author felt aged nine upon reading Matsuo Basho's famous haiku, "The old pond/A frog jumps in/The sound of the water." The muted blue tone of the pictures has been painstakingly created by hand using calculated color separation. The pages breathe life stimulating all five senses. (Hiromatsu)



うおいちば

Uo-ichiba (Fish Market)

Text: Yasue, Rie | Illus. Tanaka, Kiyo | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 28 pp. | 26×24 cm | ISBN 9784834082845 | Ages 3+ | *Family, Fish, Work, Science*

Kiyo wakes up at four in the morning and accompanies her mother, father and grandfather to the fish market where she watches them work and explores the surroundings. There she sees many varieties of fish laid out for auction, the unloading of fish from the boats and her mother buying fish at the auction. At the same time, Kiyo is on a mission. Her grandfather has entrusted her with the task of finding a kinmedai or red bream, which she locates successfully. At the end of the day, the red bream becomes a treat for her grandmother's birthday with the whole family gathered around the table to celebrate. The etchings vividly depict the bustle of the workers at the fish market. (Doi)



おとうさんは、いま

Otousan wa. ima (Where Is Dad Now?)

Text: Yumoto, Kazumi | Illus. Sasameya, Yuki | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 20×27 cm | ISBN 9784834083095 | Ages 3+ | Fathers, Daydreaming, Night

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



ばけ バケツ

Bake baketsu (The Ghost Bucket)

Text/Illus. Karube, Takehiro | Tokyo: Komine Shoten | 2017 | 32 pp. | 31×24 cm | ISBN 9784338261289 | Ages 3+ | Night, Moon, Buckets, Animals, Fish, Strange happenings, Puddles

A bucket is walking along on a moonlit night when it trips, making a giant puddle. A wildcat scratches the surface and the puddle shrieks. An owl hoots and the puddle hoots back. A boy comes to fish in it and elephants bathe in it. Fish pour down with the rain and a wolf comes to take a drink. With a shout of "Oshimai!" (The End!), the water is sucked back into the bucket. In this funny picture book of a crazy moonlit night, the identity of the bucket is only revealed at the very end. (Nogami)

Text/Illus. Sasaki, Maki | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 32 pp. | 27×20 cm | ISBN 9784834083248 | Ages 3+ | Uncles, Trouble, Ice cream, Nonsense

This picture book follows the escapades of a man who encounters one catastrophe after another but is rescued by a little girl. He sets off to mail a letter only to step on a ball that is lying on the stairs and go sailing down the steps. A mat falls on his head from a window, his hat is run over by a car, and when he finally manages to mail the letter, his ice cream falls off the cone. Finally, he bursts into tears. At that moment, a little girl appears and gives him another ice cream cone. The repeated catastrophes are depicted with a humorous, cartoon-like touch. (Doi)



手おけのふくろう

Teoke no fukuro (Owl Chicks in a Pail)

Text: Hirano, Nobuaki | Illus. Abe, Hiroshi | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 48 pp. | 25×24 cm | ISBN 978483408 | Ages 5+ | *Owls, Nests, Coexistence*

A pair of owls is startled to find that the cherry tree in which they build their nest each year has fallen. They look all over for a good place to nest but cannot find any. In the end, they choose a wooden bucket hanging from the eaves of a house. When it rains or snows, the father owl spreads his wings to protect the nest, and when the chicks hatch, he brings them food and fights off a civet. The day comes when the three chicks safely leave the nest and the family returns to the woods. Throughout, the elderly man who lives in the house keeps an eye on them. The author uses his knowledge of birds to realistically convey the way owls raise their young while the artist's striking illustrations convey the natural setting. (Sakuma)



かわをむきかけたサトモちゃん

Kawa o mukikaketa Satomo-chan (Satomo, the Taro who Tried to Peel Herself)

Text: Eguchi, Yoshiko | Illus. Orimo, Kyoko | Tokyo: Alicekan | 2017 | 32 pp. | 23×22 cm | ISBN 9784752007920 | Ages 4+ | Veaetables. Fruit. Identity

One day, a mysterious letter is delivered to a taro called Satomo, informing her, "Actually, you're a kiwi." To begin with she thinks it is just a joke, but then she starts getting worried. She asks other people and checks herself in the mirror, and goes to meet a sweet-smelling kiwi who merely laughs at her. Finally, in order to check the color of her insides, she tries to peel off her own skin, but...it hurts! Seeing the taro going through an identity crisis is funny, but also touching and we sympathize with her. The highly expressive collage by a veteran illustrator brings this debut author's work to life. (Hiromatsu)



あめがふるふる

Ame ga furufuru (It Rains and It Pours)

Text/Illus. Tashima, Seizo | Tokyo: Froebel-kan | 2017 | 32 pp. | 25×23 cm | ISBN 9784577045190 | Ages 5+ | Rain; Staying home alone; Reality and fantasy

Neno and his younger sister Kifu are home alone on a rainy day. As they gaze out the window, they slip into a fantasy world. One by one strange things come into view: a frog with a butterbur leaf umbrella, a horde of tadpoles, snails spinning round and round, huge trees and vegetables. Dancing joyfully, Neno and Kifu weave boats from blades of bamboo grass to help little animals get through the rain. When their mother comes home, they return to reality. The playful wording and strong illustrations capture the children's delight in the strange world they encounter. (Sakuma)



こうさぎとほしのどうくつ

Kousagi to hoshi no dokutsu
(The Little Bunnies and the Star Cave)

Text: Watari, Mutsuko | Illus. Dekune, Iku | Tokyo: Nora Shoten | 2016 | 40 pp. | 26×21 cm | ISBN 9784905015277 | Ages 5+ | *Rabbits, Caves, Exploring, Friends*

Four little bunnies run into a cave to escape a storm. There they meet their bunny neighbors and begin exploring the cave together. But one of them drops the lantern and in the darkness, they slide into a big cavern within the cave. The ceiling twinkles as though with stars. By this light, the bunnies find their way out of the cave and return home safely. The emotions they experience, such as surprise, anxiety, relief and happiness, are beautifully conveyed through their facial expressions as well as the richly varied background colors. (Sakuma)



あからん ことばさがし絵本

Akaran (Akaran: Word Search Picture Book)

Text/Illus. Nishimura, Shigeo | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 64 pp. | 27×19 cm | ISBN 9784834083231 | Ages 5+ | Words, Picture puzzles, Nonsense

This is the equivalent of a Japanese alphabet (A to Z) book. The title Akaran refers to the Japanese phonetic alphabet. It is composed of one scene for each phonetic sound, fifty in all, with a few lines of amusing alliterative poetry. Words beginning with each sound are embedded in the picture to provide a surreal spectacle inviting the reader to laugh. (For example, a whale and walnut are caught in a spider's web.) Words that are familiar to little children as well as more difficult words stimulating a desire to learn are included, so children and adults can enjoy the word search together. (Hiromatsu)



とのさまと海

Tono-sama to umi (The Lord and the Sea)

Text: Sanyutei, Hakucho | Illus. Ohara, Hidekazu | Edit. Baba, Kenichi | Tokyo: Akane Shobo | 2016 | 32 pp. | 30×22 cm | ISBN 9784251095077 | Ages 6+ | Sea, Mystery, Adventure, Experts, Fishing, Skeletons

This humorous picture book is based on a traditional form of Japanese storytelling, and the illustrations are strongly reminiscent of the woodblock prints of the famous *ukiyo-e* artist, Toshusai Sharaku. It is a large-scale nonsense tale, a seeming parody on Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. The servants of a lord who loves fishing borrow a mysterious fishing rod from a master fisherman's tool shed. The lord, who only goes after the big fish, catches a huge tuna but is pulled into the sea. What follows is a hilarious account of the lord's rescue by the fishing rod, which houses the soul of the master fisherman expressed by bones and a skeleton. (Nogami)



お・は・よ・う

O-ha-yo-u (Good Morning)

Text: Imamura, Ashiko | Illus. Hirasawa, Tomoko | Tokyo: Asunaro Shobo | 2016 | 32 pp. | 22×20 cm | ISBN 9784751528181 | Ages 6+ | Words, Family, Reading

Yoshio is soon to start elementary school. On a Sunday morning, he goes around his family asking each of them in turn how to read the four characters that make up the word "おはよう/o-ha-yo-u," which means "Good morning." Each phonetic character conjures up a different image, such as the sun, a spring breeze, Yoshio's name, and so on. Through the conversation with his beloved family, Yoshio is able to remember the characters. The illustrator has enveloped the family environment in a warm glow to create an engaging picture book describing the joy of reading for the first time. It will also encourage readers to feel hopeful about starting school. (Hiromatsu)



夢金

Yumekin (Dream Money)

Text: Tatekawa, Danshun | Illus. Terakado, Takayuki | Edit. Baba, Kenichi | Tokyo: Akane Shobo | 2017 | 32 pp. | 30×22 cm | ISBN 9784251095107 | Ages 6+ | Night, Snow, Rivers, Boats, Samurai, Money, Dreams

Rakugo is a traditional form of humorous story-telling in Japan, and this is a classic rakugo tale retold. One snowy night, a samurai appears at a ferry station and asks to be ferried across the river with a young woman, offering to pay very well for this service. The ferryman eagerly accepts the job. The samurai tells him privately that he convinced the girl to leave her home bearing lots of money and that he will pay him well if he will kill the girl as well. The ferryman saves the girl, receiving a reward from her parents. The illustrations are superb, switching suddenly from dark scenes to bright, and the reader cannot help but laugh when it is revealed that it was all a dream. (Nogami)



ばあばは、だいじょうぶ

Baaba wa, daijobu (Grandma Is All Right)

Text: Kusunoki, Atsuko | Illus. Ishii, Tsutomu | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2016 | 37 pp. | 21×23 cm | ISBN 9784494005970 | Ages 6+ | Grandmothers, Dementia, Illness, Caregivina, Family life

Tsubasa loves his grandmother. She always encourages him, saying, "It's all right!" and is very kind. But when she gets "the sickness that makes her forget," she changes. She asks the same question many times, cannot knit well like she used to, and gets lost. As her dementia progresses, Tsubasa begins to avoid her. One day, however, he discovers numerous notes she wrote to try and remember things, and he realizes that she has struggled to fight her illness. The symptoms of dementia and the feelings of sufferers and their families are portrayed in warm illustrations, from the viewpoint of the grandson, in this story. (Shirota)



福島の伝説 猫魔ヶ岳の妖怪

Fukushima no densetsu: Nekomagadake no yokai (Legends from Fukushima: The Monster of Nekomagadake)

RECENT PICTURE BOOKS FOR AGES 3 AND UP

Retold: Yaoita, Yoko | Illus. Saito, Takao | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 56 pp. | 26×26 cm | ISBN 9784834083279 | Ages 6+ | *Legends, Fukushima, Nature's power*

This book contains four legends from Fukushima that have been passed down for generations: The Monster of Nekomagadake, The Youth Who Rose to the Heavens, The Great Cedar and the Young Maiden, and The Foxes' Rice Paddy. Before the nuclear accident that occurred during the 2011 tsunami, Fukushima was a beautiful land, rich in nature and home to many organic farmers. From these legends, we can imagine that land, feel humankind's relationship with living creatures and nature, and sense nature's immeasurable power. (Sakuma)



このあと どうしちゃおう

Kono ato do shichao (What Happens Next?)

Text/Illus. Yoshitake, Shinsuke | Tokyo: Bronze Publishing | 2016 | 32 pp. | 26×21 cm | ISBN 9784893096173 | Ages 7+ | Death, Grandfathers, Philosophy

After Grandpa died, the family finds his notebook titled "What happens next?" In the notebook, Grandpa has written his hopes and imaginary ideas for what will happen after he dies, such as what to wear and take with him when he goes to heaven, what he would like to be reborn as, the type of god he likes, etc. With a unique concept and comical pictures, this internationally popular author breaks through the taboos surrounding death, portraying it as something that should be casually discussed within families. This book is not just humorous and accessible, but also gradually encourages the reader to think deeply. (Hiromatsu)



さらじいさん Sara-jiisan (Old Dish Man)

Text/Illus. Hasegawa, Hacchi | Tokyo: Bronze Publishing | 2017 | 32 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784893096272 | Ages 7+ | *Antique, Flatware, Elderly people, Adventure*

This fantasy picture book unfolds within the blue design on an antique Ko-Imari plate. A girl receives the plate from her grandfather. It is for decoration, he tells her, not to be used. The girl notices a close-shaven man in the plate's design, and names him Old Dish Man. One day, she secretly puts a donut on the plate to eat, and Old Dish Man reaches out, pulling the donut and her into the dish. There, as the girl tries to get her donut back, mystery awaits. (Shirota)



ぼくはかわです

Boku wa kawa desu (I Am a River)

Text/Illus. Ueda, Makoto | Tokyo: WAVE Shuppan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 22×30 cm | ISBN 9784872909445 | Ages 3+ | River, Landscapes, Time

A picture book in which a river speaks in first person. Rivers are often depicted as flowing and changing, but in this picture book the viewpoint is fixed. The landscape along the river is presented one portion at a time. The water's surface runs through the near-center of the spreads. The fixed composition (with one tiny, secret exception) and color palette are consistent throughout. Yet as the reader looks closely, a boat with a squirrel comes, and a child appears. A small bird sings, and the riverbank comes to life. Colors shift. The wind ripples the water's surface. This book helps one feel the passage of time in a special way. (Hiromatsu)



とらねことらたとなつのうみ

Toraneko Torata to natsu no umi (Striped Cat Torata and the Summer Sea)

Text: Aman, Kimiko | Illus. Hirose, Gen | Tokyo: PHP Institute | 2016 | 32 pp. | 23×23 cm | ISBN 9784569785585 | Ages 7+ | Ocean. Cats. Grandmothers. Drawina

Torata is a striped cat full of curiosity. In this second story picture book about him and Grandma Chii, who loves drawing, mysterious happenings occur. One summer day, at the urging of Torata—who has never been to the sea—Grandma Chii draws the ocean on a large piece of paper. The wide ocean, the sea breeze, a boat that speeds along, abundant fish...as delighted Torata enjoys the drawing, suddenly he is inside it! Grandma Chii comes next. Torata's wish to see the ocean has brought about magic. Illustrations convey the wonder of Torata and Grandma Chii as they explore the ocean in the drawing to their hearts' content. (Shirota)



わくせいキャベジ動物図鑑

Wakusei kyabetsu dobutsu zukan (Planet Cabbage Animal Encyclopedia)

Text/Illus. tupera tupera | Tokyo: Alice-kan | 2016 | 40 pp. | 31×23 cm | ISBN 9784752007692 | Ages 7+ | *Imagination, Encyclopedia, Vegetables*

Far off in the Milky Way, a small planet glows greenish yellow: Planet Cabbage. On this planet live some 28 mysterious creatures, which this encyclopedia introduces. The creatures all have names, appearances, and characteristics that represent a merging of animals with vegetables or fruit from Planet Earth. Example: Banaraffe (Banana + Giraffe) is green when young but grows yellow with time, and develops black markings. Each creature was illustrated by photographing a carefully chosen fruit or vegetable, printing the photo, and making it part of a collage. Collage is then combined with drawing in a fictional encyclopedia that seems very real. (Hiromatsu)



えとえとがっせん

Eto eto gassen (Zodiac Showdown)

Text/Illus. Ishiguro, Ayako | Tokyo: WAVE Shuppan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 22×30 cm | ISBN 9784872909586 | Ages 7+ | Zodiac, Picture scrolls, Action comedy

Once upon a time, twelve animals were chosen for the zodiac, the divine servant Eto. In this book, twelve animals not chosen insist, "All creatures are equal!" and call for a face-off. In contrast to the twelve zodiac animals, portrayed as strong and serious, the team of challengers (even a raccoon) are drawn comically, as not quite all there. The fifteenth-century, Muromachi-period picture scroll *Junirui emaki* about the zodiac is inventively rearranged. With a beginning like gag manga, a rap skirmish, and a battle anime sequence complete with fighter moves and shape-shifting, Japanese traditions and subcultures fuse in this entertaining picture book. (Hiromatsu)



ドームがたり

Domugatari (Dome Story)

Text: Binard, Arthur | Illus. Suzuki, Koji | Tokyo: Tamagawa University Press | 2017 | 34 pp. | 31×26 cm | ISBN 9784472059919 | Ages 8+ | *War, Nuclear weapons, Life*

On August 6, 1945, the American air force dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima. Including those who subsequently died from radiation exposure, the bomb has killed a total of 400,000 people to date. It destroyed a brick building located near the epicenter, leaving only a portion of the walls and the steel frame of its dome. This is now known as the A-Bomb Dome and is a registered UNESCO World Heritage site. The story, of which the Dome is the central character, encompasses how the building first came to be, the mechanism of the atom bomb, and how nuclear power has since been harnessed for electricity. The abstract depiction of invisible uranium particles scattering through the air leaves a strong impression. (Nogami)

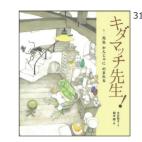
RECENT CHAPTER BOOKS AND NOVELS



ピクルスとふたごのいもうと Pikurusu to futago no imoto (Pickles and His Little Twin Sisters)

Text: Kokaze, Sachi | Illus. Natsume, Chisa | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 120 pp. | 22×19 cm | ISBN 9784834082883 | Ages 5+ | Pigs, Siblings, Sisters, Morning glories, Seeds

This is the second book in the Pickles the Piglet series of stories for young children. This volume's four stories include "Pickles Becomes a Big Brother" and "Pickles' Tears." Pickles' mother is pregnant; his father brings out Pickles' old baby carriage. Pickles wonders, "How did I fit in such a small space? When did I grow?" Soon twin girls are born, and Pickles' mother is busy. Warm prose and illustrations portray curious, observant Pickles' daily life. (Shirota)



キダマッチ先生! 1先生かんじゃにのまれる Kidamacchi-sensei! 1 (Dr. Kidamatchi Vol. 1: Swallowed by his Patient)

Text: Imai, Kyoko | Illus. Okamoto, Jun | Hyogo: BL Shuppan | 2017 | 32 pp. | 21×19 cm | ISBN 9784776408147 | Ages 7+ | Frogs, Fantasy, Doctors

This book is about a frog called Dr. Kidamatchi, who is a noted doctor for insects and animals. Dr. Kidamatchi has been bandaging Grandpa Ant's broken leg and teaching Mrs. Lizard to cope with her breathlessness, when news comes of a calf that has fallen ill at the farm. When Dr. Kidamatchi looks into the calf's mouth, he sees a ball has got stuck and tries to dislodge it but ends up going into the calf's stomach along with the ball. Fortunately, he is hauled to safety by the rope tied to his leg. The illustrations brings the animal world richly to life with realistic yet personable depictions of frogs, insects and animals. (Doi)



指きりは魔法のはじまり

Yubikiri wa maho no hajimari (The Magic Starts with a Pinky Promise)

Text: Tomiyasu, Yoko | Illus. Oba, Kenya | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 266 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784036441006 | Ages 8+ | Fantasy, Family, Transformation

The tenth volume in a series about three children whose parents are a fox and a human, and who have magical powers. This time, the youngest child Moe, who is at kindergarten, breaks her promise not to tell anyone about a certain encounter she had with magic, and a spell is put on her that makes whoever she kisses turn into a frog. When she transforms her grandma and grandpa, her elder brother and sister turn to legends and folktales to find out how to reverse the spell and end up using a 300-year-old case involving heavy rain, a monster serpent, a frog, and a dragon. (Doi)



靴屋のタスケさん

Kutsuya no Tasuke-san (Tasuke the Cobbler)

Text: Kadono, Eiko | Illus. Mori, Tamaki | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2017 | 72 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784035285205 | Ages 9+ | *Shoes, Artisans, War*

This story is about a little girl who is drawn to an artisan's handiwork during the war. The setting is Tokyo in 1942, and the author bases the story on her own wartime experiences. The first-person protagonist has just started school when a young cobbler called Tasuke opens a shop in her neighborhood. She is fascinated by his craft, and after school drops by his shop to watch him at work. Tasuke had escaped the draft on account of being nearsighted, but as the war progresses even he is called up to fight. Abruptly the girl is made aware of the contrast between her peaceful days and the violence of war. Her feelings are vividly portrayed throughout the story. (Sakuma)



春くんのいる家

Haru-kun no iru ie (The House Where Haru Lives)

Text: Iwase, Joko | Illus. Tsuboya, Reiko | Tokyo: Bunkeido | 2017 | 104 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784799901625 | Ages 9+ | Adoption, Family, Divorce, Remarriage

A story about a new type of family. After Hinata's parents divorce, she goes with her mother to live with her grandparents, but then her cousin Haru also comes to live with them. Haru's father had died of an illness, and when his mother remarried, his grandparents adopted him as an heir. To begin with, relations in this new family of five are strained, as conflicting feelings and misunderstandings arise between them. However, after Haru picks up an abandoned kitten one day, they gradually draw closer together and create a new family unit. This process is sensitively portrayed from Hinata's perspective. (Sakuma)



マルの背中 Maru no senaka (Maru's Back)

Text: Iwase, Joko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 166 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784062200639 | Ages 9+ | *Cat, Divorce, Siblinas, Family, Poyerty*

Since Azumi's parents divorced two years ago, her younger brother Rio has lived with her father, while Azumi lives with her mother in a public apartment. Her mother works at the convenience store and another part-time job, but still struggles to pay their rent. She sometimes asks Azumi, "Shall the two of us die together?" When the man who runs the sweet shop has to be away, he entrusts Azumi with his white cat named Maru, who has a circle shape on his back. Azumi, who thinks often of her brother living apart from her, proves a loving caregiver, and it seems as if Maru may bring happiness to her life. (Nogami)



ギュレギュレ! Gyure-gyure (Güle Güle)

Text: Saito, Hiroshi | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 198 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784037272401 | Ages 10+ | *Magic, Turkey, Flying carpets*

One morning, a man wearing a fez hat arrives at my apartment, and for 50,000 yen sells me a red entrance hall mat that flies, and a portal that makes me invisible upon passing through it. After this, the man comes again and again, selling me more mysterious items. An invisible island in Tokyo Bay. A cloud that produces electricity. A witch clock that a witch exits at intervals to help me out with things. Güle güle means "goodbye" in Turkish. So, what does this salesman want? Find out in this humorous collection of ten short stories. Also see the squel, Sora de deatta fushigi na hitotachi (The Amazing People I Met in the Sky). (Nogami)



バンドガール! Bando gaaru! (Band Girls!)

Text: Hamano, Kyoko | Illus. Shimura, Takako | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 199 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784036490202 | Ages 9+ | Future. Friendship. Music

The setting for this story is in the near future when the capital of Japan has been moved to Hokkaido after a natural disaster caused a radioactive leak. Although Tokyo is no longer deemed safe, fifth grader Sara is among those unable to move to the new capital and still living there. She is invited by sixth grader Rio to join her in a band at the Children's Center. There is a rival band at the Children's Center, but some members of both bands become close friends, and together play the encore at the year-end concert. The song is one that Sara's mother used to sing on YouTube, but had been shunned by society for political reasons. (Doi)



二ノ丸くんが調査中 Ninomaru-kun ga chosa-chu (Ninomaru Is Investigating)

Text: Ishikawa, Hirochika | Illus. Uguisu, Sachiko | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 188 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784036490301 | Ages 10+ | Urban legends, Tunnels, Pets, Dolls, Supernatural powers

Fifth grader Kyota Koizumi's friend Ninomaru, who is a bit strange, investigates urban legends rumored in their community. Supposedly, if you go backward through a certain tunnel, it makes you lose your memory. A post box is rumored to bring dead pets back to life. A woman all in black named Angelica asks cute children if she can photograph them, and if refused slits their throats. Men in black uniforms kidnap boys with supernatural powers. All of the legends are terrifying and mysterious, but the way they oppose nature brings about an odd result that is truly creepy. (Nogami)



あぐり☆サイエンスクラブ:春 まさかの田んぼクラブ!? Aguri saiensu kurabu: Haru (Agriscience Club: Spring—Seriously, A Rice Paddy Club?)

Text: Horigome, Kaoru | Illus. Kurosu, Takane | Tokyo: Shin-nihon Shuppansha | 2017 | 158 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784406061339 | Ages 10+ | Rice cultivation, Clubs, Study, Friendship

This is the first book in a trio. Fifth grader Manabu is different from his accomplished big brother; he cannot take exams for private middle school, and instead spends boring days. Then he picks up a flyer advertising the Ugly Science Club. "Outdoor activities. Overnight trips!" He's hooked and signs up—then discovers it's really a rice paddy club. Through it he experiences farming and elderly farmers for the first time, and he and his friends change. The author of the book is herself a farmer who describes agriculture as science. The book brims with her specialized knowledge. Sequels are Summer and Fall/Winter. (Shirota)



日小見不思議草紙

Hiomi fushigi zoshi (Hiomi's Tales of Mysteries)

Text: Fujishige, Hikaru | Illus. Iino, Kazuyoshi | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 231 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784035404002 | Age 10+ | *Edo period (1603-1868), Humor, Fantasy*

A collection of five fantasy stories set in the Edo period. A samurai wins without fighting thanks to his magical sword, which makes flowers bloom from his opponent's nose resulting in laughter; an artist becomes successful after being given some amazing paints by a mysterious girl he met in a meadow; a dam is built to prevent the river from flooding, with help from some bears...all the stories are short, but well-constructed and fun to read. Each also has something that connects the Edo period with the present, and the border between fact and fiction is deliberately blurred. The illustrations add a humorous touch. Newcomer Prize of Japanese Association of Writers for Children. (Sakuma)



神隠しの教室 Kami kakushi no kyoshitsu (The Hidden Classroom)

Text: Yamamoto, Etsuko | Illus. Maruyama, Yuki | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2016 | 383 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784494020492 | Ages 10+ | *Bullying, Neglect, Mystery*

A novel dealing with the problems that Japanese children these days have to deal with. One day, five children disappear from school: Kana, a girl who was being bullied; Vanessa, a Brazilian singled out for being a foreigner; Miharu, a girl who is abused by her mother's lover; Seiya, a boy who is neglected by his emotionally unstable mother; and Ryota, a boy whose father has been away for work for two years. Will they be able to find their way back from their "parallel school"? What do they need to do in order to return? Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature. (Sakuma)



なりたて中学生 上級編 Naritate chugakusei: Jokyu-hen (The Junior High Fledgling: Advanced Level)

Text: Tanaka, Hiko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 391pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784062200745 | Ages 12+ | *Grade 7, Club activities, School festivals*

This third volume in the Junior High Fledgling series depicting the school life of a boy called Tetsuo. As a member of the PR committee, seventh grader Tetsuo goes to interview members of various school clubs, including the athletics, computer, and drama clubs, and ponders the meaning of club activities. The PR committee decides to do a live broadcast of club and class exhibitions and performances during the school festival. Tetsuo is in charge of three clubs, including drama club. Once the festival is over, Tetsuo thinks about the difference between the image adults have of junior high school pupils, and his own experience. Japanese Association of Writers for Children Prize. (Doi)



ふたりユースケ Futari Yusuke (The Two Yusukes)

Text: Mitamura, Nobuyuki | Illus. Osawa, Sachiko | Tokyo: Rironsha | 2017 | 222 pp. | 21×16 cm | ISBN 9784652201930 | Ages 11+ | Legends, Prodigies, Rebirth, Courage

The narrator of this book is Yusuke Ogawa, who is starting sixth grade. Though active and strong, he can also be violent, restless and impulsive. Due the transfer of his banker father, he changes from a city school to one in a rural town. There, he learns of another Yusuke who was the son of the prior village head. This other Yusuke got into a top private middle school in Tokyo and was even called "God boy." But the other Yusuke died while swimming in a river. Yusuke Ogawa, who looks like "God boy" Yusuke, comes to be seen as the dead Yusuke's reincarnation and as a source of hope in the town. Yusuke realizes, though, that he has hidden power of his own. (Nogami)



いい人ランキング Ii hito rankingu (Good Person Contest)

Text: Yoshino, Mariko | Tokyo: Asunaro Shobo | 2016 | 256 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784751528617 | Ages 12+ | Friendship, Voting, Traps, Strategy, Bullying

The students in a middle school class hold a Good Person Contest. The winner is an unassuming girl named Momo who never speaks ill of people, shirks her cleaning duty, or keeps homework from students who wish to copy. At first she is happy to have been chosen. Then, however, she sees her classmates change: They say that as a Good Person she should do their errands, their cleaning. Momo is being bullied. She takes a lesson from a certain young man on how to disrupt the cycle. A book that shows how build up of ill intent can lead to bullying. (Shirota)



Ten kara dodon (Lightning Strike from Heaven)

Text: Uozumi, Naoko | Illus. Keisin | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 188 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784591150061 | Ages 12+ | Transformation, Spirit possession, Friendship, Personality, Strength and weakness

Karin and Riko are 14 years old and middle school classmates. They also live in the same apartment building, but they have never had a real conversation. On the surface, Karin is pretty and active, the type to tell it like it is. Riko dislikes her own appearance and feels inferior; she's good at studies but has no friends. One day, the two girls suddenly swap bodies, and have to live life with appearances and personalities opposite to their own. As time passes, each girl realizes that the other has both weaknesses and strengths, and she matures. This book moves at a brisk tempo and is easy to read. (Shirota)



カーネーション Kaneshon (Carnation)

Text: Ito, Miku | Illus. Sakai, Komako | Tokyo: Kumon Shuppan | 2017 | 200 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784774326900 | Ages 12+ | Mother and daughter, Family, Bewilderment, New beginning

This ambitious work portrays a mother who cannot love her daughter, and the daughter who is shunned by her mother. Hiyori is in her first year of middle school and does not fit in at home. Her mother favors her younger sister and hates Hiyori. Hiyori's father pretends to see neither her mother's coldness, nor Hiyori's pain. After an incident on Christmas Eve, Hiyori thinks, "No matter how I wish or pray, my mother will never like me." She runs away from home. After this, Hiyori finds support from a young man and the warmth of others who reach out to her. (Shirota)



百年後、ぼくらはここにいないけど

Hyaku nen go, bokura wa koko ni inai kedo (In 100 Years, We Won't Be Here, But...)

Text: Nagae, Yuko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 224 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784062195812 | Ages 12+ | *Dioramas, Geography, History, Self esteem*

When Kengo enters middle school, he joins the History and Geography Club because it involves the least work and the least hierarchy. If you just join, you get credit on your school record—certainly better than staying home after school. But in his third year, the faculty advisor changes to an energetic teacher of about 30. The club must construct a diorama of Shibuya 100 years ago for an academic conference. As Kengo researches the history of a century ago, he imagines the thoughts of people who lived then and makes discoveries. He also experiences spending time with others to tackle a challenge. (Nogami)



こんとんじいちゃんの裏庭

Konton-jiichan no uraniwa (Grandpa's Back Garden)

Text: Murakami, Shiiko | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2017 | 256 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784092897571 | Ages 14+ | *Traf-fic accidents, Elderly people, Gardening*

A realistic coming-of-age story about a 15-year-old boy, Yuto. One day, his grandfather, who showing signs of dementia, is run over as he cycles over a pedestrian crossing, and is taken to hospital where he remains in a state of semi-consciousness. On top of that, Yuto's family receives a demand for compensation from the person who ran him over. Yuto is outraged and decides to try to clarify the truth. He goes to see the police, the insurance firm, and the law center. At the same time, he continues to care for his grandfather's garden the way his grandfather taught him. In the process, he learns to see things from various points of view. (Sakuma)



僕は上手にしゃべれないBoku wa jozu ni shaberenai

(I'm No Good at Talking)

Text: Shiino, Naoya | Tokyo: Poplar | 2017 | 331 pp. | 20×13 cm | ISBN 9784591153239 | Age 13+ | Stammerina Friendship. Identity

Yuta has just started at junior high, but he is self-conscious about his stammer and feels isolated at school. His elder sister encourages him, telling him it'll improve, and he joins the broadcasting club to get speech training. He is supposed to practice together with Kobe, a girl in his year who is also in the club, using the script for her favorite anime, but he refuses saying she doesn't understand how he feels. However, knowing that Kobe prepared the script for him and that his sister was also bullied because of his stammer, Yuta takes part in a speech contest and talks about himself. (Doi)



Q→**A** Kvu-e (O & A)

Text: Kusano, Taki | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 248 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784062200752 | Ages 13+ | Survey, Answers, Friendship, School, Decisions

Five girls and boys in their last year of middle school respond to surveys given at schools, cram schools, and in magazines. Their survey responses tell the story. The students say, "I never write my real feelings on surveys," but sometimes by writing survey responses, they discover their true feelings. This novel unfolds in ten linked stories, such as "Asako Nozaki: Last Spring of Middle School, Weirdness Abounds" and "Seiji Masuda: The End of a Youth Gambled on Volleyball." Entrance exams for high school, romance, deciding one's path, friendships: the heart-stopping aspects of early adolescence come through in this book. (Shirota)



きみのためには だれも泣かない

Kimi no tame ni wa dare mo nakanai (No One Will Cry for You)

Text: Nashiya, Arie | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 272 pp. | 20×13 cm | ISBN 9784591152669 | Ages 15+ | Friendship, Romance. High school. Boyfriends

The summer of his first year in high school, Sui is injured when an elderly man on a bicycle tips over on him. With his leg broken, Sui relies on a crutch. A middle school classmate of his sister's named Suzuri, who is the elderly man's greatgranddaughter, falls in love with Sui, believing that he saved the man's life. But Sui has a crush on Natsumi, who is in turn preoccupied with the odd behavior of her friend, Miria, who dates popular boy Nishiyama. Multiple teen issues intertwine as love, infatuation, and the importance of being oneself are addressed head-on in this YA novel. (Nogami)



フラダン

Furadan (Hula Boys)

Text: Furuuchi, Kazue | Tokyo: Komine Shoten | 2016 | 290 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784338287104 | Ages 15+ | Hula dance, Fukushima, Friendship

This is a laugh-out-loud youth novel, but its description of the circumstances surrounding the Fukushima nuclear disaster is thought-provoking. Yutaka, who attends a technical high school, leaves the swimming club only to be dragged into Hula Dance Club. When he grudgingly goes to take a look, he finds it full of girls. However, some other boys also join; Okihiko, a heart-throb type who has just moved from Singapore, Taiga, a geezer-type who also belongs to the judo club, and Kenichi, a weedy type whose dad works for TEPCO which is extremely unpopular in the wake of the nuclear disaster. Yutaka is put in charge of the boys team. (Sakuma)

RECENT NONFICTION



かげはどこ

Kage wa doko (Hey, Shadow!)

Text: Kisaka, Ryo | Illus. Tsuji, Keiko | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 24 pp. | 21×23 cm | ISBN 9784834082791 | Ages 3+ | *Shadows, Observation, Identity, Science, Nature*

A picture book portraying a little boy playing with his shadow who notices things about the nature of the shadow. He notices that his shadow is always with him, and runs with it. He discovers how, when he gets up onto the slide, his shadow moves away from him, and when he slides down it becomes part of him again. He also notices the shadow reflected on water, the shadow on the stairs, how it lengthens in the evening, and how it disappears when he stands in the shadow of a tree. The boy noticing familiar wonders, and seeing himself through his shadow, is vividly depicted using paper cut-out technique. (Doi)



きゅうきゅうばこ・新版

Kvukvubako: Shinpan (First Aid Kit: New Edition)

Text: Yamada, Makoto | Illus. Yagyu, Genichiro | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 28 pp. | 26×24 cm | ISBN 9784834083217 | Ages 4+ | Minor injuries, First aid, Home

Did you burn your finger or scrape your knee? Don't panic! This book contains everything a parent and child need to know about first aid treatment for minor injuries. Written by a famous pediatrician, it was first published almost 30 years ago but was recently updated to reflect contemporary medical treatment. In the new version, scrapes are treated by moist wound healing, for example. The new edition retains the humorous touch of the original but all of the illustrations have been revised. The lines and colors are more vivid and stronger, and the text also has a new font and design. (Hiromatsu)



このあいだに なにがあった?

Kono aida ni nani ga atta? (What Happened?)

Text/Photos: Sato, Masahiko/Yufuratesu | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 28 pp. | 26×24 cm | ISBN 9784834083361 | Ages 4+ | Photography, Detecting, Time

On the left is a woolly sheep photo, on the right is a bald sheep photo, and in between is a blank space with just the words "What happened?" Turn the page and you will find the sequence of three photos including the answer. This is a new approach to an interactive photo book that encourages children to do their own detecting. The scenes that emerge are highly diverse, ranging from the ecology of animals to unusual events, and they stimulate the reader's curiosity. In addition to the joy of learning through turning the pages, each photograph is rich in detail, offering new discoveries with each examination and sparking conversation. (Hiromatsu)



ぎくのもものき

Boku no momo no ki (A Peach Tree and Me)

Text/Illus. Hirono, Takako | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2017 | 32 pp. | 24×22 cm | ISBN 9784834083286 | Ages 5+ | Peaches, Gardening, Growing, Parent-child relationship

One spring, a boy receives a peach tree and begins growing it in a pot on the veranda of this family's apartment. He loves peaches and tends the tree carefully, watching it every day, eager to eat its fruit. Blossoms bud and the tree bursts into bloom in a frame that fills the entire page. The boy and his mother work together to pollinate the flowers, waiting expectantly for the fruit, but...The illustrations depicting the growth of the tree are delicate yet filled with life, so that the reader shares the boy's anticipation and the joy of tending a tree. (Shirota)



みちくさしようよ!

Michikusa shiyouyo (Let's Go Home Slowly)

Text: Okuyama, Eiji | Text/Illus. Hata, Koshiro | Tokyo: Holp Shuppan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 24×21 cm | ISBN 9784593563142 | Ages 5+ | *Nature, Siblings, Play, Obser*vation

On the way home from school, a first grade boy dawdles with his sixth grade brother. They find a cat and follow it; they tease the cat, watch a small cabbage white butterfly in a field, eat mulberries, and spot a snail on the underside of a leaf, which leads to checking out its habitat. The big brother leads the way down a secret shortcut to the park. There the boys suck azalea nectar and follow a line of ants. By following his brother, the first grader encounters lots of nature on his way home, and finds that the world looks different now. A unique picture book about observation. (Nogami)

12



お月さまのこよみ絵本 旧暦で行事をたのしむ

Otsukisama no koyomi ehon (An Illustrated Calendar of the Moon: Enjoying the Festivals of the Old Lunar Calendar)

Text: Chiba, Nozomi | Illus. Abe, Shinji | Tokyo: Rironsha | 2016 | 31 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784652201572 | Ages 5+ | *Moon, Calendar, Festivals*

A picture book that explains the structure of the old lunar calendar brought to Japan from China and compares it with the Western solar calendar, while introducing the background to festivals currently celebrated in Japan and the people who lived their lives according to the old calendar. It introduces various facts, such as that a new month always started on January 1, and the Tanabata Festival on July 7 was when the Milky Way was clearly visible. Through detailed pictures describing how festivals are currently celebrated, we learn how festivals on the old lunar calendar have been continued up until the present. (Doi)



カエルくんのだいはっけん!

Kaeru-kun no daihakken (Mr. Frog's Big Discovery!)

Text/Illus. Matsuoka, Tatsuhide | Tokyo: Shogakukan | 2016 | 32 pp. | 27×22 cm | ISBN 9784097266471 | Ages 6+ | Ponds, Rivers, Frogs, Insects, Plants, Adventure

With a tree frog born in a pond as protagonist, this book examines a natural ecosystem while giving a detailed introduction to life around the pond, from plants to small animals to insects. The tree frog, which was almost eaten by a snake, is saved by a Daruma pond frog and following his advice searches in the river and the forest for somewhere safe to live. Readers see the many creatures living in the river, and the kingfisher that lives by preying on them—and the insects, birds, and small animals living in the forest. Countless creatures are lavishly introduced with plenty of information in this nature picture book. (Nogami)



かつおぶしができるまで

Katsuobushi ga dekiru made (How Katsuobushi is Made)

Text: Miyazaki, Shoko | Photos: Shiramatsu, Kiyoyuki | Tokyo: Iwasaki Shoten | 2016 | 34 pp. | 29×24 cm | ISBN 9784265085323 | Ages 5+ | Bonito, Food industry, Transformation. Nutrition. Japanese traditions

Katsuobushi is a traditional preserved food made by heat-drying bonito flesh. When finely shaved, it is used as a flavoring that is an essential ingredient in Japanese cuisine. This book, illustrated with photos, shows how bonito caught at sea are turned into the rock-like katsuobushi that holds the record for being the world's hardest food. The photos were taken at a shop in Shizuoka prefecture that has been in business for over a hundred years. On a conveyor belt system, the bonito is filleted, simmered, deboned, smoked...the process follows some 30 different steps, all by hand. (Shirota)



さかなのたまご いきのこりをかけた だいさくせん

Sakana no tamago (Fish Eggs: Desperate Survival Strategies)

Text/Photos: Uchiyama, Ryu | Tokyo: Poplar | 2017 | 37 pp. | 21×26 cm | ISBN 9784591154908 | Ages 6+ | Fish, Eags, Offspring, Photography

Japan's many rivers are home to a wide variety of fish that have all kinds of methods to protect their eggs in order to survive. Salmon lay their eggs under pebbles on the riverbed so that predators will not find them, while rosy bitterlings have a long thin pipe extending from their rear end through which they lay their eggs inside bivalves, and Japanese river goby males keep guard below their eggs laid so they hang from rocks. The numerous curious strategies that fish use to leave offspring are introduced here through beautiful, highly realistic photographs. (Shirota)



わたり鳥

Wataridori (Migratory Birds)

Text/Illus. Suzuki, Mamoru | Tokyo: Doshinsha | 2017 | 40 pp. | 26×26 cm | ISBN 9784494010004 | Ages 5+ | Migratory birds, Environment

This non-fiction picture book describes the journey of migratory birds from around the world. An astounding number of birds travel long distances every year in search of food and a safe place to lay their eggs and raise their young. What routes do they travel? What kind of nests do they build and where? What dangers do they face on their journey? How do they find their way? The author, who is an expert on birds answers such questions as these in words and illustrations that children can easily grasp. (Sakuma)



干したから…

Hoshita kara... (See What Happens When You Dry It Up)

Text/Photos: Morieda, Takashi | Tokyo: Froebel-kan | 2016 | 34 pp. | 22×27 cm | ISBN 9784577043714 | Ages 7+ | Food, Dried fish, Practical wisdom

This is a picture book by a photographer on the theme of food. The author uses photos of dried foods found in many parts of the world to explain the changes that occur when foods are dried and the meaning and purpose of drying food. Drying removes the liquid from vegetables, fruits, fish, meat and milk products, preserving them so that they don't go rotten, and the author use photos and text in ingenious ways to excite the reader's curiosity and make this process easier to understand. The short appendix introduces examples of dried foods used in traditional Japanese cuisine and methods for drying vegetables and other foods that can be done at home. (Sakuma)



ふくはなにからできてるの? せんいのはなし

Fuku wa nani kara dekiteruno? (What Are Clothes Made Of? A Tale of Fibre)

Text: Sato, Tetsuya | Illus. Aminaka, Izuru | Tokyo: Fukuinkan Shoten | 2016 | 32 pp. | 31×22 cm | ISBN 9784834083088 | Ages 7+ | Fashion, Materials, Daily life

This book draws our attention to the materials of the clothes we wear in daily life. Warm sweaters are made of sheep's wool, shiny dresses are from thread spun from silk, durable shirts are from the fruit of the cotton plant. People all over the world from past to present, have used animal and vegetable fiber to make clothes. The visual presentation and easy-to-follow text make it fun to learn about the various kinds of natural fibers as well as how synthetic fibers were invented and the meaning of clothes tags. The illustrator used to work for an apparel company and the colorful pictures demonstrate her love for clothes. (Hiromatsu)



ファーブル先生の昆虫教室 1

Faaburu-sensei no konchu kyoshitsu (Teacher Fabre's Insect Class, Volumes 1)

Text: Okumoto, Daisaburo | Illus. Yamashita, Kohei | Tokyo: Poplar | 2016 | 175 pp. | 20×21 cm | ISBN 9784591150313 | Ages 9+ | Jean-Henri Casimir Fabre, Insects. Wonder. Observation

The author translated the nineteenth-century entomologist Jean-Henri Casimir Fabre's work *Souvenirs entomologiques* into Japanese over a period of thirty years. Here he presents fascinating portions of the work in a manner accessible to children, covering one theme per two-page spread. Scarab beetle, cicada, praying mantis...insects possible to see in Japan are among many portrayed in their curious and fascinating environments, with humorous but accurate illustrations that offer discoveries with each viewing. A masterpiece in the area of science picture books with diagram-type illustrations. Sequel published in 2017. (Nogami)



大坂城 絵で見る日本の城づくり

Osaka-jo (Osaka Castle: An Illustrated Guide to Japanese Castle-Building)

Text/Illus. Aoyama, Kunihiko | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2016 | 32 pp. | 31×24 cm | ISBN 9784061332966 | Ages 8+ | Castles, Architecture, History

Three child ninja are ordered to discover the secrets of a castle being built by Shogun Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The children disguise themselves and work alongside the peasants at the castle site. Through illustrations and text we learn how many people were involved in the huge castle's construction, as well as the many processes and building techniques that were used, such as excavation, and quarrying and transporting stone. In each frame, readers can also discover where the three ninja are hiding. The book includes finely detailed architectural drawings that show the impressive skill of the architect-turned-picture book author. (Hiromatsu)



世界中からいただきます!

Sekaiju kara itadakimasu! (Eating the Globe!)

Text: Nakayama, Shigeo | Photos: Sakaguchi, Katsumi | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2016 | 128 pp. | 21×18 cm | ISBN 9784036450602 | Ages 9+ | Food, Kitchens, Cooking

A writer and photographer travel all over the world, staying in ordinary homes and observing families going about their daily lives, and eating the same food as their hosts. They introduce us to the food and lifestyles of seventeen families in fourteen countries, from Mongolia, Cambodia, and Thailand, to Hungary, Yemen, and Morocco. The fun layout features many photos of children preparing and eating food, making it approachable for young readers everywhere. We also learn about staple foods around the world, street stalls, and toilets, as well as what kind of Japanese souvenirs are most appreciated by the host families. (Sakuma)



お船がかえる日 チョプラン漂流記

Ofune ga kaeru hi (The Day the Boat Returned: Adventures in Choplan)

Text/Illus. Kobayashi, Yutaka | Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten | 2017 | 60 pp. | 26×26 cm | ISBN 9784001112658 | Ages 9+ | History, Tajwan, Adventure

In 1802, an eight-year-old orphaned boy named Ichimatsu hopped on a little cargo boat in Hakodate, Hokkaido in northern Japan. He was bound for Edo (modern-day Tokyo) to study, but the boat was blown off course in a gale and lost its rudder. After 67 days adrift, the boy and the ship's captain landed in a village called Choplan on the coast of Taiwan. They lived with the indigenous people for seven years. The story richly depicts the customs and daily life of the villagers and the natural surroundings, so different from Japan. An excellent work of historical non-fiction, it makes the reader acutely aware that world is connected by the sea. (Nogami)



はじめて見たよ! セミのなぞ

Hajimete mita yo! Semi no nazo (Seen for the First Time! Cicada Riddles)

Text/Photos: Shinkai, Takashi | Tokyo: Shonen Shashin Shinbunsha | 2017 | 64 pp. | 19×27 cm | ISBN 9784879816030 | Ages 10+ | Cicadas, Ecology, Observation

There are 35 species of cicada in the Japanese archipelago. These insects spend most of their lives underground, which means that there is much we never see. The author, an insect photographer, has observed various types of cicada all over Japan. In this book, he uses plenty of photos to share discoveries made through painstaking observation, answering such questions as how cicadas pee, mate, lay eggs and hatch them, as well how cicada larvae spend their time underground. He explains how important it is for us to use all our senses to experience the natural environment in which cicadas live. (Shirota)



アイちゃんのいる教室 6年1組にじ色クラス

Ai-chan no iru kyoshitsu (In the Classroom with Ai-chan: Grade 6, Class 1 is Rainbow Colored)

Text/Photos: Takakura, Masaki | Tokyo: Kaiseisha | 2017 | 48 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784034171400 | Ages 10+ | Inclusive education, Down's syndrome, Illness, School, Friendship

This is a book about Ai-chan, a girl with Down's syndrome. It is the third book in a series of Ai-chan, and follows Ai-chan as she attends a main-stream Grade 6 class, from the first day through graduation. Ai-chan worked hard and was very positive through third grade. Now, however, she has fallen behind her classmates in both academics and physical strength, and there are more days when she can't cope. "Ai-chan doesn't try," some students complain. This book is the story of 36 students and a teacher who all shine in different ways. like the colors of the rainbow. (Shirota)



世界は広く、美しい(全6巻)

Sekai wa hiroku, utsukushii

(The World is Wide and Beautiful, 6 Volumes)

Text/Photos: Nagakura, Hiromi | Tokyo: Shinnihon Shuppansha | 2016 | 48 pp. | 24×23 cm | ISBN 9784406060561, et al. | Ages 10+ | Color, Earth, Daily life. Humans

A photojournalist who has covered the world's regions of conflict, and created many fine nonfiction picture books, here presents aspects of nature and human life encountered in more than 60 countries. This unique photo picture book series consists of six themed volumes, which are blue, red, yellow, black, green, and white. "Red is proof of life, and the color of desire to live boldly." "Yellow is enfolding, the color that makes us think of what comes after life." "Green is connection of lives, the color that carries us far into the future." Color connects photos of people in different lands. Every photo takes one's breath away. (Nogami)



動物たちを救うアニマルパスウェイ

Dobutsutachi o sukuu animaru pasuwei (Saving Animal Species through Wildlife Crossings)

Text: Minato, Shusaku | Tokyo: Bunken Shuppan | 2017 | 152 pp. | 22×16 cm | ISBN 9784580823143 | Ages 10+ | Science, Environment, Animals

Roads cutting through the forests of Japan are shrinking the habitat of Japanese dormice. The author, who has made the study of the dormouse his lifework, built a dormouse crossing in one area and discovered that other animals also crossed it. He set up a society for the study of wildlife crossings to find low-cost materials and designs that are easy for animals to cross and encouraged the introduction of such crossings throughout Japan. After monitoring the results, the society spent eight years from 2004 building these structures. Connections with similar projects in other countries are also introduced. (Doi)



円周率の謎を追う 江戸の天才数学者・関孝和の挑戦

Enshuritsu no nazo o ou (Solving the Mystery of Pi: The Genius Mathematician of Edo. Seki Takakazu)

Text: Narumi, Fu | Illus. Ino, Takayuki | Tokyo: Kumon Shuppan | 2016 | 208 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784774325521 | Ages 11+ | Mathematics, Edo period (1603-1868). Pi

Portrays the life of Seki Takakazu, the master of Japanese mathematics known as wasan, with particular focus on his research on pi. We learn at school that pi is about 3.14, but when Seki started his studies it was thought to be 3.16. The process of working through the doubts he felt about this until he was convinced, and the way he devised a method to express numerical formulae based on Chinese kanbun writing is as thrilling as a mystery novel. This mathematician emerges as one human being who single-mindedly pursued something with unextinguished passion. Based on thorough research. (Sakuma)



ナビラとマララ「対テロ戦争」に巻き込まれた二人の少女

Nabira to Marara (Nabila and Malala: Two Girls Caught Up in the "War on Terrorism")

Text: Miyata, Osamu | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2017 | 172 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784062204842 | Ages 10+ | *Terrorism, Islam, Pakistan, Refugees*

Eleven-year-old Nabila Rehman lives in Pakistan just like Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala, but she was injured by a bomb dropped by an American drone. When she traveled to America to testify at a congressional hearing, she appealed to the audience to spend money on education, not on wars, but only five legislators showed up to hear her. At the author's invitation she came to Japan and made the same appeal before a congressional hearing at a symposium on supporting the education of women and girls in Islamic countries. By comparing the differences in the treatment received by Malala and Nabila, the author invites the reader to examine the war on terrorism. (Doi)



お金さえあればいい? 子どもと考える経済のはなし

Okane sae areba ii? (All We Need Is Money? A Tale of Economics to Think about with Young People)

Text: Hama, Noriko | Illus. Takabatake, Jun | Tokyo: Crayon House | 2017 | 64 pp. | 21×15 cm | ISBN 9784861013195 | Ages 11+ | Money, Happiness, Economics

In easily understood language supported by humorous illustrations, this book teaches us about money and economics. What is the purpose of money? What is economics? The author, Noriko Hama, is a famous economist. She explains that true economics should be about creating spaces in which people can come together and that generate happiness. Unfortunately, economic activity today is increasingly focused on the pursuit of profit. She teaches how to discern such "false" economics and live a life that is not controlled by money and that will bring us happiness. (Sakuma)



犬が来る病院 命に向き合う子どもたちが教えてくれたこと

Inu ga kuru byoin (The Hospital Where Dogs Visit: What the Children in Touch with Life Taught Us)

Text: Otsuka, Atsuko | Tokyo: Kadokawa | 2016 | 224 pp. | 19×13 cm | ISBN 9784041035085 | Ages 12+ | *Therapy dogs, Hospital, Children*

A documentary book following children in the pediatric unit at Saint Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo. Saint Luke's is the first hospital in Japan to admit therapy dogs into the pediatric unit. The book looks at topics like how the visits by dogs started, how the children reacted, how care was taken to make the children's time in hospital rich, and how many staff cooperated in the aim for total care. The book gives a moving account of four children (two passed away; two left hospital to find their own paths in life) and their families, whose progress they tracked as they dealt with their illnesses. (Sakuma)



紛争・対立・暴力 世界の地域から考える

Senso, tairitsu, boryoku (War, Conflict and Violence: Different Perspectives from Different Places)

Text: Nishizaki, Fumiko/Takeuchi, Shinichi | Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten | 2016 | 208 pp. | 18×11 cm | ISBN 9784005008421 | Ages 13+ | *War, World, Peace*

Experts on different areas of the world explore the issues of war, terrorism and violence. The authors report on the suffering of Muslims in the world and the origins of Islamic countries, the achievements and issues facing the EU, hate crimes in the United States, conflicts in Africa, crime and terrorism in Latin America, incidents and riots related to religion in Indonesia, and the expulsion of Christians from China. They then present peace-related issues in Japan, such as hate speech towards resident Koreans. (Doi)



命の意味 命のしるし

Inochi no imi, inochi no shirushi (The Meaning of Life, The Signs of Life)

Text: Uehashi, Nahoko/Saito, Keisuke | Tokyo: Kodansha | 2017 | 136 pp. | 19×14 cm | ISBN 9784062870252 | Ages 13+ | Animal protection, Birds of prey, Life, Nahoko Uehashi

This book presents a conversation broadcast on public television in Japan—between veterinarian Keisuke Saito, a specialist in wild raptors, and the author Nahoko Uehashi, winner of the Andersen Award for Writing. Saito has made it his life's work to explore means of coexistence with wildlife; he explains that he treats birds of prey because he wants to return them to the wild. Uehashi, for her part, asks questions of life and death repeatedly in her writing; her novel *The Beast Player* (forthcoming in English in 2018) features the main character Erin who says, "I wanted to let beasts born in the wild live the way nature intended." (Shirota)



恋の相手は女の子

Koi no aite wa onna no ko (I'm in Love With a Girl)

Text: Muroi, Maika | Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten | 2016 | 224 pp. | 18×11 cm | ISBN 9784005008292 | Ages 13+ | *LGBT*, *Love, Lifestyle*

The author recounts her personal experience from childhood to April 2016, when at age 26 she married another woman. Born in 1987, she began having crushes on other girls at age 13, and felt guilty about being attracted to members of the same sex. When she was 18, she joined a Peace Boat voyage around the world, and after attending a lecture about sexual minorities accepted that she was gay. Eventually, she came out to her family and introduced them to her partner, a Peace Boat staff member, and they were able to marry. She writes about their life after getting married, and also about other acquaintances from sexual minorities. (Doi)



30 代記者たちが出会った戦争 激戦地を歩く

30-dai kisha tachi ga deatta senso (The War as Seen by Young Reporters: Walking on Former Battlefields)

Edit. Kyodo News | Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten | 2016 | 256 pp. | 18×11 cm | ISBN 9784005008360 | Ages 13+ | *Asia, War, Soldiers*

Eight reporters in their thirties from Kyodo News visit the places where Japan has in the past sent soldiers into battle, and interview former soldiers who were there. The selected locations were Guadalcanal, Imphal, Saipan, the Philippines, and China. By studying documentary records, walking around the area, and conducting interviews, the reporters learn that in fact many Japanese soldiers were recklessly sent to starve and die. They also gain testimony from local people whose families were massacred, comfort women, and people who were detained in Siberia. (Doi)



そして、ぼくは旅に出た。

Soshite, boku wa tabi ni deta (And Then I Went Traveling)

Text: Otake, Hidehiro | Tokyo: Asunaro Shobo | 2017 | 424 pp. | 20×14 cm | ISBN 9784751528686 | Ages 13+ | Photography. Lifestyle. Travel

Born in 1975, the author, Hidehiro Otake, has spent much of his life photographing the Northwoods of America. As a young man he fell in love with the works of nature photographer Jim Brandenburg. After graduating from university, he set off on a three-month adventure to the Northwoods, traveling eight days by kayak through the many lakes and arriving unannounced at Jim's door. Otake stayed a week with Jim's neighbor, the extreme explorer Will Steger, then showed Jim the photos he had taken and asked for his advice. The work recounts his growth through this experience and the thoughts inspired by his encounters with nature and people. (Doi)

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Hans Christian Andersen Award Winners and Nominees Since 2000

These authors and illustrators, among the finest creators of Japanese children's literature, were all nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Four were named winners.

Winners



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. Akaba mastered painting techniques on his own; he published his first picture book in 1961. His influences include traditional Japanese painting and Felix Hoffmann.



Sora nigero (Fly Away, Birdies!) Kaiseisha



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.



Tabi no ehon VIII (Anno's Journey VIII) Fukuinkan Shoten



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. 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. *The Animals*, co-published in the USA and Japan as a bilingual book, was translated by Empress Michiko of Japan.



(Mado Michio Complete Collection 2) Rironsha



UEHASHI, NAHOKO 1962-WINNER OF THE 2014 HCA AUTHOR AWARD

Born in Tokyo in 1962, Nahoko Uehashi researched indigenous people in Australia for her PhD in cultural authoropology. She currently teaches ethnology at university. Her literary debut came in 1989, when her first book 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 several literature awards in and outside of Japan, including the IBBY Honour List and the Batchelder Award in the USA.



(The Beast Player)



KADONO, EIKO 1935-

WINNER OF THE 2018 HCA AUTHOR AWARD

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. 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 Hayao Miyazaki. Kadono has been decorated by the Emperor of Japan for her significant contributions to children's literature.



Majo no takkyubin (Kiki's Delivery Service, 1984) Fukuinkan Shoten

Nominees: Author



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, Urdu, and Hindi. Her immense contributions to children's literature in Japan have been recognized nationally.



(Doll's Day for Yoshiko) Fukuinkan Shoten



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 has been awarded many other prizes.



Kuma no ko Ufu (Woof the Little Bear) Poplar



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 translated into English, French, German, and Spanish.



Dare mo shiranai chiisana kuni (A Little Country No One Knows) Kodansha

20



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 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.



Mimi o sumasu (Prick Up Your Ears!) Fukuinkan Shoten



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 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 Ezra Jack Keats Award (USA) for *Imoto no nyuin* (Little Sister Goes to Hospital) and the 13 Juries Grand Prix (France) for Hajimete no kyanpu (I'm Going Camping).



Kon to Aki (Kon and Aki) Fukuinkan Shoten



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 working for a company in Tokyo, he 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 from a major publisher. He since has been awarded many prizes.



Soreyuke Zukkoke sanningumi (Hirarious Trio series, 50 volumes) Poplar



KAKO, SATOSHI 1926-2012 ILLUSTRATOR NOMINEE

KATAYAMA, KEN 1940-2014, 2016 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 800 works, ranging from educational picture books on science and astronomy to nursery tales. After his experience as a soldier during the war, he resolved to devote the rest of his life to helping children grow healthy, both physically and mentally.

Ken Katayama was born in Tokyo in 1940. After he graduated from the

began to work at an advertising company but soon resigned. In 1966, he published his first picture book. 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 embod-



Karasu no panya san (Mr Crow's Bakery) Kaiseisha





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 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 has received a number of prizes including the IBBY Honour List twice.



Kvabetsu kun (Mr. Cabbage) Bunken Shuppan



TASHIMA, SEIZO 1940-

ying his dynamic, vivid, and unique style.

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.



Don don don don (Onward—Stomp, Stomp, Stomp) Bunken Shuppan



Boku no koe ga kikoemasuka (Can You Hear My Voice?) Doshinsha

★ 2018 IBBY Very Best Book



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. His works have been translated into many languages.



Dai-chan to umi (Dai-chan and the Sea) Fukuinkan Shoten

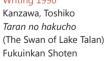
Japanese Books Selected for the IBBY Honour List Since 1990

JBBY selects books for three categories (Writing/Illustration/Translation) of the IBBY Honour List every two years. Since 2008, JBBY has given these books the JBBY Award.

WRITING



Writing 1990 Kanzawa, Toshiko Taran no hakucho





Ito. Hiroshi Osaru ni naru hi (Hurrah, I'm a Monkey) Kodansha



Writing 2002 Tomiyasy, Yoko Yamanha yama no Mokko tachi (Mokko in Mount Yamamba) Fukuinkan Shoten



Takadono, Hoko Otomodasa ni narimasho (Let's Be Frrrrriends) Froe-bel kan



ILLUSTRATION

Writing 2016 Iwase, Joko Atarashii ko aa kite (Since the New One Came) Iwasaki Shoten

Illustration 1990

Yama no disuko

(Disco on the Mountain)

Suzuki, Koii

Kakusha

Illustration 1996

with My Robot)

Fukuinkan Shoten

Matsuoka, Tatsuhide

Boku no robotto kyoryu tanken

(Exploring the Dinosaur Age



野鳥の図鑑

9

不じ未実料理法

Writing 1992

Rironsha

Writing 2004

Kaiseisha

Writing 2010

Hamano, Kvoko

Fyujon (Fusion)

Kodansha

Uehashi Nahoko

Kami no moribito

Mitamura, Nobuyuki Boku aa kvorvu datta koro (When I was a Dinosaur) Holp Shuppan

Kosoado no mori no monoaatari

(The Stories of the Kosoado Woods)

(Guardian of the Awful God, 2 Vols.)



Writing 1994

Twase loko Uso ianaivo to Tanikawa kun wa itta (Tanikawa Said It's Not a Lie) PHP Institute



Oni no hashi (A Bridge to the Other World) Fukuinkan Shoten



Writing 2006

Ogihara Noriko Fuiinhisho (The Tale of the Flute Player) Tokuma Shoten



Writing 2014

Mahara, Mito Tetsu no shibuki ga haneru (Where the Steel Sparks Fly)



Yabuuchi, Masavuki Yacho no zukan (Wild Birds of Japan) Fukuinkan Shoten



Ore wa uta da ore wa koko o aruku (Oral Poetry of the Native Americans) Text by Hisao Kanaseki Fukuinkan Shoten

Illustration 1994



Illustration 1998 Kobayashi, Yutaka Sekai ichi utsukushii boku no mura (My Sweet Village)



Illustration 2000 Ono Kaoru Okagura (The Night of Kagura) Text by Akiko Waki



Illustration 2008

(A Sound of Taivo Organ)

Abe. Hiroshi

Shin sekai e

Kaiseisha

(To the New World)

Arai. Rvoii

Kaiseisha

Taivo oruaan

Illustration 2002 Cho. Shinta Tenau no hauchiwa (The Magical Fun of the Long-nosed Ogre) Text by Yoshiko Kayama Kvoiku Gageki

lustration 2004 Saito, Takao Kaeru no Heike monoaatari (The Frogs and the Cat: Story Inspired by Heike Monoaatari) Text by Kazunari Hino Fukuinkan Shoten





Illustration 2010 Ito Hideo Ushio (Ushio) Billiken Shuppan



Yoshida. Hisanori Kibo no bokuio (The Ranch of Hope in Fukushima) Text by Eto Mori Iwasaki Shoten



Illustration 2006 Cho. Shinta

Mimizu no Ossan (The Story of the Earthworm named Ossan) Doshinsha



Illustration 2012 Inque Yosuke Boshi (Hats)



Fast Press

Translation 1994

Ursula K. Le Guin)

Iwanami Shoten

Translation 2000

Wiggin and Smith)

Fukuinkan Shoten

Translation 2006

Arabian naito

Trans Sakai Haruhiko

(The Arabian Nights edited by

Gedo senki

Trans, Shimizu, Masako

(The Wizard of Earthsea by



Suzuki. Koji Domu aatari (Dome Story) Text by Arthur Binard Tamagawa University Press

TRANSLATION

新世界へ



Translation 1990 Trans. Nakamura, Taeko Kari o suru Eira (Mammoth Hunters by Jean M. K. M. Auel) Hvoronsha



anslation 1996

Trans, Kakegawa, Yasuko Unmei no uma Dakurinau (Darkling by K. M. Peyton) Iwanami Shoten



anslation 2002

Trans, Sakuma, Yumiko Magaretto to Meizon (Last Summer with Maizon by Jacqueline Woodson) Poplar



Trans, Chiba, Shiqeki Ori no naka no himitsu (Dumb Creatures by Jeanne Willis) Asunaro Shobo



ranslation 2014

Trans. Jingu, Teruo Tsubame-go to Amazon-go (Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome) Iwanami Shoten



Translation 1992

Trans, Uchida, Risako Roshia no mukashi banashi (Russian Folktales) Fukuinkan Shoten



Franslation 1998

Trans Waki Akiko Oka no ie no Sera (The Silent Shore by Ruth Elwin Harris) Iwanami Shoten

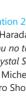


Franslation 2004

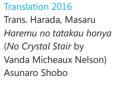
Trans. Matsuoka. Kvoko Ramona to atarashii kazoku (Ramona Forever by Beverly Cleary) Gakken



Trans, Kodama, Tomoko Daido to tochan (Dido and Pa by Joan Aiken)



Fuzanbo



Trans, Hishiki, Akirako Mai ga ita natsu (Maj Darling by Mats Wahl) Tokuma Shoten



Translation 2012

Trans, Saito, Michiko Shikago yori tondemonai machi (A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck) Tokyo Sogensha



Translation 2018

Trans, Motai, Natsuu Oshizukani, chichi ga hirune shite orimasu (Please Be Quiet, My Father is Taking a Nap: Jewish Folktales) Iwanami Shoten



JBBY BOOK SELECTION TEAM

The JBBY Book Selection Team discussed and collaboratively chose the titles listed in this publication. The name in parentheses after each book description is the name of the committee member who wrote the description.



YASUKO DOI

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.



YUMIKO SAKUMA

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 Barack Obama. Her translation of *Last Summer with Maizon* by Jacqueline Woodson made the IBBY Honour List. JBBY president.



YUKIKO HIROMATSU

Picture book author, critic, and curator. Former chief curator of Chihiro Art Museum, Tokyo. Yukiko Hiromatsu's 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 of Old Tales for Now). 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 many international competitions including the chair of 2017 Biennial of illustrations Bratislava (BIB). JBBY board member.



TOMOKO SHIROTA

Chief librarian at the Miyoshi town library, Saitama prefecture. As a public librarian with long experience superintending children's services, she has worked diligently to research and promote children's literature by implementing read-alouds, book talks, Bookstart and other programming. She leads workshops in a range of locations for librarians and daycare workers, nurturing the next generation. She has authored *Yomikikase wakuwaku handobukku* (Read-Aloud Excitement! A Handbook) and co-authored *Ehon—kodomo no tame no 300 satsu* (Picture Books: 300 Titles for Children). JBBY board member.



AKIRA NOGAMI

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. JBBY vice president.

Special Essay

Growth in Japanese Children's Book Publishing Since World War II

Yumiko SAKUMA, JBBY President

Translated by Avery Fischer Udagawa

This essay was first presented as part of a session at the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) 2016, and was modified for *Painting Landscapes: Children's Literature About and Beyond Asia* (AFCC Publications, 2017).

When I spoke at the Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) 2016 in Singapore, I was delighted to meet many people there who love children's books. I presented about the background and current state of Japanese Children's Publishing and discussed some challenges and directions for the future.

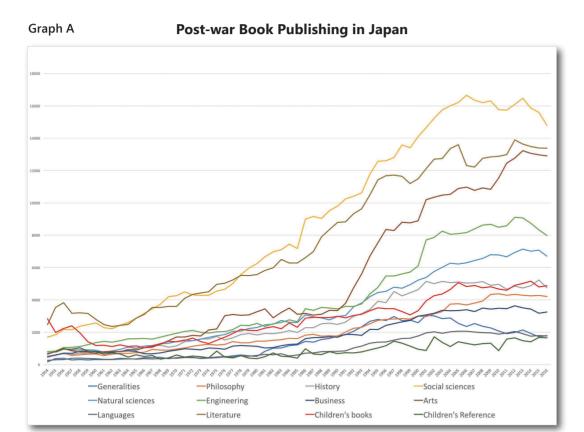
Since my presentation in Singapore, I have updated the portion of my talk about growth in Japanese children's book publishing since World War II. Here I would like to convey my findings and, using concrete numbers, outline the size and shape of Japanese children's publishing.

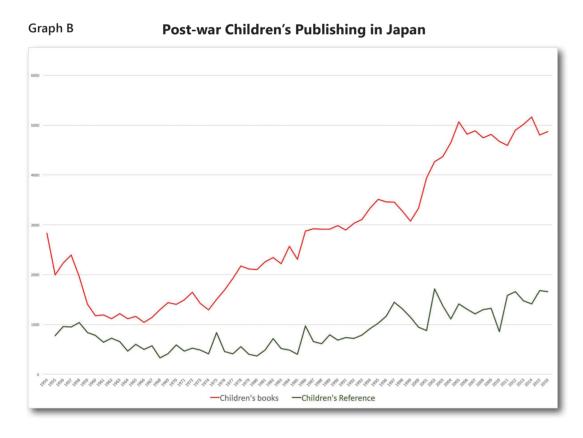
Post-war Publishing in Japan

Graph A (p. 28) is based on data published in Japan's Publication Yearbook (*Shuppan nenkan*) and by the Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. It shows us how the number of publications in Japan increased from 1954 to 2016. The vertical axis shows the number of new publications, and the horizontal axis shows the publication year. Each colored line shows a category of publications, such as the yellow line for social science, the brown line for literature (for adults), and the red line for children's books.

As you can see, in 1954 the most-published category in Japan was children's books. It seems the Japanese tried to focus on education and children's publications during the immediate postwar years of recovery.

At the war's end, Japan lacked not only adequate food but also culture, so children's books and magazines printed on cheap paper sold briskly; children's magazines were high in number. Later on, publishers began to put out series of picture books and famous chil-





dren's literary titles. Once society stabilized, parents became able to consider education and sources of information for their children, and they bought books for them; school classrooms and libraries also became a source of demand, so that the number of titles published for children outpaced titles for adults.

Post-war Children's Publishing in Japan

Graph B (p. 28) also shows publishing in Japan from 1954 to 2016, but only for books related to children. The red line indicates children's books, and the green line indicates study guides (reference). As you can see, the number of new children's titles increased to about 5,000 recently. It is important to note that sales of books have not increased in this same way. The graph does not show it, but while the number of new publications has increased, the number of books in each first printing has decreased. This is because, first of all, the number of children in Japan has decreased. Second, books have to compete against games and other media such as TV and comics.

New Children's Titles Published in 2016

Table A (p. 29) shows that in 2016, Japanese publishers released 4,871 new children's titles, of which 1,231 were picture books, 1,072 were chapter books and novels, and 2,568 were nonfiction and information books.

To put all of this in context, Japan now publishes about 80,000 new titles per year (78,113 in 2016), including books for adults. Children's books account for about 6 percent of that.

Table A

New Children's Titles Published in 2016

Category	Number of Titles	
Literature	2,303	
Picture Books	1,231	
Chapter Books & Novels	1,072	
Nonfiction & Others	2,568	
General	54	
Philosophy & Religion	152	
History & Geography	235	
Social Science	263	
Natural Science	492	
Engineering & Technology	218	
Industry	113	
Arts & Sports	839	
Language	202	
Total	4,871	

Original Works vs. Translations in 2016

Since I am a translator, I wanted to compare the number of Japanese original works with the number of translated works published in Japan in 2016. As you can see in Table B (p. 30), the translated works accounted for 15.3% of all children's titles published in Japan.

Ten years ago, this percentage of translated works was much higher. The reason for the decrease might

Table B Original Works vs. Translations in 2016

Category	Total Titles Published	Japanese Originals	Translated Works	Translated Books as Percentge
Picture Books	1,231	958	273	22.2%
Chapter Books & Novels	1,072	835	237	22.1%
Nonfiction & Others	2,568	2,332	236	9.2%
Total	4,871	4,125	746	15.3%

be that Japanese publishers dislike the co-production system increasingly required by American and British publishers. If a Japanese publisher accepts this co-production system, the cost of the first printing may be reduced, but it is difficult to reprint at times convenient for the Japanese publisher.

To explain further about co-production, there are generally two ways to publish a Japanese edition of a picture book originally published overseas:

- (1) The original publisher sells the Japanese publisher the translation rights and the data files for the book, and the Japanese publisher prints and binds the Japanese edition on its own.
- (2) The original publisher sells the Japanese publisher the translation rights but not the data files, and the original publisher prints and binds the Japanese version using the Japanese publisher's translation. The original publisher enjoys higher profit than in scenario 1, because it prints after receiving translations not only from Japanese but also from other languages.

In recent years, publishers in the U.S. and U.K. have been requesting scenario 2 more frequently. This means that the first print run may be relatively low-cost for the Japanese publisher, but then it becomes difficult to print more copies or to issue a reprint edition when the Japanese publisher wishes. Alternatively, the Japanese publisher may succeed in getting more copies printed, but the cost may be high. These difficulties inhibit further printings even when a book becomes listed as recommended or required reading for Japanese students, so this setup is highly disadvantageous for Japan.

Original Works vs. Translations: Mutual Influence

I feel that in Japan's children's publishing nowadays, translated works and original works influence each other significantly. One of the leading figures of children's literature in post-war Japan was Momoko Ishii, who was a translator as well as a writer. In addition, several "World Children's Literature" book series were published in Japan in the 1950s and 1960s. In

the 1980s and 1990s, however, there seemed to be a divide between those who were involved in publishing original works, and those who were involved in translated works. So I started a monthly book discussion group where writers, translators, librarians, bunko (or private library) organizers, editors and researchers come and talk about children's books. In this group we always read Japanese original works and translated works about the same theme for comparison. We have learned plenty from one another this way; for example, we translators learn a lot from works originally written in Japanese, especially regarding literary styles.

On the other hand, many of the successful Japanese writers today were brought up on translated masterpieces in their childhood, so the influence of translations is clear in original works, as well. For example, Nahoko Uehashi, writer of epic fantasies and winner of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award, has said she loved to read Rosemary Sutcliff, Arthur Ransome, J. R. R. Tolkien and Jules Verne in translation in her childhood. Also, Noriko Ogiwara, writer of fantasy novels set in ancient Japan, published Gurifin to ocha o (Tea With Griffin) in 2012; this collection of her essays on animals includes imaginary animals in foreign fantasies and myths. Sho Kutsuki, whose parents were exposed to the atomic bomb radiation in Hiroshima, has read much foreign literature and written stories with a world-wide view. Finally, Jun Nasuda, who writes award-winning YA novels, lives both in Berlin and Tokyo, and he translates German children's books into Japanese as well.

In Closing

In this essay, I have discussed Japanese children's book publishing and the situation of books translated into Japanese, published in Japan. But how about the translation of works from Japan for publication overseas? The publication of Japanese picture books in translation is on the rise in China, South Korea and Taiwan (East Asia). For novels, however, the language barrier is high, and overseas publication in translation is rare.

A translated book is like a bridge between children in one country and children in another. Only with such bridges can children know other cultures deeply. And I believe it is by knowing other cultures, that children of different backgrounds can become friends. I hope that many people involved in children's literature will see the importance of translation and build bridges for our young readers.

Japanese Children's Books 2018

JBBY's recommendations for young readers throughout the world The 2nd edition

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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, Akira Nogami, Yumiko Sakuma, Tomoko Shirota

Translation: Cathy Hirano, Ginny Tapley Takemori, Avery Fischer Udagawa

Cover illustration: Maki Arai

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