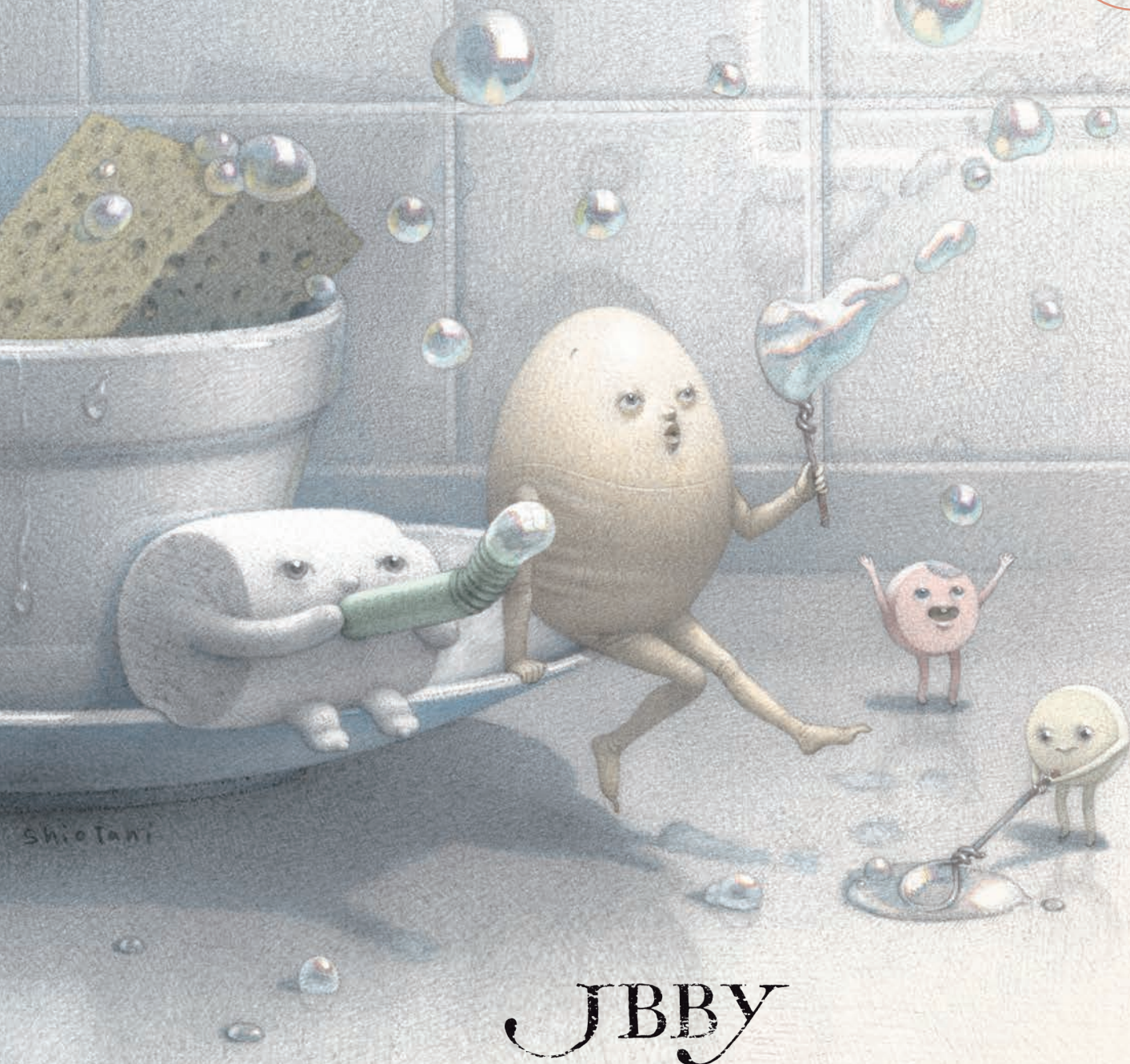


JAPANESE BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Japanese Children's Books

2023



JBBY

Cover illustration

SHIOTANI Mamiko

Born in Chiba in 1987 and raised in Saitama. Graduated from Joshibi University of Art and Design, Department of Crafts, Ceramic Course. After working for a background art production company, began creating picture books; won the Pinpoint Picture Book Competition Excellence Award in 2014 for *Yaneura obake*, later revised as *Yaneura beya no obake* (The Attic Ghost; Kaiseisha). Won second place in the MOE Picture Book Grand Prix Newcomer Award program for her 2016 debut work, *Sora kara kita koishi* (The Little Stone from the Sky; Kaiseisha). Her picture book *Tamago no hanashi* (The Story of an Egg; Bronze Shinsha) won the 2021 BIB Plaque. Other works include *Sakana-kun* (Fishie; Kaiseisha) and *Ichijiku no hanashi* (The Story of a Fig; Bronze Shinsha).

Japanese Children's Books 2023

Contents

- Book Selection Team 2
- About JBBY and this Catalog
picture books/chapter books and novels/nonfiction 3
- Recent Japanese Children's Books Recommended by JBBY 4
- The Hans Christian Andersen Award
Five winners and 14 nominees from Japan 22
- Japanese Books Selected for the IBBY Honour List 24
- Recent Translations into Japanese Recommended by JBBY 26

JBBY Book Selection and Review Team



OKUYAMA Megumi

Children's literature critic. A former high school teacher in Tokyo, she owns the children's specialty bookshop Huckleberry Books and serves as an adjunct lecturer at Shirayuri and Nishogakusha Universities. She has authored *'Story' Wavering: Children's Books in an Unclear Age* (Kurosio Shuppan) and *Lessons in Layeredness* (Ryoyu Shuppan) as well as co-authored *A Guide to World Children's Literature Based on Time* (Hara Shobo). She edits the journal *Japanese Children's Literature* (Japanese Children's Literature Association). JBBY member.



SAKUMA Yumiko

Translator, editor, reviewer of children's books, representative of the Japan-Africa Children's Books Project (JACBOP), and former professor at Aoyama Gakuin Women's College. Her writings in Japanese include *The Cooking Stoves of Enzaro Village* (Fukuinkan Shoten). Her more than 250 translations of books from English to Japanese range from *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White and the picture books of Maurice Sendak to *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Her translation of *Last Summer with Maizon* by Jacqueline Woodson made the IBBY Honour List. JBBY board member.



SHIOZAKI Junko

Researcher, part-time lecturer at Keio University, and a member of the steering committee of the Association of Children's Libraries (Jitoken). She obtained her PhD in Library and Information Science after working as a librarian in school and public libraries. She now researches children's books and reading while also teaching theory of children's library service at multiple universities, educating future librarians. Her publications include *The History of Library Services to Children—Development of Public Library Services to Children in Postwar Japan* (Sogensha). JBBY board member.



NOGAMI Akira

At Shogakukan, served as editor of *First Grader* monthly magazine, head of children's books, company director, and finally president and CEO of Shogakukan Creative. Visiting Professor at Tokyo Junshin University. His writings in Japanese include *To the Modern Children's Literature of Japan* (Parourusha), *Children's Literature Crossing Borders* (Nagasaki Shuppan), and *Contemporary History of Children's Culture* (Otsuki Shoten). Coeditor of *When I Was a Child, There Was a War* (Rironsha) among others. Managing director of Japan PEN Club. JBBY vice president.



SAKAGUCHI Mikako

Member of the Japanese Society of Science Books for Children. With the motto "science books and experiences play catch," she teaches some 270 sessions annually from play-with-science times, to elementary/middle school and university classes, to workshops targeted to library and children's center staff. She has authored the books *Science Mysteries* (Froebel-kan) and *The Price of Life and Welfare* (Otsuki Shoten), and translated *Michael Faraday and Electricity* by Brian Bowers. JBBY member.



SASAOKA Tomoko

Librarian at the Tokyo Children's Library. After working at an Italian bookstore, she was in charge of the foreign language picture books collection at the Itabashi Central Library. Involved in the "Picture Book Town Itabashi Project" and the "Sister Library Exchange Project" with the Sala Borsa Children's Library in Bologna, Italy. A member of the Association of Children's Libraries (Jitoken). JBBY board member.



DOI Yasuko

Director and senior researcher at the International Institute for Children's Literature, Osaka (IICLO). Besides researching reading activities and the history of Japanese children's literature, she plans projects such as training courses for teachers and librarians, as well as lectures and symposiums for children's book authors from Japan and overseas. Coeditor of *I Could Read by Myself!: Book Guide of 200 Books for Young Children* (Hyoronsha) among others. Jury for the 2018 and 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Awards. JBBY managing director.

For each selected title in this catalog, we provide the following:

Title in English

Title in Japanese (Title in Romanized Japanese) | Author/Illustrator | Publisher | Publication Year | Number of Pages | Trim Size | ISBN | Target Age | Keywords

Basic Book Description (Last Name of Reviewer)

Japanese Children's Books

About JBBY and This Catalog

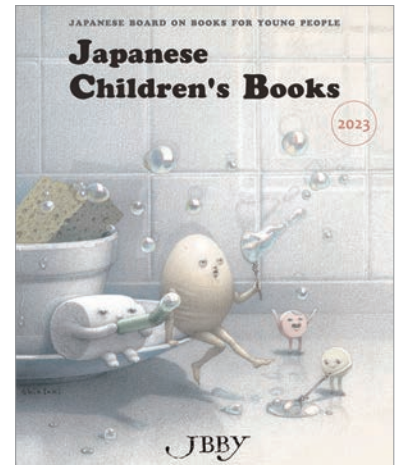
The Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) was founded in 1974 as the Japanese section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). In keeping with IBBY's ideals, JBBY undertakes a range of activities in Japan. Since 2015, we have also curated this catalog, *Japanese Children's Books*, to introduce superb Japanese children's titles abroad.

In this catalog, we provide information about recent Japanese books recommended by a JBBY selection and review 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 Award; books selected for the IBBY Honour List from Japan; and recent translations into Japanese recommended by JBBY.

The titles in *Japanese Children's Books* were selected after rigorous consultation and consideration by experts who have been involved in children's literature for many years. The books had to:

- have been published in Japan between September 2021 and August 2022
- contain fine content representative of Japan
- enable children to explore Japanese cultures and the real lives of children in Japan
- be worthy of translation overseas
- be worthy of further introduction to children, caregivers, libraries, and publishing professionals in Japan as well

We list the selected books by category and in order of target age, including cover images and synopses along with bibliographic information. We hope that our listings will help you discover recent children's titles from Japan. For further information, please contact us: info@jbby.org



Cover illustration © Mamiko Shiotani

Recent Picture Books



The Busy Days of Old Mr. Broad Bean and Mrs. Pea

えんどうまめばあさんとそらまめじいさんのいそがしい毎日 (Endomame basan to soramame jiisan no isogashii mainichi) | Text: MATSUOKA Kyoko | Ill. FURIYA Nana | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 36pp | 23x20cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8658-4 | Ages: 3+ | *Granny, Grandpa, Hard worker, Humor*

Mrs. Pea and Mr. Broad Bean get along well and are mamemameshii, which means hardworking and is reminiscent of the word mame, "bean." Their only shortcoming is that once they get something into their heads, they have to get on with it right away for their peace of mind. One day during lunch, Mrs. pea goes to the vegetable garden to put up some supports for the beans, but then they start cutting the grass and forget about the supports. When she goes to the rabbit hutch to feed the cut grass to the rabbit, they find the wire netting broken and can only think about fixing it. The affection of the author and illustrator for daily life is evident in this humorous story's lively writing and heartwarming pictures. (Sasaoka)



Rice Cakes

おもち (Omochi) | Text/Ill. HIKOSAKA Yuki & MORITO Izumi | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2021 | 24pp | 22x21cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8635-5 | Ages: 3+ | *Rice cakes, Brazier, Woodblock prints*

A picture book by two authors who started a woodblock printing studio to convey the wonder of woodblock prints. "Put the rice cakes on the grill and let's cook!" Two rectangular and one round rice cakes placed on the Japanese hibachi-style brazier are heated by the burning charcoal and plump up as they are grilled. The rice cakes slowly being cooked by the heat from the flames in the brazier are depicted in soft colours in these delicate woodblock prints, using plenty of onomatopoeic or mimetic words such as chirichiri (frizzle), paripari (crispy), pupuku (puffing up) and so forth. Wrapped in nori seaweed, dusted with roasted soybean flour, served with grated daikon radish—all of them look so delicious! Children won't be able to stop themselves reaching out a hand to take one! (Shiozaki)



The Night of the River Festival

川まつりの夜 (Kawa matsuri no yoru) | Text: IWAJO Hatsue | Ill. DEKUNE Iku | Froebel-kan | 2022 | 32pp | 28x23cm | ISBN9784577050019 | Ages: 3+ | *River, Festival, Fantasy*

Ryu goes to stay with his grandpa. As they have dinner together, they hear the sound of flutes and taiko drums outside, and his grandpa says it must be coming from some festival or other. Ryu wakes up in the middle of the night and again hears the flutes and drums, so he opens the back door and discovers a festival is happening right there, complete with lots of stalls selling food and other festival items. A mask maker gives him a frog mask, and then he enjoys something to drink together with an old man he meets as they watch a dance by crayfish and frogs dressed in yukata. Ryu also puts on his frog mask and joins in the dance, and the old man, who has now turned into a turtle, tells him that there used to be a river here. The night of the river festival is magical, and the sight of all the creatures dancing is beautiful. (Doi)



"Ta" (Fields)

た (Ta) | Text/Ill. TASHIMA Seizo | Kosei Shuppansha | 2022 | 32pp | 25x22cm | ISBN9784333028719 | Ages: 3+ | *Farming, Nature, Life*

We can feel the energy and rhythm of life in these dynamic pictures depicting the drama of farming in Japan, from tilling the land to eating the harvest. The cover features the single hiragana letter "ta," and words and phrases in the text accompanying the pictures all start with this letter, but it is also specifically connected with the first kanji in "tanbo", meaning "rice fields." The land is tilled and seeds planted, and the crops grow strong under the sun. Insects and animals that eat and destroy crops have to be ward off, but eventually the crops ripen, and people help each other with the harvest. They then give thanks to the gods for the harvest, and hold a festival with singing and dancing. Finally, we arrive at the last picture in which children are enjoying a feast. (Sakuma)



The Color of My Friends

ともだちのいろ (Tomodachi no iro) | Text/Ill. KI-KUCHI Chiki | Komine Shoten | 2021 | 32pp | 23x23cm | ISBN978-4-338-26139-5 | Ages: 3+ | *Dogs, Friends, Colors*

A black dog, Kuro, is visited by his friend, Frog, who asks, "Kuro-chan, what's your favorite color?" "Green!" he answers, and Frog is so happy that he jumps up and down. Then Kuro's friends come to visit one after another—a red bird, a blue lizard, a brown weasel, a yellow butterfly. Finally, another black dog with the same name, Kuro (which means "black") appears. Kuro loves the colors of all his friends, and in the end exclaims in front of everyone that his favorite color is "The Color of My Friends!" The bright colors on a pale ivory background and the lively lines vividly convey the fun and excitement of Kuro and his friends. A new title by the artist who won the Golden Apple in 2013 and the Plaque in 2019 at the BIB. (Shiozaki)



A Day in the Life of a Wave

なみのいちにち (Nami no ichinichi) | Text/Ill. ABE Yui | Holp Shuppan | 2022 | 40pp | 24x29cm | ISBN9784593103072 | Ages: 3+ | *Ocean, Days, People*

In the morning as the sun rises, the seagulls wake up and the fishermen head out to sea. At noon the beach is crowded with bathers, and in the evening an unexpected encounter prompts an old man to reminisce. And at night, when the moon rises, people who have died come back. This book is told from the anthropomorphic perspective of a wave. The author is from a town on the Tohoku coast that was devastated by the tsunami that followed the magnitude 9 earthquake in March 2011. Her depiction of the sea, with the changes in color of the sky and the reflections of light, is so wonderful that you can even hear the sound of the waves and smell the salt air. It awakens the memory of the sea in the reader and leaves an unforgettable impression, especially by the munificence of the sea as it says, "I am always here, waiting for you." (Sasaoka)



A Haitian Folktale: I am Tipingee

わたしがティンギー (Watashi ga tepingi) | Retold: NAKAWAKI Hatsue | Ill. Azumimushi | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 32pp | 29x25cm | ISBN978-4-03-960420-0 | Ages: 3+ | *Folktales, Girls, World*

This book is a retelling of a Haitian folktale, and part of the series Girls' Folktales Picture Books featuring girls from Japan and around the world. The main character, Tipingee, loses her parents and is about to be sold off as a servant by her stepmother. She asks the girls in her class to all wear the same color clothes and sing together, "I'm Tipingee too! We're Tipingee too!" to confuse the man who is trying to buy her. It is a poignant story of overcoming difficulties through wisdom and cooperation. The girls' red and black dresses stand out strongly against the bright green landscape of Haiti, depicted in simple collage pictures. (Okuyama)



The Snake is Too Long

へびながすぎる (Hebi nagasugiru) | Text/Ill. FUKUNAGA Junpei | Kogumasha | 2022 | 32pp | 18x30cm | ISBN978-4-7721-0257-5 | Ages: 3+ | *Animals, Nonsense*

A squiggly, green snake slithers into view, but it's far too long to see the whole thing. A bunch of mice think it makes a perfect slide, while a group of rabbits try to use it as a skipping rope. Some animals swing on it, while others coil it up and fill the circle with water to make a swimming pool! The comical expressions on the animals' faces and their unwitting enjoyment of what is actually a snake are entertaining. Readers can't help turning the pages to find out when the animals will realize it's a snake. But even when they do, another surprise awaits them and the reader. The rhythmic prose and playful, nonsensical words make this an entertaining read. (Sasaoka)



Let's Play in the Dark!

まっくらあそびしよう! (Makkura asobi shiyo yo) | Text/Ill. HATA Koshiro | Holp Shuppan | 2022 | 32pp | 25x22cm | ISBN9784593103263 | Ages: 3+ | *Siblings, Play, Dark*

Two brothers are staying in the attic of their grandmother's house, but the little one is too afraid to sleep. "Let's play in the dark then!" his older brother suggests. First, they make shadow figures with a flashlight. Next, they tape colored cellophane over the flashlight heads and make "light pictures" by adjusting the shutter speed and combining different colors. The enjoyment they get from these games makes the darkness seem gentle. The book includes explanations on how to play each game as well as QR codes for instruction videos. This is the latest in a series of picture books, such as *Let's Go Catch Bugs*, that encourage siblings to enjoy observing nature together. (Okuyama)



Crocodile Under My House

ゆかしたのワニ (Yukashita no wani) | Text: NEJIME Shoichi | Ill. KOMATSU Shinya | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 32pp | 20x27cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8661-4 | Ages: 3+ | *Crocodile, Brushing teeth, Nonsense*

A crocodile lives under a little boy's house. Every night, the boy brushes its teeth. The crocodile opens its mouth wide for the boy to climb inside, but you can never be too careful. The boy uses one toothbrush, one toothpick, one magnifying glass, one stick, one futon clip, one bottle of pepper, and one mask to get the job done. The crocodile almost eats the boy by mistake, but the boy wisely gets out of it. Once he's done, they both fall asleep, looking very relieved. The curious, trusting relationship between the crocodile and the boy is intriguing, and the subtly changing expressions on the crocodile's face and the meticulously drawn cross-sectional views of the house make every detail enjoyable. (Sasaoka)



Squirrel and Frog's Trip in the Rain

りすとかえるのあめのたび (Risu to kaeru to ame no tabi) | Text/Ill. UEDA Makoto | BL Shuppan | 2022 | 32pp | 22x26cm | ISBN978-4-7764-1056-0 | Ages: 3+ | *Rain, Squirrel, Frog, Travel*

Watercolor illustrations delicately depict the joys and adventures of Frog and Squirrel and the impact of rain, wind, and fog. The two have been planning a trip, but it rains on the day they planned to go. Frog, however, is happy because for him, rainy weather is perfect. They set off in their rowboat. Soon, a fog rolls over the water, making it hard to see ahead. Frog swims off to see where they are, while Squirrel waits behind. The wind picks up, blowing the boat away. Squirrel feels like he has travelled a long way, but when the fog lifts, he sees he's back at Frog's floating island. The two spend the rest of the day chatting and admiring the beautiful stones Frog has found. (Sakuma)

12



My Mum

うちのおかあちゃん (Uchi no oka-chan) | Text: KODE-MARI Rui | Ill. KOSHIDA Mika | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 32pp | 27x23cm | ISBN978-4-03-350230-4 | Ages: 7+ | *Mother, Parent and child, Blindness*

My mother's good at playing the shamisen, and she's smart too. She's also talkative and determined. After an unsuccessful surgery on her eyes, she gradually lost her sight. When she went blind, she cried for just one day. Then she announced, "I'm going to be the best Helen Keller in Japan." This work is modeled on the author's mother, who lost her eyesight rapidly as an adult. The story is told from the perspective of the daughter, and the conversation between mother and child related in the Okayama dialect conveys this heavy theme with a light touch. The artist is also a sculptor, and the illustrations powerfully depict the mother's resilience. (Shiozaki)

13

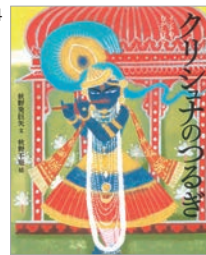


I'm Late for School

がっこうにまにあわない (Gakko ni mani awanai) | Text/ Ill. The Cabin Company | Akane Shobo | 2022 | 34pp | 26x27cm | ISBN978-4-251-09955-6 | Ages: 7+ | *School, Time, Solar eclipse, Illusion*

At 7:47 AM, a little boy dashes out the door on his way to school while summer clouds begin to gather. Each two-page spread shows another minute in the boy's race to get to school on time. Strange phenomena appear before him—a puddle that looks like it's hiding a crocodile, a maze-like pedestrian bridge, a long train that won't let him cross the tracks. All of these highlight the boy's panic. The bold, original illustrations convey speed and motion, drawing the reader into the page. A satisfying conclusion awaits as it becomes clear the boy is trying to get to school by 8:00 AM to watch the solar eclipse with his class. (Okuyama)

14



Krishna's Sword: A Folktale from India

クリシュナのつるぎ (Kurishuna no tsurugi) | Text: AKINO Kikushi | Ill. AKINO Fuku | BL Shuppan | 2022 | 32pp | 27x22cm | ISBN978-4-7764-1050-8 | Ages: 7+ | *Myths, Hinduism, Sword, Hero*

This is the story of Lord Krishna, the most beloved hero of the myriad Hindu deities. Born in a prison cell, Krishna was a disobedient and mischievous boy. As a young man, his skill on the flute made him popular with young women. Later, he went on to save many people by stopping heavy rains and extinguishing large fires. Eventually, with the help of the heavenly god Vishnu, he destroys a wicked king who oppressed the people. Written and illustrated by a Japanese painter, who loves India and has visited often, and her son, the simple, concise style and striking artwork make this story appealing even to children. First published in 1969, it has been revised and reprinted under a new publisher. (Sakuma)

15



Fishy

さかなくん (Sakanakun) | Text/Ill. SHIOTANI Mamiko | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 32pp | 23x19cm | ISBN978-4-03-350180-2 | Ages: 7+ | *Fish, Friends, School, Injury*

Sakanakun, a little fish, lives underwater. When he goes to school, he has to wear a glass helmet filled with water and rubber shoes on his fins. During a relay race in gym class, he injures one of his fins and doesn't want to go to school anymore. Lizard and Boy come to visit him, and Boy gives him a pair of roller skates. Once his fin heals, Sakanakun puts on the roller skates and skates to school. This story conveys the joy of making friends while appreciating diversity. Depicted in pencil and watercolor, the detailed illustrations bring this imaginary world to life. A new title by the artist who won the Plaque at the BIB 2021. (Doi)

16



A Year in the Life of Nekomata Cat Spirits

ねこまたごよみ (Nekomata goyomi) | Text/Ill. ISHIGURO Ayako | Poplar | 2021 | 40pp | 27x22cm | ISBN978-4-591-17184-4 | Ages: 7+ | *Cats, Yokai, Annual festivals*

This book stars a family of nekomata, yokai cats with two tails. Starting on Japan's national Cat Day, the 22nd of February—a month once called Kisaragi—the book moves to March (Yayoi) and then April (Uzuki), going on to show festivals throughout the year in humorous spreads, full of frolicking cats. The year includes human festivals such as Setsubun: the day for tossing beans to banish evil as spring begins. It also includes Obon, the summer honoring of the dead. Some festivals add *nyaa* (meow!): the March doll festival Hinamatsuri becomes Hi-nyaa-matsuri, and Christmas is Christ-nyaa. There are also new events like Tsuki Nekomata no Gi (Moon Cat Ceremony) and Denkikurage (Electric Jellyfish) Festival. It's fun to watch with two nekomata newlyweds as their five kittens grow! (Okuyama)

17



Who's in Hare's House? A Maasai Tale from Kenya

ノウサギの家にいるのはだれだ? (Nousagi no ie ni irunowa dare da?) | Retold: SAKUMA Yumiko | Ill. SAKUMA Takao | Tamagawa Daigaku Shuppanbu | 2022 | 32pp | 27x18cm | ISBN9784472060113 | Ages: 7+ | *Caterpillars, Rabbits, Kenya, Folktales*

Once upon a time, a caterpillar crept into a hare's house to relax. The hare came home and sensed a presence. He asked who was there, and the caterpillar replied in a loud, booming voice, "I am a brave, strong warrior!" Frightened, the hare asked a jackal, elephant, rhinoceros and elephant for help, but they all feared the voice and fled. At last, a frog came along and unmasked the voice's owner. The ending of this tale, when everyone laughs aloud to learn the "warrior" is a caterpillar, is funny and carefree. A traditional tale from the Maasai people of eastern Africa, it is illustrated using Japanese painting techniques that evoke beautiful green grasslands and the animals' many charms. (Shiozaki)

18



Happeanuts

はっぴーなっつ (Happinattsu) | Text/Ill. ARAI Ryoji | Bronze Shinsha | 2022 | 32pp | 27x21cm | ISBN978-4-89309-704-0 | Ages: 7+ | *Journeys, Seasons, Nature, Happiness*

When a young girl wakes early in the morning, her ears journey from her bed and bring back various sounds. A bus motors along, a boat moves, a fish jumps, a squirrel climbs a tree—and in the tree, an egg starts to hatch. The girl's ears coax her eyes open with the information that spring is here! The left pages have black-and-white manga in panels, and the right pages show nature and scenes that the ears hear in vivid color. The -peanuts in the title is an homage to Peanuts, the American comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, and combining with Happy describes the feeling festively conveyed through the girl's mental images. A new work by an Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award winner. (Nogami)

19

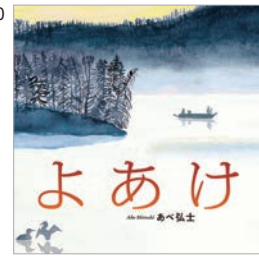


All Black

まっくろ (Makkuro) | Text: TAKASAKI Takuma | Ill. KUROI Ken | Kodansha | 2021 | 36pp | 27x22cm | ISBN978-4-06-524734-1 | Ages: 7+ | *Imagination, School, Drawing, Whimsy*

When a teacher asks students to draw what comes to their minds, a boy makes his paper completely black. The befuddled teacher asks him to try again, but he makes his next sheet of paper all black too—and the next, and the next. Even after he goes home, and with everyone around him perplexed, the boy continues to fill sheet after sheet of drawing paper with black. Then he puts all the sheets together, and a huge whale appears and thanks him for passage to this world. The wonder of a child's creative imagination shines through, as infinite black papers transform into a whale in this book's pages. Impressive. (Nogami)

20



The Dawn

よあけ (Yoake) | Text/Ill. ABE Hiroshi | Kaiseisha | 2021 | 36pp | 26x26cm | ISBN978-4-03-352120-6 | Ages: 7+ | *Grandfathers, Rivers, Journeys*

In autumn, amid beautifully changing leaves, a child travels with Grandpa in a boat down the river. As the village's top hunter, Grandpa is going to sell his furs in town. At night, he builds a fire and tells a story about encountering a tiger. After falling asleep under a sky full of stars, the two awaken in fog, and as Grandpa paddles the boat, dawn arrives. Each scene evokes two people alive in the midst of grand nature, and the mountains dyed orange by the dawn are stunning. An homage to the picture book *Dawn* by Uri Shulevitz, which was inspired by the poetry of Liu Zongyan, as well as to *Oh Deer, My Brother Deer!* by Toshiko Kanzawa, illustrated by Gennadiy Dmitriyevich Pavlishin. (Doi)

21



Crybaby Seitoku: A Child in the Battle of Okinawa

なきむしせいとく (Nakimushi Seitoku) | Text/Ill. TAJIMA Yukihiro | Doshinsha | 2022 | 48pp | 25x26cm | ISBN978-4-494-01248-0 | Ages: 9+ | *Okinawa, War, Life*

The author spent forty years gathering information and creating this picture book with the *katazome* dying technique. He aimed "not to scare children, but to give them hearts that long for peace." The setting is Okinawa, 1945. The main character is an eight-year-old boy who cries easily. Due to the Pacific War, his father and middle-school brother have been called up to serve as soldiers. When American warships surround his island, people must flee not only the US attack but also the Japanese army's violence. Everyone runs for dear life. The boy Seitoku loses his arm and his family. But against all odds, he overcomes his tears and vows to live. This work also touches on current issues related to US military bases in Okinawa. (Sakuma)

22



Walking with Bare Feet

はだしであるく (Hadashi de aruku) | Text: MURANAKA Rie | Ill. ISHIKAWA Eriko | Asunaro Shobo | 2022 | 36pp | 28x23cm | ISBN978-4-7515-3114-3 | Ages: 9+ | *Bodies, Nature, Earth*

When a girl sees a crow pecking at a watermelon in the field, she removes her galoshes and chases it away in bare feet. The bottoms of the girl's feet get caked with dirt from the field, and they sting from pebbles in the asphalt road. But walking in bare feet makes her feel like king of the street! She strides and swaggers. When she steps on a manhole, it's hot enough to burn—so she races down a bank and walks in the stream. The boldly composed illustrations, showing the bottoms of the girl's feet in close-up and the blue sky far above, are dynamic and striking. The girl feels the earth with her feet, touching nature and even small creatures. Her untamed side awakens, fresh and wild! (Nogami)

23



The General and the Three Doctor Brothers

北守将軍と三人兄弟の医者 (Hokushu shogun to san-nin kyodai no isha) | Text: MIYAZAWA Kenji | Ill. SUZUKI Koji | Miki House | 2021 | 72p | 26x25cm | ISBN978-4-89588-147-0 | Ages: 9+ | *Doctors, Desert, Horses*

General Son Ba-yu comes home after thirty years fighting in the northern desert. He has never had a chance to dismount his horse, so his body sticks to his saddle, and a strange gray fuzz covers his face and hands. He consults three doctor brothers, and thanks to their unique skills, he finally dismounts. He and his horse return to normal. The king then tries to promote Son Ba-yu, but the general declines and retires to his village, becoming a mountain hermit. Author Kenji Miyazawa died in obscurity in 1933 at age 37, but he is now revered as a major children's author of the modern era. This story shows war's absurdity, and the detailed paintings by an artist often nominated for the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava are marvelous. (Nogami)

Recent Chapter Books and Novels

24



A Martian's Request

かせいじんのおねがい (Kaseijin no onegai) | Text/Ill. ITO Hiroshi | Doshinsha | 2021 | 72pp | 20x16cm | ISBN978-4-494-02074-4 | Ages: 7+ | *Space, War, Love, Peace*

I was on my way home from a friend's house when I came across a strange old man who made a strange request: to help him return to Mars.

He told me that he was a Martian, and that

Martians do all kinds of training in their spare time to become better Martians. The illustrations, by the author himself, depict the strange kinds of training practice they do, such as not speaking and only nodding their head, or eating only other people's leftovers, and are very funny. The highest level of training is to live on Earth for 687 days, the Martian year, pretending to be an Earthling without being found out, and at the end reveal themselves to someone who will help them return to Mars.

Martians do not lie or fight. They trust people and get along with them, otherwise, they would not be able to survive on Mars. Earthlings, however, lie with impunity, cheat, fight, and even go to war. He said that even if Martians live on Earth, which is full of conflicts and deceit, and get a taste for lying and fighting, once they return to Mars they will trust people and live together as they used to.

Listening to the old man, people on Earth seem like savage creatures. I didn't manage to help him get back to Mars, but one evening, I saw him holding hands with a young man carrying a guitar on his back, before disappearing into the sky shining and sparkling.

This book conveys the importance of love and peace while offering a nonsense story with humorous and heartwarming illustrations. (Nogami)

25



Friends in the Fields

草のふえをならしたら (Kusa no fue o narashitara) | Text: HAYASHIBARA Tamae | Ill. TAKEGAMI Tae | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 128pp | 21x16cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8657-7 | Ages: 7+ | *Grass whistles, Animals, Short story collection*

A collection of eight short stories for children featuring whistles made of grass, flowers, and nuts. Amusingly expressive onomatopoeic words are used for the sound of the whistle and animals cries in each

story, and the friendly interactions between animals and children are heartwarming.

In "Call Me with a Leek Whistle," little Mako is making miso soup, which she is good at. She tears off the green part of the leek she is putting in the soup and makes it into a whistle. She blows into it and is amused when it makes a sound like a pig's squeal. Suddenly a pig appears and says he is good at tasting food, so Mako-chan asks him to taste her miso soup. The pig was supposed to be just tasting the soup, but has two second helpings and, completely stuffed, is as pleased as can be. The two become good friends and promise to use the leek whistle as a signal for tasting food.

In "Peapod Pupippup," little Tae is making a whistle from a common vetch peapod when a mother mouse comes and asks her if she can have the peas she took out of the pod to make the whistle. As Tae is helping the mouse pick up the peas, the mouse's children also gather around in delight and sing a song about eating the peas with rice. Tae is so happy that she plays her whistle along with the song.

Other stories include "The Raccoon Dog's Restaurant," in which Tomo comes to dig bamboo shoots, and when he plays his bamboo whistle a raccoon dog brings some things to swap with him, and "The Orange Foxtail Concert," in which Yutaka walks around playing his orange foxtail whistle as animals gather one by one around him. The humorous illustrations are well suited to the stories and stimulate interest in common plants. (Sasaoka)

26



Full Moon in Hiroshima

ひろしまの満月 (Hiroshima no mangetsu) | Text: NAKAZAWA Shoko | Ill. SASAMEYA Yuki | Komine Shoten | 2022 | 64pp | 22x16cm | ISBN978-4-338-19243-9 | Ages: 7+ | *Hiroshima, Atomic bomb, Turtles, Full moon*

Kaede moves to a house in Hiroshima that has a pond in the garden. Here she meets Mame, a turtle that is able to speak human language since one full moon night. Mame tells Kaede about its past experiences,

including its memories of when Kaede's great-grandmother was a child. Mame used to live in a large pond at a temple, but had been caught by Minoru, a junior high school student, who put it in his lunch box and took it home with him for his little sister Matsuko, since he was worried that she didn't have any friends after moving to their new place. Their father had gone to war as a soldier, and food was scarce in those days.

On the day the atomic bomb was dropped, Minoru had left early in the morning with his lunchbox and wearing his uniform with a slightly chipped ceramic button to clear away some lumber near the riverbank in town. Back home, the ground shook soon after 8:00 a.m., and when the neighbors started talking about something terrible having happened to the town, their mom went to look for Minoru. She went to town every day to search for him, and on the seventeenth day after the big bomb hit Hiroshima, she returned with nothing but Minoru's lunchbox and a button. Gazing at the full moon, Mom, Matsuko and Mame wept for Minoru. Then, just when they thought they couldn't cry any more, Mame uttered Minoru's name.

Through Mame's story, Kaede vicariously relives Matsuko's experience of her brother's death and her mother's grief, bringing home the cruelty of war. The soft-touch illustrations also bring the various scenes to life for the reader. (Doi)

27



Mountain Animal Hospital

やまの動物病院 (Yama no dobutsu byoin) | Text/Ill. NAKA-GAWA Chihiro | Tokuma Shoten | 2022 | 64pp | 22x16cm | ISBN9784198655037 | Ages: 7+ | *Cats, Doctors, Veterinary hospital*

Dr. Machino's little veterinary practice is located on the outskirts of a small town, and with few patients coming to him for treatment he lives an easy life with his big cat, Toramaru. When night falls and Dr.

Machino goes to sleep, Toramaru turns into a doctor and the hospital is transformed into the Mountain Animal Hospital.

Dr. Toramaru has a stream of patients, such as a baby fox with a persistent cough, a mole with scraped paws from digging too many tunnels, a cuckoo with a sore throat, a squirrel with mouth ulcers from stuffing his mouth full of nuts, a serow with a pebble stuck in its hoof, and a bat with a hole in its wing. It is amusing to see how Dr. Toramaru takes each animal's characteristics into account when considering their symptoms, and it is delightful to see him treating them all with the utmost seriousness.

One day, a dog called Julia is brought to Dr. Machino with toothache. Dr. Machino wants to extract the bad tooth, but the owner doesn't want him to, so he decides to keep Julia overnight at the hospital. That night, a duck with its head stuck in a glass jar comes to see Dr. Toramaru at the Mountain Animal Hospital. All the animals help him pull the duck's head out of the jar, and in the confusion Julia's tooth is also successfully extracted.

Illustrations by the author are included on every page. The characters' expressions are lively and charming, and the scene where Julia's tooth falls out is a must-see. The peaceful daily life of Dr. Machino and Toramaru is also heartwarming. (Sasaoka)

28



Leon the Chameleon: Five Secret Days

ないしょの五日間 (Naisho no itsukakan) | Text/Ill. OKADA Jun | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 240pp | 22x16cm | ISBN978-4-03-610200-6 | Ages: 小学中から | *Fantasy, School, Chameleon, Parent and child*

Sakura Wakaba Island is connected to the human world of Sakura Wakaba Elementary School by several passages. Detective Leon, a chameleon who can change not only his color but also his appearance,

travels between the two worlds to solve all kinds of cases. Sakura Wakaba Island is populated with unusual characters who cause incidents and give Leon advice, such the Rabbit Brothers who are circus performers with mysterious flying skills, and Hikizaemon, a frog who dresses as a samurai and teaches history at a high school.

The protagonist of this story is elementary school pupil Subaru, a chameleon whose father is the president of a large company. His parents want him to take over the company and expect him to hide the fact that he is a chameleon, so he asks Kyotaro, a sixth grader at his elementary school, to switch places with him. Kyotaro, who has been bullied by his classmates, accepts the swap, and the two manage to see their own problems from a distance and seek ways to solve them. Leon investigates their secret and helps them as he solves the mystery of the five-day swapping incident.

This is the third book in the "Leon the Chameleon" series, which depicts the reality of school while contrasting it with a parallel world full of humor. (Okuyama)

29



My Pet Bird Cheepa

ぼくのちいばつ (Boku no chipappa) | Text: NAGAE Yuko | Ill. HAYAKAWA Yoshio | Goblin Shobo | 2022 | 144pp | 21x16cm | ISBN978-4-902257-43-4 | Ages: 9+ | *Birds, Pets, Town, Friends*

Itaru, a year 3 elementary school student who lives in an 18th floor apartment, loses his pet cockatiel Cheepa. He and his parents search the neighborhood and make posters to look for the missing bird, but

are unable to find him. His parents keenly feel responsible since they'd left the cage and balcony doors open. Itaru fights back tears and he sees strange things, mishears things, and says things he doesn't mean... His classmate Mutsu, who lives in the same apartment building, comments that his world has been turned upside down without Cheepa.

However, in his new reality Itaru now sees many things he didn't used to and becomes adept at finding lost items at school, and his classmates end up helping him search for Cheepa. Thanks especially to his interactions with classmates Mutsu, who loves insects, and Washio, who follows Indian rose ringed parakeets, he gradually comes to accept life without Cheepa.

The story sensitively tracks the feelings of animal-loving children through the loss of a pet. It is also set against an evocative backdrop of an urban neighborhood that is a mix of office district, traditional shopping street, high-rise condominiums, and a botanical park. (Okuyama)

30



Gardo the Ghost Crocodile

ワニのガルド (Wani no garudo) | Text/Ill. ONARI Yuko | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 96pp | 21x16cm | ISBN978-4-03-530970-3 | Ages: 9+ | *Animals, School, Friends, Ghosts*

Hina Kitajima is in the third grade of elementary school, but has just moved house and hasn't made any friends at school yet. One day she is brushing her teeth, rubbing her eyes sleepily thinking she doesn't

really want to go to school, when her green toothbrush suddenly starts moving on its own in her mouth. Taken aback, she spits it out and it turns into a big green crocodile.

The crocodile tells her he is the ghost of a crocodile that lived in the Nile River for over 200 years and is called Gardo. Gardo follows Hina to school, helps her with math problems that she cannot solve by herself, and tells her that only lonely people can see him. However, a popular girl called Ayaka, who is a model, has played a princess on TV, and is always surrounded by lots of girls, can see him. "Kitajima's brought a crocodile to school," she tells everyone, but nobody believes her. She goes red and shouts, "There's a crocodile here!" but her friends feel uncomfortable and begin to tease her, shouting "Crocodile! Crocodile!" When Ayaka starts to cry, Hina tells her the crocodile's secret, and after school she takes Ayaka to the river to introduce her to Gardo.

The importance of friendship is keenly conveyed through the strange and delightful interactions with the crocodile who can only be seen by lonely people. The author's own illustrations are also humorous and amusing. (Nogami)



Wind God, Take It Away!

風の神送れよ (Kaze no kami okureyo) | Text: KUMAGAI Chiseko | Ill. KUMAORI Jun | Komine Shoten | 2021 | 196pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-338-30807-6 | Ages: 11+ | *Traditional events, Gods, Pandemic*

In southern Nagano where sixth grader Yuto lives, a ritual called the Koto Yoka is held every year around February 8th.

On the first evening, the participants go from house to house in the village chanting Buddhist prayers and collecting heisoku (ornamental offerings of rope and paper) and bamboo grasses. Early in the morning on the second day, they take all the heisoku and bamboo grasses out of the village to throw them away, in order to drive the god of contagious diseases out of the village. Children from ages eight to twelve lead everything, from the preparations to the rituals. Beforehand, they make flags, and they practice playing the gongs and taiko drums and chanting.

This year, a seventh grader called Ryo is in charge, with the younger Yuto, who is generally considered lazy and unreliable, as his assistant. However, three days before the ritual, Ryo breaks a bone, and Yuto is forced to take his place. Yuto lacks confidence and worries terribly. He wishes the event could be canceled, but the village decides to go ahead with it to get rid of Covid.

This book vividly depicts children feeling the weight of history through a ritual that has been handed down through generations. They become aware of being community members as they listen to the stories of elders, overcome difficulties such as snow, sleet, injuries, and arguments, and help one another grow. Incidentally, this ritual is still held today, and the author wrote this story because she was so moved by seeing the children carrying it out. (Sakuma)



Friday's Porcupine

金曜日のヤマアラシ (Kinyobi no yamaarashi) | Text: TATENAI Akiko | Ill. NAKATA Ikumi | Alice-kan | 2022 | 220pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-7520-1012-8 | Ages: 11+ | *Parents and children, Friends, Figures, Soccer*

Sixth grader Uta Hasebe's mother died of an illness two years ago, and she lives alone with her father Sakutaro, who works for a toy company making prototype figurines. Father and daughter get along well and call each other Uta and Saku-chan. Despite being busy at work, Saku-chan never fails to cook dinner for Uta every day, and Uta tells him about everything that happens at school.

In the new semester, there a new boy in Uta's class, a transfer student called Bin Kiribayashi, who is good at soccer. Uta grumbles to Saku-chan that whenever she tries to talk to Bin, he just says "Shuddup" and glares at her and is so prickly he reminds Uta of a porcupine. Saku-chan recalls having made a porcupine figurine and tells Uta about the "porcupine dilemma" described by a philosopher. Two porcupines were cold and tried to snuggle together, but their quills hurt too much so they decided to stay just far apart enough that they could still feel each other's body heat. Saku seems quite interested in Bin and wants to hear more about him, so Uta decides to report to Saku-chan about Bin that Friday.

Bin wants to become a soccer player and Uta helps him count his kick ups. Their classmates are suspicious of their relationship, but Bin, who had been shunned by everyone until then, manages to save the day with his quick wit. (Nogami)



Keke, the Half-Witch Girl: Spin-off Stories 3 of Kiki's Delivery Service

ケケと半分魔女 (Keke to hanbun majo) | Text: KADONO Eiko | Ill. SATAKE Miho | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 248pp | 21x16cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8643-0 | Ages: 11+ | *Searching, Wonder, Forest, Adolescence*

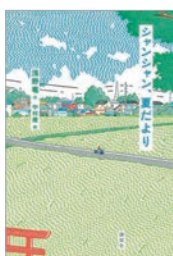
A spin-off of the *Kiki's Delivery Service* series by a Hans Christian Andersen Award-winning author. The story is presented as an account written after the fact by a woman called Keke, who comes across as sharp

and angry, although "behind her attitude is loneliness, insecurity, and lack of confidence," according to the author's afterword.

The protagonist of the story is a girl called Tata, who resembles Keke. Tata's mother died when she was only four years old, and she is being raised by her father and aunt. Tata is not content with herself, feeling that she is only "half" there. One day, she comes across her mother's belongings in the attic and hears a voice singing "Your other half, you need to search for yourself."

Tata cannot forget this song, and people start calling her a bad girl who is "as prickly as a porcupine's quills." Just before her fifteenth birthday, she runs away from home taking her mother's book *The Final Door* with her, and wanders alone in the "forest of people looking for something precious" where time is fluid. In the forest she meets some mysterious individuals, including a boy called Nobino, who is looking for a girl who had a guitar she'd made herself and who sang together with him; a little girl called Hirokko, whose grandmother told her "I must have a proper name too. Find it for me!"; and a woman called Kurae, who runs a strange store.

The work is an allegorical depiction of an adolescent girl's anxious search for herself. Drawing on elements of fantasy, backed up by the author's keen observation and insight into human nature, this is a story that will resonate with readers. (Sakuma)



Shanshan, Summer News

シャンシャン、夏だより (Shan shan, natsu dayori) | Text: ASANO Ryu | Ill. NAKAMURA Takashi | Kodansha | 2022 | 160pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-06-526387-7 | Ages: 11+ | *Summer vacation, Friends, New student, Cicada*

No one wants to take care of the pet lizard in Nobuto's class over the summer holidays. Yuichi, the top student who transferred in last year, tries to make Nobuto take it. Nobuto puts the lizard on Chitose's desk. Chitose, a new student who lives near Nobuto, takes care of the school's animals, but she grabs the lizard and throws it out the window.

"We'll never be able to catch it again," Nobuto protests.

"Who cares?" Chitose says. "It's just like me. Nobody likes it."

The local children's association organizes radio exercises during summer vacation. Nobuto is happy to be put in charge of checking attendance, but he's the only sixth grader who comes. There are few long-term farming families like Nobuto's left, and the children's association is losing its cohesion. Nobuto's mother asks him to take Chitose's family some tomatoes. When he arrives, he inadvertently scares away a black cicada Chitose is trying to catch. She tells him they're rare in this area, and Nobuto decides to do his summer project on black cicadas. He invites Yuichi to join him, but Yuichi tries to keep all the information to himself so he can get top marks. Chitose lives with her father, a newspaper delivery man, and moves repeatedly. Her developing friendship with Nobuto's mother and sister brings her some relief. When she moves yet again, summer vacation comes to an end.

Through Nobuto's eyes, the novel provides a unique window onto the loneliness children experience and their growth in diverse environments. "Shanshan" in the title is an onomatopoeia for the sounds of black cicadas, symbolising summer. (Doi)

35



Eighteen Portraits: A Collection of Short Stories by Sachiko Kashiwaba

18枚のポートレート (Juhachi mai no potoreito) | Text: KASHIWABA Sachiko | Ill. UEDA Tateri | Rironsha | 2022 | 224pp | 19x14cm | ISBN978-4-652-20483-2 | Ages: 11+ | *Short stories, Supernatural, Great East Japan Earthquake*

This collection includes two short stories related to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, ten featuring mysterious creatures like kappa, demons, and witches, and six about diverse family situations and relationships.

In one story, a boy waits for his father to come give him a kendo lesson, but his father died in the earthquake. In another, a guardian deity attends a farewell party for children changing schools after the earthquake. Relieved to see them smiling again, he reassures them he'll watch over the children taken by the sea.

There's the tale of snowmen who come to rescue their buddy when he's taken home by a girl to cheer up her sick brother, the legend of a mother who stops to nurse her baby in the mountain pass and is approached by a mountain baby who wants to drink too, and the story of a witch who tells a girl to think about her school's sixth wonder. In one story, a girl is found in a field of rape blossoms and welcomed into a new family as if she was their daughter, and in another, a girl visits an elderly woman who lives alone. The child's identity is revealed at the end.

The author depicts families that aren't blood relations and the ambiguous line between the real world and the spirit world, giving us an interesting glimpse of how humans look from the perspective of that other world. Stories influenced by folktales from Tohoku, the author's birthplace, reveal the region's rich culture. (Doi)

36



The Summer When I Met Sky and Earth

空と大地に出会う夏 (Sora to daichi ni deau natsu) | Text: HAMANO Kyoko | Ill. Shirako | Kumon Shuppan | 2022 | 184pp | 20x14cm | ISBN9784774333793 | Ages: 11+ | *Found family, Unusual friends, Summer vacation*

Riichiro, a sixth grader, gets good grades and excels at sports and piano, but he hates anything illogical. He also doesn't like wasting his time on unnecessary things. One day, Misora, a student in the class next

door, loses her ticket at the station and Riichiro lends her the fare. Misora introduces him to Natsuki, a senior high school student who is teaching Misora baking, and his younger brother Hiroto. Hiroto used to be Riichiro's classmate until he transferred to a different school, and the two haven't seen each other since. Riichiro is surprised to hear that Natsuki and Hiroto aren't biological brothers. "Even though we aren't biologically related, we're truly family," they say. Riichiro feels as if the world he knows has been turned upside down.

Misora is cheerful and energetic, but she's also laid back and sloppy. Hiroto tends to skip school and is always thinking about odd things. Unlike Riichiro, neither are good at getting things done. But once he begins spending time with them, Riichiro begins to change. He goes so far as to lie to his parents so that he can skip piano lessons during the summer and go for walks along the trail in the nearby forest. He watches the leaves glistening in the sun, climbs up to a tree house, and lies on a hilltop gazing at the sky. This refreshing story depicts a summer in which children broaden their horizons through friendships with people who are different and learning to accept other people's values as they take their next step forward. (Sakuma)

37



Tales of Solo Swamp

ソロ沼のものがたり (Solo numa no monogatari) | Text/ Ill. TATENO Hiroshi | Iwanami Shoten | 2022 | 184pp | 19x16cm | ISBN9784001160376 | Ages: 11+ | *Nature, Living creatures, Struggle for survival, Life and death*

A distinctive fantasy that depicts the lives of diverse creatures and insects inhabiting Solo Swamp. This mythical, reddish-black swamp lies in a deep, dark forest where the wind stops and sound disappears.

Long ago, many large frogs from faraway lands moved there and lived happily, but they devoured all the smaller creatures and then each other, until only one was left. That frog, along with a huge tree that had a cavernous hole in it, became the guardian deity of the swamp. Sometimes, the tree's cavern sucks in the wind with a roar, occasionally swallowing a passing deer or wild boar along with it. A three-day-old water strider skates across the swamp, down the wide river which flows through the plain and into the sea where it is met by countless waves and seems to vanish into the blue sky. A short, smart-aleck grasshopper sent to the school of the reputable Professor Mole cricket undergoes a complete metamorphosis, growing up strong and sturdy. Other episodes include the strange tale of a swallowtail butterfly and a silver ladybug, as well as a dragonfly race, and the battle of the millipedes. All portray the epic drama of life and death and survival of the fittest. This is the first novel by this miniature artist, who is highly acclaimed for his unique picture books on insect ecology, and his beautiful illustrations with their delicate depictions of nature complement the text. (Nogami)

38



Things Probably No One Knows

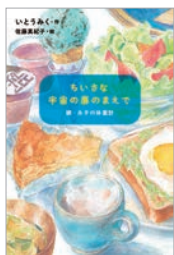
たぶんみんなは知らないこと (Tabun minna wa shiranai koto) | Text: FUKUDA Takahiro | Ill. SHINYA Yuko | Kodansha | 2022 | 192pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-06-527043-1 | Ages: 11+ | *Intellectual disability, Special-needs school, Family, Communication*

Suzu, a fifth grader, has a severe intellectual disability and is unable to speak. The story depicts her daily life at a special-needs school. While mainly narrated by the voice in Suzu's mind, other perspectives are presented

through communications between her mother and homeroom teacher, her older brother's blog which he writes instead of a diary, and class newsletters.

Suzu develops slowly, supported by others as she learns to get dressed, eat, and go to the bathroom. Sometimes she tries a little harder, to prove that she's grown up. Sometimes she endures things patiently out of consideration for her family and friends. Her honesty, gentleness, and inner strength are moving. But it's not all nice. Sometimes people tease her and say heartless things. Suzu's brother wonders if her life is even worth living when she's so useless. He concludes, however, that her existence in this world is important to him, a realization that reveals the deep feelings of the author, who works at a special-needs school.

One snowy day, Suzu goes outside alone while her family are out. The reader experiences her feelings of elation, impatience, anxiety, and accomplishment, and at the same time, encounters the rich world that unfolds within Suzu's mind. It's clear that while people who live with disabilities require support and assistance, they are not merely weak and vulnerable. They also give something to others through their very existence. The book leaves the reader feeling hopeful and uplifted, reassured that we are all good enough, just the way we are. (Sasaoka)



In Front of a Small Door to the Universe

ちいさな宇宙の扉のまえで (Chisana uchu no tobira no mae de) | Text: ITO Miku | Ill. SATO Makiko | Doshinsha | 2022 | 312pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-494-02077-5 | Ages: 11+ | *Sixth grader, School, Friends, Graduation*

Narrated by Itoko Hosokawa, a positive, cheerful character who loves good food, and four of her sixth-grade classmates, this story is a sequel to *Itoko's Bathroom Scale*, which depicts the daily lives of the same protagonists when they were in the fifth grade.

Returning to school after an appendectomy, Itoko discovers a new student in her class: Megumi Hino. Megumi follows Itoko everywhere. At first, Itoko is flustered, but she recognizes Megumi's strengths and tries to be a good friend. Megumi pretends to be innocent and mysterious, trying to attract friends by giving away nice little things, but comes to see that she can't make true friends this way. Although she finds the objective, strong-willed Ryoko Machida disconcerting, Ryoko is facing her own difficulties. An aspiring ballerina, she's at a loss when her ballet audition coincides with a school trip. Mami Sakamaki really likes Ryoko, but is beginning to wonder if her feelings are something more than friendship. Keisuke Takishima is outwardly cheerful and energetic, but when his single mother starts talking about remarrying, he worries that he's a burden on her.

Each protagonist has their own worries, doubts, and hopes as they go through the school day. In the midst of this, the presence and actions of Itoko, who sees others objectively and expresses herself openly, captivate the reader and lead the story in a positive direction. In her speech at the school's graduation ceremony, Ryoko declares her determination to focus on the future and press forward, undeterred by failure or disappointment. Her words linger in the heart of the reader. (Shiozaki)



Blue and Sky from the Hospital Library

病院図書館の青と空 (Byoin toshokan no Ao to Sora) | Text: REIJO Hiroko | Ill. Kashiwai | Kodansha | 2022 | 224pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-06-527417-0 | Ages: 11+ | *Reading, Classic children's stories, Friends, Hospital, Library*

The main character is Soraha (meaning Sky Flower), who moves in the second term of fifth grade due to her father's work. She loves reading, but there's no bookstore or library nearby, and the library at her new

school is like a warehouse with dust-covered bookshelves. Her classmates are not interested in books at all and seem intimidating and unfriendly. When Soraha is hospitalized with acute nephritis, she discovers the hospital's small but wonderful library. In it, she finds a copy of *Pippi Longstocking*, which she's read before. She opens it to the page where Pippi is baking gingerbread cookies. The aroma of freshly baked cookies fills the air, and a girl dressed in blue slips out from the edge of an illustration. She tells Soraha that her name is Ao (meaning Blue), meaning blue, because that's her favorite color. Soraha thinks she must have been dreaming, but the next day, when she opens the pages of *The Little Princess*, Ao reappears. They are drawn into the book and have an animated discussion about the food in the story. The slightly insensitive and sharp-tongued Ao takes Soraha into such books as *Anne of Green Gables* and *Mary Poppins*. Through their relationship, Soraha's personality subtly changes. She wishes she could stay in the hospital and keep talking about books with Ao, but when she returns to school, she's able to see that her classmates, with whom she thought she could never get along, are actually kind. The dramatic and unexpected ending, which reveals Ao's identity, is deeply moving. (Nogami)



The Song of the Tree of Life

いのちの木のあるところ (Inochi no ki no aru tokoro) | Text: SHINDO Etsuko | Ill. SATAKE Miho | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 528pp | 528pp | 22x16cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8669-0 | Ages: 13+ | *Turkey (Country), World Heritage site, Artisan, Royal family, War*

The author visited the Great Mosque and Hospital of Divriği, a World Heritage site in Turkey, and was so enchanted by the size and beauty of its portals and their elaborate relief work that she wrote this magnifi-

cent historical tale about the king and queen who built them. Set in a remote mountainous kingdom, the story takes place about 800 years ago. Princess Turan is a daredevil who is full of curiosity and loves stories. She is invited to Dibri, a small kingdom deep in the mountains, where she meets Prince Ahmad Shah. The story depicts how the majestic mosque with its intricate reliefs and adjacent hospital emerged in this remote location through the presence of skilled workers escaping war, as well as traders and nomads. Despite being over 500 pages in length, the dramatic storyline is fast-paced, keeping the reader engrossed to the very last page. What did people who were caught between warring kingdoms seek from the mythical Tree of Life? And why was the main gate left unfinished? Much remains unknown about this structure's history. The author made multiple visits to the site to conduct interviews, and the historical tale unfolds through her eyes and conveys her longing for lasting peace. The numerous illustrations provide historical background and enhance the story's realism through the artist's creative imagination, which has meticulously restored patterns that were destroyed by non-Muslims. (Nogami)



The Glass Fish

ガラスの魚 (Garasu no sakana) | Text: YAMASHITA Haruo | Ill. UNO Akira | Rironsha | 2021 | 352pp | 19x14cm | ISBN978-4-652-20470-2 | Ages: 13+ | *Parent and child, Friendship, Falling in love, Island*

The final volume of a trilogy, the story takes place in the 1950s on an island in the Seto Inland Sea between Honshu and Shikoku. Akira, a first-year junior high student living with his single mother, spends most of

his summer holidays in the hospital because of a leg injury. On the last day of vacation, he discovers a corpse in the river near his school. Was the victim killed in an accident or a crime? The truth is gradually revealed along with depictions of Akira's situation and his relationships with others.

Nothing seems to be working out for Akira, and he worries that his future is hopeless. His leg is slow to heal, his classmate Chokai picks on him, his father suddenly reappears after years of no contact, there's talk that his mother might marry the head of the fishing coop, Akira has a one-way crush on a girl who transferred from another school, an older boy Akira looks up to is being chased by a criminal gang, and Akira's grandmother, who had doted on him, dies. Through his interactions with various people, however, Akira grows and matures.

The author's vivid prose brings to life the people and events of this seaside town, drawing the reader into Akira's world. The children's strength and resilience, despite their vulnerability, dazzle within the setting of a postwar Japan transitioning from militarism to democracy and the resultant disruption of traditional values. The final chapter, in which Akira and Chokai test their courage by racing brakeless bikes down a steep hill is exhilarating. (Sasaoka)

43



Sasamori's Skates

笹森くんのスカート (Sasamori kun no sukato) | Text: KOBE Haruma | Ill. Misuzu | Kodansha | 2022 | 208pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-06-528046-1 | Ages: 13+ | *Uniform, Senior high school, LGBTQ+, School festival*

Hiroshi Sasamori is a first-year student at Sakusabe High School in the west part of Chiba Prefecture. At the beginning of the second semester, he suddenly starts wearing skirts to school. Although gender-free school

uniforms are permitted, Sasamori is a handsome and popular guy, and this sudden change causes quite a stir. Against the backdrop of preparations for the upcoming school festival, the author depicts Sasamori's transformation and people's reactions through the perspectives of four classmates: Tomoya Shinohara, who perspires profusely and is always worried about his body odor; Fumino Saibara, who sounds like an anime character and has been raised by same-sex parents; Miu Hosono, who wants a handsome boyfriend but worries about being too chubby; and Ichika Toyama, who has a hard time understanding what it means to be in love and hides her beauty behind her glasses. Through their interactions with the skirt-clad Sasamori, the reader learns about their daily lives and concerns and engages with the way their feelings and perspectives change.

The final chapter is written from Sasamori's point of view. It becomes clear that he chose to wear a skirt because he wanted to understand his cousin who hates wearing the traditional girl's school uniform known as a sailor suit. Sasamori is disconcerted by the reactions of those around him, but his willingness to experiment helps create an atmosphere in which everyone can choose what they want to wear and how they want to live. The ending, in which all Sasamori's band mates wear skirts on stage, is a pleasing touch. (Okuyama)

44



A Boyhood Year: Far-Off Vapor Trails

少年時代 飛行機雲はるか (Shonen jidai hikoki gumo haruka) | Text: SHIONO Yonematsu | Ill. MATSUOKA Tatsuhide | Rironsha | 2022 | 416pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-652-20480-1 | Ages: 13+ | *Nature, Seasons, Friendship, Play*

A year in the life of boys in Tohoku in the 1950s or 60s is depicted in fresh strokes. In spring, bookish Akio forms the "Three Musketeers" with his friends. Around the same time, their town's children's club spars with another town's over a playground. Akio and his chums make swords out of plants and prepare for a "duel," arranged by their junior high leaders. Despite a gap in age and numbers, Akio's group follows their strategy and fights hard, leading to a draw. In the summer, Akio's crew develops a homemade underwater rifle to catch a huge catfish; they even use everyday materials to build a telescope. In autumn, their former rival, the children's club in the next town, disbands; to commemorate them, everyone brings ingredients for a food and recreation event on the riverbank. In winter, Akio's town's club divides into elementary and junior high groups, dismantling a "fort" long passed down for "duels."

The richness of nature and the work of the boys' hands are meticulously described. Many activities are no longer common, but the detailed art by an illustrator of science picture books assists the imagination. The children in the book follow the lead of older students, exchange ideas, and play with abandon. Young ones look up to older ones, and older ones look after young ones warmly. An affection for things lost in time pervades, so that even readers who did not experience this era will feel a strange nostalgia. The book leaves a lonely yet bracing aftertaste. (Sasaoka)

45



Scratch

スクラッチ (Sukuracchi) | Text: UTASHIRO Saku | Ill. OKANO Kensuke | Akane Shobo | 2022 | 336pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-251-07312-9 | Ages: 13+ | *Covid-19, Club activities, Volleyball, Art*

In the summer of her third year of middle school, Suzune becomes captain of the volleyball team—but their tournament is canceled due to Covid. With no matches to win, Suzune loses her sense of purpose and struggles to channel her disappointment.

Kazuaki is president of the art club and planned to enter an exhibition, but the judging gets canceled. He feels let down but tries to switch off his thoughts. He focuses on making art panels for the school's upcoming autumn sports day.

When Suzune sees Kazuaki's colorful art, she accidentally spills blank ink on it. Black is a color Kazuaki has seldom used lately. When his family suffered a flood five years ago, he began choosing bright colors only. Now, he covers the entire painting in black and begins scratching a design in the top layer using a palette knife. Seeing bright colors appear where he scratches the black, Kazuaki feels his heart change. He realizes he has been suppressing his feelings, holding them in with excuses that he's a "gloomy character" or has a "communication problem." Guided by a desire—I want to paint *this*—he creates. By the time he finishes, he has seen a side of himself that does not care about others' reactions. Suzune, too, had forced a calm face in front of her team, but now she stands before the art she blackened and lets her emotions go, weeping openly. She has broken through a barrier.

Over one summer, middle school students grow while facing the gloom of the pandemic. (Shiozaki)

46



Snake Dance

スネークダンス (Suneiku dansu) | Text: SATO Madoka | Ill. TANJI Yoko | Shogakukan | 2022 | 256pp | 19x14cm | ISBN9784092893160 | Ages: 13+ | *Cultural comparison, Wooden architecture*

Keito was born to Japanese parents in Rome and grew up attending local school in Italy. He has a deep knowledge of art history and architecture. Six months after his father dies, he and his mother move "back" to Japan to live with his grandparents in Tokyo. He enters public middle school as a second-year student. In this unfamiliar environment, Keito tries to keep quiet and calm and not make waves. But one day, he watches a ninja-like figure spray graffiti on a building marked for demolition.

The graffiti culprit is Ayumu, a girl from the homeroom next to Keito's at school. Ayumu detests her lawyer father and his new wife and lives with her grandmother. A rebel for any cause, she does graffiti because she opposes old wooden buildings being razed. Keito begins talking with her about their shared artistic interests; he finds her shocking, but he is also intrigued. When he says that wooden structures may not hold up well in earthquakes, she counters that Japan's Horyuji temple has a five-tiered, wooden pagoda that has stood for 1300 years. It does not resist movement but absorbs it, shaking with the earth in what architects call a snake dance. A structure built like this will not collapse, even when the earth sways.

This novel explores differences between cultures and values, while showing how humans can "snake dance" and live. It's interesting how the outlaw-like Ayumu breaks through Keito's shell. This book offers the opportunity to reexamine seemingly familiar aspects of Japan. (Sakuma)



Science the World!

セカイを科学せよ! (Sekai o kagaku seyo!) | Text: YASUDA Kana | Ill. UCHIDA Sanae | Kodansha | 2021 | 240pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-06-524629-0 | Ages: 13+ | *Insects, Club activities, Non-Japanese ancestry, Classmates*

The science club at Tsutsumi Middle School boasts fifty years of tradition. But while it was once home to physics and biology groups, only a computer group remains, and the students who sign up tend to want an

easy club activity.

Mikhail Todo has a Japanese father and Russian mother and looks like a white foreigner. He hates sticking out and longs to fly under the radar—but he accidentally gets chosen as club vice president.

One day, a new girl arrives in his class: Abigail Nana Yamaguchi. Nana's father is of African descent, and she has curly hair and a large frame. In front of everyone who expects her to be a "cool black person," she declares that she is a Japanese born in Japan, speaks Japanese only, has zero athletic ability, and studies mushi—that is, insects and other creepy-crawly small creatures. Everyone's dumfounded.

Nana joins the science club, resurrects the biology group, and begins raising mushi (grass lizards, woodlice, jumping spiders, water fleas). The club is in uproar and Mikhail completely befuddled. But Nana's devotion to mushi and her unflappability begin influencing her fellow club members. Readers become experts on the habitats of the oft-reviled mushi, as they read this humorous account of how the club members rediscover their ambitions. Each student is an idiosyncratic individual, but they learn to look beyond each other's surfaces and differences and bond, ultimately observing and researching water fleas as one. The last scene, where Mikhael shouts resolutely in Russian, remains in the heart. (Shiozaki)



Sonority: A Song of Beginning

ソノリティ はじまりのうた (Sonoriti hajimari no uta) | Text: SATO Itsuko | Ill. TANJI Yoko | Kadokawa | 2022 | 256pp | 20x14cm | ISBN9784041124109 | Ages: 13+ | *Middle school students, Choral singing, Friendship, Romance*

Saki is in her first year of middle school and vexed with herself. She likes music but is not especially talented; she's introverted and struggles to speak her mind.

Nonetheless, because she plays in the school band, her homeroom classmates choose her to conduct them when they begin preparing for a choral competition. The atmosphere in rehearsals is far from ideal, but Saki's childhood friend Soul encourages her as he accompanies on piano. With the help of two basketball team members, Ryoma and Harumi, the class eventually falls into line—but then Saki injures her right hand and can't hold the baton. The one who ends up conducting is Gaku, another basketball player who has not even been coming to morning rehearsals. At the competition, Saki and Harumi take solo parts as the class sings "Sonority."

In this book, the prodigiously talented Soul coolly handles decisions and brings the students together. Ryoma can handle nearly anything but can't seem to find any one thing he's passionate about. Basketball-lover Gaku gets jealous of Ryoma, because of Ryoma's basketball playing sense. Harumi is bright and proactive but self-conscious about being tone-deaf. Amid all their challenges, the students work to figure out their identities, and they grow.

They also develop fledgling love interests, typically one-sided. When introverted Saki tells Gaku that she likes him, it's agonizing, but the way she grows fond of him and tells him so is inspiring.

This is a clear-eyed portrait of Japanese middle school students. (Shiozaki)



Sora's Words Fall from the Sky

そらのことばが降ってくる (Sora no kotoba ga futte kuru) | Text: TAKAYANAGI Katsuhiro | Ill. AYANO Ayu | Poplar | 2021 | 232pp | 20x13cm | ISBN978-4-591-17106-6 | Ages: 13+ | *Haiku, Hiding in school nurse's office, Friends, Bullying*

Sora is a second-year middle schooler who was bullied in first-year; now, he comes to school but stays in the nurse's office. Then a so-called troublemaker named Haseo initiates haiku meetings in the office and includes

Sora. Sora soon becomes absorbed in haiku.

The meetings start out with disaster. Sora's experience of being bullied began on a class trip, when his classmate Shigeru called the mole below Sora's nose a booger. Sora now wears a mask outside of the nurse's office. But when Haseo and the nurse hold the first haiku meeting, Haseo writes Sora's mole into a haiku as a lighthearted greeting. Sora flees all the way home, and Haseo goes to apologize.

After that, they keep going and invite more participants. A girl named Yumi who was unhappy in archery club joins. Then the principal announces a Sakurayama Middle School New Year Haiku Tournament. Struggling at school and at home, Shigeru begins spending days in the nurse's office himself, so Sora studies at home. But Sora keeps making haiku, and by communicating with Haseo, he realizes haiku's depth. In addition, he joins the tournament and incorporates his feelings in his haiku. Haseo writes another haiku about Sora, saying "words fall from the sky" (sky is a way to write Sora).

Through haiku, characters in this book both express and observe their feelings, and their communication with others evolves. The author is a haikuist who imparts delight in haiku through the dialogue and characters' appreciation of poems, as well as through selected works that appear in the text. (Doi)



Museum Girl: The Mysterious Research Begins

博物館の少女 (Hakubutsukan no shoujo) | Text: TOMIYASU Yoko | Ill. Zennosuke | Kaiseisha | 2021 | 344pp | 19x13cm | ISBN978-4-03-814510-0 | Ages: 13+ | *Meiji period (1868-1912), Museums, Sleuthing, Antiques*

Ikaru Hanaoka is the daughter of an Osaka antiques dealer. In 1883, at age 13, she loses her parents and moves to Tokyo to live with distant relatives. The couple who become her guardians are strict, and she feels

stifled until one day, she makes friends with their granddaughter Toyo, who is a member of her generation and lives nearby. Ikaru and Toyo visit Tokyo's Ueno area, and for the first time, Ikaru enters a museum. Museums are still a rarity. A coincidence leads Ikaru to assist the elderly Mr. Oda in an old storehouse behind the museum, where he works on "Mystery Research." Ikaru has a connoisseur's eye for antiquities and an uncanny sense for the strange and supernatural.

One day, a black-lidded lacquer box goes missing from the storehouse. It was thought that only items of little value were kept there, but as Ikaru and Mr. Oda search, together with Mr. Oda's assistant Akira, they discover that the lost lacquer box conceals a secret. It belonged to Japan's Hidden Christians in the 1600s and supposedly comes from an island where immortals dwell. When Ikaru and the others find the box, they open the lid, and a bona fide Mystery occurs.

At a time of upheaval, as Japan rapidly modernizes and opens to the world, Ikaru marshals her talents and drive to solve mysteries and live boldly. She is plunged into a mysterious world where reality and fantasy intertwine. The museum where this story takes place is the former Ueno Museum, now the Tokyo National Museum. (Shiozaki)

51



#MyName

#マイネーム (#Mai nemu) | Text: KUROKAWA Yuko | Ill. SUDO Haruna | Saera Shobo | 2021 | 232pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-378-01558-3 | Ages: 13+ | *Names, Divorce, Young caregivers, Social media*

Mion Tomatsu is in her first year of middle school. Her parents divorced when she finished elementary school, and she's still not used to how her surname changed from her father's to her mother's. Mion lives with and

cares for her mentally unstable mother.

One day, when Mion searches by "my name is odd," she discovers #MyName, a social media group for middle schoolers in her area, and she joins. School authorities have been discouraging use of nicknames and making everyone call each other their last name plus *-san* (Ms./Mr.) as an anti-bullying measure. But the #MyName members resist, refusing to use their school nametags and instead pinning on nametags they make themselves, using names they wish to be called. This becomes a movement. The chat room is home to King Beeo (the leader), Ninja 99, Chaeyoung (who seems to have a Korean connection), No-Meaning Child, and more. As Mion reads, she realizes that all of them are her classmates, and she discovers a different side of them.

Mion's area is home to a fairly set group of people, but then a married couple with different last names open a book café that becomes the middle school hangout. Students make their homemade nametags here. When the school finds out, this is seen in the community as opposing the anti-bullying measures and criticized.

This book depicts a variety of issues that Japanese middle schoolers face today, relating to names, identities, family relationships, unreasonable school policies, and social media and friendships. (Doi)

52



Pouch and Notebook

ポーチとノート (Pochi to noto) | Text: KOMATSU Ayako | Ill. miii | Kodansha | 2021 | 208pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-06-524081-6 | Ages: 13+ | *Menstruation, Romance, Family, Libraries*

Miku is a girl in her second year of high school. In her desk in homeroom, she hides two things: (1) a pouch of sanitary napkins that her grandmother Asae gave her at her 10th birthday party, and (2) the light blue

notebook where she has written out her daily worries and frustrations like poetry, ever since the beginning of middle school.

During summer break, Miku develops a crush on Hosaka, a college student who comes to work part-time as an assistant in the school library. He has a gentle mouth like a dolphin, and he and she have fun communicating in Esperanto. The more Miku becomes attracted to Hosaka, the more she worries about not yet getting her period like other girls.

But hearing about the experiences of her friend Mei, who has a boyfriend, and observing the free lifestyle of her grandmother Asae, who became a single mother at 17, Miku opens up to both about her crush and her stress, and she begins to face the complex she has about her body.

This novel sensitively depicts romantic and sexual concerns that many teens may struggle to share with parents and teachers. It does so with accurate information and the relationships among its unique characters. Miku's story reminds us to take things slowly and care for one another and ourselves. (Okuyama)

53



Love Problems Never End

恋愛問題は止まらない (Renai mondai wa tomaranai) | Text: YOSHINO Mariko | Ill. satsuki | Shogakukan | 2022 | 256pp | 19x14cm | ISBN9784092893184 | Ages: 13+ | *Romance, Gossip, Baseball*

At Toko Middle School, rumors fly that the players on the baseball team will have to shave their heads. Apparently, their well-known coach has told them that since they were slacking, he plans to quit next week

unless they cut their hair and came back with new attitudes. On top of that, he seems to blame romance for one player's lack of motivation.

Many people side with Takanori, the team captain who is the object of many girls' fantasies. But when another rumor circulates, that Takanori has secretly been dating the student body president Ayaka, bashing ensues.

This book consists of 34 chapters, each written from the perspective of a different character with a unique experience and opinion of romance. Most characters are students at the school, but others are students from other schools or adults (the school nurse, baseball coach, webmaster, PE teacher, caretaker). Four characters appear five years later to give a glimpse of how everything ended.

The many first-person voices weave together and offer a range of perspectives, building just like a 34-member chorus. It is fascinating to read to the end and at last get a sense of the whole story. Middle schoolers beginning to take interest in romance will find many points to ponder here.

Initially serialized in a newspaper for middle and high school students and then expanded, this story's chapters stand on their own and are easy to read. They help us to hear the voices of Japanese middle school students today. (Sakuma)

Recent Nonfiction



The Forest Is Watching

もりはみている (Mori wa mite iru) | Text/photos: OTAKE Hidehiro | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2021 | 24pp | 22x21cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8634-8 | Ages: 0+ | *Forest, Gaze, Nature, Animals*

In a quiet forest, we are being watched by a red squirrel from its nest hole in a pine tree, and a nuthatch hidden in the top of a cedar. A couple of bear cubs are up in an aspen, their mother down below them. A reindeer stands behind a cluster of trees at dusk. The yellow eyes of an owl shine in the darkness of the forest at night. Feeling their gaze, you must feel as though you are with them, holding your breath in the quiet, deep forest. This photobook features animals living with nature in the Northwoods of Northern America, and is by a photographer who is a recipient of the prestigious Ken Domon Award. (Shiozaki)



The Ant Family

アリのかぞく (Ari no kazoku) | Text: SHIMADA Taku | Ill. OSHIMA Kanako | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 28pp | 26x24cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8655-3 | Ages: 3+ | *Japanese carpenter ants, Queen ant, Nest*

For small children who see the world from a low perspective, ants are probably the first insects they encounter. This picture book follows a single carpenter ant queen from the time she starts building her nest in the spring until a year later, when she has a family of about a hundred ants. The queen keeps laying eggs for at least 20 years, and the worker ants, who grow from eggs to pupae and then adults, go out and bring back food to the nest. The workers collaborate in caring for the larvae and queen. When the nest becomes too small, the workers sometimes carry eggs and cocoons to a new nest. Realistic illustrations show the most important features of the inside of a nest, which is usually hidden from view. Don't miss the pictures and text on the last page of the book, "The family working together"! (Sakaguchi)



Animals Brag About Their Bottoms

おしりじまん (Oshiri jiman) | Text/Ill. SAITO Maki | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 24pp | 23x21cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8649-2 | Ages: 3+ | *Animals, Bottoms*

Animal faces are often depicted in books, but this is a unique and fun picture book introducing their bottoms. Starting with a cute rabbit, every time you turn the page you see a range of animal bottoms of different shapes, colors, and patterns. From a small bottom to an elephant's enormous bottom, an okapi's striped bottom, a panda's two-tone bottom, a sheep's woolly bottom, a hedgehog's prickly bottom, a deer's heart-shaped bottom, and a mandrill's colorful face-like bottom, all depicted with a heartwarming touch. At the end, all twenty species are lined up in a row, proudly showing us their bottoms. The names of the animals are also included. (Sakaguchi)



Lightning

かみなり (Kaminari) | Sv./Photos: TAKEDA Yasuo | Text/Struct. KOSUGI Minori | Iwasaki Shoten | 2022 | 36pp | 21x21cm | ISBN9784265831067 | Ages: 3+ | *Thunder, Lightning, Sky, Rainbow*

This picture book shows cumulonimbus clouds forming in a blue sky, growing into larger thunderclouds covering the sky, and then flashes of lightning and rain. The book also explains what lightning is, how it happens, and why it strikes the ground in a way that is easy for young children to understand. Detailed photos show how lightning not only strikes from above, but also moves between clouds, strikes upwards, many flashes happen at once, and sometimes numerous bolts come together to form one thick bolt, connects with the ocean, makes a U-turn and comes back on itself, and crawls from place to place. (Sakuma)



Bats

こうもり (Komori) | Text/Ill. AYAI Akiko | Sv. FUKUI Dai | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 40pp | 26x22cm | ISBN978-4-03-232680-2 | Ages: 3+ | *Bats, Wildlife, Ecology*

House bats are not well known in Japan, despite being common. Their life is depicted here in simple language and warm illustrations, making it as enjoyable to read as a story picture book. Easy-to-understand comparisons are made with familiar objects, such as the size of a bat's body being about the same as an adult's thumb, and its weight being equivalent to about 5-10 one yen coins (each 1g). It also provides some surprising facts, such as how bats eat half their weight in insects in one night, use ultrasonic waves that are inaudible to humans to hunt for insects, and cannot fly when it is raining. After reading this book, you will want to go out looking for bats at night. A commentary by the editor is included at the end of the book. (Sasaoka)

59



Mudflats Are a Treasure Trove: I Found a Blue Crab

ひがたはたからばこ (Higata wa takara bako) | Text/photos: YOSHINO Yusuke | Tokuma Shoten | 2022 | 32pp | 19x27cm | ISBN9784198654986 | Ages: 3+ | *Mudflats, Crabs, Mangroves*

Mudflats are places that are both on land and under the sea due to the gravitational pull of the sun and moon. This picture book is by a veteran marine photographer, who introduces small creatures living in mudflats on Iriomote Island, Okinawa—registered as a World Natural Heritage site for its biodiversity. If you look closely at the mudflats, you will see blue- and red-colored fiddler crabs, a soldier crab that moves forward instead of sideways, a mangrove tree that lives in seawater, a barred mudskipper fish that spends time on land ... Through these organisms, each with its own unique traits, we can see the relationship between land and sea, as well as the connections among creatures in nature. (Sakuma)

60



Making Candy

あめができるまで (Ame ga dekiru made) | Text/Struct. MIYAZAKI Shoko | Photos: SHIRAMATSU Kiyoyuki | Iwasaki Shoten | 2021 | 40pp | 29x25cm | ISBN9784265089857 | Ages: 7+ | *Candy, Japanese sweets, Tradition, Artisans*

This book introduces traditional candy-making processes at three shops in Matsumoto City, Nagano, which have been in business for over 300 years. Rich photographs take us through many time-consuming steps. The author is surprised to learn that the only ingredients used are glutinous rice, water, and malt. Her respect for the craftsmanship cultivated through centuries is evident, as she depicts tasks that cannot be replaced by machines, such as boiling down a mixture over time to produce subtle flavor. The finished candies come in a variety of colors and shapes, and look delicious! Detailed explanations of each process are included at the end of the book. (Sasaoka)

61



Halil in the City on the Strait

海峡のまちのハリル (Kaikyo no machi no hariru) | Text: SUEZAWA Yasufumi | Ill. KOBAYASHI Yutaka | Sanrinsha | 2021 | 58pp | 21x30cm | ISBN9784990811679 | Ages: 7+ | *Turkey (Country), Painting, Grandpa*

Halil lives in Istanbul, where he helps his grandfather make the city's traditional ebru marbled paper. He crosses the water to deliver the paper to Mr. Nakamura's house, where he meets Tatsuya. Together they go to a store at the back of the bazaar to buy tools for making ebru. From the roof of the store, they look out over the city and become friends. Tatsuya then visits Halil's house to learn how to make ebru with him. The city is attractively illustrated with detailed black-and-white pictures, and examples of ebru printed in color on special paper are also included. Through Halil, we can learn about the lives of the people of Istanbul and about ebru in this picture book. (Doi)

62



Thunder

かみなり (Kaminari) | Sv. SENOO Kenichiro | Cooperate with Otowa denki kogyo | Poplar | 2022 | 40pp | 21x26cm | ISBN978-4-591-17420-3 | Ages: 7+ | *Nature, Clouds, Electricity*

Cumulonimbus clouds form in the summer sky, it grows dark, and it looks as though it will rain at any moment, then suddenly a bolt of lightning crosses the sky quickly followed by a roar of thunder. This picture book is based on the winning photos of the "Lightning Photo Contest," which has been held annually since 2003 by the only company in Japan that develops, manufactures, and sells lightning protection products, with photos of the likes you've never seen before. The bright flashes of light against the dark sky and the loud rumbles of thunder are scary, but the power and beauty of the shapes of the various types of lightning in these photos are overwhelmingly beautiful. At the end of the book there are comprehensive explanations on how lightning is formed and the various types, and how to protect yourself from it. (Nogami)

63



Jakuchu's Picture Book: I Found It!

若沖の絵本みつけた! (Jakuchu no ehon mitsuketa!) | Text/Struct. YUKI Masako | Shogakukan | 2021 | 32pp | 27x22cm | ISBN9784097277101 | Ages: 7+ | *Ito Jakuchu, Art, Hidden picture puzzles*

This is a book in the "Shogakukan Art Book" series for children and features nine of the 30 paintings in the representative "Realm of Living Beings" series by Ito Jakuchu, a Japanese painter active in the Edo period (1603-1868). Readers search for the creatures featured in each, a playful way to familiarize themselves with his works. Paintings are displayed on one side of each double-page spread, allowing the viewer to appreciate their breathtaking beauty. On the other side of the spread, a part of each painting is enlarged to show Jakuchu's skill at painting with precision and attention to detail. Several specialists helped to identify the creatures depicted in "Insects at a Pond". The biography of Jakuchu and commentary on his works at the end of the book are also well organized. A good starting point for an interest in Japanese art. (Sasaoka)

64



Great White Sharks

ホホジロザメ (Hohojirozame) | Text: NUMAGUCHI Asako | Ill. SEKI Shunichi | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 40pp | 30x26cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8668-3 | Ages: 7+ | *Sharks, Ocean*

This picture book presents impressive pictures of the ecosystem of great white sharks, which live in all of the world's oceans except the Arctic and Antarctic. The book shows how they chase their prey, their scaly skin suited for swimming, the organ at the front of their face that detects the faint electric signal emitted by other creatures, their nose that can distinguish even the slightest scents, their sharp teeth that can grow back again and again, the mating of males and females, the process of childbirth, and the life of baby sharks, all presented as one aspect of ocean life. There is a fascinating close-up of a great white shark's face as it catches a fur seal. The harshness of nature is also conveyed by a shark biting into a dead whale's body, and a baby shark being chased by a pod of killer whales. (Doi)

65



The Ezo Chipmunk: Mountain Gardener

エゾシマリス (Ezo shimarisu) | Text/Photos: SATO Kei | Bunichi Sogo Shuppan | 2021 | 48pp | 27x19cm | ISBN978-4-8299-9014-8 | Ages: 7+ | *Chipmunks, Ecology, Life*

Daisetsuzan in Hokkaido is Japan's largest national park. Home to several mountains, it is covered with snow for about half of the year and is a treasure trove of alpine flora. Ezo chipmunks play a role in creating beautiful flower meadows here. We see these baby chipmunks grow during spring and summer, as well as their natural enemies and rivals for food. In autumn, as they prepare to hibernate, the chipmunks fill their cheek pouches with nuts and carry them to burrows dug in the ground. In the spring, after hibernation, they bury seeds and nuts in various places, thus spreading plant species far and wide. This photo-picture book answers eleven questions about the chipmunks' physical traits and other topics. (Sakaguchi)

68



Rock Ptarmigan

お山のライチョウ (Oyama no raicho) | Text/Photos: TOZUKA Gaku | Sv. KOMIYA Teruyuki | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 40pp | 26x21cm | ISBN978-4-03-333730-2 | Ages: 9+ | *Grouse, Endangered species, Animal protection*

The first page introduces the habitat, size, and characteristics of twenty-two species of grouse along with illustrations. The main focus is the Japanese grouse, which lives the farthest south of any grouse species in the world. Native to Japan, this nationally protected species inhabits the country's central mountains. The photo-picture book introduces the mating process, the hatching and rearing of chicks, and conservation activities. It also reveals that global warming has brought Japanese macaques and deer to the alpine zone where the grouse live. These eat the chicks and the plants the grouse feed on, threatening their survival. The author's sense of urgency and desire to warn the world of this crisis is vividly conveyed. (Sakaguchi)

66



Shoko Ahagon: Protect the Earth and Life, Peace from Okinawa

阿波根昌鴻 (Ahagon shoko) | Text: HORIKIRI Rie | Ill. HIROKAWA Saeko | Akane Shobo | 2022 | 144pp | 22x16cm | ISBN978-4-251-04626-0 | Ages: 9+ | *Okinawa, War, Land, Life, Peace*

Toward the end of the Pacific War, fierce fighting engulfed Okinawa, wiping out a quarter of the local population. After Japan's surrender, Okinawa was placed under American control. The United States army bulldozed local farmland, burned people's homes, and appropriated their land for bases. This is a biography of Shoko Ahagon, the 'Okinawan Gandhi' who led local farmers in a non-violent resistance against the American occupation. The movement demanded the return of seized land and rejected bases for war. Ahagon established the House of Nutidotakara, a peace museum, on his home island of Iejima, and his legacy lives on in the anti-US military base movement in Okinawa. "Life is the greatest treasure," he said, continuing to appeal for peace until his death in 2002 at the age of 99. (Nogami)

69



Discover Harvest Mice in the Grass: A Tale of Japan's Smallest Mouse

草はらをのぞいてみればカヤネズミ (Kusahara o nozoite mireba kayanezumi) | Phtos: FUKUDA Yukihiro | Text: YUKI Etsuko | Shogakukan | 2022 | 40pp | 21x23cm | ISBN9784097251644 | Ages: 9+ | *Harvest mice, Nest, Field*

Three little harvest mice stare out from the grass. The smallest mice in Japan, they live in grassy areas, do not hibernate, and bear young repeatedly throughout the year. Before giving birth, they build ball-shaped nests out of stalks of Japanese pampas and other grasses as a place to bear and raise their young. To protect their young from storms and predators, such as praying mantis, they carry them from nest to nest. The photos, which were taken over a five-year period, graphically portray the unknown ecology of these little mammals. Although once common in grasslands, the species is now threatened with extinction as changing human activity encroaches upon their habitat. (Sakaguchi)

67



The Life Cycle of the Great Purple Emperor: Japan's National Butterfly Shines in the Mixed Summer Forest

オオムラサキと里山の一年 (Oomurasaki to satoyama no ichinen) | Text/Photos: TSUTSUI Manabu | Shogakukan | 2022 | 40pp | 21x23cm | ISBN9784097251637 | Ages: 9+ | *Great purple emperor, Butterfly, Mixed forest*

The great purple emperor was chosen by the Entomological Society of Japan as the national butterfly. It inhabits mixed forests and is about the size of a child's palm. The male's wings are an iridescent bluish-purple color. The butterfly mates, lays eggs, and hatches in the summer. Butterfly larvae winter under fallen leaves during the first four instar stages. After growing slowly over the course of a year, they finally hatch at the beginning of summer, but life as a butterfly is short. This photo-picture book captures the growth process of the great purple emperor, including how it evades natural enemies and lives in the rich wooded environment. A series of six photos featuring the hatching of a first instar larva is particularly stunning. (Sakaguchi)

70



Satoyama Nature: Twenty Years of the Coppice

雑木林の20年 (Zoki bayashi no niju nen) | Text/Ill. SENAGA Tsuyoshi | Kaiseisha | 2021 | 64pp | 27x25cm | ISBN978-4-03-971250-9 | Ages: 9+ | *Satoyama, Nature, Lifestyle, Seasons*

Together, mixed forests, waterways and farm fields form areas known in Japan as "satoyama." Traditionally, trees were cleared on only one plot per year, and the lumber was used for the whole village. This scientific picture book examines how these cleared plots changed over time using detailed illustrations and explanations. The first half alternates double-paged seasonal spreads of a satoyama from a bird's eye view with interior views of the forest including its flora and fauna. The latter half depicts the changes on a plot of land three, five, ten, and twenty years after it was cleared. Human activity, such as charcoal and compost making, is also shown, conveying nature's cycles and abundance. The book also includes a detailed illustrated encyclopedia of animals and a glossary. (Okuyama)

71



Keeping the Teachings: The Story of Three Generations of Ainu

伝え守る アイヌ三世代の物語 (Tsutae mamoru ainu san sedai no monogatari) | Text/Photos: UI Makiko | Shonen Shashin Shimbunsha | 2021 | 40pp | 27x22cm | ISBN978-4-87981-751-8 | Ages: 9+ | *Ainu, Cultural heritage*

A brother and sister of Ainu descent move with their mother from Osaka to her hometown in Hokkaido to live with their grandfather. Through numerous photos, the book shows how the grandfather transmits Ainu culture to his grandchildren. When a deer is killed, the Ainu offer prayers and use every part. By never taking more than they need, they conserve nature's bounty for humans and other creatures. The book also introduces the grandfather's exquisite Ainu wood carving skills and the traditional Ainu-patterned kimonos made by their mother. Scenes of the siblings learning about their heritage through dancing and singing powerfully demonstrate the oral transmission of culture. (Sakaguchi)

74



What is a Black Hole?

ブラックホールってなんだろう? (Burakku horu tte nandaro?) | Text: MINESHIGE Shin | Ill. KURABE Kyoko | Fukuinkan Shoten | 2022 | 40pp | 26x20cm | ISBN 978-4-8340-8666-9 | Ages: 9+ | *Black hole, Universe, Discovery, Science*

Black holes are surrounded in mystery. They are astronomical objects with an enormous mass squeezed into a small space in the universe. They are much heavier than the Earth and have a gravitational pull so strong it sucks in everything around it. The reason they appear black to our eyes is because even particles of light fall into them and can't escape. The author has been studying the mysteries of black holes for many years. Here, he uses pictures to introduce contemporary findings in an easy-to-understand manner. While black holes tend to be viewed as a bad thing, they may in fact be important to the universe. This picture book broadens the reader's interest in the mechanisms of the universe and the unknown world. (Shiozaki)

72



Japanese Sandfish, Radiant Life in Rough Seas

ハタハタ (Hatahata) | Text/Photos: TAKAKU Itaru | Akane Shobo | 2021 | 32pp | 30x22cm | ISBN978-4-251-09951-8 | Ages: 9+ | *Japanese sandfish, Ecosystem, Sea*

Akita is located in northern Japan along the Japan Sea. The Japanese sandfish comes here during the storms and rough seas of winter. This photo-book conveys the fish's amazing ecology. Photos brimming with life present the fish's colorful, gem-like egg masses, swirling schools rising from the deep sea, the mystical moments of spawning and hatching, and the way the fish, once its life has been spent, supports the lives of other creatures. After a three-year fishing ban, the Japanese sandfish population appeared to rebound but the author uses graphs to show the severe reality and introduces sustainable fishing methods. The book also features the fish's integral connection with Akita culture in fish sauce, local cuisine, and songs. (Sakaguchi)

75



Japanese Candle Connections

和ろうそくは、つなぐ (Warosoku wa, tsunagu) | Text/Photos: ONISHI Nobuo | Alice-kan | 2022 | 48pp | 26x20cm | ISBN978-4-7520-1004-3 | Ages: 9+ | *Japanese candles, Traditional craft, Artisan, Nature*

Warosoku are traditional Japanese candles. The author introduces the many locations and artisans involved in the manufacturing process. The candles are handmade using techniques that have been passed down from one generation to the next. Nothing is thrown away. The candle wax is made by drying, steaming and pressing the fruit of the Japanese sumac tree. Waste from this process is used by indigo-dyeing craftsmen, and chunks of excess wax cut off when the candles are shaped are melted down and reused. The process reflects the traditional Japanese lifestyle in which nature's bounty was used with reverence and care and finally returned to the earth. The book conveys the craftsmanship and wisdom of Japanese artisans and the way such things are valued in Japanese culture. (Shiozaki)

73



Fermentation: The World is Full of Bacteria

はっこう (Hakko) | Text/Photos: OGAWA Tadahiro | Sv. YOKOYAMA Kazunari | Asunaro Shobo | 2022 | 48pp | 29x23cm | ISBN978-4-7515-3111-2 | Ages: 9+ | *Bacteria, Fermented foods*

Fermented foods include such things as wine and bread which use yeast to ferment grape sugar and flour, respectively, and cheese, which ferments milk with lactic acid bacteria. Japanese pickles are made by fermenting vegetables with lactic acid bacteria, sake by fermenting rice with yeast, vinegar by fermenting rice with acetic acid bacteria, miso and soy sauce by fermenting soybeans with yeast, and natto by fermenting soybeans with natto bacteria. Indigo dye made from the leaves of the indigo plant and humus, which improves the soil quality, is also made by fermentation. This picture book vividly conveys the role of invisible microorganisms through photographs and text. (Sakuma)

76



See and Understand: What is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?

核兵器禁止条約ってなんだろう? (Kakuheki kinshi jorei tte nandaro?) | Sv. KAWASAKI Akira | Ill. KAWAI Chiaki | Jumposha | 2021 | 112pp | 27x19cm | ISBN9784845117079 | Ages: 11+ | *Nuclear weapons, Treaty, Atomic bomb*

On January 22, 2021, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons took effect. This book explains what nuclear weapons are, how to get rid of them, how the treaty came to be, what it says, and Japan's role as the home of the only two cities to have suffered nuclear attack. Numerous illustrations and photographs present information in an accessible yet detailed way. The testimonies of two atomic bomb victims graphically portray the cruelty of nuclear weapons. The author points out that the only road to abolition is to know and discuss the truth, think carefully, and raise one's voice. This worthwhile read inspires us to see different perspectives and ponder this issue deeply. (Sakaguchi)



Solve the Mystery of the Hand-Operated Generator! Hiraga Gennai, Engineer Who Made Electricity

エレキテルの謎を解け (Erekiteru no nazo o toke) | Text: NARUMI Fu | Ill. TAKAYAMA Kenta | Iwasaki Shoten | 2021 | 224pp | 20x14cm | ISBN9784265840243 | Ages: 11+ | *Electricity, Biography*

During the Edo period (1603-1868), when Japan traded only with Holland and China and the only international port was Nagasaki, a genius appeared named Hiraga Gennai (1728-1780). Using a hand-operated electric generator from Holland designed for medical use, he learned to build one. This book evokes his passion and his struggles to understand a tool for creating static electricity, at a time when the very concept of electricity was new. He also learned to make a thermometer and pedometer like those from the Netherlands. In addition, he founded an organization to identify medicinal substances, and he pursued mine development and western art. He was a pioneer in many ways. (Sakaguchi)



How Deep Does Life Go? Searching Beneath the Sea Floor

生物がすむ果てはどこだ? (Seibutsu ga sumu hate wa dokoda?) | Text: MORONO Yuki | Kumon Shuppan | 2022 | 96pp | 22x16cm | ISBN9784774327112 | Ages: 11+ | *Sea floor, Microbes, Research*

The deep-sea scientific drill ship Chikyu is one-of-a-kind in the world, equipped to stay stable on the water's surface while making cylindrical cuts and extracting samples from deep in the subsea floor. The author of this book has been searching for microbes in the samples, probing the limits of how deep life can survive. This teaches us more about life itself. He first took interest in this subject as a boy and began studying it by making tools. He later worked out how to count the microbes he found and how to prove they are alive. This book vividly portrays the joys of discovery and the importance of the scientific method, which helps scientists replicate each other's studies. (Sakaguchi)



My First Biography of a Musician: Fumio Koizumi

小泉文夫 (Koizumi fumio) | Text: HINO Madoka | Ill. KITAZAWA Hesuke | Yamaha Music Entertainment Holdings | 2022 | 304pp | 19x14cm | ISBN9784636977295 | Ages: 11+ | *Music, World, India*

When Fumio Koizumi (1927-1983) was 30, an experience researching music in India led him to travel the world studying traditional music. After completing his time abroad, he taught at Tokyo University of the Arts while also sharing the joys of world music with the public, by appearing on television and inviting ensembles from Africa and Asia to the 1970 World Exposition in Osaka. He also took interest in music education in Japan, saying that Japanese traditional music should be emphasized as well as Western music. He and his students compiled a book about Japanese children's songs, or warabe uta. Until his death from cancer at age 56, he poured his spirit into social activism, his research and his family. This biography includes a QR code to hear eight instruments. (Doi)



Stay Safe on the Internet: Let's Think and Talk! Information Ethics for the Future 1

ネットトラブルをさけよう (Netto toraburu o sakeyo) | Sv. FUJIKAWA Daisuke | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 48pp | 29x22cm | ISBN978-4-03-636210-3 | Ages: 11+ | *Information ethics, Internet*

This is the first in a four-book series that invites readers to join in thinking about information ethics. Its many illustrations and photos make it easy to browse. Many topics will hit close to home, such as rumors and misinformation on the Internet, slander, stealth marketing, online gaming pitfalls, and billing troubles. Manga vignettes on full spreads show characters grappling with various issues, and the book provides real-life examples, hints for further thinking, concrete problem-solving strategies, and relevant laws and policies. The aim is to impart accurate information to enable young people's independent judgments. The backmatter shows a media studies class for grade 5 (age 11), as a hint for how to teach this material. (Sakaguchi)



A Bear! Help Us, Bear Dogs: Dogs with Special Talents

クマが出た! 助けてベアドッグ (Kuma ga deta! Tasukete beadoggu) | Text: OTA Kyoko | Iwasaki Shoten | 2021 | 156pp | 22x16cm | ISBN9784265840281 | Ages: 11+ | *Bears, Dogs, Animal protection*

Like guide dogs, bear conflict dogs have a job: inform humans when a bear is nearby, and bark and chase it away. In central Japan's Nagano Prefecture, dog handlers in a non-political organization work with U.S.-bred bear conflict dogs to deter bears from human settlements. This way, the bears living near human populations do not have to be killed for the humans' safety. Bears learn to avoid locations where humans live and return to the mountains. Humans, in turn, learn to take care with their own actions, such as how they put out their garbage. Educating bears and humans to protect both takes time and care; this book encourages us to think about coexistence. (Sakaguchi)



Encyclopedia of the History of People and Animals of Japan 5 vols.

人と動物の日本史図鑑 (Hito to dobutsu no nihonshi zukan) | Text: KOMITA Teruyuki | Text: ABE Koshi | Ill. SAKAI Yojiro | Shonen Shashin Shimbunsha | 2021 | 48pp | 27x22cm | ISBN978-4-87981-748-8 | Ages: 11+ | *Animals, Japanese history, Culture*

This series introduces people and animals of Japan over five eras: Paleolithic times through the Yayoi period and rice farming (approx. 300 BCE-300 CE); the Kofun period (250-538 CE) through the Asuka-Momoyama period (approx. 1558-1603); the Edo period (1603-1868); the Meiji period (1868-1912) through the early Showa period (1926-1989); and post-World War II through the current Reiwa period (2019-). It traces many topics, including the first domestic dogs, the introduction of cattle and horses, beekeeping, falconry, whaling, the wagyu cow, Covid-19, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Photos and illustrations abound. The author is a former director of Ueno Zoo, and his explanations are backed by rich experience and knowledge. (Sakaguchi)

83



A Family in Hiroshima: Tracing the Paths in Hiroshima

「ヒロシマ消えたかぞく」のあしあと (Hiroshima kieta kazoku no ashiato) | Text: SASHIDA Kazu | Poplar | 2022 | 240pp | 20x14cm | ISBN978-4-591-17395-4 | Ages: 11+ | Hiroshima, Atomic bomb, Photography, Life

In 2019, the author published a nonfiction photo picture book called *A Family in Hiroshima*, which used left-behind photos to explore the life of a family who all died in the atomic bomb: the Suzukis. This book starts with a bilingual synopsis of that book, in Japanese and English, and it goes on to reveal the picture book's backstory and the research process. It delves further into the Suzukis' era and the emotional lives of Japanese children then, as shown in journals and drawings. In addition, it describes reactions of readers to the photo picture book and new interactions and learnings since its publication. The author's drive to keep examining signs of the Suzukis' lives is itself a wish for peace, shining through strongly. (Sakuma)

86

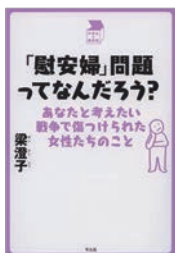


Research for All: I'm a Female Footballer. And, I Have a Girlfriend.

女子サッカー選手です。そして、彼女がいます (Joshi sakka senshu desu. soshite, kanojo ga imasu) | Text: SHIMOYAMA Shiho | Ill. YONEMURA Tomonori | Kaiseisha | 2022 | 176pp | 21x15cm | ISBN978-4-03-636320-9 | Ages: 13+ | Sex, Gender, Sports

Shiho Shimoyamada began to play soccer midway through elementary school, and then went on to play professional women's soccer in Germany and Japan. This elite athlete struggled to identify as male or female; liked girls; and above all, was devoted to soccer. These naturally occurring feelings bumped up against what society considered "normal," which often caused stress, but it helped to have teammates and teachers who pushed back against discrimination and prejudice. By presenting Shimoyamada's story, this book examines gender, sexual orientation, and gender expression in their diverse forms and considers how we can all respect each other's minds and bodies. A volume in the Research for All series. (Okuyama)

84



Who Were the Comfort Women? Thinking Together about Women Hurt in the War

「慰安婦」問題ってなんだろう? (Ianfu mondai tte nandaro?) | Text: YAN Chinja | Heibonsha | 2022 | 224pp | 19x13cm | ISBN9784582838886 | Ages: 13+ | World War II, Comfort women, Trial, Korean peninsula

In 1991, the author helped sue the Japanese government for violating the rights of comfort women in World War II. Here she introduces Song Sin-do (1922-2017), a former comfort woman who initiated the lawsuit. The book tells how Song became a comfort woman, migrated to Japan, and took action; it also details the trial and the military brothel system and traces comfort women's activism from the 1990s on. In addition, it introduces former comfort woman Kang Duk-kyung (1929-1997), who painted her experiences at the House of Sharing in Seoul, and Kim Bok-dong (1926-2019), who worked to make the comfort women's movement a human rights movement. Accessible writing makes this topic relatable. (Doi)

87



Radio Health Center: Teens Ask about Sex

ラジオ保健室 (Rajio hokenshitsu) | Text: NHK Rajio hokenshitsu Team | Ill. TAMAGAWA Sakura | Littlemore | 2022 | 256pp | 19x13cm | ISBN978-4-89815-556-1 | Ages: 13+ | Sex, Bodies, Growing

Over five days in August 2020, Japan's NHK Radio 1 broadcast a summer break series about teenagers' sex questions. This book pulls together the answers. Ten guests, from a cross-dressing performer to an obstetrician, answer seriously and sometimes humorously the various sexual concerns and complexes that the young people expressed. Information such as how to use birth control pills and condoms is presented clearly and accurately. The tone is open and friendly, exactly like on the radio show. Some sixty questions from young people regarding bodies, relationships, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and infections, and LGBTQ+ matters are discussed, and the experts' responses are sure to put readers at ease. (Sakaguchi)

85



Three Paths to Haiku: Basho, Buson, Issa

俳句のきた道 (Haiku no kita michi) | Text: FUJITA Shinichi | Iwanami Shoten | 2021 | 256pp | 18x11cm | ISBN9784005009404 | Ages: 13+ | Haiku, Edo period (1603-1868)

Matsuo Basho (1644-1694), Yosano Buson (1716-1784), and Kobayashi Issa (1763-1828) were three major haikuists of the Edo period (1603-1868). This book introduces their lives and haiku and conveys haiku's charms. The section on Basho details how he studied with disciples and others near him, before embarking on a haikai journey later in life. The section on Buson conveys that he was a fine painter whose haiku shared elements with his visual art. Finally, the section on Issa follows him from his birthplace of Shinano (now Nagano) to Edo at 15 as an apprentice, through an inheritance dispute with his brother, and to marriage at 52; his haiku exhibited a unique sense of people and nature. The haiku in this book are accessibly, interestingly shared. (Doi)

88



The Power of Laughter, The Power of Words: Inheritance from Hisashi Inoue

笑いの力、言葉の力 (Warai no chikara, kotoba no chikara) | Text: WATANABE Fumiyuki | Ill. MATT Kazuko | Rironsha | 2022 | 240pp | 19x13cm | ISBN978-4-652-20498-6 | Ages: 13+ | Words, Humor, Family

The writer Hisashi Inoue (1934-2010) left behind novels and numerous plays and agitated for peace. This biography focuses on his younger years. He was born in 1934 in the town of Komatsu in Yamagata prefecture. As Japan lurched from wartime to the post-World War II era, he came of age, steeped in books, baseball and movies. Family circumstances led to him living in an orphanage during his middle and high school years. He went on to attend university while working a number of part-time jobs. All of these experiences are described here with language from works by Inoue himself. Readers discover the background that gave rise to this writer's unique humor, rebellious spirit, and obsession with words. (Okuyama)



The Hans Christian Andersen Award

Winners



KADONO Eiko 1935– **2018 Author Award**

Born in Tokyo, KADONO Eiko moved to Brazil for two years when she was 25, and based on her experiences there she wrote her first book. 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 MIYAZAKI Hayao. Kadono has been decorated by the Emperor of Japan for her significant contributions to children's literature.



UEHASHI Nahoko 1962– **2014 Author Award**

Born in Tokyo, UEHASHI Nahoko researched indigenous people in Australia for her PhD in cultural anthropology. 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. Her series *The Beast Player* is now out in the USA and the UK.



MADO Michio 1909–2014 **1994 Author Award**

MADO Michio 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 then Empress Michiko of Japan.



ANNO Mitsumasa 1926–2020 **1984 Illustrator Award**

Born in Tsuwano, a village located in a valley surrounded by mountains, ANNO Mitsumasa developed a strong desire to experience places beyond those 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.



AKABA Suekichi 1910–1990 **1980 Illustrator Award**

Born in Tokyo, AKABA Suekichi 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.

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

Nominees since 2000



ARAI Ryoji
1956-

2022, 2024 Illustrator



CHO Shinta
1927-2005

1998, 2000 Illustrator



HAYASHI Akiko
1945-

2008, 2010 Illustrator



ISHII Momoko
1907-2008
2002 Author



IWASE Joko
1950-
2022, 2024 Author



KAKO Satoshi
1926-2018
2012 Illustrator



KANZAWA Toshiko
1924-
2000, 2006 Author



KATAYAMA Ken
1940-
2014, 2016 Illustrator



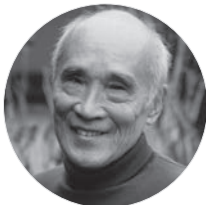
NASU Masamoto
1942-2021
2012 Author



OHTA Daihachi
1918-2016
1970, 2002-2006 Illustrator



SATO Satoru
1928-2017
2004 Author



TANIKAWA Shuntaro
1931-
2008, 2010 Author



TASHIMA Seizo
1940-
2018, 2020 Illustrator



TOMIYASU Yoko
1959-
2020 Author

Japanese Books Selected for the IBBY Honour List

JBBY has selected books for three categories (writing, illustration, translation) of the IBBY Honour List every two years since 1996. Since 2008, JBBY has given these books the JBBY Award.

Writing



Writing 2018
FURUUCHI Kazue
Hula Boys
Furadan
Komine Shoten



Writing 2010
HAMANO Kyoko
Fusion
Fuyjon
Kodansha



Writing 2004
UEHASHI Nahoko
Guardian of the God
Kami no moribito
Kaiseisha



Writing 1998
OKADA Jun
The Stories of the Kosoado Woods
Kosoado no mori no monogatari
Rironsha



Writing 2022
HANAGATA Mitsuru
Tokujiro and I
Tokujiro to boku
Rironsha



Writing 2016
IWASE Joko
Since the New One Came
Atarashii ko ga kite
Iwasaki Shoten



Writing 2008
TAKADONO Hoko
Let's Be Frrrrriends
Otomodasa ni narimasho
Froebel-kan



Writing 2002
TOMIYASU Yoko
Mokko in Mount Yamamba
Yamamba yama no Mokko tachi
Fukuinkan Shoten



Writing 1996
ITO Hiroshi
Hurrah, I'm a Monkey
Osaru ni naru hi
Kodansha



Writing 2020
NASHIYA Arie
Sensing Your Presence
Kimi no sonzai o ishiki suru
Poplar



Writing 2014
MAHARA Mito
Where the Steel Sparks Fly
Tetsu no shibuki ga haneru
Kodansha



Writing 2006
OGIWARA Noriko
The Tale of the Flute Player
Fujinhisho
Tokuma Shoten



Writing 2000
ITO Yu
A Bridge to the Other World
Oni no hashi
Fukuinkan Shoten



Writing 1994
IWASE Joko
Tanikawa Said It's Not a Lie
Uso janaiyo to Tanikawa kun wa itta
PHP Institute

Illustration



Illustration 2018
SUZUKI Koji
Dome Story
Domu gatari
Text: Arthur Binard
Tamagawa University Press



Illustration 2022
TASHIMA Seizo
Gotcha!
Tsukamaeta
Kaiseisha



Illustration 2016
YOSHIDA Hisanori
The Ranch of Hope in Fukushima
Kibo no bokujo
Text: MORI Eto
Iwasaki Shoten



Illustration 2020
TAMURA Shigeru
Night Sounds
Yoru no oto
Kaiseisha



Illustration 2014
ABE Hiroshi
To the New World
Shin sekai e
Kaiseisha



Illustration 2012
INOUE Yosuke
**Hats
Boshi**
East Press



Illustration 2010
ITO Hideo
Ushio
Ushio
Billiken Shuppan



Illustration 2008
ARAI Ryoji
A Sound of Taiyo-Organ
Taiyo orugan
Kaiseisha



Illustration 2006
CHO Shinta
**The Story of the Earthworm
Named Ossan**
Mimizu no Ossan
Doshinsha



Illustration 2004
SAITO Takao
**The Frogs and the Cat:
Story Inspired by Heike
Monogatari**
Kaeru no Heike monogatari
Text: HINO Kazunari
Fukuinkan Shoten



Illustration 2002
CHO Shinta
**The Magical Fun of
the Long-nosed Ogre**
Tengu no hauchiwa
Text: KAYAMA Yoshiko
Kyoiku Gageki



Illustration 2000
ONO Kaoru
The Night of Kagura
Okagura
Text: WAKI Akiko
Poplar



Illustration 1998
KOBAYASHI Yutaka
My Sweet Village
*Sekai ichi utsukushii
boku no mura*
Poplar



Illustration 1996
MATSUOKA Tatsuhide
**Exploring the Dinosaur Age
with My Robot**
Boku no robotto kyoryu tanken
Fukuinkan Shoten

Translation



Translation 2022
Trans. NAGNO Toru
Folo, il Centauro
by Roberto Piumini
Kentauros no Porosu
Iwanami Shoten



Translation 2020
Trans. NISHIMURA Yumi
De Blauwe Maansteen
by Tonke Dragt
Aoi tsuki no ishi
Iwanami Shoten



Translation 2018
Trans. MOTAI Natsuu
**Please Be Quiet, My Father is
Taking a Nap: Jewish Folktales**
*Oshizukani, chichi ga hirune shite
orimasu*
Iwanami Shoten



Translation 2016
Trans. HARADA Masaru
No Crystal Stair
by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Haremu no tatakau honya
Asunaro Shobo



Translation 2014
Trans. JINGU Teruo
Swallows and Amazons
by Arthur Ransome
Tsubame-go to Amazon-go
Iwanami Shoten



Translation 2012
Trans. SAITO Michiko
A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck
Shikago yori tondemonai machi
Tokyo Sogensha



Translation 2010
Trans. KODAMA Tomoko
Dido and Pa by Joan Aiken
Daido to tochan
Fuzanbo



Translation 2008
Trans. CHIBA Shigeki
Dumb Creatures by Jeanne Willis
Ori no naka no himitsu
Asunaro Shobo



Translation 2006
Trans. HISHIKI Akirako
Maj Darlin by Mats Wahl
Mai ga ita natsu
Tokuma Shoten



Translation 2004
Trans. MATSUOKA Kyoko
Ramona Forever by Beverly Cleary
Ramona to atarashii kazoku
Gakken



Translation 2002
Trans. SAKUMA Yumiko
Last Summer with Maizon
by Jacqueline Woodson
Magaretto to Meizon
Poplar



Translation 2000
Trans. SAKAI Haruhiko
The Arabian Nights
edited by Wiggin and Smith
Arabian naito
Fukuinkan Shoten



Translation 1998
Trans. WAKI Akiko
The Silent Shore by Ruth Elwin Harris
Oka no ie no Sera
Iwanami Shoten



Translation 1996
Trans. KAKEGAWA Yasuko
Darkling by K. M. Peyton
Unmei no uma Dakuringu
Iwanami Shoten



Recent Translations into Japanese Recommended by JBBY

JBBY selected books in three categories (picture books, chapter books and novels, nonfiction) for its recent publication *Translated Children's Books*. JBBY publishes this catalog every year for Japanese readers.

Picture Books

Adrian Simcox Does Not Have A Horse by Marcy Campbell & Corinna Luyken (US) | *Eidorian wa zettai uso o tsuiteiru*, trans. HATTORI Yuichiro; Iwanami Shoten

Air Miles by John Burningham, William Salaman & Helen Oxenbury (UK) | *Pairotto mairuzu*, trans. TANIKAWA Shuntaro; BL Shuppan

Count on Me by Miguel Tanco (CA) | *Sugaku de sekai o miruno*, trans. FUKUMOTO Yumiko; Holp Shuppan

Die Geschichte Vom Kleinen Siebenschläfer, Der Nicht Einschlafen Konnte by Sabine Bohlmann & Kerstin Schoene (DE) | *Yamane no boya wa nemurenai!?*, trans. WAKAMATSU Noriko; Hisakata Child

The Hospital Dog by Julia Donaldson & Sara Ogilvie (UK) | *Nana wa serapi doggu*, trans. FUKUMOTO Yumiko; BL Shuppan

I Talk Like a River by Jordan Scott & Sydney Smith (US) | *Boku wa kawa no yo ni hanasu*, trans. HARADA Masaru; Kaiseisha

Jessica by Kevin Henkes (US) | *Jeshika to issho*, trans. KOKAZE Sachi; Tokuma Shoten

The Lady with the Books by Kathy Stinson & Marie Lafrance (CA) | *Kodomo no hon de heiwa o tsukuru*, trans. SAKUMA Yumiko; Shogakukan

The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess by Tom Gauld (US) | *Ki no robotto to maruta no ohimesama no daiboken*, trans. KANEHARA Mizuhito; Holp Shuppan

Milo Imagines the World by Matt de la Peña & Christian Robinson (US) | *Mairo no skecchi bukku*, trans. ISHIZU Chihiro; Suzuki Shuppan

Moon Pops by Beak Heena (KR) | *Otsuki-san no shabetto*, trans. HASEGAWA Yoshifumi; Bronze Shinsha

The Boxer by Hasan Mousavi (IR) | *Bokusa*, trans. AIKO Keiko; Top Studio HR

Mummy, Time to Sleep! by Hilit Blum & Vali Mintzi (IL) | *Mama, mo neru jikan dayo*, trans. MOTAI Natsuu; Mitsumura Kyoiku Toshō

Piper by Emma Chichester Clark (UK) | *Kuro no atarashii uchi*, trans. KODAMA Tomoko; Tokuma Shoten

The Rabbits by John Marsden & Shaun Tan (AU) | *Usagi*, trans. KISHIMOTO Sachiko; Kawade Shobo Shinsha

Sagan Om Den Lilia Farbrorn by Berbro Lindgren & Eva Eriksson (SE) | *Chiisana ojisan to okina inu*, trans. HISHIKI Akirako; Asunaro Shobo

Tijger by Jan Jutte (NL) | *Obaasan to tora*, trans. NISHIMURA Yumi; Tokuma Shoten

When Grandfather Flew by Patricia MacLachlan & Chris Sheban (US) | *Ojiichan no negaigoto*, trans. NAKAGAWA Chihiro; Mitsumura Kyoiku Toshō

Who Took the Farmer's Hat? by Joan L. Nodset & Fritz Siebel (US) | *Ojisan no boshi wa doko itta?*, trans. YASUDA Fuyuko; Shuppan Works

Zwerveling by Peter Van den Ende (NL) | *Tabi suru kobune*; Kyuryudo

한밤중 재미 요정 by Shin Summi (KR) | *Mayonaka no chiisana yosei*, trans. SHIMIZU Chisako; Poplar

Chapter Books and Novels

All the Things We Never Said by Yasmin Rahman (UK) | *Rasuto furenzu*, trans. DAIDA Akako; Seizansha

BAMBI by Felix Saiten (DE) | *Banbi: mori ni ikiru*, trans. SAKAYORI Shinichi; Fukuinkan Shoten

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (US) | *Watashi wa yume o mitsuzukeru*, trans. SAKUMA Yumiko; Shogakukan

De Blauwe Vleugels by Jef Aerts (BE) | *Aoi tsubasa*, trans. NAGAYAMA Saki; Tokuma Shoten

De eikelvreters by Els Pelgrom (NL) | *Donguri gui*, trans. NOZAKA Etsuko; Fukuinkan Shoten

The Echo Park Castaways by M. G. Hennessey (US) | *Umi o mita hi*, trans. SUGITA Nanae; Suzuki Shuppan

El Compañero Desconocido by Marcelo Birmajer (AR) | *Mishiranu tomo*, trans. UNO Kazumi; Fukuinkan Shoten

Extraordinary Birds by Sandy Stark-McGinnis (US) | *Watashi ga tori ni naru hi*, trans. CHIBA Shigeki; Shogakukan

The Extraordinary Colours of Auden Dare by Zillah Bethell (UK) | *Paragon to reinbo mashin*, trans. SANBE Ritsuko; Shogakukan

A Face Like Glass by Frances Hardinge (UK) <i>Garasu no kao</i> , trans. KODAMA Atsuko; Tokyo Sogensha
Fly, Cherokee, Fly by Chris d'Lacey (UK) <i>Tobenai hato o mitsuketa hi kara</i> , trans. SAGARA Michiko; Tokuma Shoten
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes (US) <i>Gosuto boizu</i> , trans. TAKETOMI Hiroko; Hyoronsha
Granny The Pag by Nina Bawden (UK) <i>Atashi no obaachan wa, puta</i> , trans. KODAMA Tomoko; Dowakan Shuppan
Honk: The Moose by Phil Stong & Kurt Wiese (US) <i>Machi ni kita herajika</i> , trans. SETA Teji; Tokuma Shoten
Nice Work for the Cat and the King by Nick Sharratt (UK) <i>Neko to osama shigoto o sagasu</i> , trans. ICHIDA Izumi; Tokuma Shoten
Par-Int by Lee Hee-young (KR) <i>Peinto</i> , trans. OSANAI Sonoko; East Press
The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo (US) <i>Shijin ni naritai wtashi ekkusu</i> , trans. TANAKA Akiko; Shogakukan
Pták Ohnivák A Liška Ryška by Karel Jaromír Erben, et al. (CH) <i>Hi no tori to kitsune no rishika</i> , edit/trans. KIMURA Yuko; Iwanami Shoten
Raising Lumie by Joan Bauer (US) <i>Rumi to oribu no tokubetsu na jukkagetsu</i> , trans. SUGITA Nanae; Shogakukan
Ronja Rövardotter by Astrid Lindgren & Ilon Wikland (SE) <i>Sanzoku no musume ronya</i> , trans. HERENHARUME Miho; Iwanami Shoten
Rosalind by Elsa Beskow (SE) <i>Rosarindo no niwa</i> , trans. HISHIKI Akirako; Asunaro Shobo
Sophie's Secret by Nicki Cornwell (UK) <i>Sofi no himitsu</i> , trans. SHIBUYA Hiroko; Bunken Shuppan
Sweeping Up The Heart by Kevin Henkes (US) <i>Haru no usagi</i> , trans. HARADA Masaru/OSAWA Satoko; Shogakukan
The Liberation of Gabriel King by K. L. Going (US) <i>Boku no yowamushi o naosu niwa</i> , trans. KUBO Yoko; Tokuma Shoten
Things Seen From Above by Shelly Pearsall (US) <i>Sora kara mieru, ano ko no kokoro</i> , trans. KUBO Yoko; Doshinsha
This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki & Jillian Tamaki (US) <i>Disu wan sama</i> , trans. SANBE Ritsuko; Iwanami Shoten
What's That in Dog Years? by Ben Davis (UK) <i>Sayonara no mae ni, gizumo ni sasete agetai kokonotsu no koto</i> , trans. SUGITA Nanae; Shogakukan
The Wild Robot Escapes by Peter Brown (US) <i>Kaere yasei no robotto</i> , trans. MAEZAWA Akie; Fukuinkan Shoten
명해 by Kim So Yon & Jang Ho (KR) <i>Myonhe</i> , trans. YOSHINAKA Kimiko/YAN Okusun; Kage Shobo

Nonfiction

111 Trees by Rina Singh & Marianne Ferrer (CA) <i>Hyaku-ju-ippun no ki</i> , trans. KODAMA Tomoko; Mitsumura Kyoiku Toshō
The Bat Book by Charlotte Milner (UK) <i>Komori no hon</i> , trans. MATSUURA Naomi; Godo Shuppan
A Climate in Chaos by Neal Layton (UK) <i>Tomenakucha! Kikohendo</i> , trans. IWAJO Yoshihito; Hisakata Child
Fourteen Wolves by Catherine Barr & Jenni Desmond (UK) <i>Shizen o saisei saseta ierosuton no ookami tachi</i> , trans. NAGAMINE Ryo; Kagaku Dojin
Grow by Nicola Davies & Emily Sutton (UK) <i>Umarete sodatsu</i> , trans. OCHI Noriko; Goblin Shobo
If You Come To Earth by Sophie Blackall (US) <i>Chikyu no koto o oshiete ageru</i> , trans. YOKOYAMA Kazue; Suzuki Shuppan
Just Ask! by Sonia Sotomayor & Rafael López (US) <i>Ne, kiite mite!</i> , trans. SUGIMOTO Emi; Chobunsha
The Kid's Book of the Elements by Theodore Gray & Nick Mann (US) <i>Sekai de ichiban utsukushii kodomo genso zukan</i> , trans. TAKEI Mari; Sogensha
Making a Baby: An Inclusive Guide to How Every Family Begins by Rachel Greener & Clare Owen (UK) <i>Yokoso! Akachan</i> , trans. USHITORA Kaori/URANO Kuniko; Otsuki Shoten
A Sporting Chance by Lori Alexander & Allan Drummond (US) <i>Pararinpikku wa sekai o kaeru</i> , trans. CHIBA Shigeki; Fukuinkan Shoten
Stay Curious! A Brief History of Stephen Hawking by Kathleen Krull, Paul Brewer & Boris Kulikov (US) <i>Sutibun hokingu</i> , trans. SAKUMA Yumiko; Kagaku Dojin
Un millón de ostras en lo alto de la montaña by Alex Nogués & Miren Asiain Lora (ES) <i>Yama no ue ni kaigara ga arunowa naze?</i> , trans. UNO Kazumi; Iwasaki Shoten
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed (US) <i>Omaru to hassan</i> , trans. NAKAGAWA Hiroko; Godo Shuppan
Wie viel wärmer ist 1 Grad? Was beim Klimawandel passiert by K. S. Schreiber & S. Marian (DE) <i>Kion ga ichido agaruto, do naruno?</i> , trans. MATSUNAGA Miho; Nishimura Shoten

Japanese Children's Books 2023

JBBY's recommendations for young readers throughout the world

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