



Illustration: TAJIMA Yukihiko

JBBY
<https://jbbby.org/>

● **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 a yearly catalog, *Japanese Children's Books*, to introduce superb Japanese children's titles abroad.

In *Japanese Children's Books*, we provide descriptions of 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. This year's books had to:

- have been published in Japan between September 2023 and June 2024
- 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 offer detailed synopses along with bibliographic information. We hope that our catalog will help you discover recent children's titles from Japan. Please download the full catalog! For further information, please contact us: info@jbbby.org

UNO Kazumi, JBBY President

● **Cover Illustration: TAJIMA Yukihiko**

Born in the city of Sakai near Osaka, this illustrator graduated from the dyeing and weaving program at Kyoto City University of Arts. In 1976, he began publishing picture books that incorporate stencil dying, and his early work *Jigoku no Sobe* (Sobe in Hades; Doshinsha) won an inaugural Picture Book Nippon Award. The many works of the creator have won two Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava Plaques, as well as many other awards, including the Shogakukan Illustration Award and Leipzig International Book Design Silver Medal. Recently, his *Fushigi na Tomodachi* (My Mysterious Friend; Kumon Shuppan) won the Japan Picture Book Award Grand Prize, and *Nakimushi Seitoku* (Crybaby Seitoku; Doshinsha) won the Kodansha Picture Book Award. His numerous other publications include *Sobe Gokuraku e Yuku* and *Sobe Makkuroke no ke* (Sobe Goes to Heaven, and Sobe in the Pitch-Darkness; Doshinsha). He was selected for the 2024 IBBY Honour List.

● **JBBY Book Selection and Review Team**

OKUYAMA Megumi, SAKAGUCHI Mikako, SAKUMA Yumiko, DOI Yasuko, HIROMATSU Yukiko, NOGAMI Akira

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

Title in English

Title in Japanese
 Text / Illustrator
 Publisher | Publication Year | Number of Pages | Trim Size | ISBN | Target Age | Keywords
 Information on this material comes from data bases, such as that of the National Diet Library, Japan.



Download full catalog of titles here. Titles marked with (*) include synopses.
Japanese Children's Books 2025 (PDF)
<https://jbbby.org/japanese-childrens-books-jbbys-recommendation>

Picture Books

I Am Little Bear.*

くまくんです。
 Text/III. MURAKAMI Yasunari
 Hisakata Child | 2024 | 32pp | 25×22cm | ISBN 978-4-8654-9316-0 | Ages: 3+ | *Bear, Nature, Coexistence, Growth*



KURO - A Little Dog at the Christmas Market*

クリスマスマーケット
 ちいさなクロのおはなし
 Text/III. FURIYA Nana
 Fukuinkan Shoten | 2023 | 39pp | 26×27cm | ISBN 978-4-8340-8739-0 | Ages: 3+ | *Christmas, Dog, Adventure, Slovakia*



Let's Walk a Little Farther

すこしとおくへ
 Text: OCHI Kunihiro
 III. KIKUCHI Chiki
 Akane Shobo | 2023 | 32pp | 27×22cm | ISBN 978-4-2510-9970-9 | Ages: 3+ | *Dog, Adventure, Sea*



Let's Eat! Let's Eat!*

たべるぞ たべるぞ
 Text/III. TASHIMA Seizo
 Kosei Shuppansha | 2023 | 38pp | 24×25cm | ISBN 978-4-6522-0597-6 | Ages: 3+ | *Food, Vitality, Living creatures, Seasons*



The Little Tree

ちいさな木
 Text: KADONO Eiko
 III. SATAKE Miho
 Kaiseisha | 2023 | 32pp | 22×27cm | ISBN 978-4-0335-2180-0 | Ages: 3+ | *Tree, Dog, Travel*



Clumps of Soil

つちたち
 Text/III. mirocomachiko Gakken | 2024 | 32pp | 31×24cm | ISBN 978-4-0520-5914-8 | Ages: 3+ | *Lives, Animals, Dinosaurs*



The Hamburger Steak Laughs!

ニコニコハンバーグ
 Text/III. OIKAWA Kenji, TAKEUCHI Mayuko
 Bunkeidou | 2024 | 32pp | 24×22cm | ISBN 978-4-7999-0527-2 | Ages: 3+ | *Transformation, Animals, Breath*



After Winter, Spring Comes*

ふゆのあとにははるがきます
 Text: ISHII Mutsumi
 III. ABE Hiroshi
 Alice-kan | 2023 | 32pp | 26×24cm | ISBN 978-4-7520-1082-1 | Ages: 3+ | *Snow, Nature, Animals*



A Braille Touch Book Let's Go on an Adventure!*

てんじつきさわるえほん
 ぼうけんしよう!
 Text/III. SUGIYAMA Kanayo
 Kaiseisha | 2023 | 11pp | 21×25cm | ISBN 978-4-0322-6170-7 | Ages: 3+ | *Braille, Adventure, Maze*



The Witch's Aquarium*

まじよの すいぞくかん
 Text/III. SASAKI Maki
 Fukuinkan Shoten | 2023 | 31pp | 20×27cm | ISBN 978-4-8340-8732-1 | Ages: 3+ | *Magic, Aquarium, Nonsense*



Dusk

ゆうぐれ
 Text/III. HIRAOKA Hitomi
 Shogakukan | 2023 | 32pp | 18×19cm | ISBN 978-4-0972-5248-1 | Ages: 3+ | *The sun, Night, Returning home*



Yuki in the Snow*

ゆきのゆきちゃん
 Text/III. KIKUCHI Chiki
 Mishimasha | 2023 | 32pp | 31×23cm | ISBN 978-4-9093-9497-2 | Ages: 3+ | *Cat, Snow, Play*



My Dolly

わたしのおにんぎょうさん
 Text/III. DEKUNE Iku
 Kaiseisha | 2023 | 32pp | 21×25cm | ISBN 978-4-0335-2170-1 | Ages: 3+ | *Friend, Birthday Party, Present*



Achiqueé and the Potato Field in the Sky*

A Peruvian Folktale
 アチケと天のじゃがいも畑
 ベルーのむかしばなし
 Text: UNO Kazumi
 III. IINO Kazuyoshi
 BL Shuppan | 2024 | 32pp | 29×29cm | ISBN 978-4-7764-1122-2 | Ages: 7+ | *Folktale, Witch, Potatoes*



Night in the Children's Bedroom*

こどもべやのよる
 Text/III. DEKUNE Iku
 Iwanami Shoten | 2024 | 40pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-0011-5406-1 | Ages: 7+ | *Sisters, Angel, Adventure*



I Am a Ship*

ぼくは ぶね
 Text/III. GOMI Taro
 Fukuinkan Shoten | 2024 | 32pp | 25×25cm | ISBN 978-4-8340-8773-4 | Ages: 7+ | *Ship, Journey, Self*



Water Sings*

水はうたいます
 Poetry: MADO Michio
 III. nakaban
 Rironsha | 2023 | 32pp | 28×23cm | ISBN 978-4-6522-0597-6 | Ages: 7+ | *Water, Earth, Poetry, Onomatopoeia*



Mirai Chocolate*

ミライチョコレート
 Text/III. The Cabin Company
 Hakusensha | 2024 | 48pp | 26×21cm | ISBN 978-4-5927-6338-3 | Ages: 7+ | *Future, Food, Robot*



Magic Cat Mountain: Bakeneko in Training

ねこまがたけ
 ばけねこしゅじょうのやま
 Text: KAMON Nanami
 III. IGARASHI Daisuke
 Ed. HIGASHI Masao
 Iwasaki Shoten | 2023 | 32pp | 29×23cm | ISBN 978-4-2650-7991-9 | Ages: 7+ | *Horror, Mountain, Missing*



Yama Pikaryaa!

The Wildcat of Iriomote-jima
 ヤマピカリヤー
 西表島のヤマネコのおはなし
 Text/III. KARUBE Takehiro
 Komine Shoten | 2024 | 32pp | 30×24cm | ISBN 978-4-3382-6145-6 | Ages: 7+ | *Shooting star, Legend, Sea*



Picture Book Bell Clock*

えほん ときの鐘
 Text/III. KOBAYASHI Yutaka
 Poplar | 2024 | 40pp | 25×26cm | ISBN 978-4-5911-8182-9 | Ages: 9+ | *Edo, Bell clock, Dutch*



Piano*

ピアノ
 Text/III. ISE Hideko
 Kaiseisha | 2023 | 40pp | 22×28cm | ISBN 978-4-0343-5180-2 | Ages: 9+ | *Music, Moving, Fantasy*



A Witch's Day

Secrets to Becoming a Witch
 魔女の一日
 魔女になるための秘密
 Text: IJIMA Toyoko
 III. YAMAMURA Koji
 Kinnohoshisha | 2023 | 47pp | 24×24cm | ISBN 978-4-3230-3402-7 | Ages: 9+ | *Life, Tools, Animals*



Monster Diary*

ものけdiary
 Text KYOGOKU Natsuhiko
 III. ISHIGURO Ayako
 Iwasaki Shoten | 2024 | 88pp | 19×19cm | ISBN 978-4-2658-3119-7 | Ages: 11+ | *Yokai, Fear, Edo period*



Chapter Books and Novels

Mountain Animal Hospital 2 Toramaru Goes to the Mountain*

やまの動物病院2
 とらまる、山へいく
 Text/III. NAKAGAWA Chihiro
 Tokuma Shoten | 2023 | 63pp | 21×15cm | ISBN 978-4-1986-5738-8 | Ages: 7+ | *Animal hospital, Cat, Doctor*



Training Yui*

ナナのおけいこ
 Text: ITOH Hiroshi
 Tokuma Shoten | 2024 | 64pp | 21×15cm | ISBN 978-4-1986-5788-8 | Ages: 7+ | *Cat, Family, Adventure*



Pisuke Runs Away

ビスケのいそいで
 Text/III. TAKADONO Hoko
 Doshinsha | 2023 | 48pp | 23×19cm | ISBN 978-4-4940-1250-3 | Ages: 7+ | *Stuffed toy, Friends, Neighborhood*



Simmered Daikon Gathering*

ふるふき大根のゆうべ
 Text AWA Naoko
 III. AYAI Akiko
 Asunaro Shobo | 2024 | 47pp | 24×19cm | ISBN 978-4-7515-3201-0 | Ages: 7+ | *Boar, Daikon*



My Cat Paws*

ぼくのねこポー
 Text: IWASE Joko
 III. MATSUNARI Mariko
 PHP Kenkyujo | 2024 | 78pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-5698-8162-1 | Ages: 7+ | *Cats, Changing schools*



I Stick Out . . .

ぼくは、ういてる。
 Text/III. NAKAGAWA Chihiro
 Nora Shoten | 2024 | 51pp | 21×16cm | ISBN 978-4-9050-1575-8 | Ages: 7+ | *Identity, Relationships, Floating*



Yes, I Want a Dog

やっぱり 犬がほしい
 Text/III. SUGIYAMA Kanayo
 Alice-kan | 2023 | 64pp | 23×16cm | ISBN 978-4-7520-1074-6 | Ages: 7+ | *Pet, Family, Death*



The Story Lily Can't Remember*

リリの思い出せないものがたり
 Text: TAKADONO Hoko
 III. TAKAHASHI Kazue
 Poplar | 2024 | 94pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-5911-8190-4 | Ages: 7+ | *Memory, Made-up stories, Handkerchief*



My Days*

あたしデイス
 Text: ITO Miku
 III. HIRASAWA Tomoko
 Shinnihon Shuppansha | 2023 | 110pp | 21×16cm | ISBN 978-4-4060-6787-4 | Ages: 9+ | *Friends, Being ostracized, Identity*



Excuses That Never End

いいわけはつづくよ
 どこまでも
 Text: OKADA Jun
 III. TANAKA Rokudai
 Kaiseisha | 2024 | 141pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-0353-0770-9 | Ages: 9+ | *Grampa, Tall Tale, Nonsense*



Carving Noh Masks Quietly in the Dark

暗やみに能面ひっそり
 Text: SATO Madoka
 III. AHN Masako
 BL Shuppan | 2023 | 167pp | 21×16cm | ISBN 978-4-7764-1104-8 | Ages: 9+ | *Grampa, Craftsman, Kyoto*



The Coral-Colored Cloud*

さんごいろの雲
 Text: YAEHASHI Naoko
 III. DEGUCHI Haruna
 Kodansha | 2024 | 125pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-0653-4441-5 | Ages: 9+ | *Fantasy, Short story collection, Mysterious*



Not Santa Claus's Flying Parcel Delivery Service*

サンタクロースは宅配便ではありません
 Text: ICHIKAWA Nobuko
 III. TAKAHASHI Kazue
 Poplar | 2023 | 126pp | 21×16cm | ISBN 978-4-5911-7979-6 | Ages: 9+ | *Christmas, Presents, Santa Claus*



The Moon and Granny Zaza*

月さんとザザさん
 Text/III. KADONO Eiko
 Shogakukan | 2023 | 122pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-0928-9331-3 | Ages: 9+ | *Old woman, House, Night*



Usakichi Under the Desk*

机の下のウサキチ
 Text: OKADA Jun
 Kaiseisha | 2024 | 222pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-0361-0210-5 | Ages: 9+ | *Fantasy, Rabbit, Adventure*



The Way You Feel

アナタノキモチ
 Text: YASUDA Kana
 Bunken Shuppan | 2023 | 261pp | 20×14cm | ISBN 978-4-5808-2572-7 | Ages: 11+ | *Family, Autism, Grampa*



Goodbye Mummy Man

さよならミイラ男
 Text: FUKUDA Takahiro
 Kodansha | 2024 | 186pp | 20×14cm | ISBN 978-4-0653-3778-3 | Ages: 11+ | *Poverty, Abuse, Imaginary friend*



The Garden on Monster Path*

けものみちのにわ
 Text: MINAGI Kumiko
 III. GEMI
 BL Shuppan | 2023 | 198pp | 20×14cm | ISBN 978-4-7764-1102-4 | Ages: 11+ | *Fantasy, Grandpa, Path*



Friends

ともだち
 Text: YAZUKI Michiko
 Shogakukan | 2024 | 239pp | 19×13cm | ISBN 978-4-0928-9335-1 | Ages: 11+ | *School life, Graduation, Multicultural society*



Naoki and the Mysterious Garden*

直紀とふしぎな庭
 Text: YAMASHITA Miyuki
 III. MONAKA
 Seizansha | 2024 | 217pp | 22×16cm | ISBN 978-4-8638-9763-2 | Ages: 11+ | *Fantasy, Gardens, Yokai*



When a Dragon Calls 1*

The Curse of the Bow Witch
 竜が呼んだ娘①
 弓の魔女の呪い
 Text: KASHIWABA Sachiko
 III. SATAKE Miho
 Kodansha | 2024 | 255pp | 20×14cm | ISBN 978-4-0653-4173-5 | Ages: 11+ | *Royal palace, Magi, Mother*



The Path Leading to Me*

わたしに続く道
 Text: YAMAMOTO Etsuko
 III. SATO Makiko
 Kinnohoshisha | 2023 | 254pp | 20×13cm | ISBN 978-4-3230-7541-9 | Ages: 11+ | *Family, Travel, International roots*



