

Picture Books

For each selected title, we provide the following:

Title in English

Title in Japanese | Author | Illustrator | Publisher | Publication Year | Number of Pages | Cover Size |

ISBN | Target Age | Keywords

Contact details of foreign rights handler (only for the titles for 2026)

Basic Book Description (Last Name of Reviewer)

1



Off to the Mountains / Off to the Sea

うみへ やまへ

Text/Ill. Taro MIURA

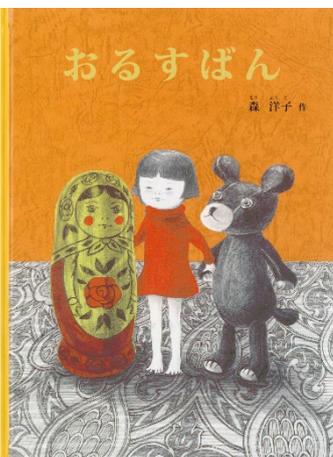
Kaisei-sha Publishing Co.,Ltd. | 2024 | 38pp | 28×24cm | ISBN978-4-03-350380-6 |

Ages:3+ | *Travel, Vehicles, Family*

Contact | foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp attn. Ms. Yuko NONAKA/ Editorial dept./ Kaisei-sha

In this uniquely crafted work, two stories unfold within a single volume, offering double the enjoyment. From one side, the book opens to "Off to the Sea" in white text, while the other side of the book opens to "Off to the Mountains" in red text. A boy from mountains travels in a white car to visit his father's family home in a seaside town. A girl from the seaside travels in a red car to her mother's family home in the mountains. The two journeys take place on the same page but going in opposite directions. It's intriguing to see how the same scenery appears different when viewed through each protagonist's eyes. Readers can enjoy finding the white and red cars within the colorful, intricate scenes along the journey. (NOGAMI)

2



Staying Home Alone

おるすばん

Text/Ill. Yoko MORI

Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers. Inc. | 2024 | 32p | 27×20cm | ISBN978-4-8340-8819-9 |

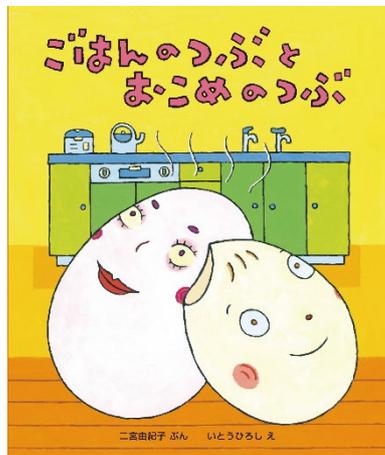
Ages:3+ | *Home alone, Anxiety, Antiques*

Contact | international-rights@fukuinkan.co.jp attn. Ms. Yoko UESUGI/ International-rights/ Rights & Permission Dept/ Fukuinkan

At-chan is at home alone for the first time, while her mother pays a visit to At-chan's ailing grandmother. At first, At-chan plays with her blocks and ventures into the cool, dark kitchen to get herself a glass of water. Gradually, however, she becomes anxious, finally hiding under the kotatsu, a heated table with a quilt on top. In the kitchen, pots, pans and vegetables start exercising and dancing. They are having so much fun

that At-chan crawls out from her hiding place to join them. Meticulous monochrome pencil drawings accentuated with red and orange convey both the child's anxiety and her vivid imagination. The depictions of nostalgic vintage items, such as a black rotary-dial phone and treadle sewing machine, have a quaint charm. (OKUYAMA)

3



A Grain of Cooked Rice and a Grain of Uncooked Rice

ごはんのつぶとおこめのつぶ

Text Yukiko NINOMIYA | Ill. Hiroshi ITO

Alicekan Ltd. | 2024 | 32p | 23×20cm | ISBN978-4-7520-1112-5 | Ages:3+ | *Nonsense, Rice, Friends*

Contact | nishida@alicekan.com attn. Ms. Kikue NISHIDA/ Editorial Dept./ Alicekan

A grain of freshly cooked rice falls on the kitchen floor where it meets a grain of uncooked rice. They strike up a conversation, when along comes a little girl who steps on the grain of cooked rice and squashes it. Meanwhile, the girl's mother inadvertently kicks the uncooked grain of rice into a corner of the room. The next morning, the two grains meet again and compete to see who can make a sock say "Ouch!" The conversations between the two grains are nonsensical and entertaining, and the illustrations portray the lives of the family, their cat and the insects residing in the house. The vividly colored, simple line drawings also impart a whimsical touch. (DOI)

4



Come See Us at the Aquarium

すいぞくかんであいましょう

Text/Ill. Mika KOSHIDA

BL.Shuppan | 2024 | 32p | 27×22cm | ISBN978-4-7764-1136-9 | Ages:3+ | *Sea creatures, Machines, Meals*

Contact | yurika@jfc-tokyo.co.jp attn. Ms. Yurika YOSHIDA/ Japan Foreign Rights Centre

Many people work at the aquarium. They run the water filtering and circulation equipment in the machine room, prepare food for the aquarium's sea creatures, and monitor their health. Dynamically distorted illustrations of various creatures, like the sea turtle on the cover, adorn double-page spreads along with handwritten captions in the Kansai dialect. Between these are spreads with faithfully detailed illustrations of what goes on behind the scenes, including the complex machinery room, the workers and their different jobs. The brilliant composition and masterful artwork result in a humorous and fascinating depiction of the aquarium's sea creatures, as well as the inner workings of the machinery and daily routine of the staff. (NOGAMI)

5



Mayu & Monster Bukabukaboo - A Story of a Witch's Daughter

まゆとブカブカブー

Text Yoko TOMIYASU | Ill. Nana FURIYA|

Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers. Inc. | 2024 | 32p | 20×27cm | ISBN978-4-8340-

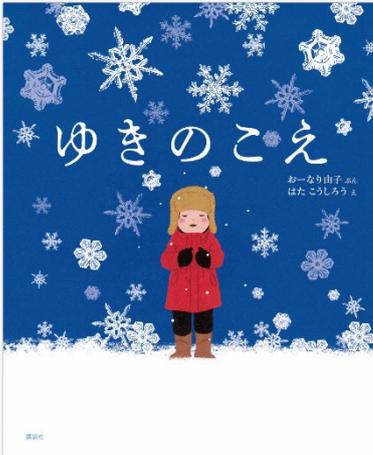
8806-9 | Ages:3+ | *Forest, Adventure, Mushrooms*

Contact | international-rights@fukuinkan.co.jp attn. Ms. Yoko UESUGI/

International-rights/ Rights & Permission Dept./ Fukuinkan

One rainy day, Mayu is happily playing in the mud when animals come rushing from the forest. They shout that Bukabukaboo Red Hat has come. Mayu wonders what they could mean by a Bukabukaboo. Curious to see if it is some kind of red monster, she ventures into the forest. There she encounters an enormous red monster-like something. It's dancing, and when she leaps on top of it, it belches smoke, then collapses and shrivels up. An exciting yet reassuring ending awaits the reader. This is one of a series about Mayu, the inquisitive and lively daughter of a Yamanba, a mountain hag that in Japanese folklore devoured unwary travelers. (SAKUMA)

6



The Voice of the Snow

ゆきのこえ

Text Yuko ONARI | Ill. Koshiro HATA

KODANSHA Ltd. | 2024 | 32p | 26×21cm | ISBN978-4-06-537471-9 | Ages:3+ | *Snow,*

Play

Contact | m-kitaoka@kodansha.co.jp attn. Mr. Morio KITAOKA/ International Rights

Dept./ Kodansha

One morning, a boy awakes to find the world outside his window unusually bright. "Snow! There's snow everywhere!" he exclaims. Snowy mornings are so quiet. Cars, trees in the garden, flower pots, tricycles—all appear to be asleep beneath a white blanket. The boy joyfully stamps through the snow, playing in it and leaving a trail of hollow footprints behind him. The snow makes crunching noises under his feet, and in the cold wintry hush we get the sense that he is conversing with the snow. The snow's own voice reaches the readers of the book through lots of fun onomatopoeic words, which are spread out over the snowy pictures.(KONDO)

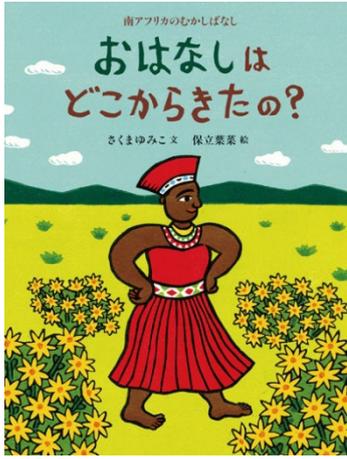
7

Where do Stories Come From? Folktales from South Africa

おはなしはどこからきたの？ 南アフリカのむかしばなし

Text Yumiko SAKUMA | Ill. Hana HOTATE

BL.Shuppan | 2024 | 33p | 30×22cm | ISBN978-4-7764-1150-5 | Ages:7+ | *Folktales, Animals, Ocean, Africa*



Contact | yurika@jfc-tokyo.co.jp attn. Ms. Yurika YOSHIDA/ Japan Foreign Rights Centre

Manzandaba's children pester her for a story, but nothing comes to mind. Urged by her husband Zenzele, she sets off on a journey to seek out a story. She visits animals one by one—a hare, a baboon, an owl, an elephant, an eagle—until finally a sea turtle leads her to a palace at the bottom of the sea where the spirit people dwell. In exchange for Zenzele's carved wooden pictures, she receives a mysterious seashell through which she can hear stories. Set in an imaginary world, it tells of the origin of folktales. This retelling of a story passed down among the Zulu people of southern Africa is accompanied by powerful and colorful woodblock prints. (OKUYAMA)

8



Lattatta All Day Today

きょういちにちのラッタッタ！

Text/Ill. Ryoji ARAI | Puppets Samiro YUNOKI

AliceKan Ltd. | 2024 | 32p | 28×22cm | ISBN978-4-7520-1077-7 | Ages:7+ | *Puppets, Music, Theater*

Contact | nishida@alicekan.com attn. Ms. Kikue NISHIDA/ Editorial Dept./ AliceKan

This book depicts an operetta performed by clay-faced puppets who are dressed in a variety of fabrics, who sing "Lattatta Lattatta" from morning till night. In the puppets' town, there are birds, dogs, humans and a mayor with a cat's face, who goes about greeting the townspeople and wearing medals made from pull-tabs, which have come from cans of juice. Every puppet character possesses distinctive clothing and expressions, and all are portrayed with rhythm and humor as they go about enjoying their daily lives. The backdrop painting for the puppets' stage is bathed in yellow light, featuring additional characters beyond those depicted in the photographs, collectively conveying the joy of living. (DOI)

9



I Am Here

ぼくがここに

Poem Michio MADDO | Ill. Satoshi KITAMURA

Rironsha | 2024 | 32p | 28×23cm | ISBN978-4-652-20660-7 | Ages:7+ | *Elephant, Earth, Self*

Contact | rights@rironsha.co.jp

This is an illustrated edition of a poem by Hans Christian Andersen Award-winner Michio MADDO, about how every living creature on Earth is unique and irreplaceable. Starting with a bird's-eye view of a metropolis with towering buildings, we zoom in to see a boy in blue clothes walking among adults on the street. Suddenly, an elephant appears, and next we see a close-up

of the tip of the elephant's trunk and the boy's hand. A lush picture of wild flowers and insects is followed by the boy riding the elephant and surrounded by a multitude of wild animals. The artist's imagination expands the world of the poem to a cosmic scale. (NOGAMI)

10



How Wonderful!

よかったなあ

Poem Michio MADO | Ill. Azumimushi

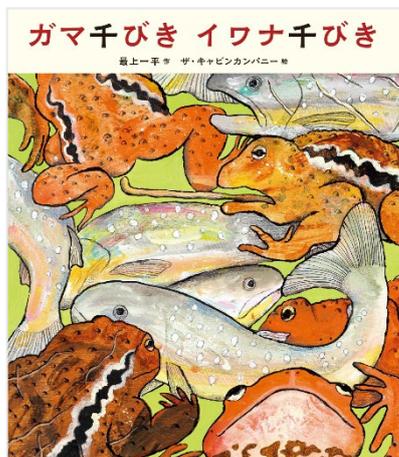
Rironsha | 2024 | 32p | 28×23cm | ISBN978-4-652-20633-1 | Ages:7+ | *Poetry, Nature*

Contact | rights@rironsha.co.jp

"How wonderful it is that grass and trees surround us!" Thus begins this classic poem, accompanied here by illustrations of flowers, fruits, trees, birds, insects, animals, mountains, and lakes. There are countless living beings here on the planet Earth, and yet each one is unique somehow—and how wonderful this is, the acclaimed poet

Michio MADO tells us. His concise yet profoundly deep poetic world is richly conveyed through delightful illustrations created by cutting aluminum plates and applying paint. May works like this one help children to experience and relish how every existence radiates a sparkling brilliance, and how every life is truly wonderful. (SAKUMA)

11



A Thousand Toads and a Thousand Fish

ガマ千びき イワナ千びき

Text Ippei MOGAMI | Ill. The Cabin Company

Bunkeido Co.,Ltd. | 2025 | 32p | 26×22cm | ISBN978-4-7999-0552-4 | Ages:9+ |

Japanese common toad, Char, Waterfall

Contact | r-yamada@bunkei.co.jp attn. Ms. Rie YAMADA/ Tokyo Office/ Bunkeido

A toad (the Japanese common toad) lives beneath a waterfall. One day, a fish (char) swims along and tries to swim up the waterfall many times with no success. The toad nonetheless admires the fish's persistence and gets the idea to become a toadfish together. One stormy day, as the fish yearns to "meet a new self" and the water churns, the fish goes up and does not come down. The toad travels by land to reach the top of the waterfall. There, a thousand toads and a thousand fish have gathered. This book pulls readers in with its bold, powerful illustrations of the fish and toad's expressions, which fill every spread. (KONDO)

12

Guiana Night Flight

ギアナ・夜間飛行



Text/Ill. Hiroshi ABE

Nora-Shoten Publishers Inc. | 2024 | 33p | 21×27cm | ISBN978-4-905015-77-2 |

Ages:9+ | *South America, Siblings, Adventure, Nature*

Contact | sato@norashoten.co.jp attn. Ms. Yukiko SATO/ Editorial Dept./ Nora-shoten

A brother and a sister are flying two airplanes over the Guiana Highlands in northern South America. A request comes in to investigate “shining children” and a dragon living on a certain Mount R. Piloting their planes through a jungle and over a huge waterfall to Mount R, the siblings find a tunnel-like cave with a ground surface composed of crystals. In and around the cave, numerous children shine so brightly that they dazzle. A dragon summons rainclouds, and a storm threatens, so the siblings beat a retreat. Their return journey is a night flight through star-studded skies. The author visited the Guiana Highlands to research this magical adventure-fantasy; it brims with nature’s magnificence and wonder rendered in vivid color. (NOGAMI)

13



The Song of the Forest

森の歌がきこえる

Text/Ill. Seizo TASHIMA | Object Leuthmany INSIENGMAY

Kaisei-sha Publishing Co.,Ltd. | 2024 | 37p | 26×26cm | ISBN978-4-03-352190-9 |

Ages:9+ | *Forest, Spirit, Medicinal herbs, Weaving*

Contact | foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp attn. Ms. Yuko NONAKA/ Editorial Dept./ Kaisei-sha

A poor boy named Noi was living with his mother in a forest village. A man appeared in the village and issued instructions to cut down regular trees in the forest, in order to plant “money trees” instead. As Noi was gathering medicinal herbs for his mother in the forest, he saw a beautiful woman at a loom who sang as she wove cloth. Noi desired the cloth, stole it, and fled. This story was born from Laotian respect for spirits called Phi, as well as from legends of a woman who weaves in the forest. With its powerful illustrations that affirm biodiversity, this story shows the importance of protecting trees for the sake of all forest life. (KONDO)

14

Promise: We Will Not Go to War

やくそく ぼくらはぜったい戦争しない

Text Masamoto NASU | Ill. Miho TAKEDA

Poplar Publishing | 2025 | 32p | 27×22cm | ISBN978-4-591-18427-1 | Ages:9+ | *War,*

Family, Memory

Contact | rights-inquiry@poplar.co.jp attn. Mr. Takashi OMURA/ Overseas Business Division/Poplar



A boy who has started middle school begins to be mistaken by his grandmother for her elder brother. Every morning, she sends him off with the words "itte rasshai," and every evening she awaits him in the cold entryway, saying "okaeri." Grandmother lost her brother and both parents in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. As her heart returns to that of a young girl awaiting her brother, her grandson vows never, ever to go to war. The author of this book survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima at age 3 and created children's books calling for peace throughout his life. This title was published posthumously. The plain, bright illustrations impart courage. In the back, the author's 1990 essay "Why Japan is at Peace" is reprinted. (OKUYAMA)

15



Ahmad the Brave An Iranian Folktale

勇士アフマド イランのむかしばなし

Text Keiko AIKO | Ill. Kosuke AJIRO

BL.Shuppan | 2025 | 33p | 30×22cm | ISBN978-4-7764-1159-8 | Ages:9+ | *Bravery, Battle, Fortune*

Contact | yurika@jfc-tokyo.co.jp attn. Ms. Yurika YOSHIDA/ Japan Foreign Rights Centre

A brash young man named Ahmad has the words "Brave Ahmad fells 300 enemies with one blow!" carved on his battle-axe. As those around him talk of this and chide him, word of it reaches the king. Mistakenly believing that Ahmad really is a brave hero, the king sends a servant to him and requests that he defend the country from real enemies coming to attack. Refusing is punishable by death. With no choice, Ahmad goes into battle. Thanks to many strokes of good fortune, he forces the enemy to retreat. The author of this book is a translator with deep knowledge of Iran. Her retelling of this folktale combines with delightful art inspired by lithographs and detailed miniature paintings. (SAKUMA)