



*Shogakukan*

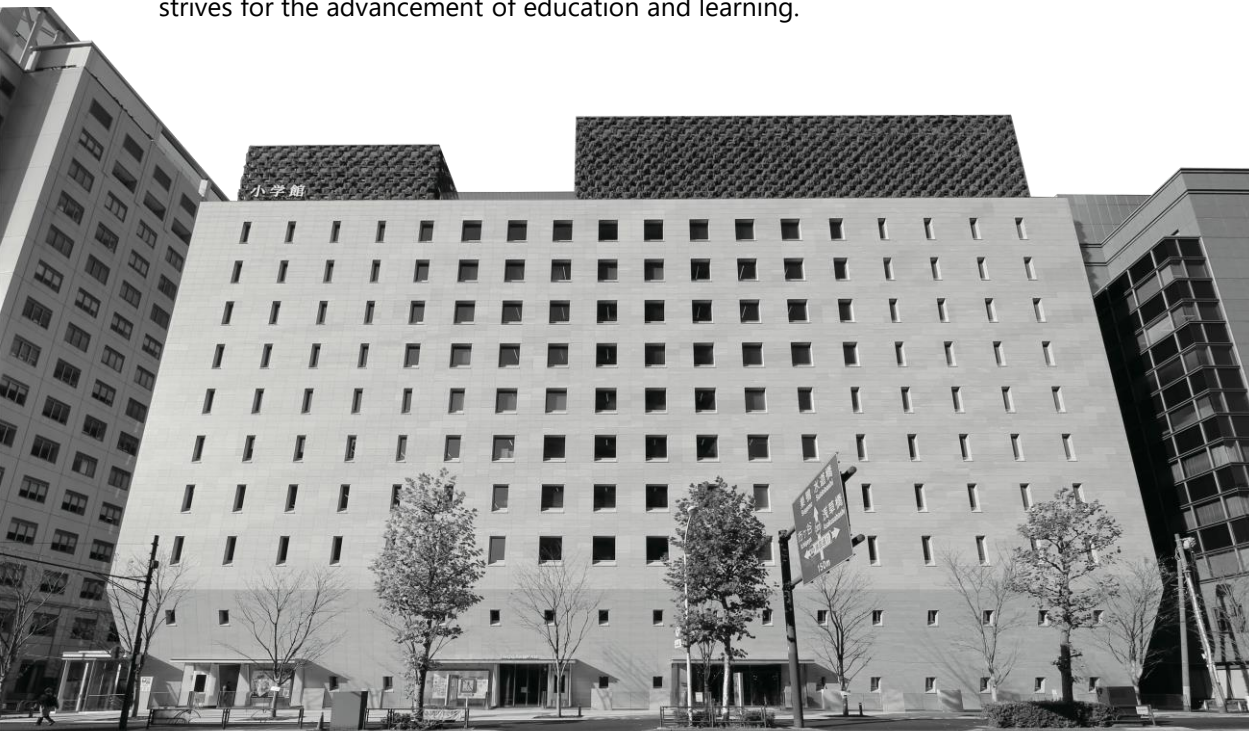
**CHILDREN'S Rights Guide**

Fall 2023

# SHOGAKUKAN

*From the past 100 years to the next 100 years.  
Inspiring the power to create new ideas.*

Shogakukan was founded in 1922 as a publisher of educational magazines for preschool and elementary school students. Having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, Shogakukan has now established itself as a leading publisher of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, art, photography, travel guides, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Renowned for its long tradition and expertise in the publishing industry, Shogakukan also produces a wide range of other content over print, digital and audio—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines and websites and apps. The wealth of original content is further promoted through investment in film and TV productions, third-party adaptations, as well as extended reality (XR) projects. Honoring outstanding works with the Shogakukan Children, Comics and Non-Fiction Awards, Shogakukan aims to actively foster diversity, inclusion and accessibility, and strives for the advancement of education and learning.



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Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.  
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan  
Founded: August 8, 1922  
President: Nobuhiro Oga  
Capital: 147 million yen  
Sales: 108.4 billion yen (2022 fiscal year)  
Employees: 696 (as of March 2023)

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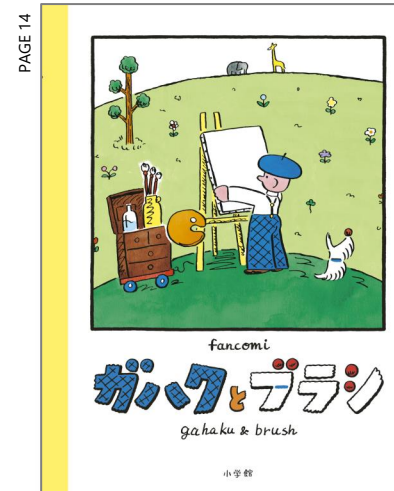
# HIGHLIGHTS



**I'm Home**  
Makiko Toyofuku



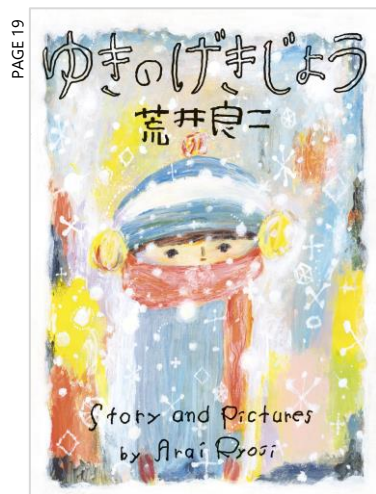
**Melting into the Sunset**  
The Cabin Company



**gahaku & brush**  
fancomi



**Sato the Rabbit, the Morning Sun**  
Yuki Ainoya



**The Snow Theater**  
Ryoji Arai



**The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises**  
Noritake Suzuki



**The Comet and the Last Dragon**  
Kyoko Imai and Miho Satake



**The Garden**  
Rui Kodemari

# **EARLY YEARS**

Look  
Inside

かどこいった？

鈴木のみたけ



小学館

ISBN: 978-4-09-726820-8

Pages: 32 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: November 2018

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)

Age: 0+

# Where Did the Mosquito Go?

*Ka doko itta?* / か どこいった？

Noritake Suzuki

## Turn the page and snap! A new type of interactive picture book

A mosquito landed on my hand. Ready, turn the page and snap! Ah, it escaped. Where did the mosquito go? On the building blocks. One more time, turn the page and snap! It escaped again. From the bestselling author of *The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises* and the *Workplaces* series, a new type of interactive picture book, simple yet packed with interesting ideas. Read the story and try to catch the mosquito by turning the thick, hefty pages with a mighty snapping sound. A perfect summer read-aloud, with humorous illustrations and repetitive text to help children focus on the activity at hand and share in the fun. A surprise awaits at the end!

**Noritake Suzuki** was born in 1975 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the Readers' Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuru* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri o shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts). *Daipinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises), published by Shogakukan in 2022, sold 400,000 copies to date in Japan and was awarded the Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prize, the Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prize and the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize.



Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725234-4  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+

# I'm Home

*Tadai-ma* / ただいま

Makiko Toyofuku

**A gentle story celebrating the comfort to be found in kindness and care for others**

Pon is a plush raccoon, with a soft fluffy tail. One day, he is abruptly packed into a box and sent to a toy hospital, the tail he always considered his pride and joy completely torn off and packed in the box right beside him. At the hospital, Pon encounters many other toys waiting to be treated—a toy truck with a missing tire, a marionette with torn strings, a doll with ripped lace on its French-made intricate dress.

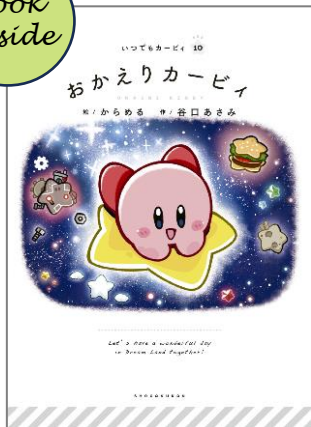


As the damaged toys are gently laid in wicker baskets by the toy doctor, Pon starts sharing with his fellow inpatients the thoughts that have been troubling him since his arrival. The two children in his family tore off his tail while pulling him back and forth in a fight. Is the family now trying to get rid of him? Will he ever be able to return? A heartwarming story whose soft water-colored illustrations and simple narrative help children address feelings of insecurity and anxiety and reassure them of their family's unshakable love.

**Makiko Toyofuku** is a Japanese author whose works range from picture books to illustrations for newspapers and magazines. She was born in Tokyo and graduated from the College of Art and Design at Musashino Art University. After working as a graphic designer at an advertising agency, she became a freelance illustrator. *Odoritai no* (I Want to Dance) published by Kane Miller Books in 2020 is her first book to be translated in English.



Look Inside



ISBN: 978-4-09-725230-6  
 Pages: 18 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+

# Welcome Back, Kirby

Okaeri Kabi / おかえりカービィ

Written by **Asami Taniguchi**, Illustrated by **Karameru**

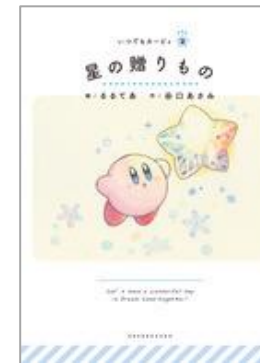
**Kirby is lost in outer space. Will he be able to find his way home?**

While playing along the Milky Way, Kirby falls asleep and gets swept away by the Sea of Stars. "Where am I?" As much as he tries to get his bearings, Planet Popstar, Kirby's home planet, is nowhere to be found. So, Kirby hops on a bright yellow star and starts his long journey back home. On the way, he experiences life on all sorts of different planets. Planet Robostar, Burgerstar, Fluffystar, Playstar...Will Kirby make it home safely or will he be tempted to stay? In the latest installment in the popular *It's Kirby Time* series, Kirby explores the outer space for the first time. Illustrated throughout in bright, lively colors and with an extraordinary wealth of landscapes and characters drawn in painstaking detail, this is a story about returning to that "important place" we all hold dear in our hearts.

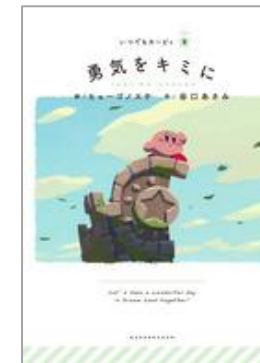
**Asami Taniguchi** is a manga artist born in Tokyo in 1981. She is notable for being the author of the *Kirby of the Stars! Moretsu Pupupu Hour!* manga series. In her occasional manga appearances, she draws herself in a kimono with an Asian conical hat with the characters of her surname (谷口) imprinted on it and a large fountain pen. In 2002, she won an honorable mention in the children's section of the Shogakukan New Comic Award and, in 2003, made her debut in *Bessatsu CoroCoro* magazine.



**Sweet Dreams, Kirby**  
 Illustrated by **RURUTEA**



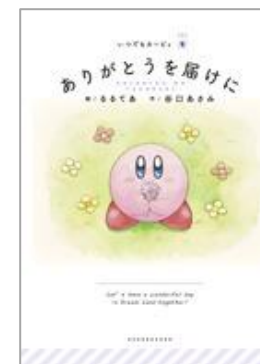
**The Gift of a Star**  
 Illustrated by **RURUTEA**



**Take Courage**  
 Illustrated by **HYOGONOSUKE**



**Kirby's Tiny World**  
 Illustrated by **HYOGONOSUKE**



**Thank You**  
 Illustrated by **RURUTEA**



**A Hug from Kirby**  
 Illustrated by **Caho**



**Together with Kirby**  
 Illustrated by **Karameru**



**Kirby's Birthday**  
 Illustrated by **Caho**



**Kirby's Alone Time**  
 Illustrated by **HYOGONOSUKE**

Look Inside



ISBN: 978-4-09-725136-1  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2021  
 Rights Sold: English  
 Age: 3+



## Pikachu's First Friends

*Pikachu to hajimete no tomodachi / ピカチュウとはじめてのともだち*

Rikako Matsuo

### Will Pikachu be able to make any new friends?

The first picture book series released by monpoké, the official Pokémon brand for babies. Babies can now explore the wonderful world of Pokémon with Pikachu and his friends!

Traveling on a small boat, Pikachu discovers an island where many Pokémon live, called monpoké Island. As Pikachu wanders around the island, he meets a very special friend.

**Rikako Matsuo** was born in 1989 and currently lives and works in Tokyo. A graduate of the printmaking course at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo, she has loved Pokémon since she was a primary school student. Her most famous picture books include *Itsutsugo usagi no kissaten* (The Coffee Shop of the Quintuplet Bunnies), *Itsutsugo usagi to umi no hoseki* (The Quintuplet Bunnies and the Sea Gem), *Takaramono no anata* (You Are My Treasure), *Ofuro daisuki! Shirokuma kyodai!* (The Polar Bear Siblings Love Taking Baths!), *Sutekina okurimono nakami wa nani?* (What Is in This Beautiful Gift?).

Look Inside



ISBN: 978-4-09-725187-3  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2022  
 Rights Sold: English  
 Age: 3+



## Pikachu's Night Adventure

*Pikachu to yoru no tanken / ピカチュウとよるのたんけん*

Rikako Matsuo

### Time to venture out into the night!

The second installment of the popular monpoké series takes place on the night of a full moon, ideal for ghosts and other scary surprises. Pikachu and his friends decide to climb Makkuroyama, the so-called pitch-dark mountain. In addition to Pikachu, Dedenne, and Eevee, the book features many other Pokémon that can be encountered at night.

**Rikako Matsuo** was born in 1989 and currently lives and works in Tokyo. A graduate of the printmaking course at the Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo, she has loved Pokémon since she was a primary school student. Her most famous picture books include *Itsutsugo usagi no kissaten* (The Coffee Shop of the Quintuplet Bunnies), *Itsutsugo usagi to umi no hoseki* (The Quintuplet Bunnies and the Sea Gem), *Takaramono no anata* (You Are My Treasure), *Ofuro daisuki! Shirokuma kyodai!* (The Polar Bear Siblings Love Taking Baths!), *Sutekina okurimono nakami wa nani?* (What Is in This Beautiful Gift?).



Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725110-1  
 Pages: 28 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2021  
 Age: 0+

## Let's Get Striped!

*Shima shima shimasho / しましましましよ*

Jin Kitamura

### How about we all get striped together?

"Let's get striped!" A zebra runs at full gallop through the pages of the book and, as if in response to its call, a cat, a fish, tree trunks, grass, people, houses, cars, trains, the sky, the sea, the whole world around the zebra gets striped. Jin Kitamura's line drawings have a calming effect on the reader, while the fast-paced crescendo of the story creates a fun sense of rhythm that is perfect for reading aloud.

**Jin Kitamura** was born in Tokyo in 1981. After graduating from the Department of Arts at the School of Humanities and Culture at Tokai University, in 2006 he started his career as a freelance illustrator. His work can be found across various media such as picture books, book covers, merchandising and other products. The minimalist style of his crayon drawings is inspired by everyday life and aims to celebrate the beauty of the ordinary. He was awarded the bronze prize at the 2007 competition of the Tokyo Illustrators Society (TIS) of which he is a member and is currently a lecturer at the Kobe Design University.

Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725130-9  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2018  
 Age: 0+

## The Cat on the Farm

*Nojo ni sumu neko / のうじょうにすむねこ*

Nachio Nakanishi

### Let's go for a stroll around the farm and meet cat's animal friends

A cat lives on a farm. When it wakes up in the morning, it takes a walk and greets the various friends it encounters. Birds, goats, buffaloes, horses, rabbits, chickens—all the animals on the farm are introduced from the cat's unique perspective. The childlike, playful illustrations featuring richly textured collages where animals take the center stage will appeal to both children and adults alike.

**Nachio Nakanishi** was born in Kochi Prefecture and is both a chef and an illustrator. Since 2007, she has been running Toraneko Bonbon, an itinerant restaurant that changes its menu according to the season and location Nakanishi travels to. As an illustrator, she is active in a wide variety of fields, including children's books and other goods. She is the author of *Neko goyomi 365 nichi* (365 Romantic Cat Days) and *Toraneko Bonbon no omoitenashi* (Toraneko Bonbon's Hospitality).



# PICTURE BOOKS

Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725229-0  
 Pages: 31 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+

# Melting into the Sunset

*Yuyake ni tokete iku / ゆうやけにとけていく*

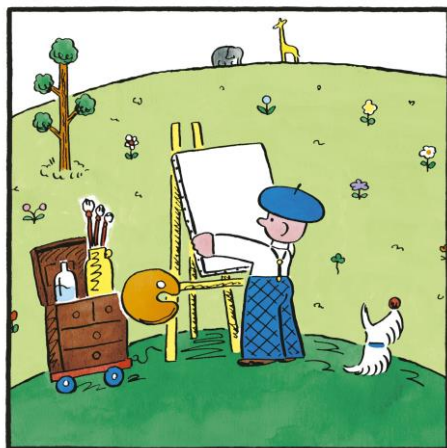
The Cabin Company



**Birds aiming at the sun, a train rushing in the distance, the glow of the setting sun enfolds joy and sorrow alike**

As the sun sinks beyond the horizon, a boy playing freely on a jungle gym, a girl kicking bitterly at a stone, a parent and child coming home from the grocery store...scenes that take in the spectrum of human emotion are depicted against the warm glow of the sunset in the background. Rich hues of red, orange, pink and yellow gradually melt into deep shades of green, turquoise, blue and purple until under a myriad of twinkling stars all is dark and quiet. "The joy and sorrow of people living here and there today turn into a stream of light that melts into the sky. And that's how this quiet night sky came to be. Sleep tight."

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka, a duo of children's book artists. Both were born in Oita Prefecture in 1989 and graduated from the Faculty of Education and Welfare Science at Oita University. They are active in a wide range of fields, mainly in their hometown of Oita, including exhibitions, picture books, illustrations and workshops in galleries and shops. They are currently working in a former elementary school, which they renovated into their studio. Previous books published by Shogakukan include *Pokémon no shima* (Pokémon Island), *Yubisashi-chan* (Fingertippy), *Nyo-!* (Swoosh!) and *Nen neko* (It's Bedtime for Kitten) among many others.

Look  
Inside

fancomi

ガハクとブラシ

gahaku &amp; brush

小学館

ISBN: 978-4-09-725225-2

Pages: 32 pages

Printing: Color

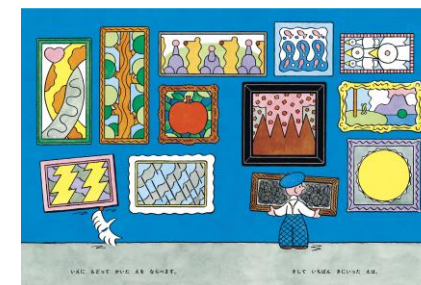
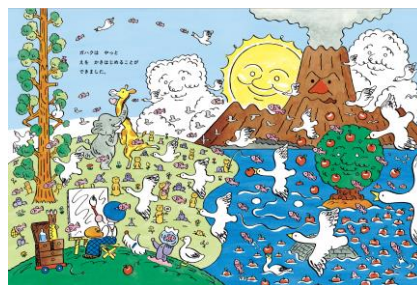
Publication: July 2023

Age: 3+

# gahaku & brush

Gahaku to burashi / ガハクとブラシ

fancomi



## A day in the life of Gahaku the painter and his beloved dog Brush

One day, Gahaku the painter and his beloved dog Brush find a nice spot to paint outdoors. They are preparing their tools when all sorts of different creatures come out and ask to be painted. An elephant and a giraffe come running from far away and strike a weird pose. "Paint us!" They request in unison. "No, no, paint us!" Prairie dogs and moles pop out of the dirt one by one and state in reply. Then trees, clouds, thunders, rivers, fishes and birds, a mountain and the sun itself all fiercely ask for their portrait to be taken. Gahaku finishes up all their paintings amid a great hubbub of excitement, but in the end which is his favorite? The latest picture book by one of the most in vogue contemporary Japanese illustrators enchants readers with bright illustrations and a funny, rhythmical story.

**fancomi** is the nickname of illustrator and designer Jun Omori, born in Saitama Prefecture in 1980. After graduating in 2004 from the Department of Design at Tokyo Zokei University, he joined the A&A Masuteru Aoba Design Office. He is currently active as a freelance illustrator and designer in a wide variety of fields, ranging from product packaging, advertising, magazine and book design. He was a finalist in the 3rd "1\_WALL" Graphics Competition. His books include *Boku no hon* (My Book) and *Sore wa mata betsu no hanashi* (That's a Different Story), as well as the bilingual (Japanese and English) *Small Story* and *Neko ga taiyaki tabechatta* (The Cat Ate the Taiyaki).

Look Inside



ISBN: 978-4-09-726718-8  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2017  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional)  
 Age: 5+

## The Dinosaur Audition

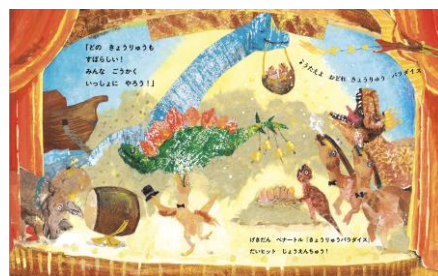
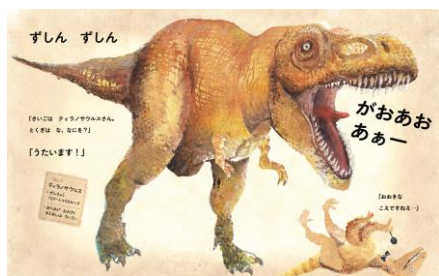
*Kyoryu odishon* / きょうりゅうオーディション

Chisato Tashiro

### Welcome to dinosaur paradise!

The dinosaur audition is held under the light-hearted supervision of Fukuivenator, a small dinosaur measuring 245 centimeters in length and weighing 25 kilograms. Various dinosaurs, keen to take part in his new musical, come to show their special skills. A long-necked Brachiosaurus, a Triceratops with a large bony frill and three horns, a singing Tyrannosaurus with a huge mouth...Who will win the competition and take part in the final musical? Based on thorough research at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, one of the world-leading dinosaur museums, *The Dinosaur Audition* is representative of Chisato Tashiro's award-winning work, for the use of a variety of materials and painting methods such as printmaking and collage. In particular, the bow tie of the Fukuivenator, the audition's judge, is made from fossils excavated by Tashiro herself at the museum.

**Chisato Tashiro** is a children's book author and illustrator, born in Tokyo in 1969. She illustrated the picture book *Mori no koe* (Voices of the Forest) for EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Her 2003 picture book *Boku wa kameroon* (Chameleon's Colors) was published in English by North-South Books (tr. Marianne Martens) among other languages. In 2011, *Hikkoshi daisakusen 5 hiki no sutekina nezumi* (Five Nice Mice Build a House), published in English by minedition, won the Japan Picture Book Award. Her work was selected for the 21st Bratislava World Picture Book Original Illustration Exhibition.



Look Inside



ISBN: 978-4-09-725309-9  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2023  
 Age: 5+

## The Dinosaur Sports Day

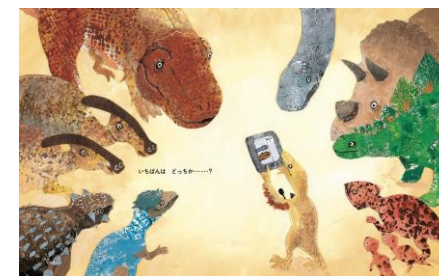
*Kyoryu undokai* / きょうりゅううんどうかい

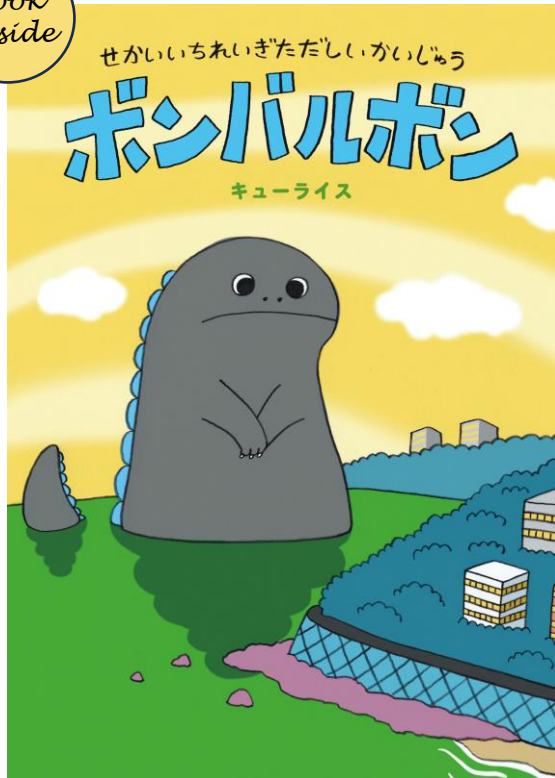
Chisato Tashiro

### At sports day it is dinosaur galore!

In this follow-up to *The Dinosaur Audition*, Ankylosaurus, Pachycephalosaurus, Psittacosaurus and a total of other twenty-one dinosaurs, pterosaurs, and sea creatures gather for sports day. Under the watchful eye and lively commentary of Fukuivenator, dinosaurs challenge each other in all sorts of races from carrying eggs while flying and rolling ammonites to pulling rope and speed racing. Is the Tyrannosaurus really faster than the Mamenchisaurus? Japan Picture Book Award-winning author, Chisato Tashiro, creates patterns and collages through humble materials such as wood, stones, and leaves to vividly depict the dinosaurs' endearing adventures and give a sense of just how long ago the dinosaurs lived.

**Chisato Tashiro** is a children's book author and illustrator, born in Tokyo in 1969. She illustrated the picture book *Mori no koe* (Voices of the Forest) for EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Her 2003 picture book *Boku wa kameroon* (Chameleon's Colors) was published in English by North-South Books (tr. Marianne Martens) among other languages. In 2011, *Hikkoshi daisakusen 5 hiki no sutekina nezumi* (Five Nice Mice Build a House), published in English by minedition, won the Japan Picture Book Award. Her work was selected for the 21st Bratislava World Picture Book Original Illustration Exhibition.



Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725233-7  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2023  
 Age: 3+



# Bonbalbon, the World's Kindest Monster

*Sekai ichi reigi tadashii kaiju bonbarubon / せかいいちれいきただしいかいじゅう ボンバルボン*

Q-rais

Cute, funny, and a little surreal—a new monster is in town!

One day, a humongous, enormous monster emerges from the sea. The town is in an uproar. With courage in hand, the mayor boards a helicopter and approaches the terrifying sea creature. Just as he is about to plead for the safety of the town and its people, the monster bows deeply and offers gifts. “I’d like to bask in the sun a little. May I come ashore?” He asks. How humble! How sweet! How polite! The mayor is impressed and welcomes the monster in town. Will the mayor regret his decision? Will the town come through unscathed? Rumble, rumble, the ground vibrates once again...Meet Bonbalbon, the latest surprising new character by popular Japanese artist Q-rais.



Yusuke Sakamoto, better known as **Q-rais**, has been making short animations since high school. After graduating from Tokyo Zokei University, he worked at Tohokushinsha Film Corporation and has been a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator since 2017. He was the grand prize winner of the 19th DigiCon6 ASIA for his film *Kamo ga suki* (I Like Ducks). His picture books include *Chikyu-chan* (Earthy), *Don Ussa sora o tobu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky) and *Abare neko* (Rough Cat).





ISBN: 978-4-09-725217-7  
 Pages: 54 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: April 2023  
 Age: 3+

# What's for Lunch?

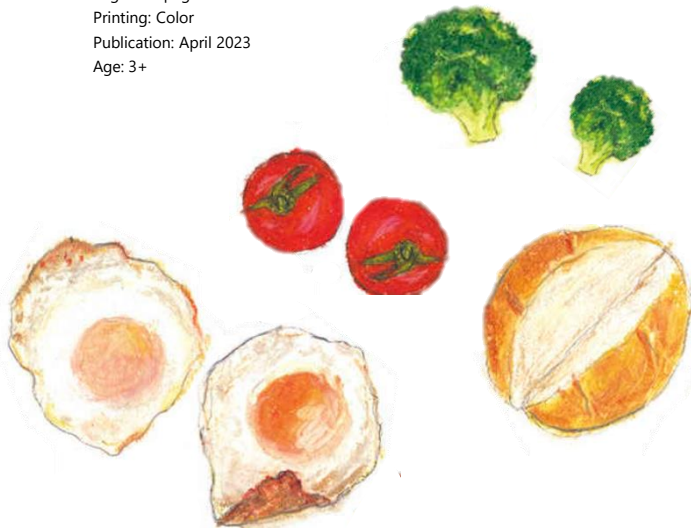
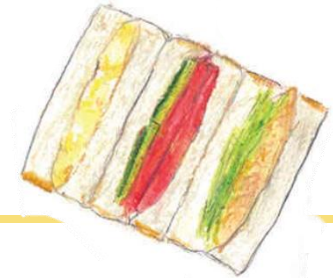
*Obento nani ireyou? / おべんとう なにいれよう?*

## Ikeda Mame

### Is it a hamburger or a spaghetti kind of day?

Mixed sandwiches for a playdate at the park. Fried chicken with plenty of rice and vegetables to take along on sports day. Sushi rolls with a sprinkling of pink petals to savor beneath the blooming cherry trees. Let's pack our own lunch boxes and go on an adventure! Includes a board book with four different lunch boxes and eighty-five cut out sheets with a large variety of fish, meat, fruit and vegetables to choose from. Cut your favorite foods with scissors, tear the paper rice and seaweed with your hands and place them in the lunch box that most inspires you. By putting together their own meals children are encouraged to think about what foods they like, what colors they want to use, and how to organize the space in their lunch boxes. This book not only stimulates parent-child communication, but teaches children to appreciate the warmth and love that goes into the preparation of a homemade meal. Part of Shogakukan's *Paperpuntas* series of activity books that allow young children (and children at heart) to experience the excitement of manipulating paper and creating something new with their own hands. Tear, cut, fold—the possibilities are endless!

**Ikeda Mame** is a Japanese manga artist and illustrator, born in Izumo City, Shimane Prefecture, in 1992. After graduating from high school, she worked as assistant chef for three years before moving to Osaka to paint. Her work mainly focuses on illustrations for book covers and exhibitions. In 2016, she was awarded the Masayoshi Nakajo Award at the HB File Competition. Her books include *Aji ga aru* (Tasty), *Onaka ga hetta* (I'm Hungry), *Watashi no kangaeru kotto* (This Is How I Feel About Antiques), *Ekiben to fukei* (Station Lunch Boxes and Landscapes). Eggs are her favorite food.



Look  
Inside



ISBN: 978-4-09-725202-3  
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Printing: Color  
Publication: December 2022  
Age: 6+

## Sato the Rabbit, the Morning Sun

*Usagi no Sato-kun asahi / うさぎのさとくん あさひ*

Yuki Ainoya

One day Sato decides to become a rabbit and a rabbit he has been ever since. Welcome to the whimsical world of Sato the rabbit, where the ordinary becomes extraordinary!

In this fourth installment of the endearingly surreal *Sato the Rabbit* series, Yuki Ainoya explores the theme of light, how it can be manipulated as a physical object and used in ways we would never have thought of. In the first half of the book, entitled *Asahi* (Morning Sun), Sato grabs the slit of morning sunlight peeking through the curtains of his room and uses it as a tool for various purposes. He stirs with it his coffee, scoops up sparkles from the river, lights a fire with it, cooks and eventually eats it. By the time the slit of sunlight is all gone, night has fallen and it is dark again. In the second and last story of the book, entitled *Todai* (Lighthouse), Sato's room turns into a lighthouse quietly floating in the sea. The sound of the waves, curiously shaped clouds and an enchanting sunset are only some of the wonders Sato discovers inside the seashells he finds on his way.

Praise for the English edition of the series

"Charming artwork illustrates the interconnectedness among nature, children, and creativity...Sweet, surreal, and contemplative." *Kirkus Reviews*

"A surreal symphony of vibrant colors and images...a satisfying ode to the deep power—and beauty—of the imagination." *Nanette McGuinness, World Kid Lit*

**Yuki Ainoya** was born in Yokohama and studied Japanese Art in the Art & Design Department of Tama Art University. She was the winner of the Crayon House Children's Book Grand Prize in 1990 and the Japanese Children's Book Award in 2007 for the original Japanese edition of *Sato the Rabbit*. In her spare time, she likes playing the accordion and hula dancing.



## Sato the Rabbit

*Usagi no Sato-kun / うさぎのさとくん*

Yuki Ainoya

ISBN: 978-4-09-727490-2  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: April 2006  
Rights Sold: [Catalan](#), [English](#), [Romanian](#), [Spanish](#)  
Age: 6+



## Sato the Rabbit, the Moon

*Usagi no Sato-kun tsuki yo / うさぎのさとくん つきよ*

Yuki Ainoya

ISBN: 978-4-09-726352-4  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2008  
Rights Sold: [English](#), [Romanian](#)  
Age: 6+



## Sato the Rabbit, a Sea of Tea

*Usagi no Sato-kun kocha no umi / うさぎのさとくん こうちゃのうみ*

Yuki Ainoya

ISBN: 978-4-09-726552-8  
Pages: 60 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: September 2014  
Rights Sold: [English](#), [Romanian](#)  
Age: 6+



Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725193-4  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: October 2022  
 Agent: Japan Uni Agency (World, excluding Asia)  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, Korean  
 Age: 3+



## The Snow Theater

*Yuki no gekijo* / ゆきのげきじょう

Ryoji Arai

**Under a blanket of white snow, a warm and gentle tale unfolds**

An illustrated book of butterflies is a father's most treasured possession. Yellow, red, white, orange, green butterflies...On a cold, snowy day a boy shows the book to his friend and together they marvel at the beautiful colors. The boy's friend would love to borrow the book and take a closer look, but he tugs it a little too hard and a page suddenly rips. Can his father ever forgive him?

The boy puts on his skis and ventures out in the snow. Troubled thoughts spinning in his head, he suddenly falls in a hole and right in front of him, nestled in the snow, a tiny theater appears. Snow ballerinas twirl at the soft tune of little snowmen singing. As more and more snow continues to fall, the theater magically grows bigger and bigger. The boy is lost in the majestic scene, until—"Hey!" A familiar voice suddenly calls from afar and before he knows it, his father is by his side.

**Ryoji Arai** is a Japanese picture book artist living in Tokyo. Born in 1956 in Yamagata Prefecture, he majored in design at Nihon University College of Art. He published his first picture book, *Melody*, in 1990. Since then, he has published more than sixty picture books and illustrated more than two hundred other children's books. Ryoji Arai has also worked with advertising, magazine illustration and theatre set design. He has received many honors in Japan and overseas, including the IBBY Honor List and the Bologna Ragazzi Award. His art has been exhibited in more than ten Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) as the artist representing Japan. In 2005, Ryoji Arai became the first Japanese author to be awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The poem *Almost Nothing, yet Everything: A Book about Water* (Enchanted Lion Books, 2021) written by Hiroshi Osada and illustrated by Ryoji Arai was selected as a USBBY Outstanding International Book of 2022.

Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725211-5  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2023  
 Age: 3+



## The Lone Wolf and the Star

*Ippiki okami to ohoshi-sama* / いっぴきおおかみとおほしさま

Maiko Matsumura

**A magical story about the healing power of twinkling stars shining bright in the sky**

On a clear, starry night a lone wolf running free through the woods meets a star shining bright in the sky. The star is a little tired of always shining in the same fixed place and longs to be as free as the lone wolf. Meanwhile, the wolf admits that it is sure fun to be free, but sometimes a hollow feeling creeps up in the pit of its stomach. "Let's run together!" The wolf suggests. But how could the star break free from its constellation? That's when they come up with an ingenious idea that will allow them to enjoy some time together.

With delicate brushstrokes and vibrant colors, Maiko Matsumura makes light shine through the darkness. At a time when interpersonal relationships have been weakened by the pandemic, her book reminds us of the tenderness and kindness to be found in friendship and mutual care.

**Maiko Matsumura** was born in Nara in 1985. She graduated from the Faculty of Design at Kyoto Seika University and in 2009, just before completing her studies, her work was selected for the Bologna International Picture Book Original Drawing Exhibition. She subsequently moved to Tokyo where she worked for an import book company. She is currently a full-time mother, as well as a painter and an author of picture books. For Iwanami Shoten she illustrated the Japanese edition of *A Picture Book Without Pictures* by Hans Christian Andersen. Her books include *Anata wa sekai no kodomo* (You Are a Child of the World) and the self-published *Hajimaru hajimari* (The Beginning of the Beginning).

Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725138-5  
 Pages: 48 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2022  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean  
 Age: 5+



# The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises

*Daipinchi zukan* / 大ピンチずかん

Noritake Suzuki

The picture book that took post-COVID Japan by storm for teaching children easy but effective stress-coping techniques

Over 400,000 copies sold in Japan

In this illustrated guide, the many possible major crises faced by children in their daily life are categorized according to “level of emergency” and “likelihood of occurrence,” from the least urgent crisis to the most serious one. In addition, each occurrence is accompanied by a description of a similar crisis and suggestions on how to cope with it. With this one book, children will be prepared to overcome whatever obstacle comes your way.



**Noritake Suzuki** was born in 1975 in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the Readers' Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Shigotoba Tokyo Sukai Tsuri* (Workplaces: Tokyo Sky Tree). Major works include the *Shigotoba* (Workplaces) series, *Kawa* (River), and *Oshiri o shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts). *Daipinchi zukan* (The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises) was awarded the Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prize, the Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prize and the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize.

Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725149-1  
 Pages: 36 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2022  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)  
 Age: 3+

## Vroom Vroom, Splosh

*Buroron dororon / ブロロンどろん*

Nao Takabatake

A car is speeding by and there is paint on the road. Can you guess what will happen next?

On the sidewalk a can of paint has fallen over, spilling paint on the main road. When cars rush by, over and over people on the sidewalk are splashed with colorful paint. Every time you turn the page, you will be amazed by the outlandish shapes people's silhouette leave impressed on the wall. Welcome to the spontaneous and richly imaginative world of Nao Takabatake.

**Nao Takabatake** was born in Gifu Prefecture in 1978 and graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at Tokyo Zokei University. In 2003, he won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for *Mukatta saki wa* (The Destination) and in 2013, he received the Japan Picture Book Award for *Kaeru no odekake* (Frog's Day Out). He is the son of Jun Takabatake, one of Japan's best-loved illustrators of children's literature.

Look  
Inside

ISBN: 978-4-09-725085-2  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2020  
 Age: 3+

## Climbing a Cow

*Ushi tozan / うしとざん*

Nao Takabatake

2021 Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award  
 2021 Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award

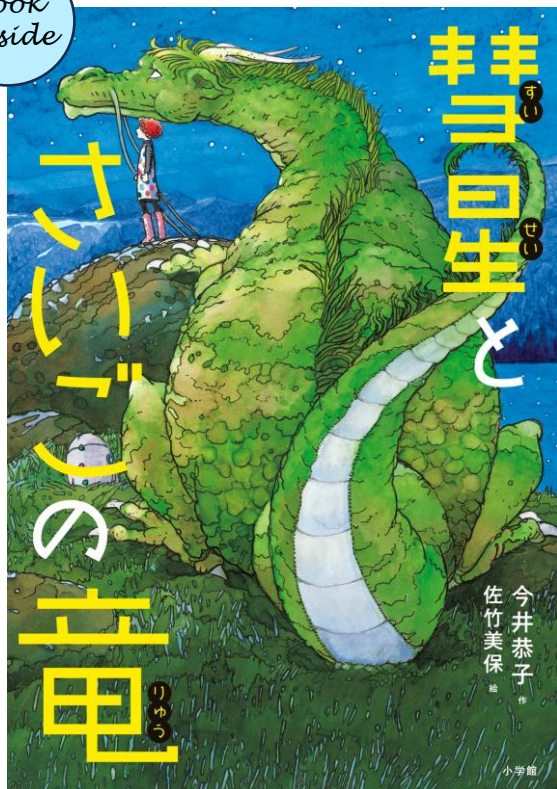
Cows are easy to climb. Let's give it a try. Grab and hold on tight! Grab and hold on tight! By grabbing on to the hair of the cow's front hooves, up the man climbs. What will he find once he reaches the top? Why is he climbing a cow?

Nao Takabatake's unique charm is on full display in this eccentric and unexpected story that will make you smile no matter how many times you read it.

**Nao Takabatake** was born in Gifu Prefecture in 1978 and graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at Tokyo Zokei University. In 2003, he won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for *Mukatta saki wa* (The Destination) and in 2013, he received the Japan Picture Book Award for *Kaeru no odekake* (Frog's Day Out). He is the son of Jun Takabatake, one of Japan's best-loved illustrators of children's literature.



# CHAPTER BOOKS

Look  
Inside

Category: Fantasy  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289329-0  
 Pages: 120 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: June 2023  
 Age: 7+

# The Comet and the Last Dragon

*Suisei to saigo no ryu* / 彗星とさいごの竜

Written by **Kyoko Imai**, Illustrated by **Miho Satake**

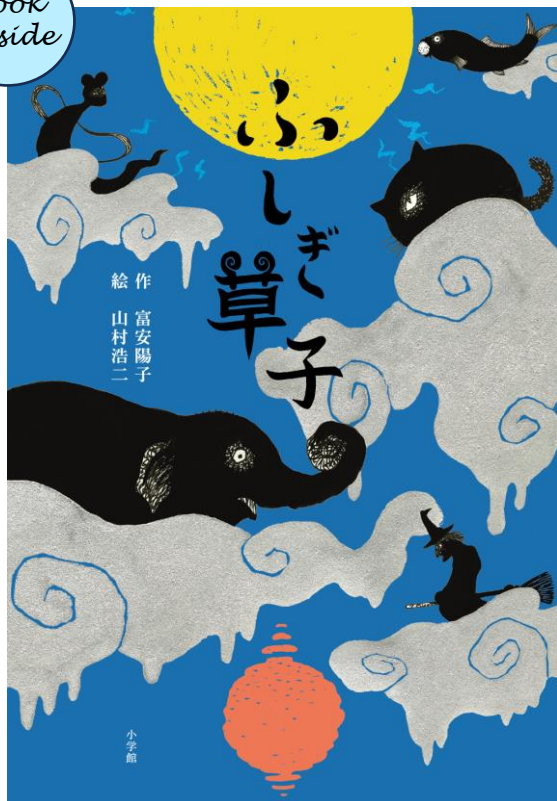
## A sweet dragon and a clever young girl team up in an epic mission to save planet Earth

In a faraway land, lost deep in the mountains, lives the last dragon. “Whatever you do, never stop being proud of who you are,” his mother told him. But having lost his parents before he could even learn to fly, he never had any pride to begin with. He simply doesn’t know what being a real dragon is supposed to feel like. One day as he is napping in the chest-high water of the marsh, a strangely dressed girl frightens him awake. “You can fly, can’t you?” She is staring so intently at him that he thinks he might be about to be sold to a circus or to a zoo. As it turns out, the girl is on a mission. A large comet is about to destroy planet Earth. But, having come from a family of famous astronauts, astrologers, computer scientists and whatnot, the brave girl is not about to give in. She has a plan to correct the comet’s orbit and avoid a collision with planet Earth. The only missing piece in her plan is the legendary star-swallowing dragon...With only seven days left before the end of all life on planet Earth, will the dragon learn to fly? Award-winning author of children’s literature, Kyoko Imai, and master of fantasy illustration, Miho Satake, take us on a magic adventure showing the power of true friendship.

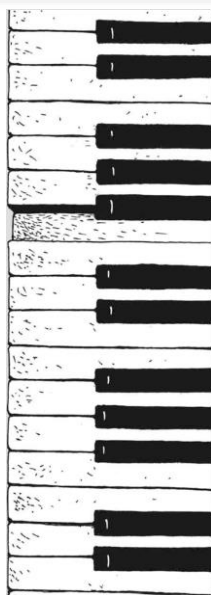
**Kyoko Imai** is a Japanese author of children’s literature, born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1949. In 1984, she started writing essays and novels, and later turned to children’s literature. She is the recipient of many awards including the 2003 Ogawa Mimei Literary Award for *Aruki dasu natsu* (Walking Summer). In 2018, *Konpira inu* (Konpira Dog) won the Japanese Children’s Literature Association Award, the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award and the Shogakukan Children’s Publishing Culture Award.

**Miho Satake** is a Japanese artist and illustrator, born in Toyama Prefecture. She first made her debut as an illustrator in the science fiction magazine *Kiso Tengai* (Fantastic) and created numerous works in the fields of science fiction and fantasy. She is best known for illustrating the Japanese editions of several classic children’s books including *Howl’s Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones, *Kiki’s Delivery Service* by Eiko Kadono, and the 20th anniversary edition of the Harry Potter series. The English-language edition of *Kimyoji yokocho no natsu* (Temple Alley Summer, tr. Avery Fischer Udagawa) written by Sachiko Kashiwaba and illustrated by Miho Satake won the 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award.



Look  
Inside

Category: Mystery  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289324-5  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: April 2023  
 Age: 9+



# Eerie Tales

*Fushigi soshi* / ふしぎ草子

Written by **Yoko Tomiyasu**, Illustrated by **Koji Yamamura**

## A collection of eight stories of the eerie and strange

Strange noises coming from an unused music room. What is it that lurks inside, waiting behind its doors? A football kicked in a deserted park during morning practice disappears into the heavy fog. Driving towards a hot spring in the middle of a blizzard, the road becomes narrower and narrower until it is impossible to move. While playing on a swing, a little girl's shoe flies into the air and lands in a witch's garden...

With stunning black and white illustrations by internationally-acclaimed animation artist Koji Yamamura and references to contemporary issues such as global warming and declining birthrate, this collection of eight chilling (yet totally plausible) short stories will make you shiver with fear and excitement.

**Yoko Tomiyasu** is a fantasy writer of children's literature, born in Tokyo in 1959. Deeply attracted to stories of ghosts and ogres since she was a child, in her works she often adapts characters from Japanese folktales and legends. She is the recipient of the Newcomer Award from the Japanese Association of Writers for Children and the Shogakukan Children's Publication Culture Award for *Kunugi bayashi no zawazawa so* (Noisy House in the Chestnut Woods), the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award for *Sora e tsuzuku shinwa* (The Nature God of the Skies), the 2002 IBBY Honor List Literature Award for *Yamanba yama no mokko-tachi* (Mokko in Mount Yamamba) and the Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature for *Bon maneki* (Invitation to the Summer Festival of Bon). She currently lives in Osaka with her husband and two sons.

**Koji Yamamura** is an animation artist and illustrator of children's literature. He was born in Nagoya in 1964 and studied painting at Tokyo Zokei University. His most famous films are the 2002 *Atama yama* (Mt. Head) nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film and winner of the Short Film Award at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival, and the 2007 animated adaptation of Franz Kafka's *A Country Doctor*, winner of the Ottawa Grand Prize. He is the only director to win the Grand Prize at all four major animation festivals in the world and in 2021 was selected as one of the 25 best short-film directors of the past 25 years. In addition, his picture book *Oyasai, oyasai* (Vegetables, Vegetables) written by Chihiro Ishizu has become a long-seller, having sold over 460,000 copies in Japan to date.



Look  
Inside

Category: Fantasy / Romance  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-231437-5  
 Pages: 192 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: January 2023  
 Age: 9+

# Gold Kingdom and Water Kingdom

*Kin no kuni mizu no kuni* / 金の国水の国

Written by **Yui Tokiumi**, Illustrated by **Nao Iwamoto**

The manga that for the first time in history topped Japanese bestselling charts for two consecutive years comes to life in a new romantasy novel!

In a faraway land, war breaks out between two neighboring countries, the Gold Kingdom and the Water Kingdom, whose rulers are quarreling over trivial matters. The Gold Kingdom is rich and wealthy, but is on the verge of extinction due to a severe water shortage. On the other hand, the Water Kingdom boasts luxurious nature and water reserves, but its people are poor and out of work. Eventually the gods intercede and order that the most beautiful girl in the Gold Kingdom should marry the wisest young man in the Water Kingdom.

Princess Sarah is asked to travel to the Water Kingdom, but the Gold Kingdom actually sends a cat. A charming man named Naranbayar is chosen from the Water Kingdom, but a dog is sent to the Gold Kingdom instead. Fearing the truth might lead to a resurgence of war, Sarah and Naranbayar act as a married couple and pretend to be in love. This is the story of two intelligent and kind-hearted people whose plan to stop the conflict between their countries and open diplomatic relations, ends up moving their own hearts as well.

**Yui Tokiumi** was born in Nagano Prefecture. Before becoming a novelist, she worked at a history museum, where she was involved in the excavation of archaeological sites and in the research and study of historical and folklore materials. She is known for her adaptation of manga series, video games and other classics into literary form. *Shigatsu wa kimi no uso* (Your Lie in April), a light-novel spin-off of Naoshi Arakawa's homonymous manga series, was published in English by Vertical in 2014.

**Nao Iwamoto** is an award-winning manga artist born in Okayama Prefecture. In 2009, she won the Shogakukan Manga Award for *Machi de uwasa no tengu no ko* (Tengu Child of Town Rumors). Her manga *Marronnier okoku no shichinin no kishi* (Seven Knights of the Marronnier Kingdom) is currently being serialized in the monthly magazine *Flowers*. The anime film adaptation of *Kin no kuni mizu no kuni* (Gold Kingdom and Water Kingdom) was released in Japanese theaters in January 2023 and the English edition of the manga is scheduled for publication by Seven Seas Entertainment in November 2023.



Look  
Inside

Category: Fantasy  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-227245-3  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: March 2021  
 Age: 11+

# The Merry-Go-Round of Lost Stars

*Maigo no hoshi-tachi no meri go raundo* / 迷子の星たちのメリーゴーラウンド

Written by **Rieko Hinata**, Illustrated by **Munashichi**

## Unravel the mystery of a never-aging girl living alone in an abandoned amusement park

Haunted by the ghost of its founder, used as a base by aliens...the abandoned amusement park has been for years the object of all sorts of rumors. Mika, a mysterious girl who stopped growing at the age of three after an accident took place fifteen years ago, lives there alone. When the demolition of the park is finally approved, the local elementary and junior high schools are forced to close due to a series of strange incidents. Then, during summer vacation, in response to the girl's call five children with special powers gather at the park and through the diaries they keep the truth starts to unravel. Does Mika really hold the key to all the mysteries surrounding the abandoned amusement park!?

The five children's strange powers—communicating with whales, entering a bewildering world with fish heads in a shrine at night—evoke the loneliness many children experience as a consequence of being perceived as strange or living isolated in their communities. The extraordinary events taking place in the park, will inspire young readers to appreciate their individuality and help them understand that in our own peculiar way we all have a chance to find happiness.

**Rieko Hinata** is a Japanese author of children's literature. Her books include *Amefuru hon'ya* (The Rainy Bookshop), *Maho no niwa e* (To the Magic Garden) and *Nichiyobi no okoku* (The Kingdom of Sundays). In 2023, her series of fantasy novels *Hikari no o* (The Fire Hunter) was adapted into an anime TV series.

**Munashichi** is an illustrator well known in the anime and gaming industry for the concept design of the acclaimed video games *Tales of Zestiria* and *Tales of Berseria* and the concept artwork for the anime TV series *Princess Principal*. Popular for drawing extremely detailed retrofuturistic fantasy worlds, his books include *The Art of Munashichi* and *Entotsu machi no puperu* (Poupelle of Chimney Town).



Look  
Inside

Category: Coming of Age  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289311-5  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: June 2021  
 Age: 11+

# The Garden

*Niwa* / 庭

Rui Kodemari



**In the lush Hawaiian nature, a mixed-heritage girl embarks on a journey to find her roots**

"I used to think of myself as fun. But I don't like what I have become. Oh, I wish I could escape to a desert island." In her second year of junior high, Mana is bullied by her Japanese classmates on social networking sites for her Hawaiian origins and correct English pronunciation. Her best friend fails to defend her, the two drift apart and eventually Mana stops going to school.

During spring break, in desperate need of a change of scenery, she heads on her own to Hawaii, her father's homeland, for a brief stay. The intoxicating fragrance of flowers, the bright blue sky, the seemingly limitless expanse of the ocean...Will Mana be able to find her place in the magnificent Hawaiian landscape?

Mana's grandmother Heidi is blind and lives with her family in a remote location. Every morning the two step out into the garden and as she cuts weeds, removes older flower stems, and tends to unruly branches Mana learns to listen to the voice of nature and to the voice of her own heart. Against the backdrop of Hawaii's rich nature and cultural heritage, Rui Kodemari introduces young readers to the complex and often difficult history of immigration in Hawaii.

**Rui Kodemari** is a Japanese novelist, poet and essayist, born in Okayama Prefecture in 1956. Based in the U.S. since 1992, she writes novels, poems, fairy tales and picture books, while living in the New York State's woodlands. In 2019, she won the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Aru hareta natsu no asa* (On a Bright Summer Morning) about eight American high school students of various descent debating the rights and wrongs of the atomic bomb blasts on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. An English edition of the same book (tr. Glenn Sullivan) was published in 2021.



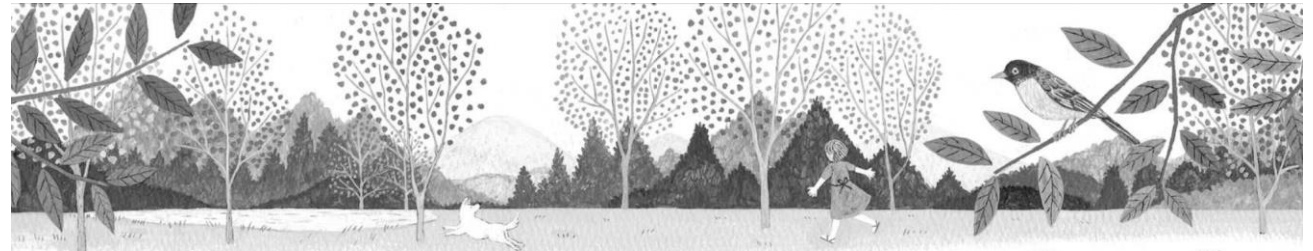
Look  
Inside

Category: Coming of Age  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289328-3  
 Pages: 224 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2023  
 Age: 11+

# Birds

*Tori* / 鳥

Rui Kodemari



**A delicate exploration of the friendship between two young girls spreading their wings across different continents**

Fourteen-year-old Chika lives with her mom and dog Poirot in the woods of New York State, where her mom runs Nanae's House, a secluded bed-and-breakfast in close contact with nature. Chika's parents divorced when she was five years old and her Japanese father has been living in Japan ever since. When she travels to Japan, Chika always visits her father's new family and is particularly close to her stepsister Erina, who is about her age. From the first time they were introduced, the two hit it off and began corresponding via e-mail. Since they both share a love for birds, they also formed the "Little Bird Society" with just the two of them as members. Erina is the head of the society's Japanese branch and Chika is the head of the American branch. In their exchanges, they compare events in their daily routine to those in the life of a bird, talk about love and send each other poems. Seven o'clock in the morning on the East Coast of the U.S. corresponds to eight o'clock in the afternoon in Japan, so Chika always starts her mornings by reading the e-mail she just received from Japan. When Chika's dog Poirot suddenly passes away at the end of the book, how will the two girls learn to accept the transience of life? By verbalizing their thoughts and feelings to one another, the two young girls learn not only to care for each other, but also to treasure the nature and living beings that surround them.

**Rui Kodemari** is a Japanese novelist, poet and essayist, born in Okayama Prefecture in 1956. Based in the U.S. since 1992, she writes novels, poems, fairy tales and picture books, while living in the New York State's woodlands.

Look  
Inside

Category: Romance  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-289318-4  
 Pages: 256 pages  
 Printing: Black & White  
 Publication: May 2022  
 Age: 11+

# Love Problems Never End

*Ren'ai mondai wa tomaranai* / 恋愛問題は止まらない

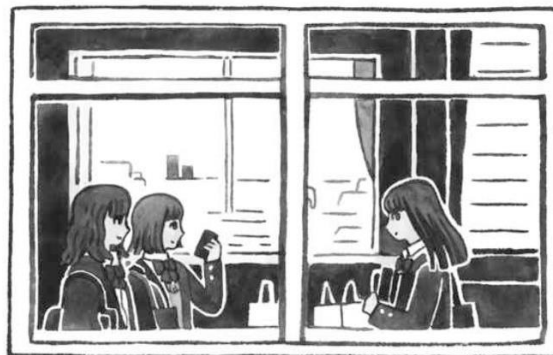
Mariko Yoshino

Love is like a rollercoaster—buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Rumor has it that the coach of the school's baseball team ordered all players to shave their heads by next week. They have been slacking off lately and the new hairstyle ought to strengthen their spirit. "Uesato has to shave off his soft curls?? I'll never allow that to happen!" Captain and attacker number four of the team, Uesato is everyone's dream boyfriend.



He claims to love baseball more than anything. But he and the head of his fan club are the official couple of the school. Is this true love? Will their relationship stand the test of time? Thirty-four episodes told from the point of view of thirty-four different schoolmates. Master Japanese screenwriter Mariko Yoshino skillfully navigates the daily ups and downs of school, love and friendship at a local junior high school.



**Mariko Yoshino** is a Japanese novelist and screenwriter, born in 1970 in Kanagawa Prefecture. After graduating from the Faculty of Humanities at Sophia University, she studied screenwriting in Osaka and worked in publishing. In 2005, she won the 1st Shincho Entertainment Award for *Aki no daisankaku* (Autumn Triangle) and has been writing literature for children and adults ever since. She won the Utsunomiya Children's Award and the Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature for both *Gekidan 6-nen 2-kumi* (Theater Company Year 6, Class 2) and *Himitsu no kotei* (The Secret Schoolyard). Her screenplay *73-nen mae no kamifusen* (The Paper Balloon from 73 Years Ago) won the Excellence Award in the Radio Drama Division at the 73rd Japan Arts Festival.



Look  
Inside

Category: Non-Fiction  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-227258-3  
 Pages: 176 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: June 2022  
 Age: 8+

# The Canned Mackerel that Became Space Food

*Uchu-shoku ni natta saba kan* / 宇宙食になったサバ缶

Yasuyuki Kosaka, Yoshiko Besshi

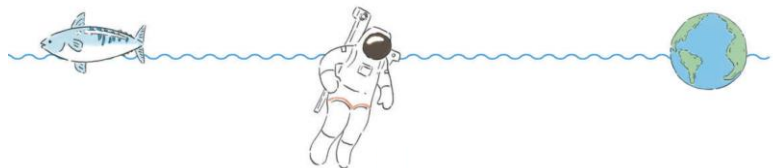


## The high school project that delivered food to space 8,500 copies sold in Japan

In November 2020, astronaut Soichi Noguchi released a video on YouTube in which he sampled in gravity-free conditions a dish of canned mackerel developed by high school students and praised it as “delicious.” *The Canned Mackerel that Became Space Food* covers the efforts of the over 300 students of Wakasa High School in Fukui Prefecture, who over the course of fourteen years turned canned mackerel into space food. The project started in 2006 with the simple suggestion of a student to develop a seafood product featuring the local specialty. But what kind of flavor would an astronaut want to taste in space? This is the story of a group of students who despite facing seemingly insurmountable difficulties were driven by their love for scientific exploration to persevere and make their shared dream come true. Their brainchild, a mackerel can reinforced by kudzu powder and strongly flavored with soy sauce, was granted Japanese-style space food status in 2018 by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The book also includes a list of other Japanese-style space food in the JAXA-certified menu and essays on nutrition and health in space.

**Yasuyuki Kosaka** holds a Ph.D. in Bioresources and teaches a Marine Science Course at Wakasa High School in Fukui Prefecture. “Learning because it’s fun!” is his motto as he engages in marine education and inquiry-based learning. He has led marine restoration projects in cooperation with local communities and product development using local ingredients.

**Yoshiko Besshi** was born in Fukui Prefecture. A member of the Japanese Association of Writers for Children and of the Japan Juvenile Writers Association, in 2014, she won the Ogawa Mimei Literary Award for Excellence for *Ototsu aiueo no tegami* (The Embossed Letter). Her non-fiction works include *Kami ga tsunagu monogatari* (Stories Connected by Hair).



# **BACKLIST**



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725205-4  
Pages: 36 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: November 2022  
Age: 3+

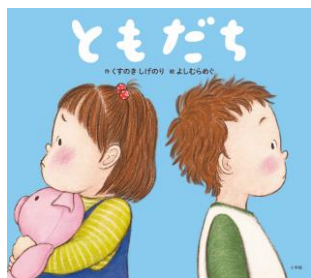
## Chit, the Witch in Training

*Chibikko majo no chitto* / ちびっこまじよのチット

Akiko Tanji

Chit dreams of becoming a witch as skilled as her teacher and is determined to practice as hard as she can to make her dream come true. However, as the day of her first test draws near, no matter how hard she tries the magical spell to turn a stone into a cake just does not seem to work. Strawberry shortcakes, blueberry pies, after tasting the gorgeous creations of the other aspiring little witches, what will the teacher think of Chit's shapeless blob? A book about the happy place in between success and failure.

**Akiko Tanji** is an illustrator and picture book author born in 1972. She currently lives in Tokyo with her cat, who is often portrayed in her artwork.



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725141-5  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: March 2022  
Age: 3+

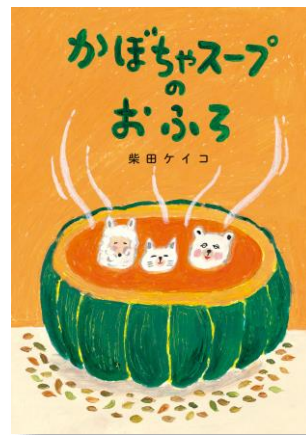
## Friends

*Tomodachi* / ともだち

Written by **Shigenori Kusunoki**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

On a bright sunny day, a little boy of about Mizuki's age moves into the house next door. Mizuki walks by timidly and says hello. When the boy responds with a strange hand gesture, Mizuki pulls a face that startles the boy and makes him run back into the house. With an illustrated guide to simple one-word signs, this book introduces young children to sign language.

**Shigenori Kusunoki** is a popular author of children's books and a lecturer. His bestselling books *Okodademasen-yoni* (I Hope I Don't Get Scolded) and *Megane o kaketara* (When She Put On Her Glasses) have been translated into many languages. **Megu Yoshimura** is a Japanese illustrator, who won in 2019 the MOE Picture Booksellers' Grand Prize for *Mamezara-chan* (The Bean Plate), written by Masumi Asano. For Shogakukan she has illustrated a series of children's books written by Eiko Kadono.



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725207-8  
Pages: 40 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: November 2022  
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean  
Age: 3+

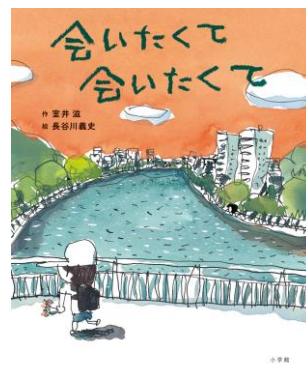
## The Pumpkin Soup Bath

*Kabocha supu no ofuro* / かぼちゃスープのお風呂

Keiko Shibata

On their way home, three good friends—a polar bear, an alpaca and a cat—are led astray by a delicious smell floating in the air. The smell comes from a huge pumpkin brimming with warm, creamy soup. A sign perched on the pumpkin reads, "Pumpkin soup bath. Please come in and warm yourself up, but under no circumstances are you to drink the soup!" Will the three friends be able to control their appetites? A laugh-out-loud picture book exploring what happens when one is told not to do something but can't help doing it anyway.

**Keiko Shibata** is an illustrator and picture book author based in Kochi Prefecture. She is the author of the *Pan dorobo* (Bread Thief) series that has sold more than 1,600,000 copies in Japan and won numerous awards.



Category: Picture Books  
ISBN: 978-4-09-725096-8  
Pages: 32 pages  
Printing: Color  
Publication: January 2021  
Rights Sold: Korean  
Age: 3+

## I Miss You So Much

*Aitakute aitakute* / 会いたくて会いたくて

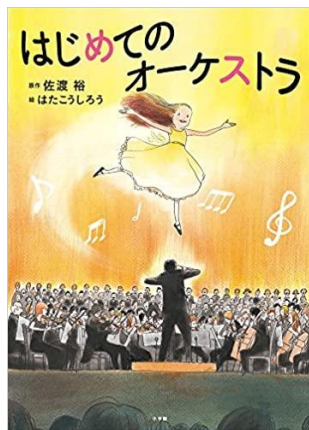
Written by **Shigeru Muroi**, Illustrated by **Yoshifumi Hasegawa**

An official selection of the Japan School Library Association  
40,000 copies sold in Japan

Kei loves his grandmother and wishes they never had to be apart. One day he sneaks out after school and heads straight to the nursing home where she lives. After several unsuccessful attempts to meet her, he finds a toilet paper core tied to a red string hanging from her window. He holds it against his ear, and as if by magic he can finally hear his grandmother's voice.

**Shigeru Muroi** is an award-winning actress, as well as the author of many picture books. **Yoshifumi Hasegawa** made his debut as a picture book author in 2000. In 2008, he was awarded the Japan Picture Book Award and the Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for *Boku ga ramen tabeteru toki* (When I Eat Ramen).





Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726671-6  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: October 2016  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), French, Korean  
 Age: 6+

## My First Orchestra

*Hajimete no okesutora* / はじめてのオーケストラ

Written by **Yutaka Sado**, Illustrated by **Koshiro Hata**

A six-year-old girl has a conductor for a father. But what does a conductor do? What does "orchestra" mean? When the occasion finally arrives to attend her father's concert, all the family dresses up and heads to the concert hall. The hall is brimming with musicians. As the stage goes dark and the girl's father takes the podium, the magic begins...The first picture book by world-renowned conductor, Yutaka Sado.

**Yutaka Sado** graduated from the Kyoto City University of Arts and studied under the late Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa, among others. Guest conductor of many prestigious orchestras in Europe, including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, in September 2015 he was appointed as Music Director of Austria's Tonkünstler Orchestra. **Koshiro Hata** is a picture book author, illustrator and book designer.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725056-2  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2020  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Korean  
 Age: 6+

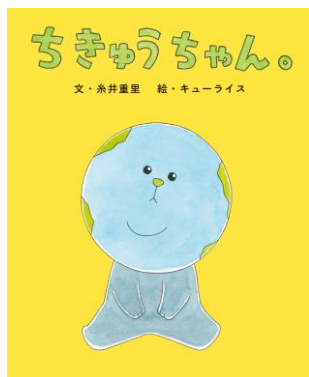
## The Mischiefous Architect

*Itazura no sukina kenchikuka* / いたずらのすきなけんちくか

Written by **Tadao Ando**, Illustrated by **Koshiro Hata**

Set in Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, the new library in Osaka Tadao Ando specifically dedicated to children, with floor-to-ceiling, outward-facing books. As two elementary school children are shown around by a mysterious man who looks very much like Mr. Ando, many questions surface. Why do you make these buildings? What does an architect do? The guide thoughtfully responds.

**Tadao Ando** is a self-taught architect, who at the age of twenty-eight established the Tadao Ando Architectural Institute. The Church of Light, the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and the Chichu Art Museum are among his most representative works. He was awarded numerous prizes, including the AIJ Prize and the Pritzker Architecture Prize. **Koshiro Hata** is a picture book author, a illustrator and book designer.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726842-0  
 Pages: 40 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2019  
 Age: 3+

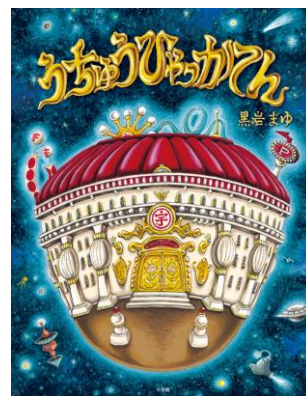
## Earthy

*Chikyu-chan* / ちきゅうちゃん

Written by **Shigesato Itoi**, Illustrated by **Q-rais**

One day, a boy receives a strange gift from his father. His name is Earthy and his round head looks just like planet Earth with oceans, mountains and people all peacefully living together on its surface. As days go by, the boy grows increasingly fond of his new friend. When the boy wonders what he can do for Earthy, a voice suddenly responds, "Why don't you just love him?" Shigesato Itoi's gentle but profound words remind us to show appreciation and love to the precious beings that surround us.

**Shigesato Itoi** is a copywriter, essayist, lyricist, and actor, but outside Japan he is best known as the game designer of Nintendo's *EarthBound* series of games. **Q-rais** is a full-time freelance animator, cartoonist and illustrator.



Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725115-6  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: July 2021  
 Age: 3+

## The Space Department Store

*Uchu hyakkaten* / うちゅうひゃくかてん

Written by **Mayu Kuroiwa**

Welcome to the Space Department Store, where even screaming children can't hold back their laughter! Make yourself comfortable and enjoy the best selection of goods and hospitality in the whole wide world. With a satisfied look on his face, the director monitors from his office customers from different planets as they swarm in and out of the various sections of his store. But does the entire universe express happiness with a smile?

**Mayu Kuroiwa** is a contemporary artist whose works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Japan, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum and the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. In her first picture book, *Uchu hyakkaten* (The Space Department Store), she transposes onto paper the bewitching atmosphere of her art installations.



Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726752-2  
 Pages: 24 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: November 2017  
 Age: 0+

## Fingertippy

*Yubisashi-chan / ゆびさしちゃん*

The Cabin Company

Fingertippy's black and round face hides in unexpected corners of the page. Point your finger and find her! The act of pointing is an important developmental milestone for babies. With playful and fun illustrations, this picture book encourages early shape and color recognition.

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of creative duo Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka. They are active in a wide range of fields, mainly in their hometown of Oita, including exhibitions, picture books, illustrations and workshops in galleries and shops. They are currently working in a former elementary school, which they renovated into their studio.



Category: Early Years  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726774-4  
 Pages: 32 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2018  
 Age: 0+

## Hoo Hoo

*Hoho / ほーほー*

The Cabin Company

The owl goes "hoo hoo hooooo," the frog "ribbit ribbit." Babies won't be able to resist the colorful costumes and amusing expressions of these cute animals, each emitting its own sound. As their eyesight develops, babies begin to respond to colors other than black and white. This new book by The Cabin Company with its rich and beautiful tints is sure to nurture your baby's emotional development.

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Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725058-6  
 Pages: 36 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: March 2020  
 Age: 5+

## Pokémon Island

*Pokémon no shima / ポケモンのしま*

The Cabin Company

A young boy reaches Pokémon Island on his small boat. As soon as the anchor is dropped, the boy and the Pokémon are best friends and enjoy their time together. They fly in the sky, dig holes, take naps in the fields, and eat curry. All too soon the time comes to say goodbye, but the time spent together is never to be forgotten. Don't miss the breathtaking scene where 151 Pokémon appear. A picture book for Pokémon fans of all ages.

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Category: Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726690-7  
 Pages: 34 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: December 2016  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)  
 Age: 3+

## Swoosh!

*Nyo-! / にょっ!*

The Cabin Company

Beneath the surface of the beautiful sea, "swoosh" and something appears. A silhouette is barely visible. "What is that?" is the question posed asked at every page. This picture book with its question-and-answer format and creative ideas will flex the muscles of your imagination.

**The Cabin Company** is the nickname of creative duo Kentaro Abe and Saki Yoshioka. They are active in a wide range of fields, mainly in their hometown of Oita, including exhibitions, picture books, illustrations and workshops in galleries and shops. They are currently working in a former elementary school, which they renovated into their studio.



Category: Braille Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725195-8  
 Pages: 12 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2021  
 Age: 3+

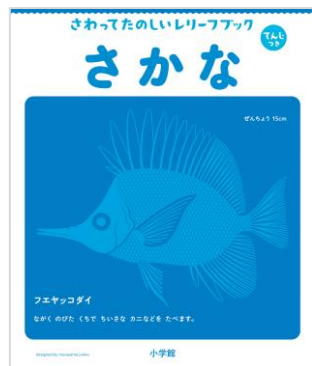
## The Animal Cracker Zoo

*Okashi no dobutsuen / おかしのどうぶつえん*

Junko Murayama

Explore the paths of this deliciously intricate zoo by tracing the embossed animal crackers with your fingertips. Elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras, rhinos, hippos and other irresistible animal-shaped crackers are lined up in clearly distinct sections and are easily recognizable thanks to their different shapes. Published in collaboration with the Association for the Publication and Dissemination of Braille Picture Books in Japan, Junko Murayama's unique tactile books with accordion-style binding can be enjoyed together by blind, visually impaired and sighted children.

**Junko Murayama** became a book designer after graduating from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University. The award-winning three volumes of the *Sawaru meiro* (Touch and Feel Mazes) series were her first braille picture books.



Category: Braille Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725101-9  
 Pages: 12 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2021  
 Age: 3+

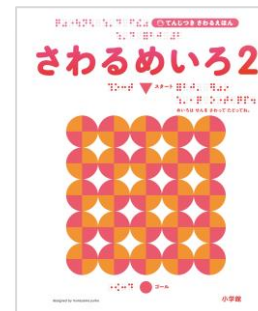
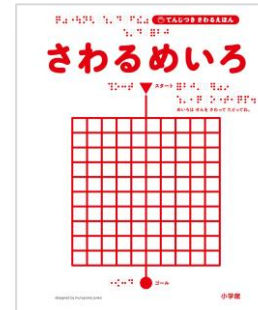
## Fish

*Sakana / さかな*

Junko Murayama

Discover amazing aquatic creatures with your fingertips. White sharks, coelacanths, seahorses, flying fish and boxfish, more than twenty species of marine fish are included in this new illustrated tactile book by Junko Murayama. The surprising shape of bodies, scales and thorns will blow you away. Published in collaboration with the Association for the Publication and Dissemination of Braille Picture Books in Japan, Junko Murayama's unique tactile books with accordion-style binding can be enjoyed together by blind, visually impaired and sighted children.

**Junko Murayama** became a book designer after graduating from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University. The award-winning three volumes of the *Sawaru meiro* (Touch and Feel Mazes) series were her first braille picture books.



## Touch and Feel Mazes

*Sawaru meiro / さわるめいろ*

Junko Murayama

Recommended by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)

Category: Braille Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726497-2  
 Pages: 12 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: February 2013  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Traditional), English, German  
 Age: 5+

## Touch and Feel Mazes 2

*Sawaru meiro 2 / さわるめいろ2*

Junko Murayama

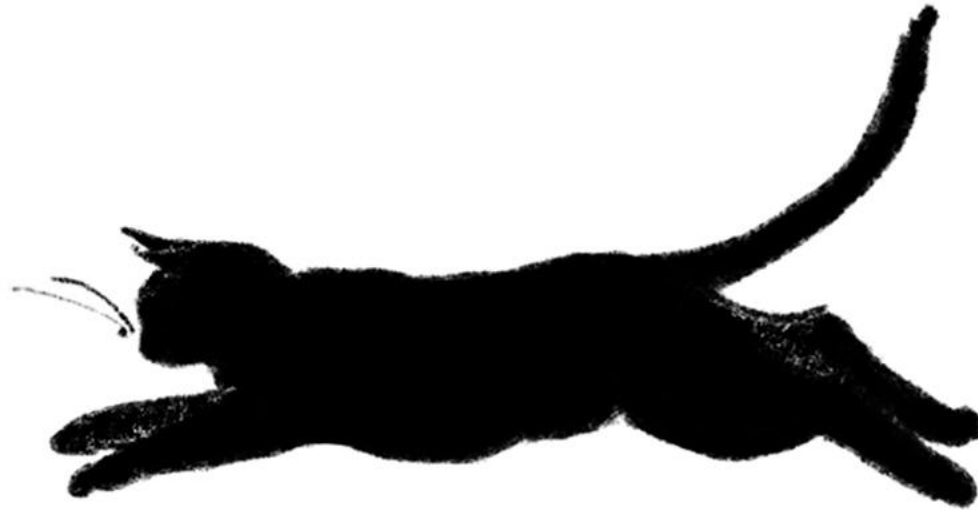
Category: Braille Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-726575-7  
 Pages: 12 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: January 2015  
 Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), German  
 Age: 5+

## Touch and Feel Mazes 3

*Sawaru meiro 3 / さわるめいろ3*

Junko Murayama

Category: Braille Picture Books  
 ISBN: 978-4-09-725011-1  
 Pages: 12 pages  
 Printing: Color  
 Publication: September 2019  
 Age: 5+



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