



SHOGAKUKAN
100th

Foreign Rights Guide

Spring 2023

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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 in print, digital and audio form—comic books for children and adults, educational and entertainment magazines as well as 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.



Company Name: SHOGAKUKAN Inc.
Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
Founded: August 8, 1922
President: Nobuhiro Oga
Capital: 147 million yen
Sales: 105.7 billion yen (2021 fiscal year)
Employees: 687 (as of January 2023)

PLEASE CONTACT:

Shogakukan Inc.
2-3-1 Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 101-8001, JAPAN
www.shogakukan.co.jp

✉ rights_inquiry@shogakukan.co.jp

Contents

HIGHLIGHTS

[04](#)

Yuki Ainoya [05](#)

Ryoji Arai [07](#)

Maiko Matsumura [08](#)

Akiko Tanji [09](#)

Keiko Shibata [10](#)

Shigesato Itoi [11](#)

Noritake Suzuki [12](#)

Rikako Matsuo [13](#)

The Cabin Company [14](#)

EARLY YEARS

[15](#)

PICTURE BOOKS

[21](#)

HOME LEARNING

[29](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Sato the Rabbit Series

Usagi no Sato-kun / うさぎのさとくん

Yuki Ainoya

One day Sato decides to become a rabbit and a rabbit he has been ever since. In the whimsical world of award-winning author Yuki Ainoya, the ordinary becomes extraordinary. A puddle, a walnut, a starry night, the moon, a flower basket, a cup of tea or a giant raspberry, the most familiar encounters that populate our daily lives transport Sato on magical and unpredictable new adventures.

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
Age: 6+
Rights Sold: [English](#), [Romanian](#)



Sato the Rabbit

Usagi no Sato-kun / うさぎのさとくん

Yuki Ainoya

A 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Book
A Horn Book Fanfare Best Book of 2021
A Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book of 2021
A Bank Street College of Education Best Book of 2022

As Sato waters his garden, puddles on the ground become doors into the sky. A delicious watermelon becomes a boat in the sea. During a meteor shower, Sato catches stars to light a moonless night. The first book in a series whose brief poetic text and gentle illustrations in soft pastel colors are sure to hold readers in a warm, soothing embrace.

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

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
Age: 6+
Rights Sold: [English](#), [Romanian](#)



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.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725202-3
 Pages: 40 pages
 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

The fourth, long-awaited book in the endearingly surreal *Sato the Rabbit* series. The main theme of this book is light. Yuki Ainoya explores how light 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 with it a fire, cooks and eventually eats it. By the time the slit of sunlight is all gone, night has fallen and it is dark again.

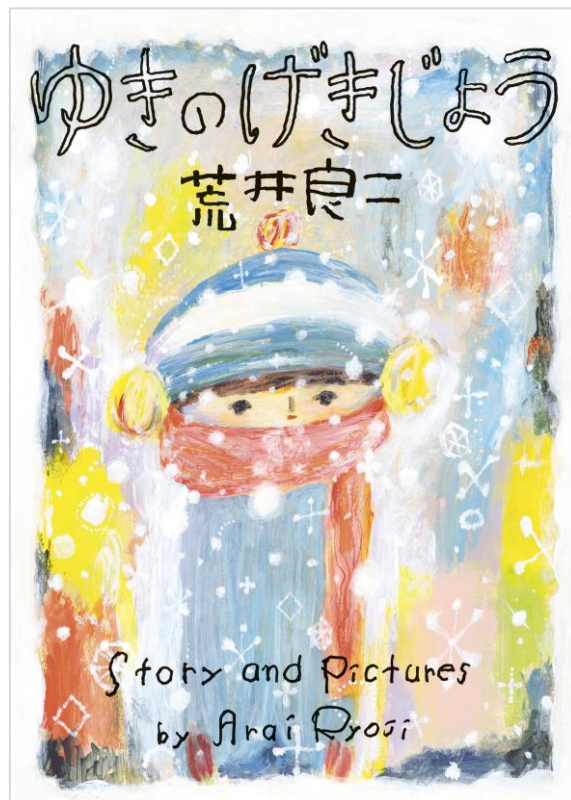
In the second and last story of the book, entitled *Todai* (Lighthouse), Sato's room turns into a lighthouse quietly floating in the sea. The sound of the waves, curiously shaped clouds and an enchanting sunset are only some of the wonders Sato discloses from the seashells he finds on his way.



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 McGuiness, *World Kid Lit*



ISBN: 978-4-09-725193-4
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: October 2022
 Age: 3+
 Rights Sold: Korean

The Snow Theater

Yuki no gekijo / ゆきのげきじょう

Ryoji Arai

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 voice suddenly calls from afar and before he knows it his father is by his side. Under a blanket of white snow, a warm and gentle tale unfolds.



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 Honour 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.



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

The Lone Wolf and the Star

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

Maiko Matsumura

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 and decide to spend 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).



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

Selected for distribution in the McDonald's Happy Meal Readers Series

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. She is excited to take her first test and finally be able to wear a black pointy hat. However, as the day of the 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. She only manages to turn stones into purplish-brown crumbs with a foul smell that taste nothing like cake.

The night before the test she is so nervous she can't fall asleep, but thanks to the support of her furry friend in the morning she regains her confidence and decides to give it her all. Strawberry shortcakes, blueberry pies, walking past the gorgeous creations of the aspiring little witches, the teacher sticks her finger in the shapeless blob on Chit's plate and..."Yum, it may not look like much but it sure is tasty!" After all Chit does not pass her test but she learns about the happy place in between success and failure.

Akiko Tanji is an illustrator and picture book author born in 1972. The characters she designed for the *Yum. Yum. Yummy* short animation were featured on NHK's educational TV program "Let's Play in English." For Shogakukan she has illustrated the modern reinterpretation of two collections of classic Japanese *rakugo* stories. She currently lives in Tokyo with her cat, who is often portrayed in her artwork.





The Pumpkin Soup Bath

Kabocha supu no ofuro / かぼちゃスープのおふろ

Keiko Shibata

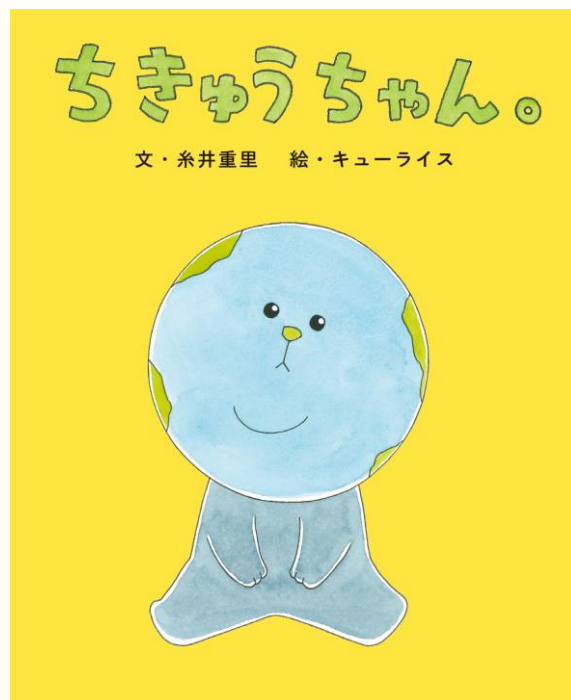
Selected for distribution in the McDonald's Happy Meal Readers Series

After playing late in the forest on a cold winter day, three good friends—a polar bear, an alpaca, and a cat—are hungry and exhausted. To get home faster, they decide to take a shortcut but a delicious smell floating in the air once again leads them astray. They soon find out that the smell comes from a huge pumpkin brimming with warm, creamy soup and overtaken with joy they run towards the ladder perched around its perimeter. As they are about to climb up the ladder, they notice a sign. "Pumpkin soup bath. Please come in and warm yourself up! But beware, 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.

ISBN: 978-4-09-725207-8
 Pages: 40 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: November 2022
 Age: 0+



Keiko Shibata is an illustrator and picture book author based in Kochi Prefecture. Since 2002 she has been active as a freelance illustrator in a wide range of areas, including books, magazines and advertising. Her first picture book, *Meganeko* (The Cat Who Wore Glasses), was published in 2016. 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, such as the Libro Picture Book Award and the Tsutaya Picture Book Award.



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

Earthy

Chikyū-chan / ちきゅうちゃん

Written by **Shigesato Itoi**, Illustrated by **Qrais**

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. Earthy gets on well with everyone and, even though he cannot speak, he is always there by his side. 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, born in 1948 in Gunma Prefecture, is a Japanese copywriter, essayist, lyricist, and actor, but outside Japan he is best known as the game designer of Nintendo's *EarthBound* series of games. He is the editor-in-chief of *Hobo Nikkan Itoi Shinbun* (Almost Daily Itoi Newspaper), which receives more than 1.2 million hits per day. Itoi has voiced Satsuki's father, Tatsuo Kusakabe, in the 1988 Studio Ghibli film *My Neighbor Totoro* and made his acting debut in 2010 in the film adaptation of Haruki Murakami's *Norwegian Wood*. He is the author of many books for children, including a picture book in verse, *Omedetou no ichinensei* (Congratulations on Starting First Grade) and the translator of the Japanese edition of the *Can You See What I See* series, illustrated by Walter Wick.

Qrais was born in 1985 in Tochigi Prefecture. In high school he taught himself to make puppet animations, and later at university he learnt *kirigami* animations. After graduating from the Animation Department of Tokyo Zokei University, he joined a video production company in 2009. While working as a commercial director on various audiovisual products, he also created short animations, cartoons, and illustrations. His main picture books include *Chikyū-chan* (Earthy) and *Don Ussa sora o tabu* (Don Ussa Flies Up to the Sky).



ISBN: 978-4-09-725138-5
 Pages: 48 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: February 2022
 Age: 5+

The Illustrated Guide to Major Crises

Daipinchi zukan / 大ピンチずかん

Noritake Suzuki

2022 Miraiya Picture Book Grand Prix

2022 Libro Picture Book Award Grand Prix

2022 MOE Picture Booksellers Grand Prix

Over 130,000 copies printed to date

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

Noritake Suzuki was born in 1975 in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture. After working as a company employee and graphic designer, he became a picture book author. He won the 17th Readers’ Prize at the Japan Picture Book Awards for *Boku no toire* (My Toilet) and the 62nd 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 wo shiritai* (I Want to Know More About Butts).



monpoké Series

monpoké ehon / モンポケえほん



Rikako Matsuo

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!



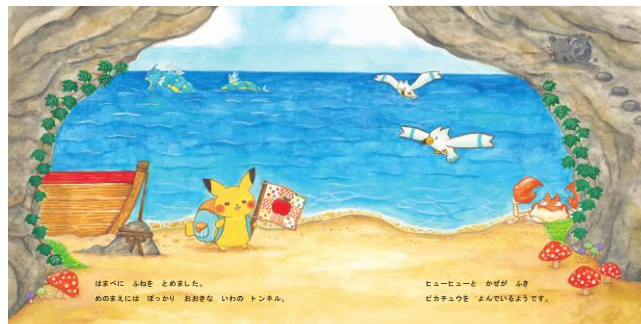
ISBN: 978-4-09-725136-1
Pages: 32 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: December 2021
Age: 3+
Rights Sold: [English](#)

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

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.



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ISBN: 978-4-09-725187-3
Pages: 32 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: September 2022
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

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 houseki* (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 ha nani?* (What Is in This Beautiful Gift?).



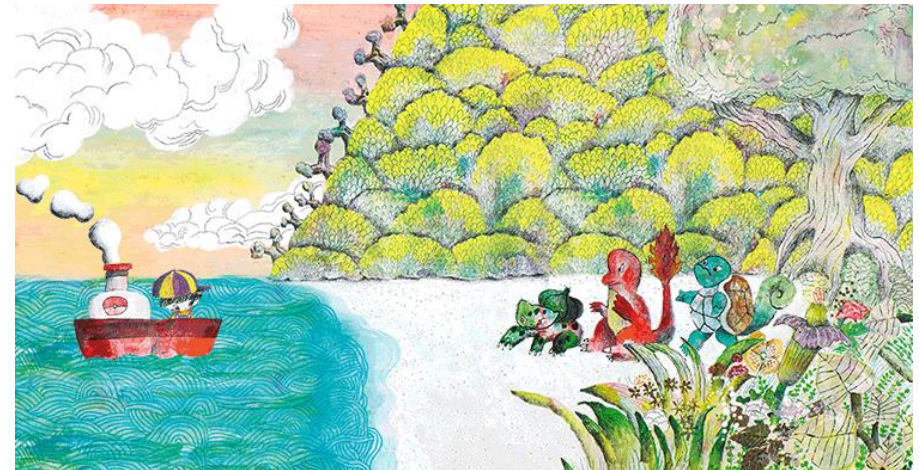
ISBN: 978-4-09-725058-6
 Pages: 36 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: March 2020
 Age: 5+

Pokémon Island

Pokémon no shima / ポケモンのしま

The Cabin Company

From The Cabin Company art collective, a picture book for Pokémon fans of any age. A young boy reaches the Pokémon Island on his small boat. As soon as the anchor is set, 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. Good times quickly pass by and, as the boy grows up, the day comes to say goodbye. But the time spent together is never to be forgotten. The scene where 151 Pokémon appear is breathtaking.

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.

EARLY YEARS



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

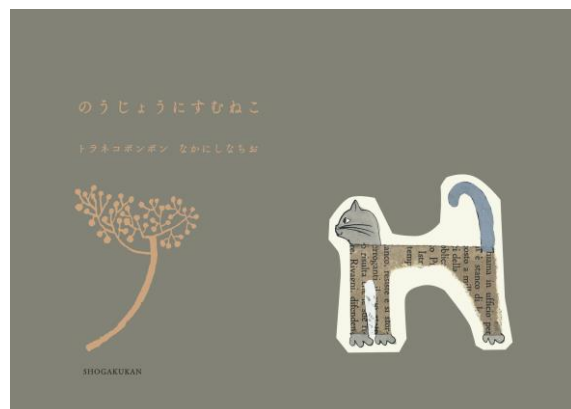
Jin Kitamura



"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 he is currently a lecturer at the Kobe Design University.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725130-9
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: November 2021
 Age: 3+

The Cat on the Farm

Nojo ni sumu neko / のうじょうにすむねこ

Nachio Nakanishi

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, the animals on the farm are introduced from the cat's unique perspective. The child-like, 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 at the same time 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).

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. This picture book encourages the development of new skills while being playful and fun.

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



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.

Hoo Hoo

Hoho / ほーほー

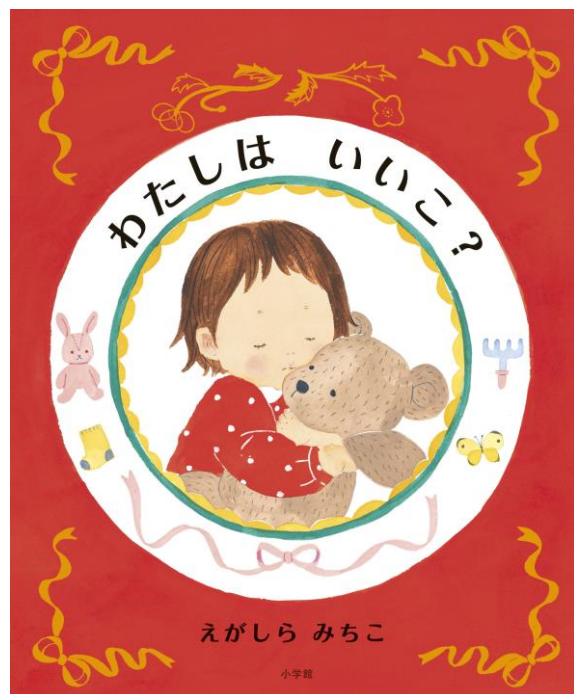
The Cabin Company



The owl goes "hoo hoo hooooo," the frog "ribbit ribbit." No baby could 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.

ISBN: 978-4-09-726774-4
Pages: 24 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: February 2018
Age: 0+





ISBN: 978-4-09-725158-3
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: April 2022
 Age: 3+

Am I a Good Girl?

Watashi wa ii ko? / わたしは いいこ?

Michiko Egashira

One day a little girl is asked by her mother, "Can you clean up after yourself like a good girl?" But what does being a "good girl" exactly mean, the girl suddenly wonders. Is a girl good when she tidies up her toys, greets people in a clear voice, refrains from buying sweets, and is happy to lend toys to her friends when asked? Is this really what it takes to be a good girl? Michiko Egashira helps young readers examine and understand simple, everyday situations.



Michiko Egashira was born in 1978 in Fukuoka Prefecture and graduated from the Faculty of Education at Kumamoto University. She is the author of many picture books, including the *Osanpo* (Walking) book series published by Kodansha.

Touch!

Sawatte sawatte / さわって さわって

Michiko Egashira



ISBN: 978-4-09-725090-6
Pages: 24 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: November 2020
Age: 0+

This picture book encourages parents to communicate with their babies through tactile experiences. Finger and body play help parents connect to their babies and truly enjoy their time together. Especially recommended for first-time mothers and fathers.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725045-6
Pages: 32 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: March 2020
Age: 3+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Thai

Many Ways to Help

Iroiro otetsudai / いろいろおてっだい

Michiko Egashira

Hana wants to help preparing a meal. What can she do to help? A picture book that nurtures children's desire to be independent and try something new.



ISBN: 978-4-09-726760-7
Pages: 32 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: March 2018
Age: 3+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Thai

Many Ways to Get Ready

Iroiro oshitaku / いろいろおしたく

Michiko Egashira

Turn the pages and find out how Hana, the main character, wakes up in the morning and gets ready to go to school. A picture book that encourages children to find excitement in their morning routine.



ISBN: 978-4-09-726702-7
Pages: 32 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: March 2017
Age: 3+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean, Thai

Many Types of Letters

Iroiro otegami / いろいろおてがみ

Michiko Egashira

Hana loves receiving letters. Every day she waits in front of the mailbox for her letters to arrive. A fun play book that invites children to imagine where each letter came from.

PICTURE BOOKS

Vroom Vroom, Splosh

Buroron dororon / ブロロンどろろん

Nao Takabatake



ISBN: 978-4-09-725149-1
Pages: 36 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: March 2022
Age: 0+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified)

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 Painting 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.

Climbing a Cow

Ushi tozan / うしとざん

Nao Takabatake



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

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 tightly! Grab and hold on tightly! 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.





The Space Department Store

Uchu hyakkaten / うちゅうひゃっかてん

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 universe. 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. In the midst of it all, he can't believe what he spots. Are those two sad faces!? Promptly the clerks are instructed to take the matter in their hands and make sure the little child and his mum have the best time of their lives. Will the director succeed? Does the entire universe express happiness with a smile? The first picture book by a contemporary artist transposing on page the bewitching atmosphere of her art installations.

Mayu Kuroiwa is a contemporary artist based in Kanagawa Prefecture. Her works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Japan, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum and the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. Renowned for her eclectic use of a variety of materials and techniques, Mayu Kuroiwa's work ranges from two-dimensional and three-dimensional installations to picture books.

ISBN: 978-4-09-725115-6

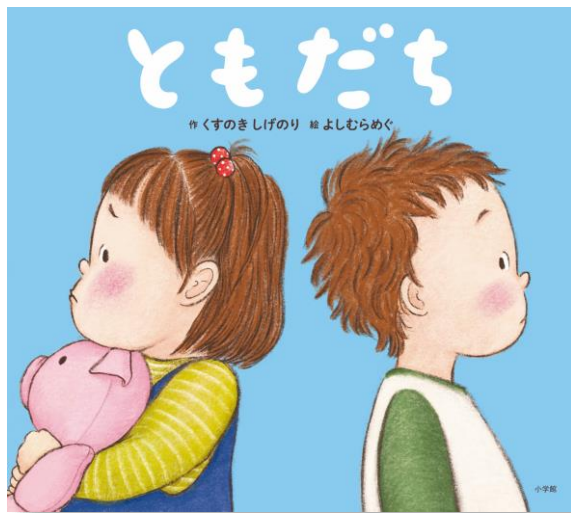
Pages: 32 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: July 2021

Age: 3+





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 same age moves into the house next door. When she sees him standing on the street, Mizuki timidly walks closer and, hoping they can become friends, she says hello. The boy doesn't even turn to look at her and, only after she raises her voice, he notices her presence and responds with a strange hand gesture. Not understanding the meaning of the gesture, Mizuki pulls a face that startles the boy and makes him run back into the house. Including an illustrated guide to simple one-word signs, this book introduces children to sign language and conveys the importance of trying to understand each other without mental preconceptions.



Shigenori Kusunoki was born in Tokushima Prefecture in 1961 and graduated from the Naruto University of Education. After working as an elementary school teacher and deputy director of a municipal library, he became an author of children's books and a lecturer. Published by Shogakukan and translated into many languages, *Okodademasen-youni* (I Hope I Don't Get Scolded) sold 350,000 copies and *Megane wo kaketara* (When She Put on Her Glasses) sold 130,000 copies.

Megu Yoshimura is a Japanese illustrator, born in Osaka in 1973. She graduated from the Department of Aesthetics and Art History, Faculty of Letters at Otemae Women's University. A former art teacher, she studied picture book making at Yuyu Ehon Correspondence Course and she won in 2019 the MOE Picture Booksellers Grand Prix for *Mamezara-chan* (The Bean Plate), written by Masumi Asano. For Shogakukan she has illustrated the series of children's written books by Eiko Kadono, including *Neko ni natchatta* (I Turned into a Cat).



ISBN: 978-4-09-725073-9
 Pages: 28 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: July 2020
 Age: 3+
 Rights Sold: [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)

I Turned Into a Cat

Neko ni natchatta / ねこになっちゃった

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

Stuffed animals, Tiger-Tiger and Bear, are Ako's best friends. They always play together. One day their favorite cat, Mimi, pays them a visit. Ako and her friends draw whiskers on their faces, meow and purr. They all pretend to be cats.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725106-4
 Pages: 28 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: June 2021
 Age: 3+

A Spell for Those in Pain

Itaitoki no omajinai / いたいときのおまじない

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

One day Ako is in a bad mood. She kicks a rock and hits by mistake a polar bear, causing him to get a huge bump on his head. As the polar bear is fussing and screaming in pain, Ako comes up with a special spell. Parents can practice counting with their children, as they cast Ako's spell to alleviate pain.

Eiko Kadono is a Japanese author of children's literature, picture books, non-fiction, and essays. *Kiki's Delivery Service*, released in 1985, is her most famous work and was made into an anime film by Hayao Miyazaki. In 2018, she won the Hans Christian Andersen Award.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725095-1
 Pages: 28 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: March 2021
 Age: 3+
 Rights Sold: [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)

Reach for the Sun

Poka poka guun / ぽかぽかぐーん

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

On a warm and sunny day, Ako stretches out and all of a sudden, strangely enough, she seems to have grown a little taller. Then the cat also stretches out, and the dandelion, the caterpillar, the house, the tree, they all stretch out. A picture book that makes you want to grow taller as you read.



ISBN: 978-4-09-725092-0
 Pages: 28 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: December 2020
 Age: 3+
 Rights Sold: [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#)

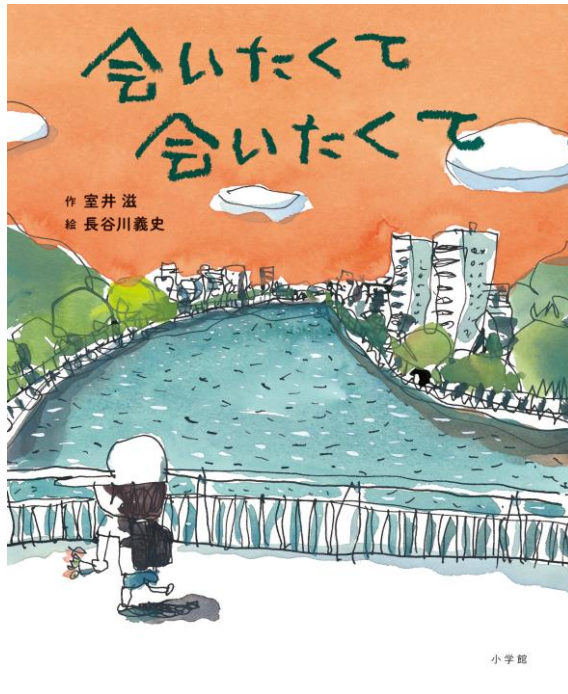
Santa's Three Hugs

Dakko sankai santa kurosu / だっこさんかいサンタクロース

Written by **Eiko Kadono**, Illustrated by **Megu Yoshimura**

It's Christmas Eve! Will Santa visit Ako's house? Barely able to contain her excitement, Ako gets ready to welcome Santa with her stuffed animal friends, Tiger-Tiger and Bear. Just as they are falling asleep, Santa arrives. What will his special present be?

Megu Yoshimura is a Japanese illustrator, born in Osaka in 1973. She graduated from the Department of Aesthetics and Art History, Faculty of Letters at Otemae Women's University and won in 2019 the MOE Picture Booksellers Grand Prix for *Mamezara-chan* (The Bean Plate), written by Masumi Asano.



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

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. No matter how many times his mother tells him it is impossible to meet, one day he sneaks out after school and heads straight to the nursing home where she lives. He knows he won't get to meet her, but stands under the window of her third-floor room and throws erasers, hats, shoes at it to catch her attention. Just as he is about to give up, Kei's grandmother waves from the window and a note flutters down to the ground. "Please come back next week!"

When he returns to the same spot the following week a toilet paper core tied to a red string is hanging from the window. He holds it against his ear, and as if by magic he can finally hear his grandmother's voice. "Even if you can't meet a person you love, if your feelings for them are strong enough the world around you will start shining brightly. All you have to do is look carefully." And sure enough, on the same old way home a four-leaf clover stands out among the grass.

Shigeru Muroi, born in 1958 in Toyama Prefecture, started her acting career while still a student at Waseda University and won the Best Supporting Actress Award at the 18th Japan Academy Prize for her role in the movie *Izakaya yurei* (Ghost Pub). She is the Japanese voice of Dory in the Disney animated films *Finding Nemo* and *Finding Dory* and is also the author of many picture books, including the *Shige-chan* series illustrated by Yoshifumi Hasegawa.

Yoshifumi Hasegawa was born in Osaka in 1961. After working as a graphic designer and illustrator, he made his debut as a picture book author in 2000 with *Ojiichan no Ojiichan no Ojiichan no Ojiichan* (Grandpa's Grandpa's Grandpa's Grandpa). 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).



ISBN: 978-4-09-725104-0

Pages: 40 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: April 2021

Age: 6+

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Korean

In a World of Two Square Meters

Ni heiho metoru no sekai de / 二平方メートルの世界で

Written by **Mion Maeda**, Illustrated by **Koshiro Hata**

Based on the essay that won the 2020 Children's Non-Fiction Literature Award

A third-grade elementary school student living in Sapporo has had to be hospitalized from time to time due to a congenital brain disease. When she enters the hospital, her existence is temporarily confined to a bed. Her mother stays by her side, but during radiation treatment they are separated by a glass wall. She can't help feeling sorry about her elder brother, who is left at home on his own. Why is she the only one who is sick?

One day, she finds scribbles beneath the overbed table in her hospital room from the inpatients who used the bed before her and realizes that she is not alone. A heartwarming non-fiction picture book in which a ten-year-old girl recounts her own real-life experiences.



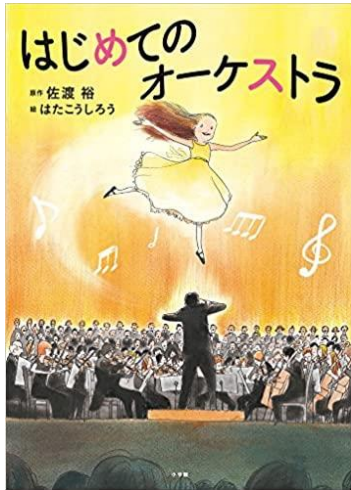
Mion Maeda was born in Takikawa, Hokkaido in 2010. She repeatedly entered and exited the hospital since the age of three with an intractable malformation of cortical development, called focal cortical dysplasia. She loves playing chess, swimming, and reading.

Koshiro Hata is a picture book author and illustrator, born in 1963 in Hyogo Prefecture. Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Kyoto Seika University, besides picture books, he is active as an illustrator and book designer. His picture books include *Hajimete no okesutora* (My First Orchestra) and *Itazura no sukina kenchikuka* (The Mischievous Architect), both published by Shogakukan.

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**



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

The first picture book by world-renowned conductor, Yutaka Sado, written in the hope as many children as possible will be able to experience a classical music concert. The main character is a six-year-old girl, whose father is a conductor. But what does a conductor do? What does "orchestra" mean? When the long-awaited occasion 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...



Yutaka Sado was born in 1961 in Kyoto. He 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 one of Austria's leading orchestras, the Tonkünstler Orchestra.

The Mischievous 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**



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

The first picture book by internationally renowned architect, Tadao Ando. The book is set in the Nakanoshima Children's Book Forest, a new library inaugurated in Osaka in spring 2020 and designed by Tadao Ando specifically for children, with floor-to-ceiling, outward-facing books. Two elementary school students visit the new library for the first time and are shown around by a mysterious man who looks very much like Mr. Ando. As they walk around, many questions surface. Why do you make these buildings? What does an architect do? The guide thoughtfully responds.

Tadao Ando was born in 1941 in Osaka. A self-taught architect, after traveling the world and admiring its architectural wonders, at the age of twenty-eight, he established the Tadao Ando Architectural Institute. His representative works include the Church of Light, Pulitzer Arts Foundation and Chichu Art Museum. He was awarded numerous prizes, including the AIJ Prize for *Sumiyoshi no nagaya* (Row House in Sumiyoshi) and the Pritzker Architecture Prize. He is actively involved in environmental activities such as the *Umi-no-mori* (Sea Forest) Project, which transforms landfill sites into forests, and the Osaka tree planting project, *Sakura no kai heisei no torinuke* (Tunnel of Cherry Blossom Trees).

HOME LEARNING



ISBN: 978-4-09-259207-0
 Pages: 128 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: June 2022
 Age: 8+

Holes: An Illustrated Guide to Peeping

Nozoku zukan ana / のぞく図鑑 穴

Tamaki Miyata

Tunnels, manholes, stalactite caves, animal dens, no matter where you turn your gaze you will find a hole. But have you ever wondered what's behind those holes? From a five-yen coin to a black hole, more than 200 holes of various size and nature are organized into five categories: holes existing in nature, holes that provide shelter, micro holes, halls in science, man-made mines and tunnels. Illustrated in full color throughout and packed full of information, fun activities inspire a sense of curiosity for the world we usually take for granted.



Tamaki Miyata, born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1964, made his debut as a writer in 1995 with the travel essay *Tabi no rifujin Ajia monzetsu-hen* (The Inconvenience of Travelling: Asia in Agony). Since then, he has published books on such unique subjects as roller coasters, giant Buddhas, marine invertebrates, stones, and the Shikoku Pilgrimage, all told from his unique perspective. His main publications include *li kanji no ishikoro o hiroi ni* (To Pick Up a Nice Stone) and *Nippon 47 todoufukuken shojiki kankou an'nai* (An Honest Tourist Guide to Japan's 47 Prefectures).



ISBN: 978-4-09-259206-3
 Pages: 128 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: June 2022
 Age: 8+

Buttons: An Illustrated Guide to Pressing

Osu zukan botan / 押す図鑑 ボタン

Masayuki Nishimura

From bus and elevator buttons to the “Like” button on social media, buttons are an essential component of our daily lives and their use is so extensive both in the physical and virtual world that it seems no movement would be possible without pressing a button. Transport-related buttons, buttons for calculating, buttons for ordering food, buttons in our homes, safety buttons, buttons emitting sounds, more than 50 types of buttons and switches are introduced by theme. Illustrated in full color throughout and packed full of information, find out what is hiding just under your fingertips.



Masayuki Nishimura was born in Tottori Prefecture in 1975. He is the author of *Fushigina kenzakai arukeru, matageru, tanoshimeru* (Mysterious Prefectural Borders to Walk, Cross, and Enjoy) and the co-author of *Tanoshii rosenzu* (Fun Route Maps) and *Nihon no rosenzu* (Route Maps of Japan). He is renowned for his ability to stimulate interest into subjects of the most different kind.



ISBN: 978-4-09-227251-4
 Pages: 32 pages
 Printing: Color
 Publication: November 2021
 Age: 6+

An Illustrated Guide to the World's Most Confusing Animals

Sekaiichi magirawashii dobustu zukan / 世界一まぎらわしい動物図鑑

Tadaki Imaizumi

From the bestselling author of *Zannenna ikimono jiten* (Dictionary of Unfortunate Creatures), a fascinating introduction to the wonders of “convergent evolution,” the process whereby organisms not closely related, independently evolve similar traits. Leopards and jaguars, alpacas and llamas, many animals look and behave exactly alike, but belong to completely different species. How could this have happened? Why are there so many confusing animals? The body shape of animals is determined by where they live and what they eat. A long tail is useful for balancing on trees, while a lean body is useful in water. Carnivores need sharp fangs, while herbivores need strong front teeth to bite off stems. In order to survive, animals of different species have adapted to their natural environment and some of their features have over time come to converge. Solve the mysteries of evolution through zoologist Tadaki Imaizumi’s photo quizzes and analytical spreads.



Tadaki Imaizumi was born in Tokyo in 1944 and was greatly influenced in his childhood by his father who was a zoologist. After graduating from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, he studied mammalian ecology and taxonomy as a special research student at the National Museum of Nature and Science in Tokyo. He worked as a zookeeper at the Ueno Zoo and later became the director of the Izu-Kogen Cat Museum. He also served as director of the Japan Institute of Animal Science and the Japan Cat Science Institute. His books have sold a total of 3.5 million copies and in 2004 he received the Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award for *Edokko garasu* (The Crow of Edo).

Fun to Touch Tactile Books

Sawatte tanoshii rerifu bukku / さわってたのしいレリーフブック

Junko Murayama

Unique picture books with accordion-style binding that blind, visually impaired and sighted children can enjoy together. Published in collaboration with the Association for the Publication and Dissemination of Braille Picture Books in Japan, these illustrated tactile books encourage children to study with their fingertips the distinctive shape and features of different animals.



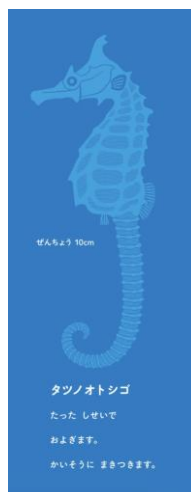
ISBN: 978-4-09-725101-9
Pages: 12 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: September 2021
Age: 0+

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 your mind away.



The Animal Cracker Zoo

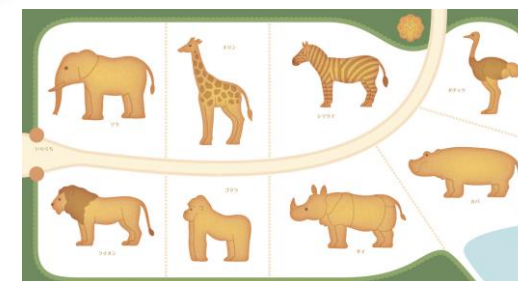
Okashi no dobutsuen / おかしのどうぶつえん

Junko Murayama



ISBN: 978-4-09-725195-8
Pages: 12 pages
Printing: Color
Publication: September 2022
Age: 0+

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 one after the other and are easily recognizable thanks to their different shapes.



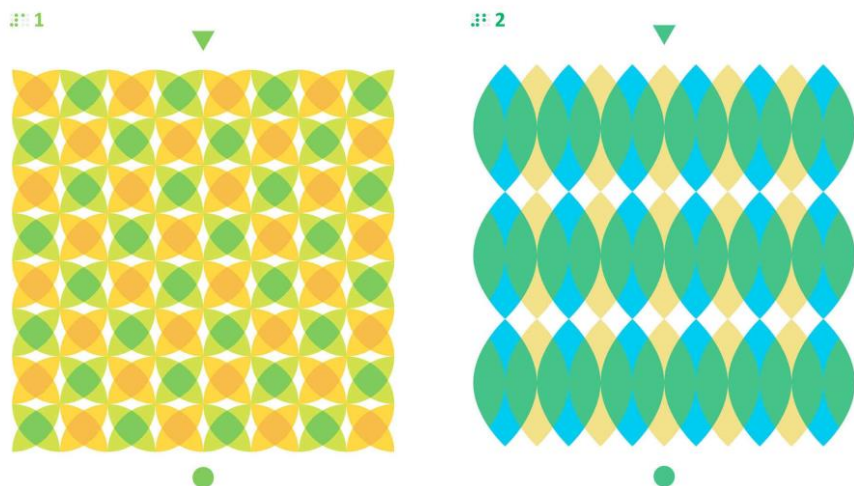
Junko Murayama is a book designer. She graduated from the Department of Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University and has designed many books for children. The award-winning three volumes of the *Sawaru meiro* (Touch and Feel Mazes) series were her first braille picture books.

Touch and Feel Mazes Series

Sawaru meiro / さわるめいろ

Junko Murayama

Sharpen your fingertips and solve these tactile mazes by tracing the lines of raised dots. Designed for visually impaired and blind people, anyone from preschool children to adults can play. Each book starts with an easy maze where a single line needs to be followed, before moving on to more difficult ones. Dots, embossed with resin ink, are 0.4 mm high and the accordion-style binding makes this series much more affordable than ordinary braille books.

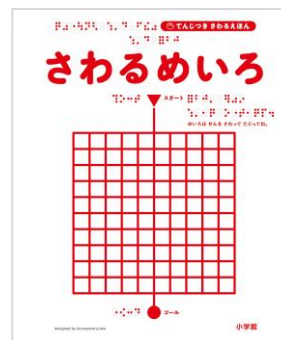


Recommended by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)

Exhibited at the 2017 Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB)

2014 Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award

2015 Japan Book Design Awards, Jury's Encouragement Prize



Touch and Feel Mazes 1

Sawaru meiro / さわるめいろ

Junko Murayama

ISBN: 978-4-09-726497-2

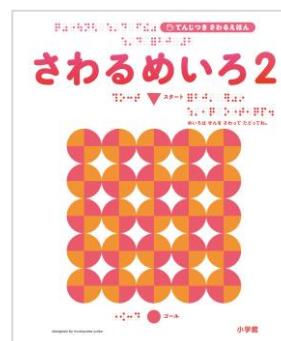
Pages: 12 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: February 2013

Age: 5+

Rights Sold: English, Chinese (Traditional), German



Touch and Feel Mazes 2

Sawaru meiro 2 / さわるめいろ2

Junko Murayama

ISBN: 978-4-09-726575-7

Pages: 12 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: January 2015

Age: 5+

Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), German



Touch and Feel Mazes 3

Sawaru meiro 3 / さわるめいろ3

Junko Murayama

ISBN: 978-4-09-725011-1

Pages: 10 pages

Printing: Color

Publication: September 2019

Age: 5+

The First Time King Series

Hajimete okoku / はじめて王国

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

Riddle books for early elementary school students written in collaboration with prestigious cram school Hama Gakuen under the supervision of Shogakukan's Dictionary Department. Easy-to-read and accompanied by fun, full-color illustrations, riddles, jokes, brainteasers challenge readers to think outside the box and cultivate a natural inclination to scientific inquiry and mathematical thinking. A series that is sure to make you smarter.



Michiko Tachimoto was born in Ishikawa Prefecture in 1976 and graduated from the Department of Design at Osaka University of Art. In 2001, she launched the "colobockle" label, which produces multimedia projects for children. She creates illustrations for picture books, textbooks, dictionaries, TV programs and toys for children with an educational purpose, but is also active in a number of other fields, such as advertising and product design.



ISBN: 978-4-09-289777-9
Pages: 80 pages
Publication: December 2019
Age: 3+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified),
Chinese (Traditional)

The Mandatory Solo Concert

Soro konsato wa zettai zetsumei / ソロコンサートはぜったいぜつめい

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

The king who loves doing things for the first time wants to organize a solo concert. The whole kingdom is buzzing in preparation. However, as the king soon finds out, singing on one's own is not as easy as it seems.



ISBN: 978-4-09-289779-3
Pages: 80 pages
Publication: March 2020
Age: 6+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified),
Chinese (Traditional)

The Unprecedented Strawberry Festival

Zendaimimon no ichigo fesu / ぜんだいみものいちごフェス

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

The king who loves doing things for the first time wants to host a strawberry festival where he can pick an unprecedented number of strawberries. In order to fulfill his wish, all the strawberries in the kingdom are gathered. However, on the night before the festival, a mysterious shadow looms large over the strawberries...



ISBN: 978-4-09-289310-8
Pages: 80 pages
Publication: April 2021
Age: 3+
Rights Sold: Chinese (Simplified),
Chinese (Traditional)

The Zoo in Dire Straits

Dobutsuen wa issokusoku hatsu / どうぶつえんはいっしょくそくはつ

Written by **Tojo-san**, Riddles by **Hironori Ozawa**, Illustrated by **Michiko Tachimoto**

The king who loves doing things for the first time holds a one-day zoo at his castle. After closing time, someone unlocks the cages and the animals come out. Who freed the animals? Is the lion's den also unlocked?