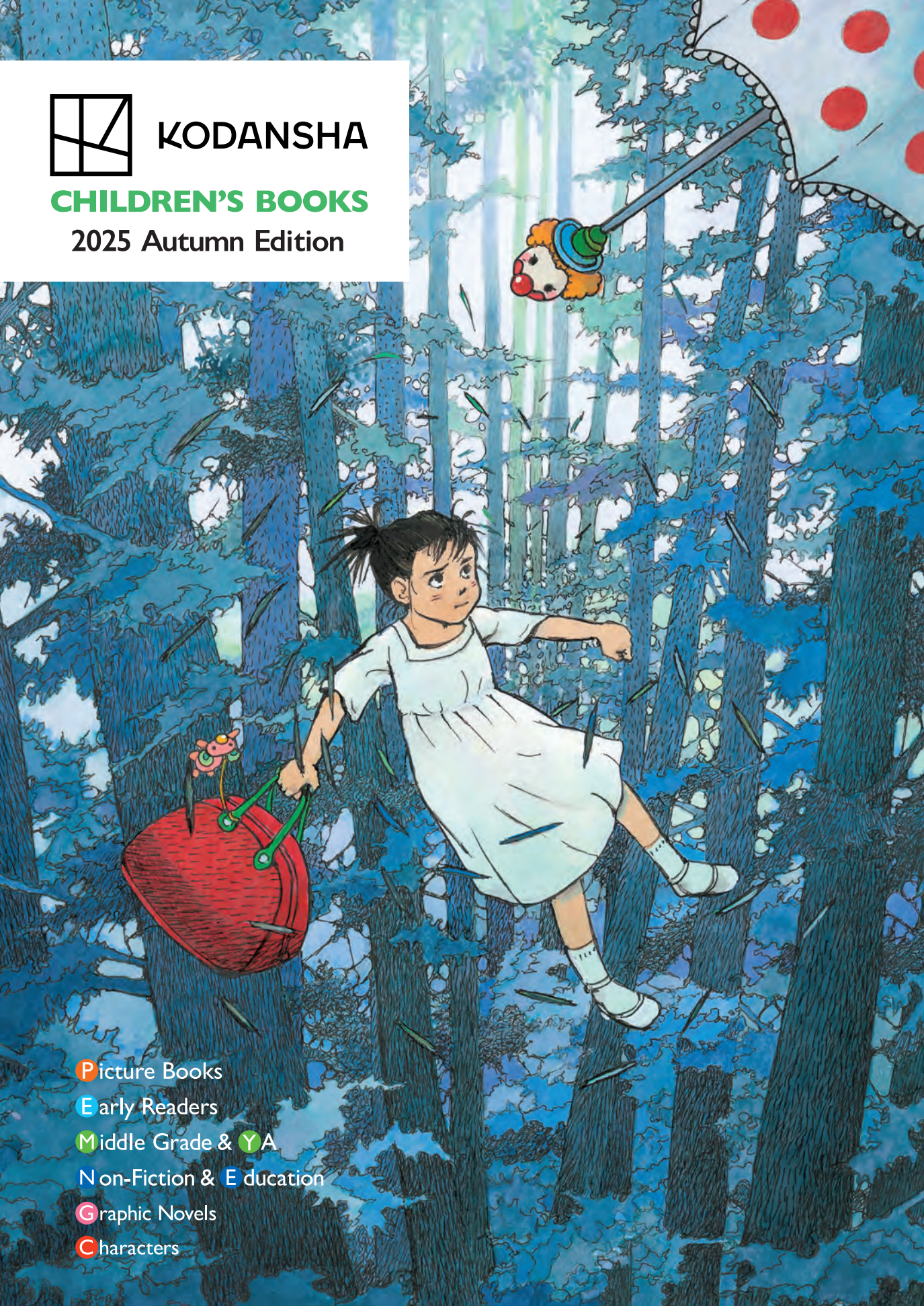


KODANSHA

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

2025 Autumn Edition



Picture Books

Early Readers

Middle Grade & **Y**A

Non-Fiction & **E**ducation

Graphic Novels

Characters

When the Sacred Butterflies Soar

NEW!

Now
Printing

Ages 10+

228 pages
Jan.2026

Cover art by
Kamome Shirahama,
creator of
Witch Hat Atelier!



After a long slumber, the work of Nahoko Uehashi awakens once more—and is ready to greet the world in the coming year.

When the Sacred Butterflies Soar is not a newly written work. Between 1999 and 2001, while creating her landmark *The Guardian of the Spirit* series, Nahoko Uehashi was also creating this story—a work that would later connect to *The Deer King* and *Kôkun*. Long unpublished, it remained a hidden piece of her creative journey, only now appearing in book form.

The narrative was born from Uehashi's desire to depict not only the bonds between people, but also the delicate and complex ties between humans and other living beings. Its setting is the "Great Dark Well," a sacred yet fearsome sanctuary where young guardians are entrusted with protecting a sacred butterfly from monsters.

At the center of the story is a protagonist who, confronted with the true nature of the sanctuary, wrestles with confusion and conflict, yet continues to press forward—refusing to abandon what is truly worth protecting.

More than twenty years after it was first written, the work has been revised and enriched by its fully matured author, emerging as a powerful and resonant tale ready to reach readers around the world.



Author

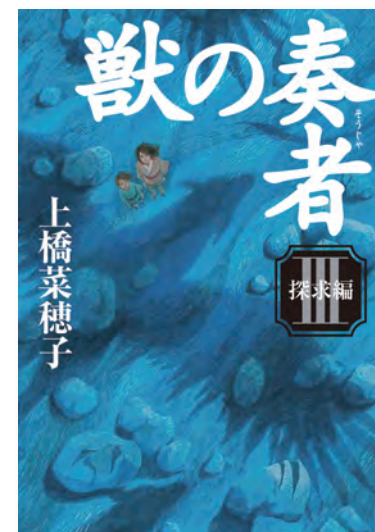
Nahoko Uehashi



Nahoko Uehashi is the winner of the Jury of the International Board on Books for Young People's 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing. *The Beast Player* is an epic fantasy series admired for its "tenderness and a great respect for nature and all sapient creatures." (JBBY) *The Moribito* and *Beast Player* series were animated and broadcast on NHK. Uehashi's works are read all over the world.

The Beast Player

3.5
million
copies
in print



Ages 11+

326-390 pages
2006-2009
Sold: Chinese (SC), English,
French, Italian, Russian

Banished from her homeland where the Toda are the army's deadliest weapon, raised in the lonely mountains where the beautiful but savage Royal Beasts soar wild, Elin is fated to discover the lost secret of the beasts, those that must not be tamed, and unlock the political taboo that has maintained the balance of power between the forces of nature, gods, and human tribes.



Middle Grade & YA

The Village Beyond the Mist

The Japanese fantasy masterpiece that inspired Studio Ghibli's *Spirited Away*!



During summer vacation, Lina goes on a solo trip to a place where her father once traveled. Passing through a misty forest, she finds a beautiful and somewhat eccentric town. The 2025 English-language release (tr. Avery Fischer Udagawa) went back to the printers for another round almost immediately. This tale is part of a trilogy that includes *A Strange Journey from the Basement* and *Mysterious Friends Behind the Ceiling*.

Ages 10+ 216 pages / 1975

Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), English, French, Italian, Korean, Thai, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Hungarian



A Strange Journey From the Basement

Mysterious customers show up in the basement of Chi's pharmacy when her niece Akane goes down to get some medicine. Alchemist Hippocrates from the Sapling Season Kingdom takes Akane and Chi to "the world next door" where they renew their contract for joint usage of the cellar. Adapted as an anime film called *Birthday Wonderland*.

Ages 10+ 256 pages / 1981

Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), French, Russian

Author

Sachiko Kashiwaba



Born in Hanamaki, Iwate Prefecture in 1953. Graduated from Tohoku Pharmaceutical University. In 1974, while still a student, she won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for a work that Kodansha published as *Kiri no mukō no fushigi na machi* (*The Marvelous Village Veiled in Mist*; tr. Christopher Holmes). It won the 9th Japan Children's Literature Association Newcomer Award in 1976 and went on to become a steady seller known as the inspiration for Hayao Miyazaki's *Spirited Away*. As one of Japan's best fantasy writers, Kashiwaba's works have won numerous awards and been adapted into animations.

Temple Alley Summer



Ages 10+

338 pages / 2011

Sold: English, German, Indonesian, Korean, Russian

In the middle of the night, Kazu wakes up with a need to go to the bathroom and sees a strange girl leaving his house. A ghost? The next day, Kazu goes to school and is surprised to find the girl in his class. Strangely enough, his classmates say that she has been in their class for a long time! As Kazu pursues the mystery, he learns that a legend of resurrection has been passed down in a temple in his town. There are ghosts who resurrect unnoticed and live among humans. This is a multilayered fantasy work that incorporates a medieval European tale within a Japanese-style narrative.

IBBY Honour List
2024 (USA)

Winner of the 2022
Mildred L. Batchelder Award

Winner of the 2022
SCBWI Crystal Kite Award

The House of the Lost on the Cape

Moeka is supposed to be taken in by relatives after losing her parents. Yurie is running away from her abusive husband. A mysterious old lady gives them a hand. This book is a fantasy themed around the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami featuring three women who end up living together as a kind of family.

Ages 10+

274 pages / 2015

Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), English, French, Italian, Korean, Russian, Thai



A 2024 Mildred L. Batchelder
Award Honoree

A 2024 USBBY Outstanding
International Book

One of Kirkus Reviews' 10 Essential
Middle-Grade Books for Fall 2023 —
Starred Review

When a Dragon Calls: The Curse of the Bow Witch



Ages 10+
256 pages / 2024
Sold: English, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese

Now being adapted into
a manga series!



Author
Sachiko Kashiwaba
See previous page for bio.

Ten-year-old Mia was abandoned by her mother when she was small and lives in a poor village at the bottom of a valley surrounded by sheer cliffs with her aunt. The village is known as the village of offenders, and the only way to leave is to be called by a dragon. Unlike most people, Mia is scared to venture into the outside world, but when a dragon calls her, she goes to work in the gleaming lapis lazuli palace. There, Mia is discriminated against as a "valley child" and put to work taking care of an empty room. Is the voice she hears crying at night the legendary dragon knight who disappeared after being cursed? One day, Mia realizes it's coming from a little bag, and the gears of destiny begin to turn... Sachiko Kashiwaba delivers high fantasy that is both easy to read and compelling!

**The Dragon
in the Darkness** **The Witch's
Birthing Chamber**



256 pages / 2024
Sold: English, Korean,
Russian, Vietnamese



272 pages / 2024
Sold: English, Korean,
Russian, Vietnamese

**The Story-
teller's Jar** **The Dragon's
Nest** NEW!



272 pages / 2024
Sold: English,
Korean, Vietnamese



272 pages / May 2025

Case Notes of Great Detective Kiyoshiro Yumemizu Series

And Then Five Kids Went Missing



Kaoru Hayamine's Great Detective Kiyoshiro Yumemizu series began in 1994 and remains an enduring favorite among juvenile mystery readers. It's honestly hard to tell whether Detective Yumemizu is great or not, but together with the triplets next door, he unravels case after case, each involving children in some way. *And Then Five Kids Went Missing* is the first book in the series. Five child prodigies disappear one after the other from an amusement park during summer vacation. Yumemizu declares that he's solved the case but gives up looking for the kids—because he grasped the true nature of the mystery!

Ages 10+
276 pages / 1994

Over **3.5**
million
copies
in print

Over **2.2**
million
copies
in print

Tom Sawyer in the City Series

This exciting series follows ordinary middle-schooler Naito and his genius classmate Soya on adventures that bust the boundary between games and reality. In pursuit of Soya's dream to create the ultimate R.RPG—real roleplaying game, he and Naito put their knowledge and courage to the test.

In book one, Naito and Soya find themselves involved in an event that turns out to be the prototype for "the ultimate game," fusing advanced riddle-solving with the fight to survive and played in reality. Dangerous traps and unexpected betrayal await as the pair mobilize all their smarts and wit to clear the challenges.

Ages 11+
354 pages / 2003

Author
Kaoru Hayamine



Author of the Kiyoshiro Yumemizu series, which has over 3.6 million copies in print, former elementary school teacher Kaoru Hayamine is the master of mysteries for kids where no one gets killed. His series Tom Sawyer in the City also has over 2.2 million copies in print. He has received the Utsunomiya Children's Award a record-setting three times.



No.6 Series

Ages 10+
208-222 pages / 2003-2011

This nine-volume near-future survival adventure is about two boys trying to make the world more free and equal by confronting the morally bankrupt "ideal" city, No. 6.

Over **2.3 million** copies in print



The futuristic city No. 6 was built as the realization of mankind's ideals. Shion has lived there as an elite of the highest rank since he was two years old, but he's frustrated in such a strictly controlled environment. Everything changes for him on the night of his 12th birthday when he meets a boy who calls himself Rat... Adapted as an anime as well as a manga and for the stage.

The English versions of the anime and manga have become cult classics.



No.6 Reunited

Ages 10+

NEW!

Strong global following—fans worldwide are eager for more!

No. 6 enjoys a strong international fandom with an online presence. Now that the sequel series, No. 6: Reunited, has kicked off, global interest is set to reach a new peak—an ideal time for new markets to join.



224 pages / May 2025

It's been two years since Rat promised Shion they'd meet again and left No. 6. In this follow-up to the original story, Shion is now the chief of the Reconstruction Committee, where he worries about both the unstable political situation in the city and the mysterious assassin targeting him. Overwhelmed, he longs for Rat's assistance, only for Rat to reappear just when he's needed the most. Reunited at last, Shion vows that if Rat leaves again, they will be going together. But first, can the two boys build a future welcoming to all? And will they be able to find the hope amidst the traps that stand in their way?

NEW!

#2



224 pages / Sept.2025



Author

Atsuko Asano

Born in Okayama Prefecture and continues to live there. She started writing children's stories while in university, debuting as an author with *Hotarukan monogatari* (The tales of the firefly inn), while working as an elementary school teacher. In 1997, she won the 35th Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature with her work *Batterii* (Battery) and won the 54th Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award for the whole series in 2005. Her series No. 6 has also received both manga and anime adaptations. Writing in a range of genres, from children's literature to historical fiction, her work is loved by all ages.

Soul Lanterns



The White Ravens
2014

The Shogakukan
Publication Culture Award

The Fukuda Kiyoto
Literary Award

Ages 13+
189 pages
2013
Sold: English, German

12-year-old Nozomi was born and raised in Hiroshima, where the atomic bomb was dropped, but she had never thought too much about it. Then the art club she belongs to at school decides to do a Culture Festival project on the theme of asking adults close to them about the day they were bombed. One man's girlfriend died... One woman's son died... Nozomi listens to the brutal stories of each person who lost someone precious to them. These stories are not portrayed in a horrifying way, but conveyed with a quiet prayer for peace. The final lantern floating ceremony scene, colorful and beautiful, resonates in the hearts of readers.

This book was translated into English and published by Delacorte Books for Young Readers in March 2021 under the title *Soul Lanterns* (tr. Emily Balistrieri) and was selected as one of the Best Books of 2021 by School Library Journal in the United States.

Author
Shaw Kuzki

Born in Hiroshima. Second generation A-bomb survivor. Received her MA from Sophia University. She has won numerous awards, including the Japan Juvenile Writers Association Prize and the Sankei Children's Book Award.

Sonin, Shaman of Heaven's Mountain Series

Asian fantasy featuring an unconventional shaman girl hero!

The setting of this story is three countries located on a peninsula. In one of the countries, Sai, towers Heaven's Mountain, where shaman girls with the power to dream—project their minds to learn what's happening in far-away lands—live.

The 40th Japanese Association of Writers
for Children Newcomer's Prize

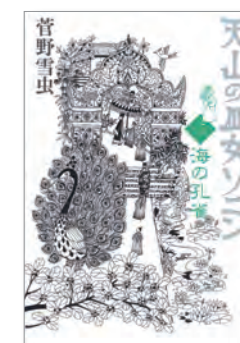
The Golden Swallow

Protagonist Sonin was found at birth and taken to Heaven's Mountain that day by the previous generation's great shaman, who saw potential in her; however, when at age 12 Sonin is still unable to freely wield the power to dream, she is sent home. A few months later, the princes of Sai happen to visit her village. When she accidentally brushes the hand of the youngest one, Iwol, who can't speak, she realizes touch allows her to hear his inner thoughts. When Iwol learns that, he decides to hire her as a waiting maid and take her to the palace.

Ages 10+
258-262 pages
2006-2009



The Peacock of the Sea



The Star Called Akegarasu



The Dream Heron



Wings of the Land



Author
Yukimushi Sugano

Born in 1969 in Fukushima. In 2005, she won the 46th Kodansha Award of Children's Literature for Newcomers for *Sonin to tsubame ni natta ōji* (Sonin and the prince who turned into a swallow), which became her debut revised and expanded as *Tenzan no miko Sonin 1: Ōgon no tsubame* (Sonin, shaman of Heaven's Mountain: The golden swallow). That book won her the 40th Japanese Association of Writers for Children Newcomer's Prize.

Doing-Doing Whiskers NEW!



Cats have splendid whiskers. So do dogs, mice, foxes, and tanuki. Goats have long beards on their chins. But dolphins are whiskerless. Is that because they live in the sea? Nope, because sea lions and seals have splendid whiskers. With or without, everyone looks lovely.

Ages 2+
25 pages / May 2025



Author & Illustrator
Yumi Shimokawara



Born in Tokyo. Started taking an illustration correspondence course with Kodansha Famous Schools in 2001 and then learned wildlife drawing at a school managed by KFS. In 2013, she won the 7th KFS Picture Book Grand Prix. This award-winning work became her debut title, *Hoshi o sagashi ni* (Star Hunting).



Star Hunting



Ages 3+
32 pages / 2017
Sold: Bulgarian, Chinese (SC), German, Korean, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese

Tell me, Buddy



Ages 2+
27 pages / Sept. 2024
Sold: English

Thank You, Buddy



Ages 2+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Bulgarian, English, French, Italian, Korean

I Just Wanted to Say...



Ages 2+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Bulgarian, English, French, German, Italian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese

Have a Seat



Ages 2+
28 pages / 2018
Sold: Chinese (SC), English, Italian, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese

Plip-Plop, Plip-Plop, Are You All Right?



Ages 2+
28 pages / 2017
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), English, German, Italian, Korean, Thai

The Hat



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, French, German

I'm the Big Brother



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Portuguese, Vietnamese

The Baby of the Family



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Vietnamese

There Are Two Santas!?

NEW!



Ages 3+
32 pages / Oct. 2025

It's the day before Christmas and while Santa is getting everyone's presents ready to go, Maruta is in the cake shop baking cakes—it's their busiest day of the year. Before long, Santa is covered in soot and Maruta in flour, and chaos ensues when the two are mistaken for each other!



Author & Illustrator
Tomoko Suzuki

A picture book author and illustrator who graduated from Musashino Art University. Selected for The Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in 2023, she employs a simple geometric style in her illustrations that showcases animals and nature. Her books *Feasts and Festivals Around the World* and *Pancakes to Parathas* (text by Alice B. McGinty; published by Little Bee Books) have been published in Japanese, French, and Korean.

Little Hedgehog Plays Hide and Seek

NEW!



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2024
Sold: French, Vietnamese

Little Hedgehog is playing hide-and-seek with Rabbit and Squirrel. He manages to find a good hiding spot, but when no one comes to find him, he starts to get nervous and needs some help finding his way home.



Little Hedgehog's Red Scarf



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2018
Sold: Chinese (TC), Korean, Thai, Vietnamese

Little Hedgehog's Wish



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2019
Sold: Chinese (TC), Korean, Thai, Vietnamese

Little Hedgehog's Snowhedgehog



Ages 4+
36 pages / 2021
Sold: Chinese (TC), Korean, Thai, Vietnamese

Author & Illustrator
Yoshiko Harada

From Gunma Prefecture. Got her masters in Design from Tokyo University of the Arts in 1992. In 2001, she got another MA from the University of Wolverhampton and returned to Japan.

Rainbow Fish Series

Since the first book, with its foiled fish scales and theme of sharing, was first published in Switzerland in 1992, the beloved Rainbow Fish series has amassed more than 30 million fans worldwide. As a Rainbow Fish partner in Asia, Kodansha holds the rights for licensing books and goods in **Japan, China, Taiwan, and India.**

Ages 3+
26 pages / 1992-
Sold: Chinese (SC),
Chinese (TC)

1993
Bologna Book Fair
Elba Prize



Over **30 million**
copies
in print

Rainbow Fish and the Great Escape



Ages 3+
26 pages
Summer 2026

The Rainbow Fish is out with friends when a school of fleeing fish reports a net moving through the water. But before they can flee, the net traps them. Only one fish escapes and the Rainbow Fish asks him to get the crabs and lobsters to help. They cut the net, freeing everyone. In this exciting story, Rainbow Fish and his friends work together to save themselves. Just like them, we can achieve great things when we help one another. This picture book encourages children to reflect on the negative impact of human actions on the environment.

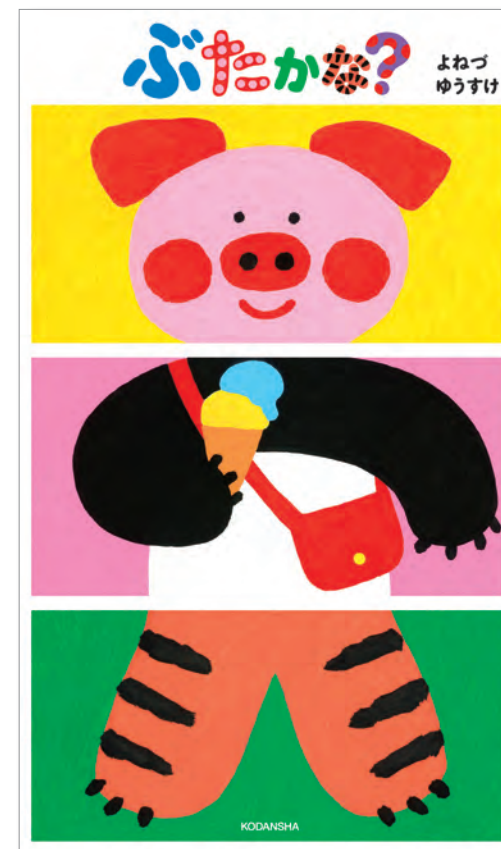
Author & Illustrator

Marcus Pfister

Born in Bern, Switzerland in 1960. He worked as a graphic designer before he started illustrating and writing picture books. His book, *The Rainbow Fish*, won the Bologna Book Fair Critici in Erba Prize in 1993. Some of his other works include the Penguin Pete series and the Hang On, Hopper series.

Mish-Mash Critters

NEW!



Age 1+
12 pages / Dec. 2025
Sold: Greek

Master of board books Yusuke Yonezu is back with more mish-mashing fun! Kids can flip through the pages and rearrange the face, body, and legs of the buddies to their heart's content. Infinite possibilities await for them to create their own original animals and monsters. A perfect gift for young children!

Mish-Mash Buddies



Age 1+
12 pages
2026



Author & Illustrator

Yusuke Yonezu

Born in Tokyo in 1982. Began his career as a picture book artist after being featured in the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in 2005. Since then he has continued to publish simple, unique picture books which have garnered him fans around the world.

Pihotek: Walking the Arctic With the Wind



Ages 6+ 32 pages / 2022 / Sold: English, Hindi

Writer
Yasunaga Ogita

Arctic adventurer. Has been going on mainly solo expeditions in the Canadian Arctic Circle, Greenland, Hokkaido, and other arctic areas since 2000, 17 trips in all. In 2017, he was awarded the Naomi Uemura Adventure Award.

Illustrator
Nana Inoue

Author, artist. Various things to do with books. Went to study art in the US alone at age 16. Graduated from Musashino Art University. The special edition of her book *Kuma made no osarai* (Process for becoming a little bear; Be Nice Inc.) won a Silver Medal at the "Best Book Design from All Over the World" awards in Leipzig, Germany.

The Grand Prize of
the Japan Picture
Book Award
The Chairman's
Award at Japan
Book Design Award

A polar adventurer and prize-winning illustrator team up on this picture book depicting a day in the life of a solo adventurer walking through the polar landscape. The wind beating on his cheeks, the animals who know how to live at the North Pole, the darkness spilling from the sky, and then...?



Animation now
available on
ANIMEHON!



Author
Takuma Takasaki

Creative director, novelist. Won many international advertising awards for Ad Council Japan's 30th Anniversary commercial, IMAGINATION/WHALE. Scriptwriter and producer for Wim Wenders's film *Perfect Days*.

Pitch Black

Let's all try drawing what's on our minds. One boy in class colors his entire paper pitch black. But he doesn't stop there. He spends all his time coating sheet after sheet in pitch black, so everyone gets worried. What is he drawing...?

Ages 4+
36 pages / 2021
Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC),
English, Hindi, Polish

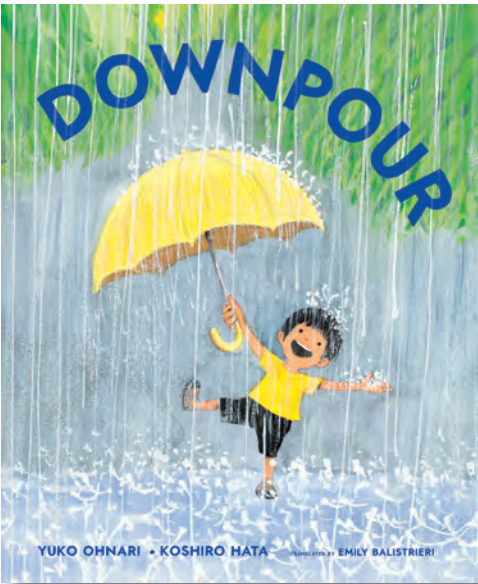
Illustrator
Ken Kuroi

Born in Niigata Prefecture in 1947. Graduated from the Faculty of Education, Niigata University. Picture book artist. Illustrator.

Downpour

It's sooo hot! But soon dark clouds roll in. A little boy smells the sky and the ground. He listens to the rain as it begins to pour, observing all the different sounds. It feels like the water droplets are talking just to him! Koshiro Hata's illustrations revel in the joy of nature in Yuko Ohnari's new book. You'll definitely want to go play outside the next time it rains.

"Energy and joy leap from every page."
– Publishers Weekly
"A joyful and refreshing multisensory experience."
– The Horn Book Magazine
"Evocative onomatopoeia and art that let you feel the storm's delight."
– Sonderbooks



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2018
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC),
English, Italian, Korean, Vietnamese

The Voice of the Snow

30th Japanese
Picture Book Award
56th Kodansha
Ehon Award



Ages 4+ 32 pages / Nov. 2024 / Sold: English

In the morning, a boy wakes up to brightness outside his window. "It's snow! Everything's covered in snow!" He races out into the quiet, snowy world. This is a book that depicts the joy of conversing with nature using your five senses.



Writer
Yuko Ohnari

Picture book author. Works include *Dandan okāsan ni natte iku* (Gradually becoming a mother), *Momo* (Momo), *Kōfuku na shitsumon* (Questions for happiness), and *Kirei na iro to kotoba* (Pretty words and colors).

Illustrator
Koshiro Hata

Born in Hyogo Prefecture. Picture book author and illustrator. Illustrated *Kinō otōsan ga osoku kaetta, sono wake wa...* (Dad came home late last night because...) by Nobuko Ichikawa, which won the Noma Prize for Juvenile Literature.



The Fox's Tree

Two fox kits peak out of their den, ferociously curious about a big tree they can see in the distance. Spring arrives and they leave their den to frolic about its trunk, playing the day away. But with more residents than could ever be counted, this is more than just some "fox's tree." Go on a lyrical journey through the tree and learn all about life's wonders.

Ages 4+

32 page / March 2025
Sold: Vietnamese

Kaito: Wherever the Wind Blows

Haru is flying her kite, Kaito, when his string snaps. That's the beginning of his adventures with magpies, elephants, and other kind creatures who help him when he gets stuck. Along his way, he's also able to help a baby swallow learn to fly. A lemon tree marks the house where Haru is waiting to hear everything that happened to him.

Ages 4+

40 pages / 2024 / Sold: Korean, Vietnamese



The Bookstore Cat

The bookstore cat closes up for the day and is ready to take a walk, but he accidentally leaves one window open. When characters from all different children's stories get blown away in a gust of wind, his walk turns into a quest to find them all and return them to the bookstore. Pinocchio, Cinderella, Rapunzel... Who else is stranded outside their story?

Ages 4+

44 pages / 2021 / Sold: Korean, Vietnamese



Author

Eriko Ishikawa

Born in Fukuoka Prefecture. Her books include *Botayama de asonda koro* (When we played on Mt. Bota; winner of the 46th Kodansha Publication Culture Award for Children's Books), *Kankeri* (Kick the can; Alice Kan) and *Arara no hatake* (A field of oh dears; text by Rie Muranaka; Kaiseisha; winner of the 35th Joji Tsubota Award).

The Book of Water



USBY 2022 Outstanding
International Book List

"Earth is a planet of water. Humans are all children of this water planet. Water is the origin of humans. This poem is an ode to water," said Hiroshi Osada of this work. Now set to vibrant illustrations by Ryoji Arai, it makes a beautiful picture book and great follow up to the pair's books about the forest and the sky.

Ages 5+

32 pages / 2019
Sold: Chinese (SC), English, Hindi, Swedish

A Forest Picture Book



Ages 5+

32 pages / 1999
Sold: Chinese (SC),
Hindi

Writer

Hiroshi Osada

Born 1939 in Fukushima Prefecture. Debuted with the poetry collection *Warera shinsen na tabibito* (We novel travelers) in 1965. After that he was active as a poet and received the Mainichi Publishing Culture Award 1982, and the Robo no Ishi Literary Award in 1991. He continued writing award winning poetry until his death in 2015.

The Sky Picture Book



Ages 5+

36 pages / 2011
Sold: Chinese (SC),
English, Hindi

The White Ravens
2012

Best Illustrator,
2021 Northern Lights
Book Awards

Illustrator

Ryoji Arai

Astrid Lindgren
Memorial Award
2005 Winner

Born 1956 in Yamagata Prefecture. Released *MELODY* in 1990 and began creating picture books. In 1991 his work *Yukkuri to Jojoni* (Take-It-Easy and Little-by-Little) was exhibited as a Japanese representative for the Ezra Jack Keats Awards. He won a special award at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 1999.

Lili and Nene's Ghost Pancakes

NEW!



Lili the squirrel and Nene the mouse love to make pancakes for their guests. One night, they meet an adorable little ghost, but when they give it some pancakes to eat, its body gets bigger and bigger... Join Lili and Nene on their evening pancake adventure!

Ages 3+

32 pages / Sept. 2025

Sold: Thai, Vietnamese



Lili and Nene's Acorn Pancakes

Lili the squirrel and Nene the mouse love to make pancakes. The sweet smell attracts all the animals. Then a big bear comes along...

This is a story full of tenderness with illustrations that will work up kiddos' appetites. Tajima's style is popular in France as well as Japan.

Ages 3+

32 pages / Sept. 2024

Sold: Thai



Author & Illustrator
Kaori Tajima

Born in Tokyo. Graduated from Musashino Art University. After working as a character merch designer, she became a picture book author. Her picture books published abroad include *NEIGE* and *Quand vient le PRINTEMPS* (Lirabelle).

Frannie and Melanie Series

Ages 3+

36 pages

Frannie and Melanie are sisters who run a soup shop. Their delicious soup brings happiness to their customers.

**Frannie and Melanie:
Soup Makers of the Forest**



Sold: Chinese (SC), French, Vietnamese

**Frannie and Melanie:
A Splendid Recital**



Sold: Chinese (SC), French, Vietnamese

**Frannie and Melanie:
A Joyous Soup**



Sold: Chinese (SC), French, Vietnamese

Min the Bear Series

Ages 3+

Min is a cute little bear girl. These are stories about Min, who is the baby of the family, and her two big brothers.

**Min the Bear's
House**



36 pages
Sold: Chinese (SC),
Chinese (TC)

**Min the Bear's
Winter
Preparations**



40 pages
Sold: Chinese (SC),
Chinese (TC)

**Min the Bear's
Christmas**



40 pages
Sold: Chinese (SC),
Chinese (TC)

**Min the Bear
and Her Flower
Garden**



38 pages
Sold: Chinese (SC),
Chinese (TC)

Illustrator
Nami Adachi

Born in Tajimi, Gifu Prefecture. A picture book author and designer. Major works include the *Kuma no gakko* (The bear school; Bronze Shinsha) series among others.

Author
Hiroyuki Aihara

Born in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. A picture book author and essayist. Major works include the *Kuma no gakko* (The bear school; Bronze Shinsha) series among others.

Panda Exercise series

Ages 2+
32 pages

Over
400,000
copies
in print

A tulip, a banana, a rice ball, an airplane... Have fun pretending to be all sorts of familiar things with panda friends. You won't be able to help but move your body as you turn each page. This series will enrich both your heart and your body.



Good Night Panda Exercises

NEW!

The Panda Exercise series is back, this time with exercises to help you fall asleep! As the day fades into night, it's time to get ready for bed. Take a big, big breath. Roll, sway, and slowly stretch. Calm both body and mind with these nighttime exercises.

2025



Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), French, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese



Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), French, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese



Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), French, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese



Sold: Chinese (SC), Vietnamese

Author & Illustrator
Satoshi Iriyama

Born in Tokyo. His picture books include the Piyo-chan series, *Oyasumi nasai no oto* (Good night sounds), *Koro koro panda* (Roly poly panda), *Yuru yuru panda* (Rock and sway panda), *Poketto neko* (Pocket kitty), *Masuku o tottara* (When you take your mask off), and more.

Picture Books with Our Furry Friends

Over 5
million
copies
in print



Miiko

NEW!

Ages 5+
32 pages
Nov. 2024

Author & Illustrator
Yoshifumi Hasegawa



The Cat That Lived a Million Times

Ages All ages

31 pages / 1977
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), German, Icelandic, Mongolian, Thai, Vietnamese

Author & Illustrator
Yoko Sano



We're Getting a Cat Tomorrow

Ages 4+
24 pages / 2000
Sold: Chinese (SC), Korean

Author
Chihiro Ishizu Illustrator
Yuki Sasameya



This is a cat.

Ages 3+
28 pages / 2018
Sold: Chinese (TC)

Author & Illustrator
Yuka Kitamura



The Piggyback Dad

NEW!

Ages 4+
32 pages / 2025
Sold: Chinese (TC), Korean



My Dear Dog, Hachi

Ages 4+
36 pages / 2009
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), Vietnamese

Author & Illustrator
Yoshifumi Hasegawa



Longlegs

Ages 4+
32 pages / 1999
Sold: Chinese (SC)

Author & Illustrator
Tadashi Akiyama



Jiro's Bark

Ages 4+
32 pages / 1998

Author & Illustrator
Kenji Yamashita

Doctor Anton Series

Ages 3+
32 pages

Over 1.5 million
copies
in print

The Doctor Anton series uses gentleness and humor to show kids that a visit to the doctor doesn't have to be scary.



Doctor Anton

Doctor Anton is a kind veterinarian who always wears a smile. All sorts of animals come to his clinic each day. A rooster who lost his voice, a tiger with a tummy ache, an alligator whose jaw came unhinged... No matter how scary the patient may seem, Doctor Anton listens closely and cures what ails them.

2013 / Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), Korean, Thai, Vietnamese



Doctor Anton: Baby Checkups

NEW!

Today's the day the baby animals come to Doctor Anton's clinic. Hippo, lion, and pig parents all bring their babies in just to make sure everything is in order. Doctor Anton answers everyone's concerns with care, and great news! Everyone is growing as they should! But just as he's about to close for the day, he hears a tap-tap-tap on his window...

Autumn 2025 / Sold: Chinese (SC)



Author & Illustrator Toshio Nishimura

Born in Aichi Prefecture. Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University's design department. After working as an interior/textile designer, Nishimura entered the picture book field. He is able to capture children's hearts immediately with his humorous stories and painting style. His picture books include *Barubaru-san* (Mr. Barbar the barber; text by Eriko Inui), *Unko!* (Poop!; text by Satoshiin), and *Imo imo hori hori* (Digging for potatoes) among many others.

Princess Moon Moth NEW!

Children's author Yoko Tomiyasu and mangaka Daisuke Igarashi team up to deliver an SF picture book like no other!



An insect princess egg falls to Earth from the Moon. The larva waits inside a piece of bamboo, glowing to attract a human to take care of her... Daisuke Igarashi's global reputation was solidified with the acclaimed anime adaptation of his manga, *Children of the Sea*. His elaborate, fantastical illustrations combine with award-winning author Yoko Tomiyasu's poetic text to spin a story that transcends generational boundaries. Adult readers are sure to want a copy of their own!

All ages

32 pages / Sept. 2025



Author Yoko Tomiyasu

Longlisted for the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award. Born in Tokyo, she graduated from the Faculty of Humanities at Wako University. In 1991, she won both the Japanese Association of Writers for Children Prize for Newcomers and the Shogakukan Award for Children's Literature for *Kunugibayashi no zawa zawa sō* (The noisy house in Kunugi Forest) and has continued to receive many others awards for her work. *Yamanba-san no Mokko-tachi* (The Mokkos of Mount Yamanba) was selected for the 2002 IBBY Honor List.

Illustrator Daisuke Igarashi

Born in Saitama. Graduated from Tama Art University. He won an excellence prize in the Manga Division at the 8th Japan Media Arts Festival with *Majo (Witches)*, and his *Kaijū no kodomo (Children of the Sea)* received an excellence award in the Japan Cartoonists Association Awards as well as an excellence award in the Manga Division of the 13th Japan Media Arts Festival. Other picture books include *Basuzaurusu* (Busasaurus; Aki Shobo) and *Nekomagatake: bakeneko shugyō no yama* (Bakeneko training on Mount Nekomagatake; Iwasaki Shoten).

Luchika the Hedgehog series

Ages 9+
2013-
Sold: Chinese (SC)

This popular, evergreen series filled with poetic imagination tells sweet stories about the hedgehog Luchika and his friends who live in the fantastical land of Ferié.



122 pages / 2013

Luchika the Hedgehog

Luchika the hedgehog is great friends with Saul the mole. One day the two of them, wanting to make some tasty jam, go into the forest to look for currants. There they encounter rain fish that fly through the sky and try to figure out who is playing the flute they hear...



Animation now available on ANIMEHON!



Writer
Yuko Kanno

Born in Tokyo and graduated from Tokyo Jogakkan College. Known for her early readers series Sorata and Hinata and her series of seasonal cat picture books.

Illustrator
Yoko Kitami

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture. Her work was selected for the 2005 and 2015 Bologna International Picture Book Illustration Exhibition. In 2009, *Ru to Rinden: tabi to orusuban* (Rue and Linden: a journey) received the Bologna Ragazzi Award at the Bologna Children's Book Fair.



The Lost Key



130 pages / 2013

The Mysterious Trolley



162 pages / 2014

The Night the Stars Were Born



146 pages / 2014

Adventures in a Picture Book I&2



114 pages / 2016



115 pages / 2016

The Halloween Lantern



146 pages / 2017

A New Year for the Land of Ferié



162 pages / 2018

Mermaid Island



162 pages / 2019

Tuuli's Secret



162 pages / 2020

The Rainbow Egg



146 pages / 2021

The Little Evening Concert



144 pages / 2022

Where the Spirits Live



128 pages / 2023

Lost in Ferié



128 pages / Feb. 2025

NEW!

The series finale is here!

Early Readers

We Are Penguin Explorers



Heave and-a ho ho, heave and-a ho ho! The penguin explorers land on the southern isle and begin their expedition. They are unfazed by their “dangerous” encounters with a lion, a python, and a crocodile, and equally unfazed when a dinosaur shows up. After drawing a map of the island and recommending the dinosaur as the main attraction, they embark once more.

Ages 6+
78 pages / 1991
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC)

We Are Penguin Explorers: The Southern Isle



This is a fun picture book version of the first entry in the early reader series. Giggle all over again at how unfazed they are by every encounter.

Ages 3+
32 pages / 2022
Sold: Chinese (SC), Korean

Writer
Hiroshi Saito

Born in Tokyo. German literature scholar and author of children's literature. Professor at Asia University.

Illustrator
Jun Takabatake

Born in Aichi Prefecture. He received the Bologna International Award for Illustration for *Dare no jitensha* (Whose bicycle?; Froebel-Kan). He won the German Children's Literature Prize 2018 for his book *Boku wa Afurika ni Sumu Kirin to iimasu* (I am a giraffe living in Africa; written by Megumi Iwasa; from Kaiseisha).

The Long, Long Journey of Our Bones



Winner of a JASCL Honken Best Book Prize in 2018
The next generation in the Association of Studies for Picture Books' BOOKEND 2018
Winner of a Children's Welfare Culture Award in 2019

4.6 billion years ago, Earth was formed, and many lifeforms came into being as the lands and seas stabilized: unicellular organisms, multicellular organisms, relatives of fish who lived in the sea, animals who climbed up onto land... Explore the fascinating evolution of bones, as well as how humans are connected to our ancestors from the primordial sea via the ocean we always carry inside us.

Ages 7+ 36 pages / 2017 / Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC)

Writer
Motoko Matsuda

Born 1955 in Yamaguchi Prefecture. She went freelance after working for a publishing company. Her own works include *Honehone tankentai* (Bone explorers) among others.

Supervision
Akihiko Sakuragi

Professor at Takarazuka University. Born 1954 in Tokyo. His specialization is in 3-D shape analysis of bones.

Illustrator
Kazuo Kawakami

Born 1959 in Hokkaido Prefecture. In addition to doing illustrations for textbooks and magazines, he also has illustrated picture books.

Supervision
GUNMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Evolution of Whales



Whales are mammals, but did you know that they evolved from animals who used to live on land? From the four-legged Pakicetus to the massive blue whale with its efficient system of baleen plates for feeding, Hiroya Minakuchi charts the emergence of different types of cetaceans over the course of millions of years of evolution in this nonfiction picture book with stunning illustrations by Takashi Oda.

Ages 10+ 40 pages / 2022 / Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC)

Writer
Hiroya Minakuchi

Photographer, journalist. He won the 22nd Kodansha Publishing Culture Award for Photography with *Orca Again* and the 5th Japan Picture Book Prize with *Makkō no uta shiroi ōki na tomodachi* (Song of the sperm whale: our big white friend).

Illustrator
Takashi Oda

Painter, illustrator. Specializes in oil painting and murals. Does work for museum exhibitions, renderings for encyclopedias, picture books, and more. Teaches in the faculty of manga at Kyoto Seika University.

Supervision
Toshiyuki Kimura

Chief of the biology section at the Gunma Museum of Natural History.

Hokusai's Night Parade of 100 Yokai

A Seek-and-Find Adventure in Spooky Edo Art

NEW!

Come play with creatures from Japanese folklore in this seek-and-find book!



This book features a series of *ukiyo-e* works by famous artists like Hokusai, Kuniyoshi, and Sharaku depicting fascinating supernatural worlds that are just a touch creepy. Shapeshifting cats called bakeneko, horned oni, giant spiders known as ōgumo, and many more are here to lead you right into a magical, mythical world feared since old but too fun to stay scared of for long!

The best thing about this book is that you can make delightful discoveries and gain fascinating insight by looking closely at each work as you search the pages.

Ages 5+ 32 pages / July 2025



Editorial supervision and commentary by
The Ota Memorial Museum of Art



Learn about Anatomy!

Cells at Work Encyclopedia of the Human Body

Using more than 200 illustrations from the TV anime, the characters of *Cells at Work* teach elementary school students about the human body in an easy-to-understand way!

Ages 10+ 112 pages / 2019



Look and Learn!

Cells at Work Learn About the Human Body

A picture book using illustrations from the popular TV anime *Cells at Work* to teach children about the human body. Children can learn about what happens after they eat. How does that food become poop, and what is pee made of? Discover the human body with this board book with interactive flaps!

Ages 5+ 18 pages / 2021

Supervisor
Cells at Work Production Committee, Sirius Editorial Team

Editor
Kodansha

Cells at Work

Picture Books 1-6



Ages 10+ 36 pages / 2020-2024
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), English, Indonesian, Polish

- The hit anime and manga *Cells at Work* is now a series of graphic novel-style picture books!
- Vol. 1 :** The "Blood"y Battle Between Bacteria and White Blood Cells
What do your cells do when you get hurt? How do your cells fight bacteria when you get pneumonia?
 - Vol. 2 :** Fearsome Enemies! Influenza and Food Poisoning
 - Vol. 3 :** A New Opponent! COVID-19
 - Vol. 4 :** Injections Aren't Scary! Heatstroke and Mumps
 - Vol. 5 :** Familiar Ailments! The Secrets of Colds and Bumps
 - Vol. 6 :** Lactic Acid Bacteria to the Rescue in Your Tummy!

Illustrator
Kumi Makimura
Born in Tokyo. Has created a number of manga and contributed illustrations to many books.

Original Creator
Akane Shimizu
Born in Tokyo in 1994. Mangaka. Winner of the 27th Shonen Sirius Newcomer Grand Prize. Her manga *Cells at Work* serialized in Monthly Shonen Sirius and the anime based on it are popular around the world.

Chiikawa Series

Ages 4+



Chiikawa is a kinda cute little buddy. Life with their friends is fun, but it can be rough at times, too. Making its start as a webcomic, the series exploded in popularity, spawning print publications, an anime, and tons of merchandise. These picture books were originally packaged with premium releases of the comic and are now available as stand-alone titles!

Crunch, Nom, Gulp: A Chiikawa Picture Book



It's a beautiful day and Chiikawa is out for a walk when they come across a giant piece of toast! Brought to you by a kinda cute little buddy, this kind tasty-looking picture book is sure to make you hungry.

32 pages / 2023 / Sold: Chinese (TC)

Ramen For a Treat: A Chiikawa Picture Book



It looks like Chiikawa, Hachiware, and Usagi are meeting up to go out. Where are they headed? Oh, it's a ramen shop! Gatefolded pages add an extra layer of fun to this tasty adventure.

32 pages / 2023 / Sold: Chinese (TC)

Author
Nagano

An illustrator and manga creator, they won the 53rd Japan Cartoonists Association Award Grand Prize in the Manga category with *Chiikawa*. They also won the 6th Noma Publishing Culture Award in recognition of their outstanding work over the past decade.

Chi's Sweet Home: My Cozy Corner A Picture Book



The global comic sensation with over 3.5 million copies sold, reborn as a picture book the whole family can enjoy! Chi and her human family move to Paris, but upon arriving at their new residence, Chi runs off. This is not her home! Follow Chi as she wanders around Paris to find out where she ends up!

Ages 4+
32 pages / 2025



Where's Chi going this time?

Author
Kanata Konami

Born in Nagano in 1958. Known for her kindhearted and humorous stories about the daily lives of humans and animals. Her work, *Chi's Sweet Home*, has been translated and released in 23 countries around the world and also has a wildly popular anime adaptation on Netflix. Her stories *FukuFuku: Kitten Tales* and *Neko to jī-chan* (The cat and the old man) are hits across borders and generations alike.

Manga Coloring Book Series All Ages

The extremely popular coloring book series based on global manga sensations continues to grow! Each scene has been handpicked so you can dive even deeper into the worlds of your favorite stories. Add lines to the speech bubbles and color the characters in any way you choose!

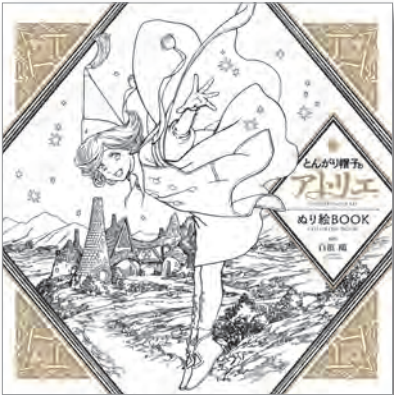
CHI'S SWEET HOME Coloring Book



60 pages / Autumn 2025



WITCH HAT ATELIER Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024 / Sold: English, Spanish, Ukrainian

BLUE LOCK Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024
Sold: Chinese (SC), English, French, Italian, Russian, Ukrainian

ATTACK ON TITAN Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024
Sold: English, Spanish, Ukrainian

Witch Hat Atelier NEW!

Special Anthology



In this official spin-off novelization of *Witch Hat Atelier*, follow the characters of this beloved series in three separate short stories not found in the manga! In the first story, Orluggio heads into snowy mountains to search for Qifrey after he disappears and finds something he wasn't expecting. In the second story, the apprentices of Qifrey's Atelier look after a baby dragon. In the final story, the Knights Moralis go undercover after receiving a report about abuse of magic.

Ages 10+
192 pages
Sept. 2025



New cover and interior artworks
specially created by Kamome Shirahama!

Original Story & Cover Artist
Kamome Shirahama

Manga creator and illustrator. Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts. Her manga, *Witch Hat Atelier*, has been serialized in *Morning Two* magazine since 2016. It won both the Eisner Award for Best U.S. Edition of International Material—Asia and the Harvey Award for Best Manga in 2020.

Isagi, Nagi, & Bachira Before the Fight: A Blue Lock Novel

In this spin-off novelization of the popular manga series, *Blue Lock*, readers can see what their favorite characters were doing before they joined the Blue Lock training program. Three other volumes explore other characters' pasts.

Ages 10+
208 pages / 2022 / Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), Italian

Original Story & Cover Artist
Muneyuki Kaneshiro

Original Manga Character Design
Yusuke Nomura

Author
Momo Moegi
Illustrations
Kota Sannomiya



Author
Jun Esaka

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture. Some of her notable works consist of the *Naruto Retsuden* series and *ONE PIECE Novel: Heroines*.

STUDIO GHIBLI

The Complete Works Expanded Edition



In this expanded edition, new entries about *The Boy and the Heron*, as well as information about the Ghibli Park and Ghibli Museum, Mitaka have been added. There are also new additions about short works that can only be seen at the park and museum! Packed full of analyses of various Ghibli works, character charts, and more, this is an essential book for any Ghibli fan!

All Ages
176 pages / 2024
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), English, French, Italian, Korean, Polish, Spanish

