



KODANSHA

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

2025 Spring Edition



Picture Books

Early Readers

Middle Grade & **YA**

Non-Fiction & **E**ducation

Graphic Novels

Characters

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: Bulgaria, China, Germany, Korea, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam

Tell me, Buddy



Ages 2+
27 pages / Sept. 2024
Sold: India (EN)

Thank You, Buddy



Ages 2+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Bulgaria, France, Italy, India (EN)

I Just Wanted to Say...



Ages 2+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, India (EN), Korea, Spain, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam

Have a Seat



Ages 2+
28 pages / 2018
Sold: China, Italy, India (EN), Korea, Thailand, Vietnam

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



Ages 2+
28 pages / 2017
Sold: China, Germany, Italy, India (EN), Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

The Hat



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Korea, Russia, Vietnam

I'm the Big Brother



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Portugal, Vietnam

The Baby of the Family



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Vietnam

Little Hedgehog Plays Hide and Seek

NEW!



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.



Ages 4+
32 pages / Nov. 2024

Little Hedgehog's Red Scarf



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2018
Sold: Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

Little Hedgehog's Wish



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2019
Sold: Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

Little Hedgehog's Snowhedgehog



Ages 4+
36 pages / 2021
Sold: Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

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: China, Taiwan

1993
Bologna Book Fair
Elba Prize



Over 30
million
copies
in print

Rainbow Fish and the Great Escape

NEW!



Ages 3+
26 pages
Summer 2025

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!



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!

Age 1+

12 pages / Autumn 2025

Co-edition available!

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.

Mish-Mash Buddies

NEW!



Pihotek: Walking the Arctic With the Wind

The Grand Prize of the Japan Picture Book Award

The Chairman's Award at Japan Book Design Award



Ages 6+ 32 pages / 2022 / Sold: Canada, USA

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.



Animation now available on the ANIMEHON!



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

China, India, Taiwan, USA

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*.

Illustrator

Ken Kuroi

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

The Voice of the Snow

NEW!



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.

Ages 4+

32 pages / Nov. 2024

Sold: USA



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.

English edition highly praised
in Publishers Weekly!

Ages 4+

32 pages / 2018

Sold: China, Italy, Korea,
Taiwan, USA, Vietnam

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

NEW!



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 / Mar. 2025

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



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: Korea



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).

It's Dumpling Day! NEW!



Ages 4+ 32 pages / June 2025

Author

Mutsumi Ishii

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture. She won the Mainichi Shimbun Short Children's Story Prize and the Niimi Nankichi Children's Story Prize with her book *Gogatsu no hajime, nichiyōbi no asa* (A Sunday morning at the start of May). She also won the Japan Association of Writers for Children Prize for her novel *Sara to kamihikōki* (Plates and planes, from Kodansha).

Dumpling Day is special. Grandma works her magic to make the wrappers. Grandpa grows the vegetables in the garden. Mom, who's usually busy with work, makes the filling. Xiaoqing helps fold them. And then Dad boils all the dumplings for everyone to eat. Feel the joy of gathering around the table to eat as a family!

Wu Wen has spent her life sharing how important and delicious home cooking can be. That work continues with this heartwarming story from her childhood about food and family.

Original Story

Wu Wen

Born in Beijing, Wu Wen moved to Japan in 1990. The recipes she learned from her mother became popular, inspiring her to become a specialist in Chinese home cooking. She shares her knowledge of Chinese home cooking, lifestyle, and culture.

Illustrator

Haruno Matsumoto

Born in Tokyo, she is a picture book author and illustrator. She graduated from Tama Art University's Oil Painting Department. She has won numerous prizes for her work in *Obāsan no shimbun* (Mrs. Mihara's newspapers; text by Tetsundo Iwakuni), including the Kembuchi Picture Book Village Grand Prize.

Totto-chan's 15 Soybeans



A spin-off of *Totto-chan: The Girl at the Window*, which has been translated into over 20 languages and has over 25 million copies in print worldwide, this is an autobiographical story of a day in the life of a little girl during WWII. Totto-chan gets only 15 soybeans to eat in a day. Her mother puts them in an envelope for her to take to school. She has to ration them for herself, even through the stress of waiting in an air-raid shelter after the siren goes off during class. On the way home, she wonders if her house will even still be standing, but thankfully she arrives home to find her family waiting for her, and she can eat the rest of her soybeans for dinner.

Ages 4+ 32 pages / 2024 / Sold: Thailand, Vietnam

Original Creator

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

Born in Tokyo and graduated from the Tokyo College of Music's Vocal Performance Department. Now works as a talk show host and actress. Her debut book, first published in 1981, *Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window* (tr. Dorothy Britton) has been published in over 35 countries. She is also known for her philanthropic work, including the establishment of the Japanese Theatre of the Deaf, and she is the director of the Chihiro Art Museum.

Author

Sachiko Kashiwaba

See P27 for bio.

Illustrator

Haruno Matsumoto

See above for bio.

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: China, India, Sweden, USA

A Forest Picture Book



Ages 5+

32 pages / 1999

Sold: China, India

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



The White Ravens 2012

Best Illustrator, 2021 Northern Lights Book Awards

Ages 5+

36 pages / 2011

Sold: China, India, USA

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 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: Thailand



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: France, China

Frannie and Melanie: A Splendid Recital



Sold: France, China

Frannie and Melanie: A Joyous Soup



Sold: France, China

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: China, Taiwan

Min the Bear's Winter Preparations



40 pages
Sold: China, Taiwan

Min the Bear's Christmas



40 pages
Sold: China, Taiwan

Min the Bear and Her Flower Garden



38 pages
Sold: China, Taiwan

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.

Apr. 2025



Sold: China, France, Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam



Sold: China, France, Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam



Sold: China, France, Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam



Sold: China, Vietnam

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: China, Germany, Iceland, Mongolia, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

Author & Illustrator
Yoko Sano



We're Getting a Cat Tomorrow

Ages 4+
24 pages / 2000
Sold: China, Korea

Author
Chihiro Ishizu Illustrator
Yuki Sasameya



This is a cat.

Ages 3+
28 pages / 2018
Sold: Taiwan

Author & Illustrator
Yuka Kitamura



Wan Wan, Bow Wow

NEW!

Ages 4+
24 pages
Dec. 2024

Author
Eriko Inui Illustrator
Keiji Motoyasu



My Dear Dog, Hachi

Ages 4+
36 pages / 2009
Sold: China, Taiwan, Vietnam

Author & Illustrator
Yoshihumi Hasegawa



Longlegs

Ages 4+
32 pages / 1999
Sold: China

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: China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam



Doctor Anton: Baby Animals

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: China



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 Satoshin), and *Imo imo hori hori* (Digging for potatoes) among many others.

Mottainai Grandma Series

Over 1.5 million copies in print

"Mottainai" isn't just a single word to represent the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle—it also includes respect for Earth's irreplaceable resources. It's been 20 years since the Mottainai Grandma series was started to teach this concept through stories. Now the books are beloved by young environmentalists in not only Japan, but China, India, and other places around the world.



Mottainai Grandma's Grandma

This is a story of Mottainai Grandma when she was little and her grandma, who grows rice. She learns important lessons about gratitude, compassion for living things, and respect for life.

Ages 3+
32 pages / 2024

Kembuchi Picture Book Village Award

Mottainai Grandma



Mottainai Grandma Goes to the River



Ages 4+
36 page / 2019
Sold: China, India, Taiwan, Vietnam

Mottainai Grandma Let's Eat With Gratitude



Ages 3+
36 pages / 2009
Sold: India, Taiwan, Vietnam

Author & Illustrator
Mariko Shinju



Studied picture book design in Osaka and New York. Her first book, *A Pumpkin Story*, was released in the United States in 1998. In 2004, she released *Mottainai Bāsan* (Mottainai Grandma), which won the Kembuchi Picture Book Village Award.

A Gyoza Went Missing

8th Miraiya Picture Book Award

15th Kindergarten Picture Book Award

17th MOE Picture Book Booksellers' Award, Newcomer's Prize (1st place)



Ages 4+

32 pages / 2023

Sold: China, Korea, Taiwan

Police alert the town of Oba that a gyoza has gone missing, and a boy named Toshio imagines why the gyoza might have left. Did it go visit the hometown of all gyoza? Or did it get sick of being a gyoza and go train to become a spring roll? Where could it be? A winner of multiple awards that sold 60,000 copies in one year alone!

Now
Printing

A Gyoza Moved In Next Door

NEW!

One day, a new neighbor moves in, and it's...a gyoza! All the residents of the building are so curious. Another quirky gyoza fantasy by the author of *A Gyoza Went Missing*.

Ages 4+

32 pages / May 2025

Author

Michiko Tamada

Born in 1977 and lives in Kanagawa Prefecture. Graduated with a design degree from Tama Art University. Was a runner-up in the 21st Pinpoint Picture Book Competition and received an honorable mention in the 42nd Kodansha Picture Book Newcomer Award. In 2022, she won the 43rd Kodansha Picture Book Newcomer Award. She runs a coffee bean subscription service.

The Kokeshi Gather

NEW!



The kokeshi are gathering, but where are they going? What are they trying to do?! One day, all the kokeshi in Japan start to gather together. But why? And where are they even going?! Get sucked into the wondrous world of kokeshi with pages full of uniquely designed kokeshi to enjoy!

Ages 4+

32 pages / Feb. 2025

Sold: China

Author & Illustrator

Moe Matsunaga

Born in Saitama Prefecture in 1992, and currently living in Tokyo. She strives to write books that make everyone smile including books such as *Karrapo no nikuman* (Empty pork buns; Hakusensha), which won the 10th MOE Original Picture Book Grand Prix top prize. She also authored *Tempura pachipachi* (Sizzling tempura; Kodansha) as well as numerous other publications.

Off to the Mountain

NEW!

A girl goes off to the mountain, singing a counting song as she goes. But this will be no ordinary mountain stroll. Before she knows it, she's been swallowed by the mountain, chased by a tiger, and then spit back out again! A rhythmic tale full of love of mountains, this story may remind readers of Studio Ghibli's *Princess Mononoke* and *Spirited Away*.

Ages 4+

32 pages / Feb. 2025

Author

Satoko Shibata

Singer-songwriter and poet originally from Sapporo, Hokkaido. She published her first poetry collection, *Sabaku* (SABAQUE) in 2016. In the same year, she won the 5th ELSUR Foundation Newcomer's Prize in the Contemporary Poetry category. She has authored many poems, essays, and picture book stories.



Illustrator

Takahito Hada

Born in 1988 in Hyogo Prefecture and now living in Nagano Prefecture. Holds independent exhibitions while also providing illustrations for books, largely those aimed at children and picture books. Works includes *Mado no soto* (Outside the window, Iwasaki Shoten) written by Shiro Sanō and edited by Masao Higashi, etc.

Luchika the Hedgehog Series

Ages 9+

2013-
Sold: China

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 the
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 Bologna Raggazi
Award 2009 

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!

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: China, Taiwan

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: China, Korea

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 Afrika ni Sumu Kirin to iimasu* (I am a giraffe living in Africa; written by Megumi Iwasa; from Kaiseisha).

Monkey Life



What do monkeys do? Well, monkey things, like playing, picking fleas off each other, and taking naps. However, once or twice a year the monkeys on a certain southern island are visited by Old Mr. Sea Turtle. What story from his travels will he tell this time? The first in a series, this story is hugely popular with preschool children. It has won numerous awards and was selected by the Japan Foundation as one of their Lifelong Favorites recommended for translation.

Ages 6+
85 pages / 1991
Sold: China

Monkey Island

NEW!



The monkeys spend their days doing fun monkey things. But one day out of nowhere, they hear a loud, frightening voice. At first, they think it must be a monster and they're scared. But the monkeys gather their courage to find out what or who they hear. In overcoming their fears, the monkeys may find something they weren't expecting!

Ages 6+
96 pages / Jan. 2025

Author
Hiroshi Ito

Author Hiroshi Itō was born in Tokyo in 1957 and graduated from Waseda University's School of Education. He started writing picture books as a student. Some of his works include: *Rururusan no niwa* (Mr. Rural's garden, Japan Picture Book Prize winner), *Osaru no mainichi* (Monkey life, Robō no Ishi Children's Literature Award winner), *Osaru no shima* (Monkey island, Robō no Ishi Children's Award winner), *Osaru ni naru hi* (Becoming a monkey, JBBY Award and Sankei Juvenile Literature Publishing Culture Award winner), *Osaru no mori* (Monkey forest, Noma Award for Juvenile Literature winner), and *Daijōbu, daijōbu* (You'll be fine, you'll be fine, Kodansha Publication Culture Award for Children's Books winner).

When a Dragon Calls: The Curse of the Bow Witch



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!

Ages 10+

256 pages / 2024

Sold: Korea, Russia, USA, Vietnam



Ages 10+

338 pages / 2011

Sold: Germany, Indonesia, Korea, USA, Russia

Temple Alley Summer

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. 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
SCBW 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.



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

Ages 10+

274 pages / 2015

Sold: China, France, Italy, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, Russia, Korea

Now being adapted into
a manga series!



©Renji Asai

The Dragon in the Darkness



256 pages / 2024

Sold: USA, Vietnam

The Witch's Birthing Chamber



272 pages / 2024

Sold: Vietnam

The Story- teller's Jar



272 pages / 2024

Sold: Vietnam

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.

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: China, France, Taiwan, Russia



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 1.5 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.



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.

No.6 Reunited

Ages 10+
224 pages / May 2025

NEW!



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?



Illustrator
toi8

The illustrator in charge of the original character designs and concept art for No. 6.

The Beast Player



Ages 11+
319-486 pages
2006-2010
Sold: China, France, Italy, UK, Russia

- A 2020 Michael L. Prinz Award Honoree
- A 2020 Batchelder Honoree
- A 2020 GLLI Translated YA Book Prize



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.

2014 Han Christian Andersen Award

3.1 million copies sold in print

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.

The Mirage Queen Series

The great thief Queen has a whimsical personality, but Queen knows what they like when it comes to a heist. When Queen finds something that fits their sense of aesthetics, they steal it in the most elegant and ambitious way possible.



Ages 10+
257-320 pages

Series: 2002-present 17 volumes

Over 1.3 million copies in print



A Warning from the Queen: Mirage Queen, Episode 0

This is the first story the Mirage Queen appears in. A strange note arrives: "Prof. Kuraki's new artificial intelligence will be stolen when it is completed in three years." Three years later, when the Queen sends a follow-up note, Great Detective Kiyoshiro Yumemizu is on the case!

Ages 9+
384 pages
2020

Author
Kaoru Hayamine



Author of the Kiyoshiro Yumemizu series, which has sold over 3.6 million copies, former elementary school teacher Kaoru Hayamine is the master of mysteries for kids where no one gets killed. His series Tom & Soya in the City has also sold over 2.2 million copies. He has received the Utsunomiya Childrens' Award a record-setting three times and is celebrating 34 years as an author.

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.

Soul Lanterns



The White Ravens
2014

The Shogakukan
Publication Culture Award

The Fukuda Kiyoto
Literary Award

Ages 13+
189 pages
2013
Sold: Germany, USA

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 Balistreri) and was selected as one of the Best Books 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.

Picture Book Economics: NEW! There's a Bubble in the Village!



Writer
Takuro Morinaga

Born in Tokyo in 1957. Worked as an economic analyst and professor in the Department of Economics at Dokkyo University. At the end of 2023, he announced he was battling cancer, but continued to work while fighting the disease. He passed away in January 2025. He wrote this book to teach children about how "bubbles" work in an approachable way.

The animals in the village all help each other out as much as they can. And to thank the other animals for all their help, Penguin goes the extra mile and hands out coupons that can be exchanged for a day's worth of help. But the coupons turn out to be more popular than expected... How is the price of goods decided? Why do you want more money when you see others around you with more? Learn about how the economy works along with the animals in Animal Village!

Ages 8+ 32 pages / Jan. 2025

Illustrator
Yumi Hayashi

Born in Osaka. An illustrator who works primarily in illustration and manga creation.



Author
Kentaro Itonori

A character designer and father to three young boys. He's in charge of laundry at home, but has given up on taming the never-ending piles.

How Can I NEW! Get More?

Ponta loves clementines and he wants to enjoy them as much as he can. So he learns new skills to maximize his clementines—making juice, ice cream, and all kinds of tasty treats that he shares with his friends and family. An afterword at the back of the book includes hints on how to help children develop their imagination and critical thinking skills.

Ages 4+ 31 pages / Mar. 2025

Illustrator
Minako Kano

Illustrator and mother of two. She'd love to have endless inspiration and to be able to draw without tiring.

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's 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: China, Taiwan

Writer
Motoko Matsuda

Born 1955 in Yamaguchi Prefecture. She went freelance after working for a publishing company. Her own works include *Honehono 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: China, Taiwan

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.

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).



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 a 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 1-5



Illustrator
Kumi Makimura

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

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

Ages 10+ 36 pages / 2020-2023 / Sold: China, Taiwan

Original Creator
Akane Shimizu

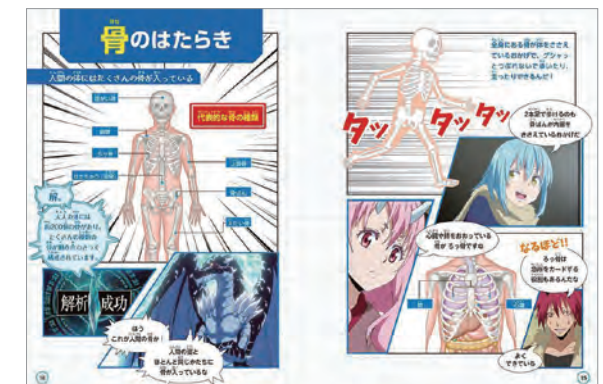
Born in Tokyo in 1994. Mangaka. Winner of the 27th Shonen Sirius Newcomer Grand Prize. Her manga *Cells at Work* serialized in Monthly Shonen Sirius and the anime based on it are popular around the world.

Learn with That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime The Human Body



An educational graphic novel series that gets kids learning with the help of the characters from the popular anime *That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime*. A fun and effective resource for learning about a variety of topics!

Ages 11+ 112 pages / 2024-2025



Learn with That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime Insects



Supervisor
That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime Production Committee

Editor
Kodansha

Anatomy Supervisor
Takehito Yamamoto

Insect Supervisor
Tadashi Ishikawa

Robotics Supervisor
Hiroshi Ishiguro, etc.

Learn with That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime Robotics

NEW!



Mar. 2025

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: Taiwan

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: Taiwan

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.

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

*The cover is tentative.

WITCH HAT ATELIER Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024 / Sold: Mexico, Ukraine, USA

BLUE LOCK Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024
Sold: China, France, Italy, Russia, Ukraine, USA

ATTACK ON TITAN Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024 / Sold: Mexico, Ukraine, USA



Witch Hat Atelier: A 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, Olruggio 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. New cover illustration by Kamome Shirahama.

NEW!

Ages 10+

192 pages / Sept. 2025

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.

Author

Jun Esaka

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

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

In this spin-off novelization of the popular manga series, *Blue Lock*, readers can enjoy seeing another side to the characters they love. Follow along with Isagi, Nagi, and Bachira in this first volume, with three additional volumes currently published.

Ages 10+

208 pages / 2022 / Sold: China, Italy, Taiwan

Original Story & Cover Artist

Muneyuki Kaneshiro

Original Manga Character Design

Yusuke Nomura

Author

Momo Moegi

Illustrations

Kota Sannomiya



STUDIO GHIBLI The Complete Works Expanded Edition

NEW!



In this expanded edition, new entries from *The Boy and the Heron*, as well as information from the Ghibli Park and Ghibli Museum, Mitaka have been added. There are also new additions from 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 / Nov. 2024

Sold: China, France, Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, USA