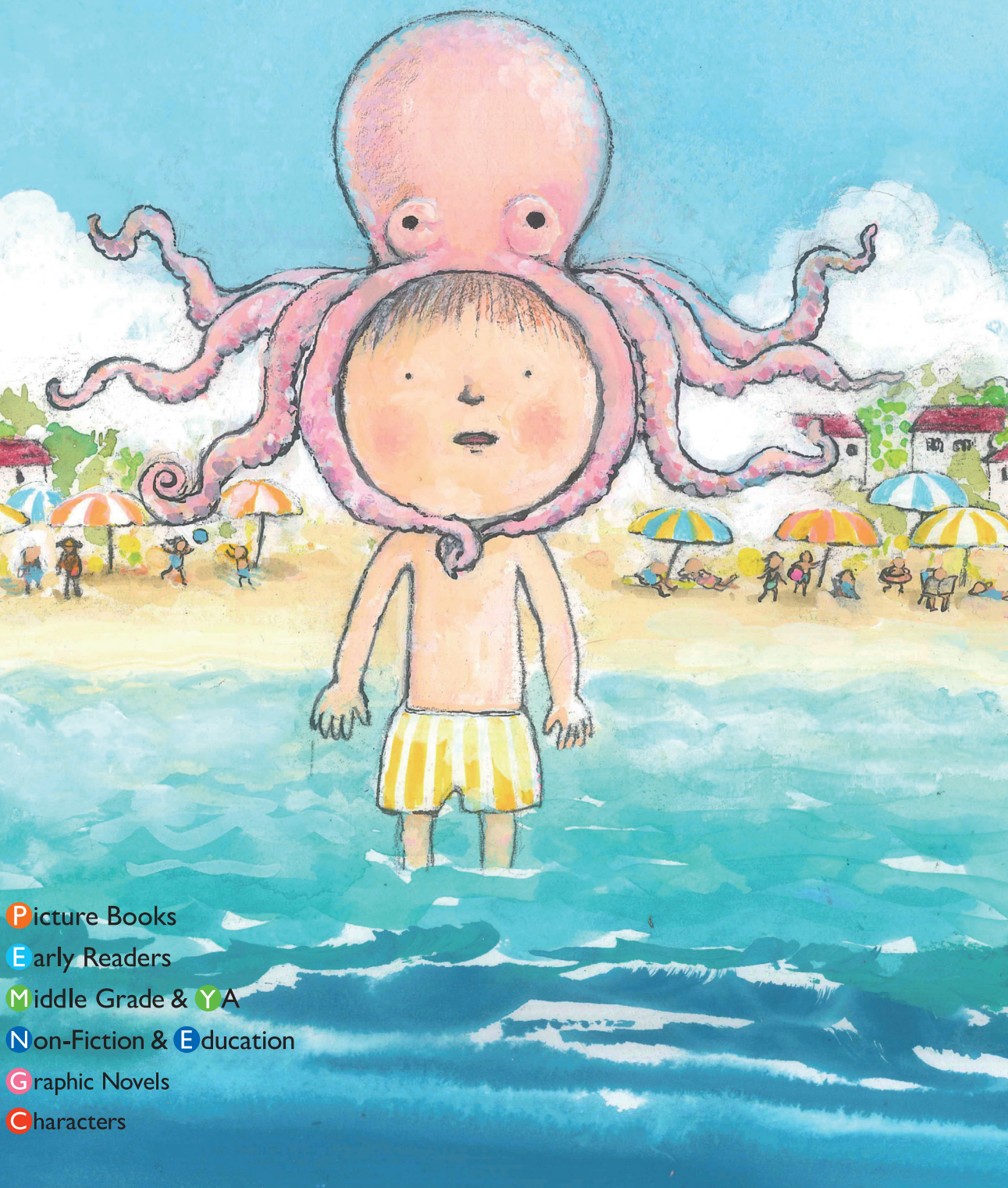




KODANSHA

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

2026 Spring Edition



Picture Books

Early Readers

Middle Grade & **YA**

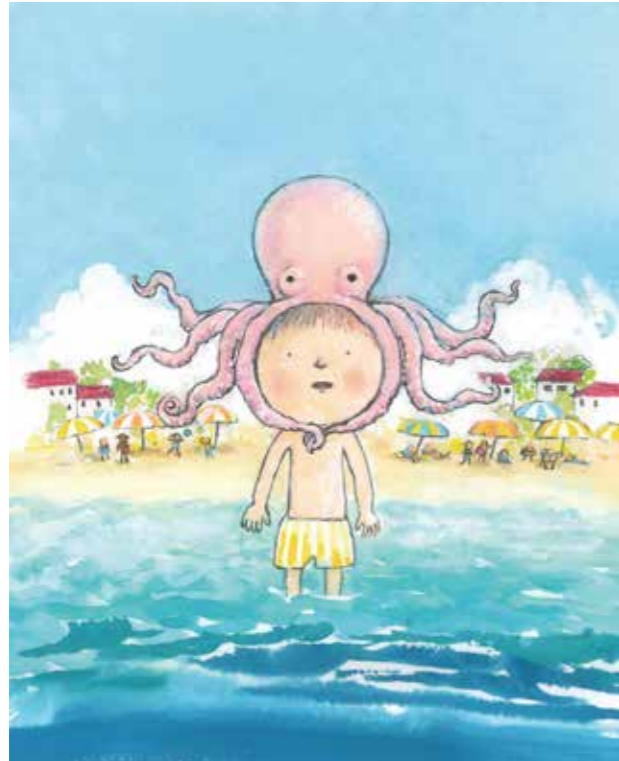
Non-Fiction & **E**ducation

Graphic Novels

Characters

There's an Octopus on my Head!

NEW!



2nd Astra International Picture Book Writing Contest, Kodansha Award

A young boy goes to the beach for his first swim of the year and an octopus sticks itself to his head! At first, the boy isn't happy about this new addition, but eventually they become friends. The octopus shoots ink at the boy's friends when they make fun of him and helps him study with its nine brains. When the two finally part, the octopus leaves a loving message in the sand that the boy, and readers, will never forget. The long-awaited publication of this Astra International Picture Book Writing Contest, Kodansha Award winner is here at last.

Ages 5+

32 pages / June 2026
Sold: Chinese (SC)



Original Story Jenny Guillaume

Lives in France. She works as a university librarian and is also active as an artist. She won the Kodansha Award in the Astra International Picture Book Writing Contest with her story *I Have an Octopus on My Head!* (Un poulpe sur la tête). Her fresh ideas are a welcome addition to children's literature.

Author & Illustrator Chisato Tashiro

Born in Tokyo. After several years of office work, she debuted as a picture book author with *Chameleon's Colors*, which was published simultaneously in seven languages. She also won the 16th Japan Picture Book Award with her picture book *5-hiki no sutekina nezumi: hikkoshi daisakusen* (Holp Shuppan), published in English by minedition as *Five Nice Mice Build a House*. Her colorful and refined style is popular in both Japan and overseas.

Autumn Leaves

NEW!



The creative masterminds behind *The Voice of the Snow* and global sensation *Downpour* are back with a new, atmospheric entry in their series of books about the four seasons. A little boy gathers crunchy fallen leaves into a pile and jumps in! Experience the joys of nature alongside the boy as he explores a vibrant autumn forest.

Ages 3+

32 pages / 2024

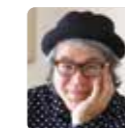
*Original Publisher: Holp Shuppan (Japan)
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (CT), Korean



Writer Yuko Ohnari

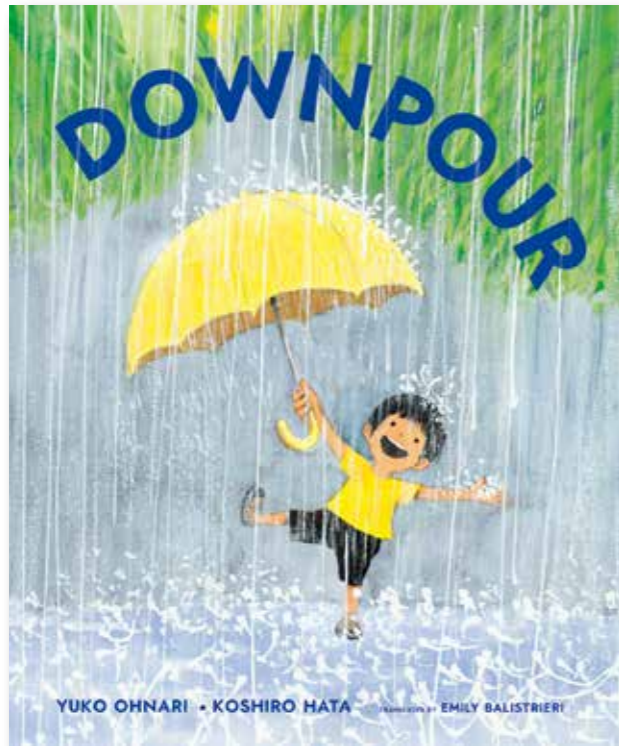
Picture book author. Works include *Dandan okāsan ni natte iku* (Gradually becoming a mother), *Momo* (Momo), *Kōfuku na shitsumon* (Questions for happiness), and *Kirei na iro to kotoba* (Pretty words and colors).

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.

Downpour



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

**USBBY 2026 Outstanding
International Book List**

**2026 Preschool
Blueberry Votes Award**

**2026 Blueberry
Honor Award**

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 alongside Yuko Ohnari's lively text. 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

Named a Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2025!

Chosen for the cover of The Horn Book Magazine's 2025 Summer Reading Guide!

The Voice of the Snow



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.

Ages 4+
32 pages / Nov. 2024
Sold: Chinese (SC), English, Korean

**30th Japanese
Picture Book Award**

**56th Kodansha
Ehon Award**

**17th Kindergarten
Picture Book Award**

Lili and Nene's Ghost Pancakes



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: French



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: Vietnamese



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).

You Can Do It Too! Let's Learn!

A collection of picture books that help children learn important life skills through play.

A Panda Toothbrushing Concert NEW!



The author of the popular Panda Exercise series, Satoshi Iriyama, is back with an all-new series of books to help kids learn. Grab a toothbrush and get ready because it's time to put on a show! Make toothbrush time something to look forward to by imagining boring toothbrush sounds are actually from a beautiful piano. The kids won't miss a beat!

Ages 2+
24 pages / Oct. 2025

The Panda Tidy-Up Train NEW!

In the second entry of this new panda series, it's time to ride the Tidy-Up Train together! After reading the book, little conductors can take their own toys home. With a little imagination, kids can enjoy tidying up their messes. All aboard!

Ages 2+
24 pages / Nov. 2025



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.

Bath Time NEW! I Don't Want a Bath!



Ages 3+
23 pages
Mar. 2026

Author & Illustrator
Wakaru

Getting Dressed Can You Get Dressed?



Ages 4+
24 pages
2021

Author & Illustrator
Yukimi Konno

Getting Dressed Can You Do It? Quick Change



Ages 2+
17 pages
2019
Sold:
Vietnamese

Author & Illustrator
Yoko Imoto

Potty Training NEW! Team Toilet Paper



Ages 2+
24 pages
Mar. 2026

Author
Kenta Otsuka Illustrator
Minako Kusaka

Potty Training Are You Poopin'?



Ages 2+
26 pages
2015
Sold:
Chinese (TC),
Korean

Author & Illustrator
Hiroyuki Arai

Tidying Up Jumble, Jumble, Perfect!



Ages 2+
24 pages
2021

Author & Illustrator
Yukimi Konno

Doing-Doing Whiskers



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), French, German, Korean, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese

I Just Wanted to Say...



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

The Hat



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

Tell me, Buddy



Ages 2+
27 pages / Sept. 2024

Have a Seat



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

I'm the Big Brother



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

Thank You, Buddy



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

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



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

The Baby of the Family



Ages 3+
24 pages / 2022
Sold: Vietnamese

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, German, 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.

The Reader Selected Picture Book Innovation Award

This award is a collaborative effort between Kodansha and Japan's top picture book platform, Ehon Navi, that reflects the needs of the digital age. The main feature of this award is that readers themselves vote for the winner. Reader-based voting guarantees a selection of winning picture books that new readers are sure to enjoy!



Ages 5+ 33 pages / Dec. 2025 ebook

Workin' Good at Eatin' Good NEW!

The owner of Eatin' Good is a pig who just wants his customers to enjoy the taste of his mother's cooking, but he loves it so much that he can't help but eat whatever food he makes for his customers! And when a donkey comes to his empty restaurant looking for a job, it's not long before chaos ensues. A gut-busting comedy about a pig and the donkey who helps him succeed.

Author & Illustrator
Miwa Hamada

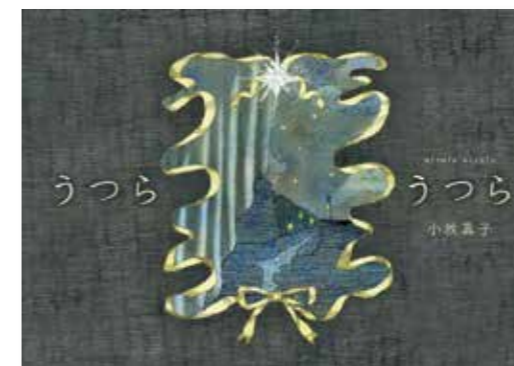
Let's Make Funny Faces! NEW!

Find a different funny face to copy on every page of this entertaining and engaging picture book. Both children and guardians alike are sure have a blast. This inaugural winner of the Reader Selected Picture Book Innovation Award has the charms of both a book and a game that everyone is sure to enjoy.

Author & Illustrator
Aomono Yokocho



Ages 3+ 32 pages / Apr. 2026



Ages 5+ 21 pages / Dec. 2025 ebook

Sleepy, Sleepy Night NEW!

A little boy awakens after a bad dream and can't fall back asleep no matter how hard he tries. Now wide awake, the boy heads on a nighttime journey to find the thing that will help him sleep once more.

Author & Illustrator
Mako Komaki

Nailed It! NEW!



A skateboard picture book recommended by and written under the supervision of Olympic gold medalist Coco Yoshizawa!

When friends Porci and Mush meet enthusiastic skateboarder, Eringel, it changes their lives forever. They want to skateboard too! They pick out the parts for their own skateboards and head to the skatepark to practice their first trick—the ollie. Learn the secrets and joys of skateboarding with a bunch of friendly monsters!

Ages 4+ 32 pages / Oct. 2025

Author & Illustrator
Hiroyuki Arai

Born in Tokyo. Picture book author, graphic designer, and father of two. He has earned many fans over the years with creatively designed books such as *Reizōko* (Refrigerator; Kaiseisha), as well as some that help children learn new tasks or facilitate parent-child communication. He has a talent for fusing well-trodden themes with contemporary sensibilities and has authored many long-selling titles.

Supervisor
Coco Yoshizawa

Professional skateboarder. She won a gold medal in the women's category of Street Skateboarding at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Supervisor
Yujiro Terai

Skateboarding coach for professional skateboarders representing Japan.

Warrior Helmets NEW!



Samurai warriors wore helmets called *kabuto* into battle, and these helmets were decorated in many different ways. There were helmets that looked like rabbits, butterflies, and sometimes even shells! Each warrior used the design of their *kabuto* helmets to show off their hopes and dreams in battle. This book uses fun pictures and explanations to help children imagine a time long ago and the creativity of Japanese samurai.

Ages 5+ 32 pages / Mar. 2026

Author & Illustrator
Tomoko Fujikawa

Born in Osaka. She debuted with her striking picture book, *Musha musha musha* (The munching, crunching warrior), after winning the 24th Kodansha Picture Book Newcomer Award. She has authored many other picture books that explore traditional motifs in Japan, including samurai, old toys, *kabuto* helmets, and more. She is a master of introducing old traditions to children in fun and captivating ways.

Traveling Pebbles NEW!



*Every pebble is a fragment of Earth.
No two pebbles are the same.*

Let your imagination take flight with the latest science-fantasy picture book from Yuko Takao, a follow-up to her internationally beloved *Treasures of the Sea*. *Traveling Pebbles* invites readers to tuck a tale of 4.6 billion years into the palm of their hand and depart on a trip. Takao's delicate brushwork brings tiny daydreamed worlds to life. *If you find a pebble that feels special, that's a friend.*

Ages 4+
32 pages / Apr. 2026

Author
Yuko Takao

Born in Tokyo. Graduated from Tama Art University. After working in a toy company's design office, she went to the United States. She studies calligraphy, water painting, and copperplate engraving, among other media. After returning to Japan, she began her career as a picture book author.

The Fox's Tree



Two fox kits peek 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

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).

Little Hedgehog Plays Hide and Seek



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 / 2024
Sold: French, Vietnamese

Little Hedgehog's Red Scarf



Ages 4+
32 pages / 2018
Sold: Chinese (TC), French, 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.

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: French, Vietnamese

Frannie and Melanie: A Splendid Recital



Sold: French, Vietnamese

Frannie and Melanie: A Joyous Soup



Sold: 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.

Yummy & Funny: Food Picture Books

Fruit Things



Ages 1+
18 Page
2024
Author & Illustrator
Yuki Hikosaka
Author & Illustrator
Izumi Morito

Teach toddlers about fruit with vibrant wood block print images.

I'm Not Old!



Ages 5+
32 Pages
2025
Author & Illustrator
Mentamanta

Don't make assumptions! A fun body positivity book for kids!

Making Bread with Libria



NEW!

Ages 4+
32 Pages
Oct. 2025
Author & Illustrator
Yukako Ohde

You'll want to make bread after this one. Includes a bread recipe!

Don't Feed the Cutting Board



Ages 4+
36 Pages
2008
Author & Illustrator
Sayaka Shigeta

What happens when you give a cutting board food!?

A Gyoza Went Missing



15th Kindergarten Picture Book Award

Ages 4+
32 pages / 2023
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), Korea
Author & Illustrator
Michiko Tamada

Take a peek inside childhood imagination with this bestseller!

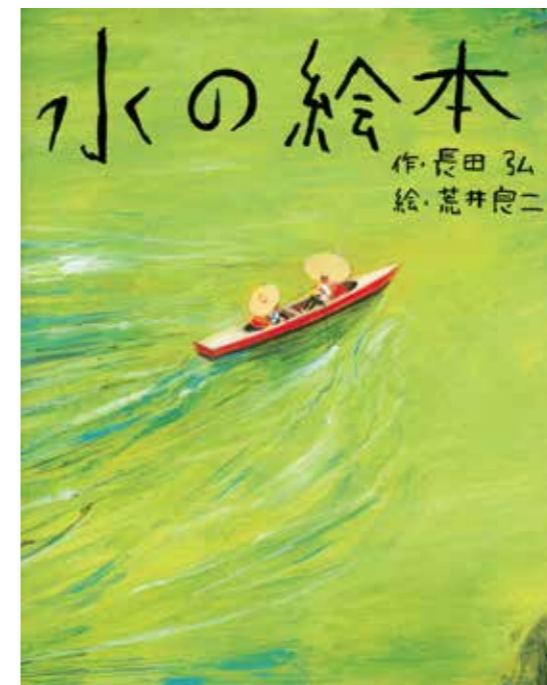
Bee and App Make Milky Way Apple Pie



Ages 4+
32 pages
2025
Author & Illustrator
SAKAE

Find out what it takes to make pie out of an apple star!

The Book of Water



USBBY 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

Illustrator Ryoji Arai

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.

The White Ravens 2012

Best Illustrator, 2021 Northern Lights Book Awards

Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award 2005 Winner

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: 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.



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
Sold: Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC),
English, German, Hindi, Polish

Illustrator
Ken Kuroi

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

Buds of Science Picture Books: Real Discoveries by Real Kids!

These picture books were published to showcase winners of the University of Tsukuba's Buds of Science Prize, a contest meant to encourage scientific inquiry. They show the innate curiosity of children and the joy to be found in discovering something new.

Ages 8+



32 pages / Apr. 2026

Can A Cat Predict the Weather?

A young researcher decides to observe her cat, Fuku, based on an old proverb that says cats lick their faces before it rains. She keeps track of her cat's grooming habits to see if they really do change ahead of rain. See how one simple question evolves into a rigorous journey of scientific discovery that expands to include tracking the weather, humidity, barometric pressure, and more!

Author
Takako Kanchiku
Illustrator
Kazue Takahashi
Original Concept
Nozomi Sakazaki

How to Stop Tomato Sauce Splatters



32 pages / May. 2026

Experiments on how to eat pasta without getting tomato sauce everywhere!

Author
Takako Kanchiku
Illustrator
Minami Kitamura
Original Concept
Yuzuki Konno

Are Pillbugs Maze Masters?



32 pages / Jan. 2026

It's time to figure out why pillbugs can get through mazes with this clever experiment!

Author
Takako Kanchiku
Illustrator
Kanayo Sugiyama
Original Concept
Rui Hashimoto

Will It Fall or Not? Tripod Experiments



32 pages / Jan. 2026

Find out how to make sure something with three legs doesn't wobble.

Author
Takako Kanchiku
Illustrator
Yuka Kitamura
Original Concept
Akari Kikuchi

The Secret of Dandelions



32 pages / Feb. 2026

Learn about life's wisdom by going on a journey with the weeds beneath your feet.

Author
Takako Kanchiku
Illustrator
Kumiko Yamamoto
Original Concept
Kurumi Iwata

When the Sacred Butterflies Soar

NEW!

A Skyrocketing Bestseller!



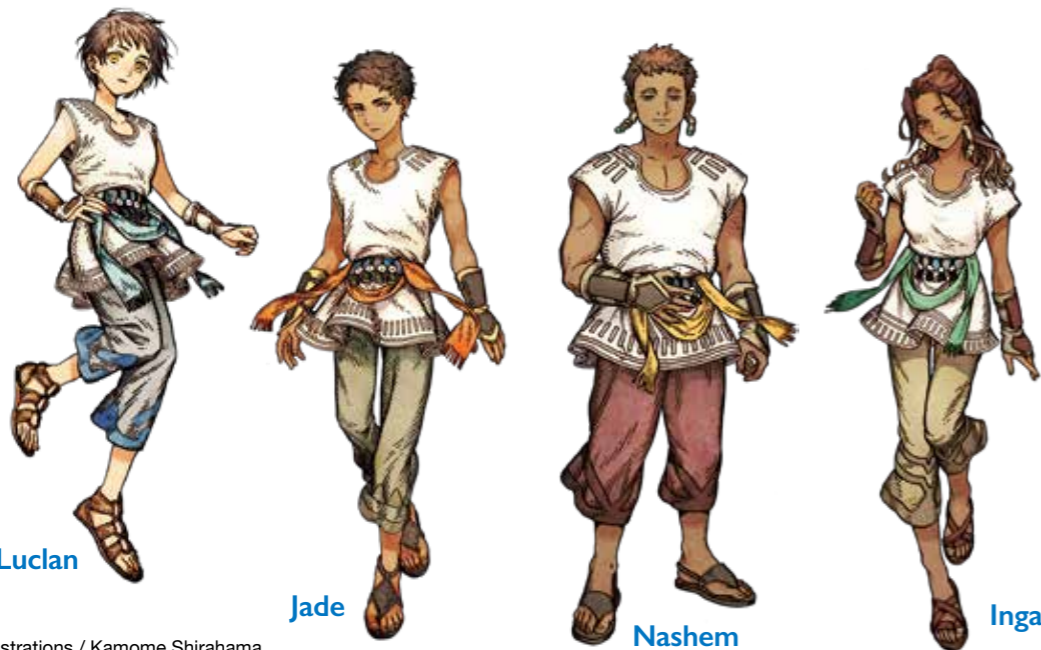
Ages 10+
288 pages
Jan. 2026

After a long slumber, the work of Nahoko Uehashi awakens once more, ready to greet the world at last.

When the Sacred Butterflies Soar is not a newly written work. Between 1999 and 2001, while creating her landmark Moribito series, Nahoko Uehashi was also creating this story—a work that would later connect to *The Deer King*, *Kokun*, and *The Beast Player*. It remained a hidden piece of her creative journey, only now appearing in book form, more than twenty years after it was first written.

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.



Luclan

Jade

Nashem

Inga

Illustrations / Kamome Shirahama

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.



A 2020 Michael L. Printz Award Honoree

A 2020 Batchelder Honoree

A 2020 GLLI Translated YA Book Prize



Author
Nahoko Uehashi

2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award

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) Both her *Beast Player* series and *Moribito* series were animated and broadcast on NHK as well. Her books have sold a combined total of 30 million copies, and are read all over the world.

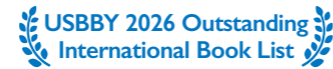
The Village Beyond the Mist

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



Ages 10+ 216 pages / 1975

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



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*.



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, French, Ukrainian

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.



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), English, French, Russian, Thai



When a Dragon Calls: The Curse of the Bow Witch



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

Now being adapted into
a manga series!



©Renji Asai

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



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

The Witch's Birthing Chamber



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

The Story-teller's Jar



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

The Dragon's Nest NEW!



272 pages / May 2025

Biblio Sirius

Biblio Sirius is an online platform where elementary school students can read middle grade comics, the majority being adaptations of popular novels. Every title is labeled with a rating to help guardians feel at ease. Below are just a few of the titles available on the platform for children to enjoy!

Discover more at: bibliosirius.com!



When a Dragon Calls

A fantasy adventure where a girl leaves the only place she's ever known after being called by a dragon. See P24 for details on the original series.

Ages 10+ 2025-

Manga Author
Renji Asai
Original Author
Sachiko Kashiwaba
Original Character Design
Miho Satake



Temple Alley Summer

Ages 10+ 2025-

Manga Author
Yairo Nyan
Original Author
Sachiko Kashiwaba
Original Character Design
Miho Satake

Kazu sees a strange girl leaving his house in the middle of the night and tries to unravel the mystery of her appearance. See P23 for details on the original story.



Rudolf and Gotta Bunch

Ages 7+ 2026-

Manga Creator:
Emma Saegusa
Illustrator
Hiroshi Saito
Original Concept
Hanmo Sugiura

This beloved children's classic is now available as a manga! A black house cat turned stray named Rudolf grows into himself and forms a bond with top cat Gotta Bunch.



Hinata and Hikari

Ages 10+ 2025-

Manga Creator:
Bearo
Original Author
Rikka Takasugi
Original Character Design
Shima Mafuyu

One twin is an idol star and the other is just a regular junior high schooler, but things change for them when they switch places! See P29 for details on the original series.



Here Comes the Black Witch!

Ages 10+ 2026-

Manga Creator:
Yao Todo
Original Author
Hiroshi Ishizaki
Original Character Design
Kaori Fujita & Asami

Choco accidentally summons a black witch named Gyubid and starts her own journey to become a black witch in this bestselling series.

Case Notes of Great Detective Kiyoshiro Yumemizu Series

And Then Five 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 3.6 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
Chinese (SC), Korean



Author
Kaoru Hayamine



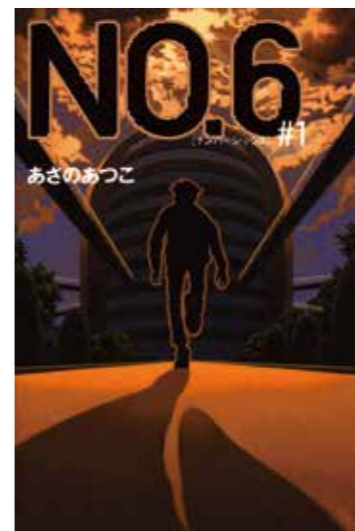
Author of the Kiyoshiro Yumemizu series, which has over 3.6 million copies in print, former elementary school teacher Kaoru Hayamine is the master of mysteries for kids where no one gets killed. His series Tom Sawyer in the City also has over 2.2 million copies in print. He has received the Utsunomiya 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 2.4 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

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.



Ages 10+ 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?



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.



The Boy and the Devil NEW!

Ikki is in junior high, and his father, Kaname, is his whole world. He loves him no matter how hard it is to live by his father's rules. But when Ikki learns what life outside can be, the spell placed on him by his father starts to lift. This is a story about growth and navigating family bonds of love and hate. It's about setting yourself free and living as who you're meant to be. Ikki may start in the darkness, but through his journey, he finds his way to the light and what it means to truly be free.

Ages 12+
166 Pages / Oct. 2025

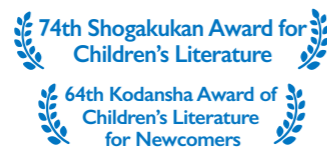
Author
Madoka Sato

Lives in Italy. She has won numerous awards, including the Japanese Association of Writers for Children Prize. Her YA novel *105 dō* (105 degrees; Asunaro Shobo) was selected during the Youth Reading Impressions National Concours, and another of her YA novels, *Sūpā kizuzu* (Super kids; Kodansha), won the Utsunomiya Children's Prize. Her work tackles contemporary themes that are relevant to youth all over the world, including AI and issues of self-identity, and is highly regarded overseas.

I'll Carry You NEW!

Katsuki loves esports and watching his favorite streamer, King, known for his arrogant and invincible play style. But one day, Katsuki hears a voice that sounds an awful lot like King's and meets his hero for the first time—a boy named Leo who uses a wheelchair. Leo, fed up with always relying on others in the real world, promises Katsuki he'll carry him to victory in the virtual world, and the two form a team. This striking debut won both the Kodansha Award of Children's Literature for Newcomers and Shogakukan Award for Children's Literature.

Ages 11+
174 Pages / 2024



Author
Mahiru

Won the 4th Kadokawa Tsubasa Bunko Novel Award in the General Category in 2015 and debuted with an updated version of the work called *Rakugaki ☆porisu: bijutsu no keisatsukan, hajimemashita* (The scribble police: we started an art police agency; Kadokawa) in 2016. Also won the 64th Kodansha Award of Children's Literature for Newcomers in 2023 with *Ōjo no kyari* (I'll carry you; Kodansha).



The Blue Bird Library

Aoi Tori Bunko (The Blue Bird Library): A label established in 1980 to publish paperbacks accessible to children. The label publishes high quality entertainment for children and is home to numerous longselling works. The illustrations are part of the charm!



Hinata and Hikari NEW!

Twin sisters, one a famous idol star and the other a regular junior high schooler, secretly switch places in this entertaining series. From enjoying the spotlight and meeting other stars to the hardships and bullying youth face in classrooms, this story is filled with glamorous dreams but also the harshness of reality. Kids won't be able to put it down! The series currently has ten volumes with one side story. Publication is ongoing.

Ages 10+ 192 Pages / 2022-
Sold: English

Author
Rikka Takasugi

Lives in Hokkaido Prefecture. Earned a master's degree in Childhood Development while raising her own family. She won the 7th Kadokawa Tsubasa Novel Award in the General Category in 2019.



Werewolf Survival Game NEW!

A popular survival mystery series based on the global hit game, "Werewolf." An enigmatic earl gathers a group of junior high schoolers and challenges them to take on an escape game that could cost them their lives. The conflicts faced by the preteens, as well as their bonds, are portrayed with stunning accuracy alongside the psychological war they've been thrust into. Despite all the lies and betrayals, there's no time for doubt. They have to find a way out before it's too late in this saga for the modern age!

Ages 10+ 224 Pages / 2019-
Sold: English, Chinese (TC), Korean

Author
Koori Amayuki

Born in Nagasaki Prefecture. Enjoys watching movies and walking, as well as drinking rooibos tea.

What Is Work?

NEW!



Ages 8+

36 Pages / 2024 / Sold: Chinese (TC)

Chii's dad can't go to the amusement park for her birthday because of "work," but what is "work" even? Tenten Hosokawa delivers another cute, graphic-novel style picture book to unpack a concept that might puzzle little minds. Work isn't only a way to make money—it connects people to one another. Readers are encouraged to spend their time exploring things they like and are good at as a way to eventually encounter a lovely line of work.

What Is the Mind?

What sort of thing is the mind? Or the heart? Can you see it? Is it hot? Cold? Hard? Soft? We start as babies knowing nothing, then we learn words and grow into children. How does our mind come into being, and how does it change? This gentle graphic novel-style picture book explains with cute illustrations and friendly handwritten letters how we can express our feelings and get along better with our minds.



Ages 8+

36 pages / Apr. 2023 / Sold: Korea, Chinese (TC)

Author & Illustrator
Tenten Hosokawa

Mangaka and illustrator born in 1969 in Saitama Prefecture. Graduate of Setsu Mode Seminar. Wrote a manga essay about her husband's fight against depression called *Tsure ga utsu ni narimashite* (My partner is depressed) which became a huge sensation and was adapted for TV in 2009 and as a movie in 2011. Her *Sore de ii* (That's okay) series with interpersonal psychotherapy practitioner Dr. Hiroko Mizushima was also a bestseller. Currently she lives in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture.

The Monster Gallery: Understanding Western Art Through Comics

NEW!



Did you know that the monsters from anime and games have their roots in famous works of art? This book offers a novel approach to understanding western art by starting from the monsters that continue to influence entertainment today. Stories from mythology, the Bible, and more are visualized with Japanese manga flair. Learn art history intuitively with this exciting guide.

Ages 10+

100 pages / Mar. 2026



Author
Mihoko Sugimata

Graduated from Joshibi University of Art and Design with a major in Western Painting. She studied in Italy for seven years after working as a graphic designer at an ad company, and graduated from the Accademia di Firenze. She is the author of several other works including a series published by Kawade Shobo called *Irasuto de yomu bijutsu* (Art through illustrations).

The Singing Body: I Can Hear!

NEW!



Ages 7+
22 Pages / Jan. 2026

Phonetics specialist Shigeto Kawahara and singer Yoichi Kitayama (The Gospellers) came together to write this graphic novel that combines science and music. They explain how the body hears sounds and how those sounds become songs that move the heart. Children and adults alike are sure to enjoy this long-awaited sequel to *The Singing Body*.

Author
Shigeto Kawahara

Professor at Keio University's Institute of Cultural and Linguistic Studies specializing in linguistics and phonetics. Recipient of the Phonetic Society of Japan's Young Researchers Award in 2016 and 2023.

Manga Author
Kumi Makimura

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

Author
Yoichi Kitayama

Musician, guest professor (part-time) at Keio University's Faculty of Environment and Information Studies. As a member of the Gospellers, he's created countless hit songs while also teaching since 2012.

Supervision of Brain Functions
Shinya Fujii, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University



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



Ages 4+ 32 pages / 2025

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!



Author Kanata Konami

Born in Nagano Prefecture 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 (US), Portuguese (Brazil), Spanish (Mexico), Ukrainian

BLUE LOCK Coloring Book

2026 Summer Live-Action Movie



60 pages / 2024
Sold: Arabic (Saudi Arabia), Chinese (SC), Chinese (TC), English, French, Italian, Portuguese (Brazil / Portugal), Russian, Ukrainian

BLUE LOCK Coloring Book #2



Autumn 2026

ATTACK ON TITAN Coloring Book



60 pages / 2024
Sold: English (US), French, Italian, Spanish (Mexico / Spain), Ukrainian

Witch Hat Atelier 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.

Ages 10+
192 pages / 2025
Sold: English (US),
Spanish,
Vietnamese/Italian



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.

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 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), French, Indonesian, Italian, Korean

Original Story & Cover Artist
Muneyuki Kaneshiro

Author
Momo Moegi

Original Manga Character Design
Yusuke Nomura

Illustrations
Kota Sannomiya



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

