

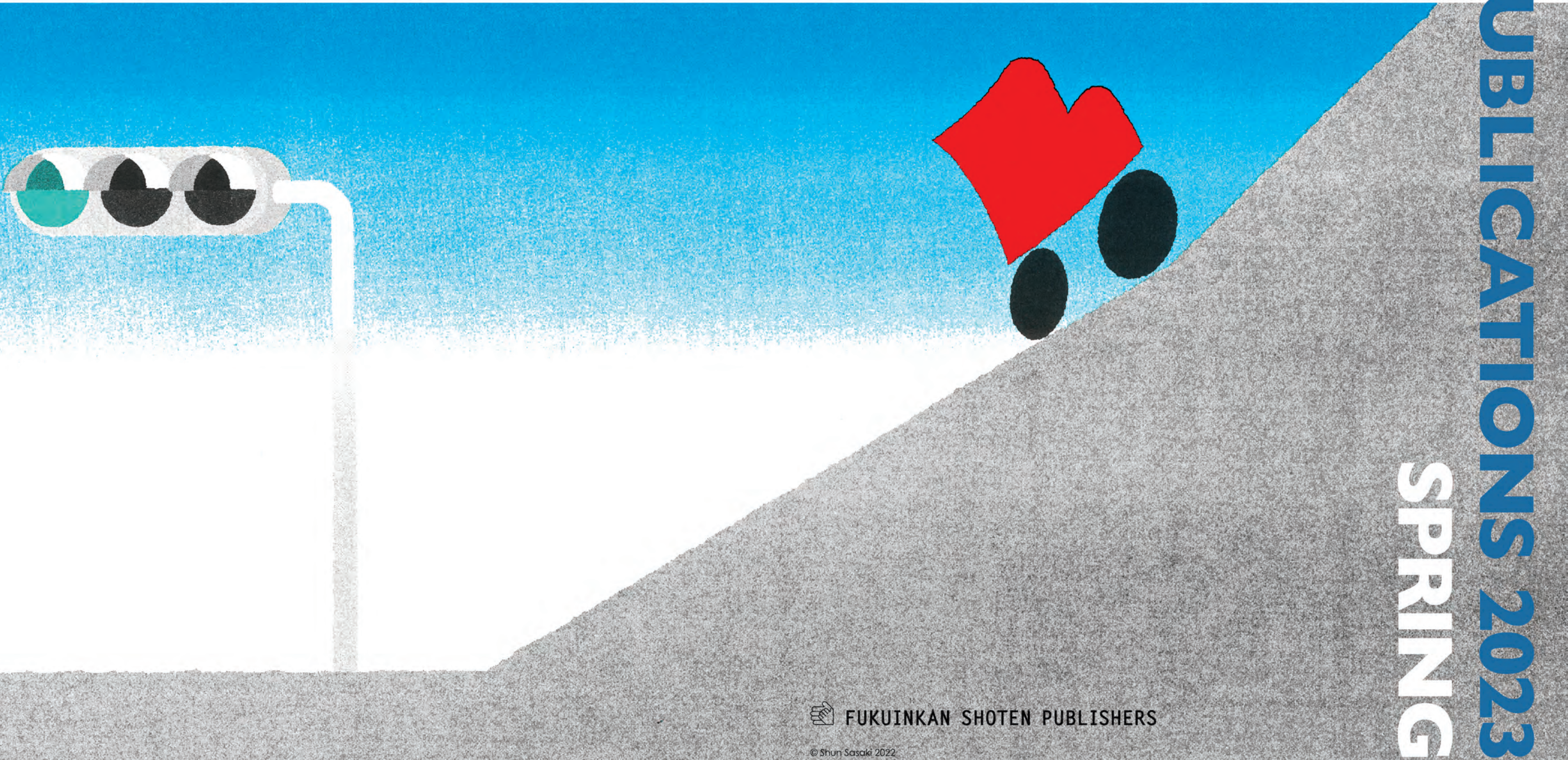
**FUKUINKAN SHOTEN PUBLISHERS, INC.**

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<https://www.fukuinkan.com/>

# NEW PUBLICATIONS 2023

## SPRING



FUKUINKAN SHOTEN PUBLISHERS

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# FUKUINKAN SHOTEN PUBLISHERS

## History

Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc. has started its business in the year 1916 as a bookseller in Kanazawa, Japan. At first it specialized in books related to Christianity. Later on, it shifted to handling common books and started to publish exercise books for entrance examinations and pocket dictionaries for high school students. In 1952, the publishing department established itself on its own and moved its location to Tokyo. The department founded a new genre of child-care books such as “Haha no Tomo” and monthly published children's picture books such as “Kodomo no Tomo”.

Ever since, we have specialized in the publications of children's books and books about children to this day.



## Mission

Our underlying policy is that picture books are “not for children to read on their own but for adults to read out for them”. We believe that picture books can be fully enjoyed only when repetitively read out to children bringing about enrichment to their hearts afterwards. Therefore, the picture books we deliver should be “outstanding ones created only by the greatest authors and artists of the day with their full efforts so that both children and adults could enjoy them together”. We have always hoped to publish picture books and story books that are unforgettable and stay in our readers' hearts for many years to come which is an unchanged goal we aim for.

## Books

One of the major characteristic of our publication is perhaps our monthly picture books which were launched back in 1956 starting with the “Kodomo no Tomo” series, and now has expanded to seven different series to cater different age groups. The masterworks of “Guri and Gura” by Rieko Nakagawa and Yuriko Yamawaki, “Her First Shopping” by Yoriko Tsutsui and Akiko Hayashi and “Everyone Poops” by Taro Gomi were all produced through this monthly picture book series.

Apart from the monthly picture books, we have introduced the “Anno’s Journey” series by Mitsumasa Anno (1984 Hans Christian Andersen Award Winner for Illustration), the “Kiki’s Delivery Service” series by Eiko Kadono (2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award Winner for Writing) and other works which have been endeared by children all over the world for a long period of time.

At the same time, we have been introducing masterpieces from abroad such as the “Peter Rabbit” series by Beatrix Potter, “My Father’s Dragon” series by Ruth S. Gannett, the “Paddington Bear” series by Michael Bond and works by Dick Bruna.



**Guri and Gura**  
by Rieko Nakagawa  
illustrated by Yuriko Yamawaki



**Her First Shopping**  
by Yoriko Tsutsui  
illustrated by Akiko Hayashi



**Everyone Poops**  
by Taro Gomi



**Anno's Journey**  
by Mitsumasa Anno



**Kiki's Delivery Service**  
by Eiko Kadono  
illustrated by Akiko Hayashi



**The Tale of Peter Rabbit**  
by Beatrix Potter  
translated by Momoko Ishii



**My Father's Dragon**  
by R. S. Gannett  
translated by Shigeo Watanabe  
illustrated by R. C. Gannett



**A Bear Called Paddington**  
by Michael Bond  
translated by Kyoko Matsuoka  
illustrated by Peggy Fortnum



**nijntje**  
by Dick Bruna  
translated by Momoko Ishii





## BURUBABIBOON

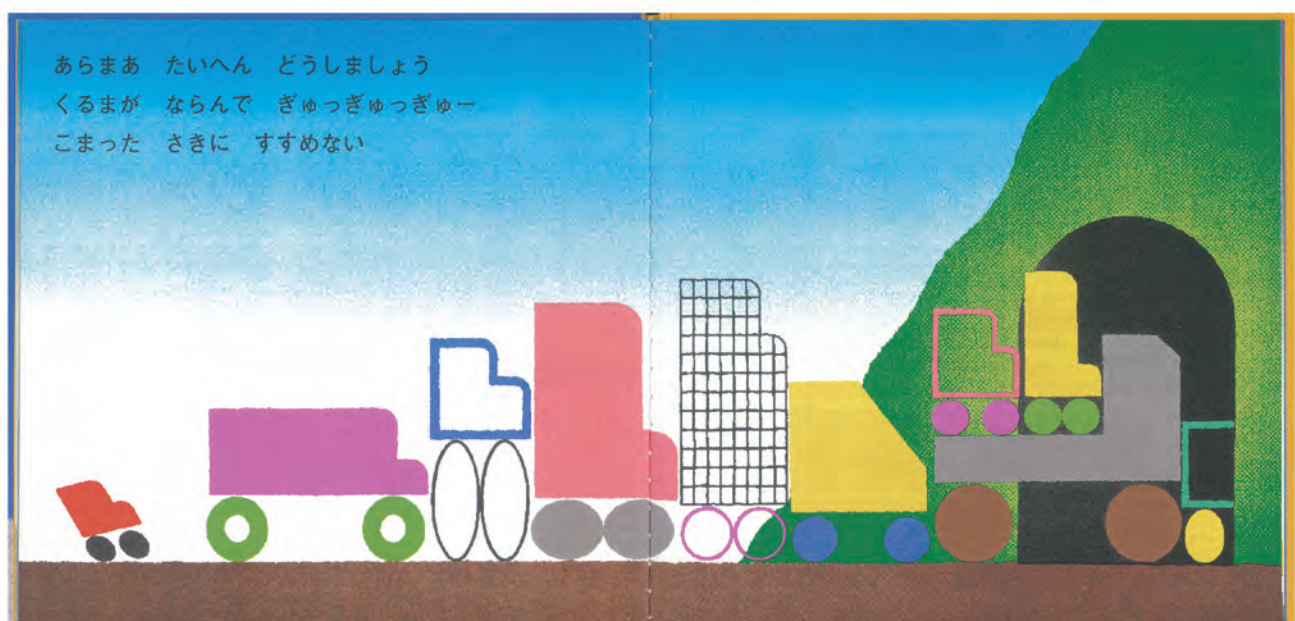
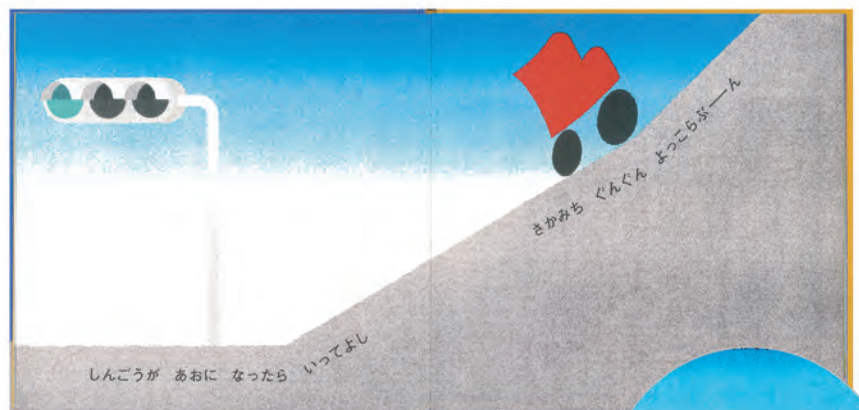
by Shun Sasaki

What a clever way to illustrate a car! On the cover you see a red “L” shape with two black “O”s underneath it. Very simple, but they DO look like a car! The car leans forward and you see it's speeding. The car bends backward and you know it has hit a break. The subtle change in the O shape is so expressive that you can easily imagine what the car is “feeling”. The title, an onomatopoeia of a speeding car is repeated on several pages as the car travels on the road, slopes, over a bridge and a mountain. The story and text are simple but full of happy rhythm, making it easy for young readers to enjoy the book in various ways. Let's go and enjoy the drive in this wonderful book!

Hardcover | H21.6 × W22.5 cm  
20 pages | ¥1,000.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8684-3

### Shun Sasaki

Graphic designer. Born in Miyagi, Japan in 1985. Graduated from Tama Art University, Department of Graphic Design. After working at ADBRAIN and GritzDesign, Sasaki founded a graphic design office AYOND. Received JAGDA New Designer Award in 2020.







Hardcover | H21.2 x W18.9 cm  
72 pages | ¥1,400.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8687-4

## HAJIME-CHAN ON SUNDAYS

by Takashi Kurihara

Hajime-chan is an adorable little girl. She is depicted as a girl full of curiosity and energy. There are lots of things she encounters for the first time in her life. And that is where our smiles arise from. For example, after being mixed up and calling her mom Papa and dad Mama, Hajime-chan invented a new word, MaPa, which worked for both of her parents when she wanted to call their attention. The illustrations are displayed in a comic-book style and one episode is assigned to one page. So you can start from anywhere. The whole atmosphere is relaxing and just like happening on a Sunday hence the title.



### Takashi Kurihara

Born in Tokyo, Japan in 1977.  
Manga and picture book artist.  
Graduated from Tama Art  
University, Department of  
Graphic Design. Kurihara's art  
works appear in various media,  
including magazines and  
animations.







Softcover | H18.8 x W12.8 cm  
232 pages | ¥1,200.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8683-6

## PRIVATE EXPLORER SCHOOL 1

text by Rin Saito  
illustrations by Taku Kuwabara

I'm Colon Matsuda. I'm in the fifth grade and my parents run a traditional Japanese cracker store on the west side of Tokyo, which has been the family business for generations. It turned out that I was being transferred to a different school this spring. I was told that my grandpa, who had casually walked out and disappeared, had signed me up for this school. The school was totally different from my previous one. It seemed to be a school for training and supporting explorers-to-be. Children from around the world gathered which was exciting, too. The whole atmosphere was dissimilar but I was finally getting used to everything when our teacher gave us a surprising assignment. The first volume of a new series.

## PRIVATE EXPLORER SCHOOL 2

text by Rin Saito  
illustrations by Taku Kuwabara

I'm Colon Matsuda. I'm in the fifth grade of a rather unusual school called Private Explorer School. It's a school to train and support explorers-to-be. I've finished my first training assignment, which was a real exploration on an uninhabited island! Frankly, I had underestimated it and it turned out to be some experience for me. Now the next assignment has been announced. We were to capture a Mandragora. There was only 31 hours left until the deadline. Working as a team with various talents, we set out for the search. The starting point was somewhat like in medieval Europe. Colon couldn't help sensing the air of the Dark Ages. Were they going to be swallowed into an unknown something? A sequel to Private Explorer School 1.



Softcover | H18.8 x W12.8 cm  
320 pages | ¥1,300.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8688-1

# Private Explorer School



Colon Matsuda



Nagaru Mamiya



Nicola Polo



Jim Scott



Marissa Burton



Arica Livingstone



Professor Earhart



Professor Miura



Rin Saito's new YA series  
with full of mystery  
and excitement!

### Rin Saito

Poet. Born in Akita, Japan in 1969. Saito's first YA book, Burt the Burglar (Fukuinkan Shoten, 2014) won the 48th Children's Literature Association New Writers Award and the 64th Shogakukan Children's Publishing Culture Award.

By the  
Same Author



BURT  
THE BURGLAR



WHEN CHRISTMAS  
IS APPROACHING



THE LITTLE GHOST  
ON THE BRIDGE





Hardcover | H19.4 x W13.1 cm  
192 pages | ¥2,000.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8672-0

## THE WORDS ARE ALWAYS WITH US Tadashi Matsui's Essay on Picture Books

text by Tadashi Matsui

illustrations by Mitsumasa Anno

This book was published in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers Inc. featuring an autobiography of Tadashi Matsui, a former president of Fukuinkan. T. Matsui was a postwar key player in building up a world for children's books in Japan. Books that children could really enjoy reading had not quite made its way yet. He believed that words/expressions children were exposed to since their early years were essential to their life further on. He constantly repeated, "Words are always with us." Matsui displays the many encounters he had with talented authors and illustrators, none of which could be ignored when talking about his career in this field. The book conveys the importance of cultivating 'words' and Matsui's deep love towards publishing children's books.



### Tadashi Matsui

Born in Kyoto, Japan in 1926. Author, picture book editor, and a former president of Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc. One of the leading icon in cultivating Japanese picture book industry and published numerous children's books along with his original works. Was a member of the BIB International Jury in 1969 and 1979, and received the BIB Special Achievement Award from the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in 1981. Passed away in November 2022.



**MOMOTARO,  
THE PEACH BOY**



**ONIROKU AND  
THE CARPENTER**



**OLD MEN AND  
THEIR WENS**

By the  
Same Author





## Picture Books

10 months – 2 years .....	10
2 years and up .....	15
4 years and up .....	19
5 years and up .....	22

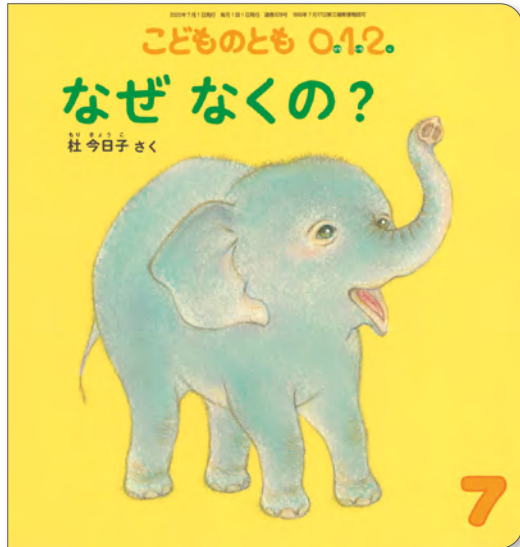
## Non-fiction

3 years and up .....	26
5 years and up .....	30
8 years and up .....	34

## Story Books & Reference Books

.....	37
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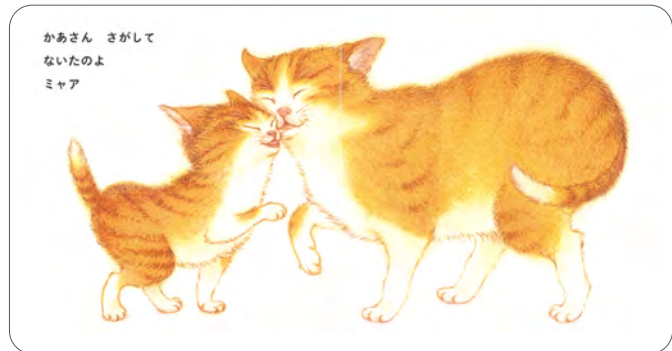


Boardbook | H20.0 x W19.0 cm  
22 pages | ¥400.-

## WHY ARE YOU CALLING?

by Kyoko Mori

On the first spread, an orange kitten is calling for something. The illustration is so precise that you can almost feel the soft fur and hear the meowing. On the next spread, the kitten gets what it was calling for: Mommy. The kitten head-butts mommy and they both look very happy, so you will surely find yourself smiling. Spread by spread, cute little animals take turns to appear and call for something: play with me, let me climb on mommy's back, I'm hungry.... The repetition of calling and being satisfied adds up to a great joy. Sometimes it's difficult to know what babies are crying for, but when the baby becomes satisfied and smiles, nothing compares to their smile. Enjoy the "condensed" happiness with wonderful illustrations!



Boardbook | H20.0 x W19.0 cm  
22 pages | ¥400.-

## MY FAVORITE NAP

by Yuichi Kasano

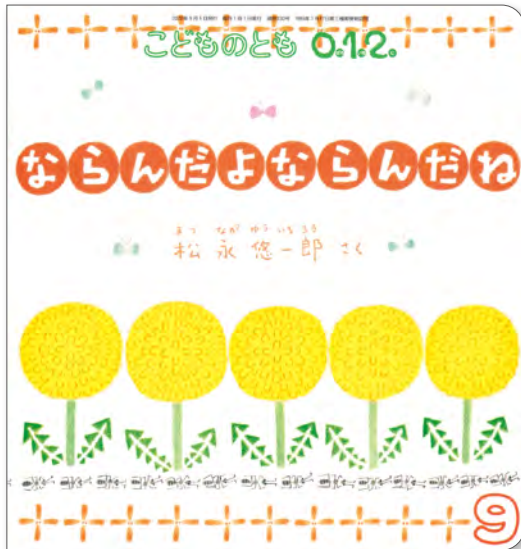
What is your favorite way of taking a nap? Do you simply lie on your back, or would you rather curl up under a blanket? In this cute book, animal friends take turns to appear, yawn, and then they fall asleep in their favorite position. A kitten curls up into a cute little fur-ball. A puppy stretches itself into a line as if it has suddenly run out of energy. Illustrations of peacefully sleeping baby animals are so cute. Just looking at these illustrations is heartwarming enough, but the book will also help the infant readers fall asleep. A perfect book to read for naptime. After all, sleeping infants are angelic, whether they are in the book or not.



By the Same Author ●●●●●







Boardbook | H20.0 x W19.0 cm  
22 pages | ¥400.-

## LINING UP IN A ROW

by Yuichiro Matsunaga

In the first spread, you see a row of acorns (toddlers' favorite!). Some are taller than others, some rounder, some darker and some are without the "cap". Spread by spread, you see familiar figures such as goldfish, seashells, daffodils and many others. All of them are lined up to make a row, going across the spread and (supposedly) continuing outside the spread. The text is simple enough for very young readers and the illustrations are beautifully colored. When you are done with adoring cute things and animals in the book, you can also enjoy finding the subtle differences between the similar looking flowers or ducklings. A book to be enjoyed in many different ways!



Boardbook | H20.0 x W19.0 cm  
22 pages | ¥400.-

## PAT PAT

by Yumiko Yamada

Loveliness overflows! On the cover you see a cute little girl and a pink stuffed bear. The girl is placing her hand on the bear. On the first spread she has the bear in her arms and pats the bear gently: pat pat. The stuffed bear feels so soft and fluffy. On every other spread, the girl pats or strokes a ball, a cat, her Dad and Mom, followed by their reaction to her. The author comments that it's not easy for babies to touch others gently: they tend to grasp and grip, sometimes too hard. It would be a joy for toddlers to know that they can pat gently, and that others love the gentle pat. Enjoy the lovely repetition of "patting gently" with lovely illustrations.







Boardbook | H20.0 × W19.0 cm  
22 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## A BEAR CHASES AN ACORN

by Junko Masuda

On the cover you see a lovely deformed figure of a bear: the eyes are two black circles on larger white circles. These eyes look invitingly at you. So you open the book and start walking with the bear. You relax and stretch with the bear. Pat! Something drops on the bear. What is it...an acorn! The acorn rolls away and the bear chases it, watches it, and tries rolling forward with the rolling acorn. You too would want to run, jump or roll forward with excitement. Even if the reader is too young to run or roll, lovely illustrations are lively enough to make babies giggle with joy. Join the bear and make friends with the acorn. Then your joy will be even greater when you find an acorn in the park nearby.



Boardbook | H20.0 × W19.0 cm  
22 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## LITTLE PIG LIKES PLAYING IN THE MUD

by Kazuyoshi Iino

On the first spread you see a little pig walking happily. Where do you think he is going? On the next spread, he jumps into the mud! How happy he looks in the dynamic illustrations! While he is happily wiggling in the mud, he starts slipping down the slope. He slides down, gaining speed and...crush! He finally stops at a tree stump. Does he cry? Oh, yes, it can't be helped. But don't worry, Mommy is there to comfort him. So relax and join the fun, jump into the mud pool in this book and enjoy wiggling with a little pig. Cute letterings with unique onomatopoeia and powerful illustrations await you!







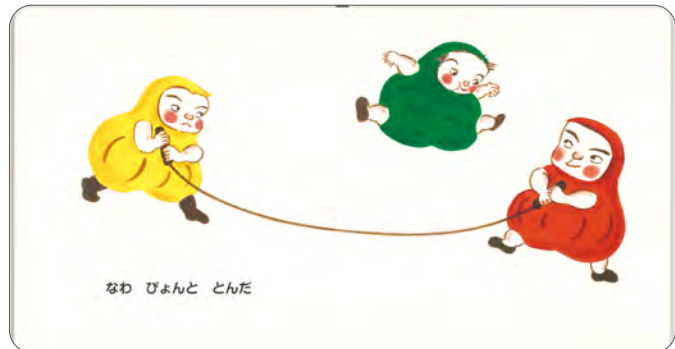
Hardcover | H20.2 × W19.1 cm  
20 pages | ¥800.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8677-5

## FIVE LITTLE DARUMAS

text by Emiko Kobayashi

illustrations by Yasuko Koide and Momo Obuchi

One little daruma kicks a ball, two little darumas play see-saw, three little darumas jump ropes...and the story rolls on. Five little colorful darumas jump in one after another and play with each other in high spirits. Derived from an old nursery rhyme, the rhythm adds an extra bouncy liveliness to the illustrations.

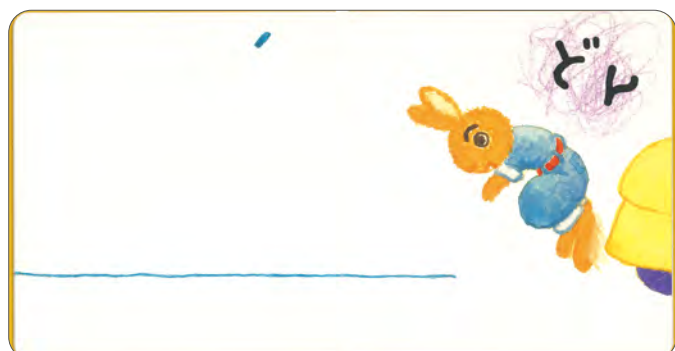


Hardcover | H20.2 × W19.1 cm  
20 pages | ¥800.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8678-2

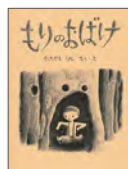
## BEEP BEEP, I'M BACKING UP

by Ken Katayama

"Beep beep...." Mouse with a crayon draws a line going backward. Bump! On the next spread, he bumps into someone else's buttock. "Ah, it's you, Rabbit!" Mouse laughs out loud with Rabbit. Now it's Rabbit's turn to draw a line and bump into yet another friend. Children will just love the idea of bumping into someone else's buttock. Also enjoy the wonderful letterings that become larger when bigger animals appear.



By the Same Author ●●●●●●







Hardcover | H20.2 × W19.1 cm  
20 pages | ¥800.-  
ISBN : 978-4-8340-8679-9

By the Same Illustrator ●●●●●



## MUNCH MUNCH

*text by Akemi Nakano*

*illustrations by Taeko Ohshima*

Lunch time! Our little friends sit together at the table. “Ami, aaahn, open big!” Munch, munch, munch, and gulp! “Good, now your turn Yu, open big!” A picture book about eating, encourages children to chew their food well with onomatopoeic words. Let’s see the happy faces of the little ones.







Paperback | H21.0 x W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## KANTA, THE DANCING WATER IMP

by Kazuko G. Stone

Kanta the Kappa (water imp) loves dancing. Tan tak tan tan, dances he... Kanta the Kappa wants a friend to dance and play with. A frog and a turtle come along and join him. What fun they have, dancing and diving and swimming in the river! They have snacks together, they have a nap together and again, they dance together! The book is full of happy colors and rhythm, and you are invited to join them! Let's dance with Kanta the Kappa and the friends, one, two, three, tan, tak tan! For those who prefer to stay seated, there are other ways to enjoy the book, such as observing the illustrations of plants, which reflect Kanta's feelings. Enjoy the happy book, have fun and be happy with Kanta!



Paperback | H21.0 x W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## HARVESTING SUMMER VEGETABLES

text by Hisano Okawa

illustrations by Kumiko Yamamoto

On the cover you see a boy among tomatoes. Which shines brighter, the two large tomatoes or the boy's smile? On the first page, the boy is pulling an empty box called Veggie-Car. He and Mother are on their way to their vegetable field, where various vegetables are growing fast in the summer heat...let's harvest them and pile them up on the Veggie-Car! Spread by spread, the boy enjoys harvesting cucumbers, tomatoes, beans and many others. Along with the rhythmical text, the joy and excitement of harvesting is radiant in the illustrations, where you can almost feel and smell the soil and greens in the warm summer air. Join the boy and have fun in the vegetable fields, and be hungry for freshly picked summer vegetables!

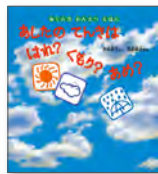






Paperback | H21.0 × W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## THE GHOST OF THE LAKE

by Yusaku Nosaka

Is this book really about the ghost? It doesn't look ghostly. The cover shows a peaceful lake that you can find anywhere. People gather around the lake during the daytime, enjoying their time. And yet, the lake is known for a ghost that appears every night. When the day is over with the glorious sunset, it's dark and quiet around the lake. Splash! Is it the ghost? No, it's only fish jumping above water. What's that moving over the lake? It's only one hundred fireflies. Spread by spread, your anticipation builds up until.... Enjoy the wonderful book with peaceful illustrations and make friends with the cutest ghost that haunts the lake!



Paperback | H21.0 × W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## PANDA'S TAKOYAKI EATERY

by Kanako Ogawa

Panda Ton-Ton and his sister Lan-Lan enjoy working in their eatery. Ton-Ton bakes little round Takoyaki dumplings in the mold. Lan-Lan dresses them with tasty savory sauce and, if you prefer, add bamboo leaf flavored mayonnaise (Panda's favorite!). One day, an elephant comes and asks for "elephant-sized Takoyaki," but normal takoyaki come in smaller size. What can they do? Just serving many little takoyaki doesn't seem right. Then Ton-Ton comes up with a brilliant idea! They promise to deliver the "elephant-sized" takoyaki the next day, but how...? Enjoy the cute illustrations, happy outcome and be hungry for good tasty takoyaki!







Paperback | H21.0 x W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## SUMO WRESTLERS WANT FURIKAKE SEASONING ON THEIR RICE!

text by Shoichi Nejime  
illustrations by Takayuki Ino

In the Furikake Village, when the time is right, there comes furikake seasoning floating with the seasonal wind. Sumo wrestlers wait with rice cookers full of rice. Plain rice is good but rather bland, but when you add just a little bit of furikake seasoning, it becomes “furikake seasoned rice” and you enjoy it and come back for more. Sumo wrestlers eat many bowls of furikake seasoned rice, but bowls are too small. They help themselves directly from rice cookers, but that’s still not enough. They carry a huge cauldron like a float in a festival and enjoy a variety of flavors of furikake wind. Enjoy the paper-cut illustrations of tasty looking furikake as well as a humorous nonsense story!



Paperback | H21.0 x W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## FANTASTIC SHOPS & PLACES TO VISIT

by Shigeru Tamura

Which fantastic shop would you like to visit? The flower shop is inside a flowerpot, in which huge pansy flowers are in bloom. Ladybugs work in the shop and in the flower garden behind the shop. Let’s buy a pretty bouquet of tulips. How about a shop in the shape of a carton of milk? Cows work in the shop and in the pasture behind it. Some fresh milk and cheese for you! Spread by spread, a gentleman in a top hat, a tin-person and a dog visit fantastic shops and places. The author-illustrator S. Tamura, with his magic of color pencils, creates fun places that are beyond your wildest imagination. Enjoy touring through the book and try creating your own fantastic shops and places!







## FANTASTIC KITCHEN CIRCUS

*text by Chihiro Ishizu*

*illustrations by Koji Yamamura*

Welcome to the Kitchen Circus! Frying Pan plays Fanfare, and here come a ladle, kettles, cups and other familiar figures dressed as clowns, dancers, and acrobats. The text by C. Ishizu is full of rhythm, rhyme and word play, and the illustrations by K. Yamamura are expressive and cute; open the book and enjoy the Fantastic Kitchen Circus!

Hardcover | H21.6 × W20.4 cm  
24 pages | ¥900.-

### Further Titles ●●●●●







Paperback | H26.0 x W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## Further Titles ●●●●●



## WHAT KIND OF VEGETABLE BEHIND THE WINDOW?

by Maki Arai

In the middle of the cover, you see something green through the round “window”. Yes, this unique book has a window on the cover! Thanks to the title, we know the green thing is a vegetable. It’s amazing how familiar veggies look different, seen through a small window! You open the book, and see a head of cabbage. Of course! Now that you see the familiar vegetable, you don’t know why you couldn’t recognize it sooner. Turn the page and you see the same vegetable cut in half. Now you have another moment of amazement, knowing how beautiful vegetables are. Open up the windows of your curiosity and find out new aspects of familiar vegetables.



Paperback | H26.0 x W19.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

## By the Same Author ●●●●●



## CROCODILE FIREWORK

text by Shoichi Nejime

illustrations by Yusuke Asai

One look at the cover illustration is sufficient to make you forget all the questions such as “what does a crocodile have to do with fireworks?” The unique, powerful and somewhat humorous illustration of a crocodile urges you to open the book. When you open the book, you are surprised to know that the text is written in the Japanese poetic style of 5-7-5 syllables (Haiku). How can a book for children be written in Haiku style? Again, such unimportant questions are blown away once you start enjoying the rhythm of the text and wonderful illustrations. Just enjoy the wonderful “nonsense” and you will be looking for a crocodile firework the next time you see fireworks in the sky.







Paperback | H19.0 x W26.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## MR. PEACOCK AND A MUSIC BOX

by Natsuki Ito

Mr. Peacock is such a gentleman. He loves beauty. He has to dress beautifully, he has to walk beautifully. He lives in a beautiful house with his collection of beautiful paintings and ornaments. Even when he is eating breakfast or grocery shopping, he has to do it beautifully. One day he fell in love with a beautiful music box. It was not for sale, but Mr. Peacock asked, begged and pleaded (beautifully) again and again, until the owner gave in. "Well if you like this music box that much, maybe it's time to pass this on. After all, I won't live forever. Just promise me that you will never...." Find out what magic the music box has, and what becomes of Mr. Peacock. Enjoy a dreamily beautiful story about a beautiful peacock and a music box in this book with beautiful illustrations.



Paperback | H26.0 x W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## WAIRA, THE GIRL WHO LIVES ON TAQUILE ISLAND IN PERU

by Seymi Togo

Welcome to Taquile Island! Meet Waira, a little girl living with her parents and a baby sister. Don't know where Taquile is? It's a small island in Lake Titicaca, Peru. The nearest town is 45 km away and of course you have to take a ship to go there. Waira's dad fishes in the lake and mom weaves to make beautifully patterned clothes. Waira, young as she is, wears black cloth on her head like any other woman and spins yarn while she looks after sheep. "Dad's coming home tomorrow!" Waira's dad has been away in the on-land town to buy oil, flour and many other things that you can't grow on the island. Join the girl, and feel the excitement, expectation and joy of waiting for someone you love.



By the Same Author ●●●●●





# Picture Books



Paperback | H 19.0 x W 26.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## TOURING BEFORE DAWN

by Genichiro Ozaki & Yukina Ozaki

Tacobou is an octopus boy. His father makes signboards cutting, bending and painting pieces of metal: it's always noisy but fun in his workspace. When he finishes making one signboard, he places it in the side-carriage of his motorbike and delivers it. Today, however, Dad is converting the side-carriage into a side-car, so that Takobou can go touring with Dad! They set off while it is still dark and go among trees and then up the winding road. "Lean as I do!" Dad shouts going past a sharp curve. "Get down!" Startled bats come flying toward them in a tunnel. On top of the mountain Takobou finds a signboard Dad made, but look over the sea! A beautiful sunrise! With powerful and dynamic illustrations, the book is so exciting that you might regret that your own Dad is not an octopus signboard-artist.

By the Same Authors ●●●●●



Paperback | H26.0 x W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## BERTIE'S SPECIAL FIR TREE

text by Eri Kitamura  
illustrations by Akiko Ayai

"Hi, grandma! Is there anything you want me to do? I'm going to be helpful today." Little Bertie the Rabbit eagerly asked her grandma. Grandma was content with what she had and one thing she needed was not something little Bertie could do. She wanted to remove the fir tree that had grown too tall to see the moon and stars from her bedroom again. "I'll find someone who can do it!" Bertie ran out to see Mr. Beaver, and asked him to gnaw on the fir tree. He couldn't, because fir trees have too much resin. Bertie asked other animals for help, but no one could cut or remove the fir tree. But then, the wise owl suggested a plan.... Open the book and find out how grandma's fir tree became so SPECIAL.







## NEKOMATAEN, KINDERGARTEN FOR CATS

text by Mai Tominaga

illustrations by Kazumi Hanayama

Dai-chan, a human boy, is lying on his back just inside the front door, firmly refusing to go to the kindergarten. “No, I’m not going. I hate it when they make me sing.” Calico, the family cat, who has been watching him, asks if he wants to come to Nekomataen. Nekomataen is a kindergarten for cats, but there are no rules to follow! You see, cats are free from any rules. You can choose any route you like to go there, you can come anytime and leave whenever you like. They sing and dance, but only if they want to. Will Dai-chan feel like singing or dancing? Open the page and find out what wonderful day he has at Nekomataen. Expressive and humorous illustrations make this fantastic book even more enjoyable!



Paperback | H26.0 × W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Illustrator ●●●●●



## EXCURSION TO THE DESERT

text by Sasara Kura

illustrations by Tatsuro Kiuchi

The school excursion was canceled because of the rain. I was looking forward to riding a bus and going to the mountain...well, it can't be helped. When Mom went out to buy groceries, I was all alone in the quiet house...or so I thought. “Would you like to ride on me and go to my country? It’s a desert but a nice place.” A mule was talking to me! Thus, I rode on the mule’s back and had an excursion to the desert. The quiet emptiness of the desert, the golden liquid we enjoyed at the oasis, and the mysterious underground space where sand can turn into anything... Open the book and you can join him for the excursion to the desert.

Paperback | H26.0 × W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Illustrator ●●●●●







Paperback | H19.0 x W26.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

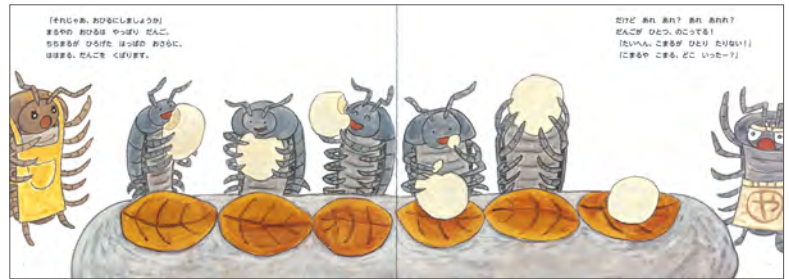
## LITTLE PILL BUG, WHERE ARE YOU?

text by Rien Ono

illustrations by Yoshiro Okamoto

Why are children so attracted to pill bugs? They are cute, yes. They turn into little balls when you touch them. They are not sticky or slimy, and they don't bite or sting you. This lovely creature now plays the lead role of this lovely picture book. The Pill Bug family lives among other insect neighbors, and they run a dumpling shop. Today the villagers are getting ready for the Moon viewing festival. Papa Pill Bug kneads and prepares, and Mama Pill Bug makes the special round dumpling to be sent to the shrine. Little Pill Bugs all help their parents and after that they have lunch of newly cooked dumplings. Wait, why is there one dish left? Where is the sixth little Pill Bug? While they search for the missing little one, readers can get to know other residents of the village; police ants, a foreman bee, and many others. Enjoy the happy rhythm of the text, expressive illustrations and unexpected outcome!

By the Same Illustrator ●●●●●



Paperback | H26.0 x W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## LITTLE TENGU IN AN OLD INN

text by Shaw Kuzki

illustrations by Yuki Sasameya

Once upon a time there was a small inn on a quiet mountain. On one of the sliding screens at the inn, a little Tengu was painted. It was half crow and half human with beaks, wings, arms and legs. One day the innkeeper realized that the little Tengu was coming out of its screen every night to eat the honey he had gathered. When the innkeeper hid the honey inside a locked box, the Tengu started roaming around the inn, looking for honey and consequently scaring the guests. The innkeeper wanted to chase the Tengu away, but little as it is, Tengu is supposed to have superhuman powers. How could the innkeeper put a stop to the mischievous little Tengu? Enjoy the unexpected turn of events!

By the Same Illustrator ●●●●●







Paperback | H19.0 x W26.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## NUTS ADVENTURE

by Seizo Tashima  
photographs by Atsushi Sakai  
design by Kei Naruse

Look at the wild lettering dancing on the cover. It reads Nuts Adventure. Sure enough, there are five acorns scattered on the cover. They look eager to set off for an adventure. These five acorns are the ones who left the mother tree sooner than they should have. Mom tried to stop them but they were curious what the world down there was like. They walk (or rather roll) between vegetable fields, through woods, and make friends with Japanese dogwood nuts. What's amazing is that all vegetables, trees, even rain drops are made with nuts! With the magic of S. Tashima, who creates various artworks using nuts, nuts of all kinds come alive and start playing around in the book. Join the fun and adventure of nuts, and even better, try making your own artwork with nuts!

By the Same Author ●●●●●



Paperback | H26.0 x W19.0 cm  
32 pages | ¥400.-

## SNOW HAPPY BIRTHDAY CAKE

text by Reiko Katayama  
illustrations by Chiaki Okada

Today is Michi's birthday. Mom has a birthday cake ready for him; it's all white except the brown of a bear and a squirrel, which stand among snow covered trees of whipped cream. While Mom is away to pick up Grandma at the station, Michi places the cake by the window. The falling snow outside the window looks as if it's falling on the whipped cream trees, and with the magic of snowy birthday, Michi walks into the snow world on the cake. The bear, another birthday boy, kindly invites Michi to the party and all the animal friends enjoy hot chocolate, walnut cookies and playing games. This fantastic book makes you warm inside and lets you know how welcome you were when you were born.

By the Same Author ●●●●●







## WALTZING WITH CATS

text by Chihiro Ishizu

illustrations by Fuzjko Hemming

This book was collaborated by two female cat lovers. Chihiro Ishizu, who is an author for children's picture books wrote the text. And for the illustrations, Fuzjko Hemming, a prominent pianist, shows another side of her talent with flowing brush strokes and beautiful sensation of hue. The text consists of 15 passages, some in the style of tongue twisters and others close to poems or verses that rhyme. The one titled "Waltzing with Cats" which was chosen to represent the entire work actually happens to come from a true experience of Ms. Hemming's. While she was very young, she would dance waltzes with her father in delight which led to a final waltz when he left her. The sorrowful memory is quite moving.

Hardcover | H21.2 × W16.9 cm

48 pages | ¥2,200.-

ISBN: 978-4-8340-8675-1

### By the Same Author ●●●●●







Paperback | H23.0 x W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## A LITTLE RAINBOW APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME!

text by Fumi Nakamura

illustrations by Michiko Egashira

Nacchan's mother was watering the plants in their garden and invited Nacchan out. That was when Nacchan spotted something in the spray of water. Huh? She asked her mother to spray again. Wow, it was a little rainbow! Nacchan got excited and made a lot of rainbows in the air. The same thing, however, didn't happen the following day. There was an overcast. Nacchan learned that the two essential elements for a rainbow were sunshine and water drops. Nacchan hoped for another sunny day. To her disappointment, even worse, it rained heavily the following day! But when it finally let up, a big surprise was waiting for her.

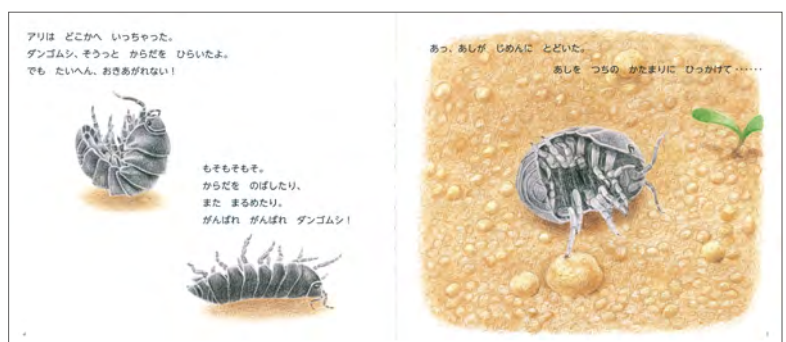


Paperback | H20.0 x W23.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## BUGS, CAN YOU GET UP BY YOURSELF AFTER FALLING DOWN?

by Chisa Ito

Just like we can accidentally fall down on our backs, this can happen even to bugs. It can simply be mishaps or sometimes a result of having a fight with others. In any case, when this happens, bugs are in a tight spot. That is because it is extremely dangerous for them to show their bellies. They can easily be attacked which could end up being a fatal one. So once they fall on their backs, they make maximum efforts to revert to normal. Detailed observations on this theme reveal the tiny wisdom of using their front legs, placing a foot on a pebble nearby or opening their wings to assist the movement.





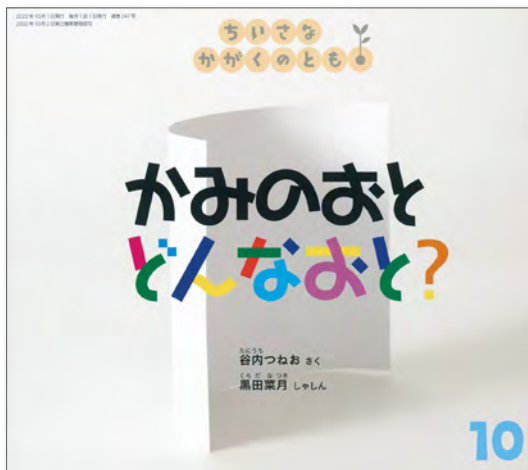


Paperback | H23.0 x W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## SPIDERWEBS WITH RAINDROPS

by Toyoko Takemura

Spiderwebs usually do not stand out that much. They are there but you do not notice them. Once you get rainfall, however, they turn into such a beautiful sight! The sun rays fall on them and the tiny raindrops shimmer and glisten. Take a close look and you will realize that none of the spiderwebs are the same. Some have a cross-like pattern in the middle and others have small swirl designs. The author, who is also a collage artist, creates all the spiderwebs in this book from Japanese paper. You will certainly enjoy the exquisite breathtaking details in the artwork.



Paperback | H20.0 x W23.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## CAN YOU HEAR THE SOUNDS OF PAPER?

text and artworks by Tsuneo Taniuchi  
photographs by Natsuki Kuroda

Take a sheet of paper and try shaking it. What kind of a sound does it make? Then, would the sounds change if the quality of paper were different? With Origami paper, newspaper and tissue paper, the experiment goes on. The author, T. Taniuchi, is a paper sculptor who is well aware of the differences. He would shake them, crumble them into a ball, tear them and scatter them around to display various sounds. The photographer, N. Kuroda captures such movements precisely. It is something like an orchestra being performed, dynamic and creative! You would be surprised at the sounds you were not aware of before.

By the Same Author ●●●●●





Paperback | H23.0 × W20.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## LET'S DECORATE THE EARTH WITH FALLEN LEAVES

by Mitsuki Noguchi

The autumn leaves are covering the ground. Natsume is out for a walk with her sister. She steps on the fallen leaves. They make a merry sound as if they were talking to her. Red, yellow, orange and still a little green left, together the leaves are so colorful. Then Natsume spots a tree with a sheet of scarlet leaves underneath. They go under the Japanese maple tree. A spark of ideas pop in Natsume's head. They decorate themselves with the leaves and then the ground as well. What a gorgeous way to spend an afternoon! Elaborate illustrations almost give out the smell of autumn leaves.

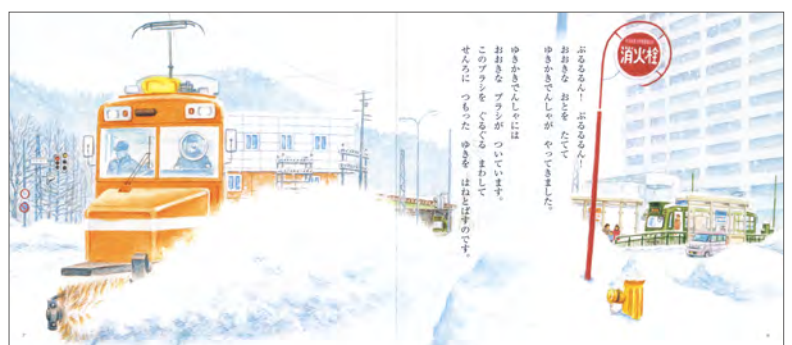


Paperback | H20.0 × W23.0 cm  
24 pages | ¥400.-

## LOOK! A SNOWPLOW IS SWEEPING THE SNOW!

by Syusaku Suzuki

This is a town up in the northern regions. There is a tram system that runs around the town for people to travel. Once it starts snowing the snow covers up the rails quickly. That is when you hear the mighty rumbling sound from far away approaching. Brrrm, Brrrm! It's the snowplow car clearing the tracks for the trams! While the shovel trucks clear the snow off the roads, the snowplow car clears the rails using a rotary snow remover. The driver doesn't forget to be gentle to his fellow motor vehicles on its side, he will start the car after the vehicles have proceeded. He stops the brushes when he sees a passenger waiting on the platform, too. They are heavy duty workers but gentle to people.







Hardcover | H23.1 × W20.5 cm  
24 pages | ¥900.-  
ISBN: 978-4-8340-8681-2

By the Same Authors ●●●●●



## SOMETHING COMES OUT OF MY ACORNS!

text by Tamami Sawaguchi  
illustrations by Chisato Tashiro

Autumn has come. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and there are acorns all over the place. A little boy picks some and fills his pockets with them. Brown ones without its cap and green ones wearing a cap, the variety tickles his heart! He keeps them in a jar and notices some changes. Soon enough, the green ones get missing! Or did they turn brown? Then he spots holes in some acorns. And then some worms! "Guys, did you come out of my acorns?" the boy asks. An invitation for the young ones to explore the autumn woods.



Hardcover | H20.6 × W23.3 cm  
24 pages | ¥900.-  
ISBN: 978-4-8340-8685-0

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## A TRAIN IS COMING !

by Makiko Ishibashi

Dad and I are going for a walk. Hope I get to see trains a lot. Here, on the bridge, I can see the whole train crossing the river. Here, at the under path, I can see the "belly" of a train.... Trains are ever fascinating for little kids. Join the little boy's walk and share the excitement and joy of seeing trains, along with wonderful onomatopoeias and vividly colored illustrations!





Paperback | H25.0 x W23.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

## CATCH ACHACHA! - THE EFFECTS OF HEAT

text by Tomoki Morikawa

illustrations by unpis

Hakaru was playing with his wooden blocks when he spotted an odd one. It felt warm. He wanted to know why and studied the warm block carefully. That was when something jumped out of it and swiftly disappeared. Hakaru's mind went blank for a second. That was when Thermo, another fairy popped in. She explained that she was in search of 'a fairy of heat'. She called it Achacha. Thermo and Hakaru started their search for Achacha together. Wherever Achacha hid, the spot was affected by heat. That was their clue. Look into the illustrations carefully and try to spot changes or differences caused by heat. Will they catch Achacha after all? A unique approach in a scientific picture book unfolds.



Paperback | H25.0 x W23.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

## A DAY AT A SMALL STATION

by Mika Kamada

There is a small station at the foot of a mountain. It may be a small station but many people count on its operation. Their service is the basis of their daily routine. The staff start their days before dawn. The station clerk sweeps the platform for passengers, the conductor prepares the timetable and other props. The driver checks all the gadgets at the driver's seat. Morning arrives and commuters and others board the train. During the off-peak times, the train is split up in order to serve less passengers. The station clerk assists passengers in all aspects to keep them safe. The final train arrives and the whole day is over.







Paperback | H25.0 x W23.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

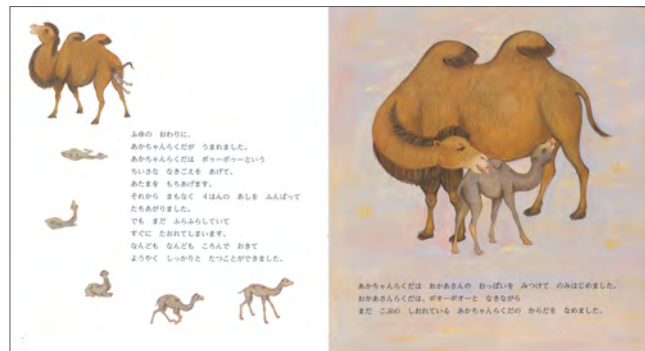
By the Same Authors ●●●●●



## CAMEL GROWTH

text by Ichinnorov Ganbaatar  
Japanese text by Noriko Tsuda  
Illustrations by Baasansuren Bolormaa

A Bactrian camel is a camel with two humps. It is probably the typical type we would associate the word 'camel' with. They store fat in those humps for the harsh times when food is scarce. They have a very sensitive nose to spot water, too. They could actually drink 80 liters of water at a time. The nose has a special function to close up preventing sand from going into their system during a sandstorm. The extremely long eyelashes also protect their eyes from it. They grow fur to shelter themselves from the cold which falls off when the temperature rises. With all these special features, the Bactrian camel lives in the desert of Mongolia. Let's observe their life from birth.



## I CAN'T SEE MYSELF!

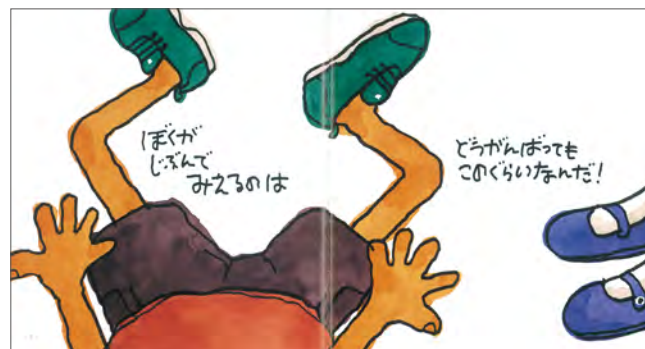
by Taro Gomi

A little boy realized that he could see his friend and vice versa, but he could not really see himself. To be precise, only partially he could. For example, he could see his own arms and legs but when it came to the back of his head it was impossible. Then how about his own back? Or his own face? His friend suggested using a mirror for that. But he said, that was not him. It was "him reflected in a mirror." Even photos or video tapes showing him were not him NOW, but the PAST him. A philosophical question about the existence of oneself is casted. And why would one want to be able to see oneself? The author gives us a warm and very suggestive answer.



Paperback | H25.0 x W23.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

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Paperback | H25.0 × W23.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

## LARCH-TREES

text by Hisao Sugawara  
illustrations by Risa Fukui

At the end of winter every year when the temperature starts to rise, avalanches occur here and there at Mt. Fuji. The whole surface of their paths get carried away leaving a bare ground covered with rocks and stones. And with strong winds blowing, even those stones roll down the steep slopes afterwards. Rainwater also slides down before it can seep into the soil. The barren surface looks hopeless, but is it? In severe conditions like this, larch-trees are the first to sprout from the ground. Actually they are the pioneers of inhabiting plants on Mt. Fuji. Let's see how they create a new forest! The illustrations are papercut work delicately laid out but still bursting with vitality.

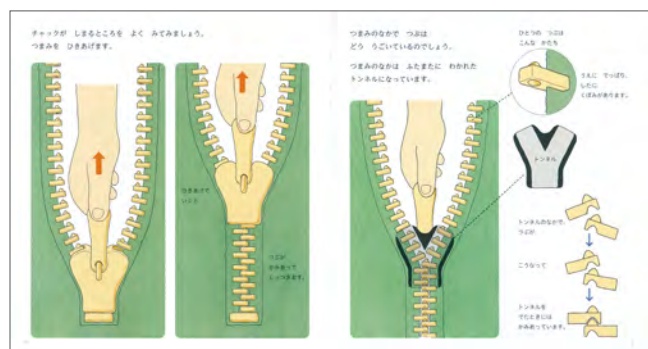


Paperback | H25.0 × W23.0 cm  
28 pages | ¥400.-

## HOW BUTTONS AND FASTENERS WORK

by Ichiro Momoki

There are several different methods and devices we use to close things up. Buttons and snap buttons on shirts/clothes are good examples. How about Velcro tapes? These are tapes known as the hook-and-loop fastener. They are used on sneakers for young children or as adjustment tapes for sleeves on sports gear. If we think about our lunch boxes, a special latch holds it closed preventing leakage. The plastic bags known as Ziplocs have a locking structure to hold moisture inside, too. Instant-latches on helmets and zippers have their own system, too. Each and every type has a good reason to be used where they are. Why don't we look into these convenient devices?



By the Same Author ●●●●●●







Hardcover | H25.3 x W23.2 cm  
 28 pages | ¥900.-  
 ISBN: 978-4-8340-8686-7

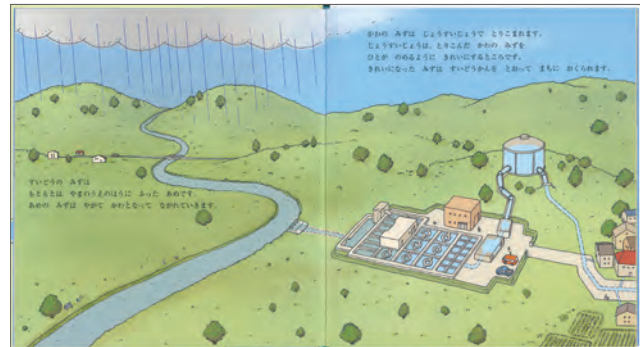
By the Same Author ●●●●●



## CITY WATER

by Ichiro Momoki

A fountain in the middle of a street...? There must be a hole in the water pipe! Did you know there are lots of pipes buried in the ground, or behind the walls? Be a curious little boy and follow the journey of water to and from your house!



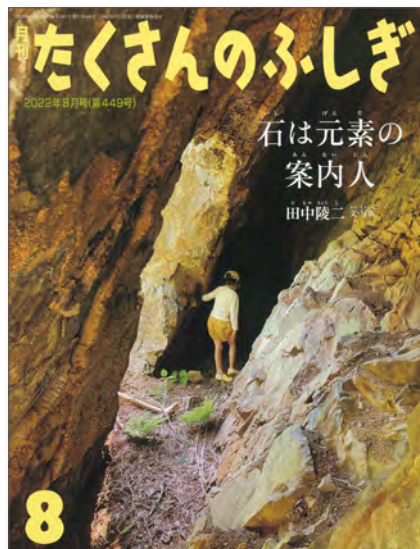


Paperback | H25.0 x W19.1 cm  
40 pages | ¥700.-

## DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM IN THE LIFE OF FIREFLIES

text by Shinichi Fukuoka  
illustrations by Daisuke Igarashi

The flickering of fireflies are beautiful and ephemeral. Despite the transitory quality, they actually carry a long history of lives connecting to this day. Fireflies are known to have been around on this planet for more than 100 million years. That is 500 times longer than us, human beings. So how have they connected their lives for such a long span of time? The author, Mr. Fukuoka is a biologist and explains how a number of factors affect each other to keep a certain condition in proper balance. It is called dynamic equilibrium. A huge power exists within Mother Nature that functions to revive what has been lost. It does take time but happens for sure. Let's watch it happen through the lives of fireflies.



Paperback | H25.0 x W19.1 cm  
40 pages | ¥700.-

## MINERALS ARE THE DIRECTOR TO ELEMENTAL SCIENCE

text & photographs by Ryoji Tanaka

They say this whole world is made up of a mere ninety elements. An element is a substance that cannot be broken down into simpler components. They are so tiny and invisible. The easiest way to grasp the idea of elements is to study minerals. For example, rock salt; The natural composition of a Polish rock salt keeps it to a cubical shape no matter how small we try to break it. There are rock salts that come in beautiful gem-like colors as well. It all depends on the kind of minerals combined with it. Historically, we have tried to take out the colors from the minerals for drawing, and metals to create tools and weapons. So what are elements? What are atoms? The author invites the young readers to a new world.







Paperback | H25.0 x W19.1 cm  
40 pages | ¥700.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●



## IMAGINATION OF THE STARRY SKY

by Shun Sekiguchi

Grandma invited Luna to stay a bit longer with her. School wouldn't start for a while so there was no rush to go back home yet. Grandma lived in the highlands and grew vegetables during the day. She loved to look up at the stars at night. She started talking to Luna about the starry sky. Venus, Mars, Vega and Antares were just a few to mention. She explained how ancient people thought of planets as gods and how they observed the movements of them to anticipate the future. They also made up constellations by connecting several stars into shapes of animals and people. Looking up into the sky with exuberant imagination may take you further into the universe.



Paperback | H25.0 x W19.1 cm  
40 pages | ¥700.-

## I LIVED WITH A TOAD FOR 18 YEARS

text by Yoshiko Yamauchi

illustrations by Hitoshi Sawano

One day I spotted a black dot-like thing under my laundry poles. I squatted down to take a good look and realized that it was a baby toad! It was pitch black, so I decided to call it Blackie. Blackie was only about 1cm in size. She eventually got used to me and would even eat off my hand after a while. My husband and I made observations of how she ate insects we had collected for her and how she shed her skin. She would hibernate during the cold seasons. We were awed to see her ability to detect danger as a wild animal. She grew steadily and became about 15cm which was her full size. We shared 18 years together. Here is a record of those years to share with you.





Paperback | H25.0 x W19.1 cm  
40 pages | ¥700.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●

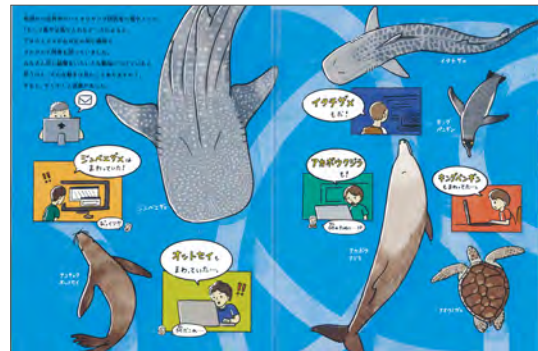


## THE MYSTERY OF MARINE ANIMALS' CIRCLING MOVEMENTS

text by Katsufumi Sato

illustrations by Chihiro Kinoshita

Amazingly enough, marine animals travel hundreds or sometimes thousands of kilometers over the vast ocean for foods and come back to where they belong. How do they do that? The book focuses on the theory of geomagnetism. The idea is that marine animals use the magnetic field which surrounds the earth to navigate themselves. The mysterious 'circling movements' observed around the world could be a behavior to measure the magnetic field and decide on accurate directions. Could this be their secret for precise navigation? You are invited to a hands-on experience on a research site!



## NAME, EXISTENCE AND CONCEPT

text & illustrations by Takashi Kurihara

photographs by Tatsuo Mitsuchi

Taro met a strange stray cat on the street who asked him for a name as he did not have one yet. Taro trumped-up an ordinary name suggesting "Whitey" or "Tama" to which this cat protested furiously. His lecture about 'names' starts. "Young man. You do not seem to understand the power names have!" he started. And a dialogue folds out. To begin with, if things around us did not have names, how would we describe them to others? All these names of things were given to them by human beings. The cat explains something too obvious to realize. They meet a photographer, Mr. Mitsuchi who tells them that even a plain scenery with nothing special is full of names! Let's look around ourselves and check this out.



Paperback | H25.0 x W19.1 cm  
32 pages | ¥700.-

By the Same Author ●●●●●





# Story Books & Reference Books



Hardcover | H21.3 x W15.1 cm  
88 pages | ¥1,500.-  
ISBN: 978-4-8340-8674-4  
Ages 3+

## 30 SMALL TALES FOR CHILDREN FROM HAHA NO TOMO MAGAZINE

*compiled by Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers*

“One small tale a night” is the theme of this book which contains 30 small tales to read to your children. They are the specially selected stories from the 20-year archives of a popular short story column in Fukuinkan's monthly parental magazine Haha no Tomo. In this book, you can enjoy tales that were exclusive to the magazine and had never been published in book form before. You can even read spin-off stories about children's favorite characters like 'Guri and Gura' and 'Little Daruma'. With the busy life parents are managing nowadays, this is an ideal book to share with your children especially perfect for bedtime stories.



Hardcover | H21.6 x W15.3 cm  
72 pages | ¥1,100.-  
ISBN: 978-4-8340-8673-7  
Ages 5+

## THREE POSTCARDS FROM STRANGERS

*by Yuka Okuyama*

One day, Yuta, an elementary school boy, stops Mom from killing a slug. Then he picks up a toad from a busy street so that cars won't run over it, and saves a snake found in a school ground. On the following day, he receives three postcards inviting him to the senders' houses. The names don't sound familiar but he decides to visit them. At the first house he enjoys painting pictures with very unusual transparent paints. The second one offers a strange lunch with various bugs. Yuta dances with the third one, a tall lady with unexpectedly cold hands. They all like Yuta so much that they start fighting over him...! Enjoy the eventful day of a kind hearted boy, with humorous narrative and expressive illustrations.

