

# The Japan Foundation / JBBY

にほんのえほん  
Japanese Picture Books

nihon  
no  
ehon



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## Bologna Children's Book Fair 2025

A selection of Japanese children's books will be on display at JF & JBBY Joint Booth Hall 29-C15.

- What's New? Picture Books You Don't Want to Miss
- For Infants and Very Young Children
- Chapter Books & Novels for Young People
- HCAA 2026 Nominees from Japan

JAPAN FOUNDATION  
JBBY

The logo "nihon no ehon" was originally designed by KOMAGATA Katsumi in 2017.



# What's New?

## Picture Books You Don't Want to Miss

R: Rights Sold C: Contact



### A Stone Grinder and 24 Blocks of Tofu (ひき石と24丁のとうふ)

Text/Photos ONISHI Nobuo  
Alicekan, Ltd. | 2024 | 40pp |  
ISBN 978-4-7520-1100-2  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. YAMAGUCHI Ikuko (Editorial Dept.)  
edit@alicekan.com

### A picture book tracing 16 years watching Mina-san make tofu with hand-held tools

"It's about time to get started!" The shop door opens to let the wind in. The place is Ninohe in Iwate Prefecture. We are deep in the mountains with Granny Mina, who is making tofu. She can't see well and she is over 90 years old. She makes delicious tofu using only tools that operate by hand. This photo picture book, based on 16 years of visits and interviews, tells us about Granny Mina's work and what she has to say.



### Achiqueé and the Potato Field in the Sky (アチケと天のじゃがいも畑)

Text UNO Kazumi Ill. IINO Kazuyoshi  
BL Publishing Co., Ltd. | 2024 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-7764-1122-2  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. TSUJI Michiyo (Editorial Dept.)  
blp-tsuji@blg.co.jp

### A thrilling Peruvian folk tale of Achiqueé the witch and a certain brother and sister

This book is one in a series of folktales from around the world. Achiqueé is a terrifying witch, and a brother and sister run across her one day. In danger of being captured by the witch, they end up borrowing the powers of different animals to try to escape. It's a scary story full of exciting illustrations, but draws the sympathy of readers. In the epilog, the author tells us more about the geography of Peru and the lifestyle of its people. It is also interesting to read about the characteristics of folktales from Central and South America.



### I Am Little Bear. (くまくんです。)

Text/Ill. MURAKAMI Yasunari  
Child Honsha Co., Ltd. | 2024 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-8654-9316-0  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. YOSHIDA Yurika  
(Japan Foreign-Rights Centre)  
yurika@jfc-tokyo.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B20 (JFC)

### Here on this planet, Little Bear is doing the best he can to live his life!

Until now, Little Bear has always been protected by his mother. Now, though, the time has come for the two of them to separate. Little Bear is anxious about living alone, but he is doing his best to move forward, one step at a time. The mountain, with all its riches, keeps an eye on him. This book is a cheer of support from nature lover and picture book author Yasunari Murakami to all of the children and adults living on this planet together.



### I Am a Ship (ぼくは ふね)

Text/Ill. GOMI Taro  
Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc. | 2024 | 32pp | ISBN 978-4-8340-8773-4  
R: Chinese (Complex), Chinese (Simplified)  
C: Ms. UESUGI Yoko (Foreign Rights)  
international-rights@fukuinkan.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-C13

### A book representing the 50-year career of picture book creator GOMI Taro

A tiny boat is crossing the sea when it hits a storm and huge waves. Fortunately, it is saved by a helicopter that plucks it out of the water and places it on land. But now the boat can no longer move and fears its sailing days are over. One day, along comes a land ship that tells the boat, "You can go anywhere if you really want to." So the tiny boat makes up its mind, and starts to move. It travels over mountains, through fields and into town.



### KURO-A Little Dog at the Christmas Market (クリスマスマーケット ちいさなクロのおはなし)

Text/Ill. FURIYA Nana  
Fukuinkan Shoten Publishers, Inc. | 2023 | 40pp | ISBN 978-4-8340-8739-0  
R: Korean, Chinese (Complex)  
C: Ms. UESUGI Yoko (Foreign Rights)  
international-rights@fukuinkan.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-C13

### A puppy finds a special friend

A Christmas market is set up in town. One morning, the shopkeepers are greeted by the sound of barking coming from the Christmas tree. It's a puppy. They name it Kuro, and Kuro quickly becomes the market's mascot. One day, a little girl shows up with a stuffed animal named Snow. Kuro can't keep his eyes off Snow...



### Future Chocolate (ミライチョコレート)

Text/Ill. The Cabin Company  
HAKUSENSHA Inc. | 2024 | 48pp |  
ISBN 978-4-5927-6338-3  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. OKADA Junko  
(Overseas Sales Department)  
<https://www.hakusensha.co.jp/inquiry/overseas/>

### What is chocolate made from?

"Is chocolate really made from a fruit called cacao??" The setting is the world 1000 years from now, a place where chocolate no longer exists. Maya, a young girl, goes to a museum and sees chocolate for the first time. She's enthralled with how delicious it looks. Maya sets out on a journey, and makes an amazing discovery about chocolate.



### Night in the Children's Bedroom (こどもべやのよる)

Text/Ill. DEKUNE Iku  
Iwanami Shoten, Publishers | 2024 | 40pp |  
ISBN 978-4-0011-5406-1  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. MORIKAWA Hiromi (Foreign Rights)  
rights@iwanami.co.jp

### An adventure for when you can't sleep! The story of It-chan, the youngest of four sisters

Night has come to the children's room. It-chan is the only one still awake. She has her covers over her head and is trying to be quiet so she's not consumed by the dark night. The book is a collection of three fun stories about the night: the title story, "Tenshi-chan" about an angel doll flying through the sky, and "No Adults Allowed," in which the four sisters sail on the sea in their bunk beds. These are stories in pictures by Iku Dekune, a picture book creator living in the Czech Republic.



### Monster Diary (もののけdiary)

Text KYOGOKU Natsuhiko Ill. ISHIGURO Ayako  
Iwasaki Publishing Co., Ltd. | 2024 | 88pp |  
ISBN 978-4-2658-3119-7  
R: Chinese (Complex)  
C: Ms. KANAOKA Kate  
(Associate Cross Content Manager)  
kanaoka@iwasakishoten.co.jp

### A devil out to frighten people vs. the boy who isn't bothered: the record of a very peculiar 30-day relationship

A modern-day retelling of the tale of *Inou mononoke roku* from the 18th century. Two yokai masters have collaborated to create this story of the humorous and amazing interaction between Heitaro Inou and a crew of yokai whose goal is to frighten him. It has been referred to as "the pinnacle of yokai stories." A devil and a raft-load of other suspicious characters appear in places and to people who actually existed.



### Piano (ピアノ)

Text/Ill. ISE Hideko  
KAISEI-SHA PUBLISHING CO., LTD. | 2023 | 40pp | ISBN 978-4-0343-5180-2  
R: Korean, Chinese (Complex)  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yoko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko (Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18

### A heartwarming fantasy describing the joy created by music

After moving to a new house, Non-chan is at home alone when she finds a toy piano in a closet. Her now-deceased father bought it for her fifth birthday. She decides to play Canon, a song her father taught her. In the midst of it, she hears the sound of another piano coming from the woods next to her home. It is playing the same piece she is.



### A Braille Touch Book Let's Go on an Adventure! (てんじつきざわるえほん ぼうけんしょう!)

Text/Ill. SUGIYAMA Kanayo  
KAISEI-SHA PUBLISHING CO., LTD. | 2023 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-0322-6170-7  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yoko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko (Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18

### A picture book that lets the reader try out Braille

This picture book is all about "adventures using hands." Readers touch it to play, so it is fun for children who are sighted, unsighted or partially sighted. They find things that are dangerous, but it's okay because it's in a book. Readers can even devise their own adventures! At the end of the book is "A Manual on Adventures" that offers even more ways to have fun.



### The Life of Acorns (どんぐり)

Text/Ill. TATENO Hiroshi  
Komine Shoten Co., Ltd. | 2023 | 33pp |  
ISBN 978-4-3383-6201-6  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. YOSHIDA Yurika (Japan Foreign-Rights Centre)  
yurika@jfc-tokyo.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B20 (JFC)

### A picture book with no text. The ecosystem of an acorn is expressed in color and sound

This is the tale of an acorn, from the time it falls from the top of a tree until it welcomes spring. Each acorn is a single life. There are living beings who manage to survive on acorns. The life of one being is the sustenance of another. The forest is full of life—animals such as birds and deer, an enormous tree eaten by insects. The forest is always changing. This is a picture book of the signs of life as the seasons change. It was included in the 2024 White Ravens selection and won the Japan Picture Book Award.



### Yuki in the Snow (ゆきのゆきちゃん)

Text/Ill. KIKUCHI Chiki  
MISHIMASHA PUBLISHING CO. | 2023 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-9093-9497-2  
R: All Rights Available  
C: Mr. SUMI Chiharu (Editorial team)  
chiharus@mishimasha.com

### My name is Little Snow—just like the white stuff that falls in winter. Do you know why I was named that?

Little Snow the cat goes out for a walk on a cold winter day. The cat wanders through the mountain covered in snow, asking the animals in the forest there if they know where her name came from. What did Little Snow find out? Each page is filled with beautiful India ink paintings, including the grand mountains and scenes of animals playing in the snow. This work sets new standards for picture books on winter themes. The creator won the BIB 2019 Plaque and other awards, and is well known on the international scene.



### Water Sings (水はうたいます)

Poetry MADO Michio Ill. nakaban  
Rironsha co., Ltd. | 2023 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-6522-0597-6  
R: All rights available  
C: Mr. YOSHIDA Akihiko (Management Office)  
rights@rironsha.co.jp

### Water accumulates and flows, climbs to the sky, falls on the earth and circles the globe

Michio Mado, the first Japanese winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for authors, discovers the miracle in something we rarely think about, crystallizing that miracle into a poem. The illustrator leans into the poem, drawing pictures of the different faces of water that we use every day. This book is a song of praise—a symphony—to water, which moves around the globe, fulfilling the needs of all living things.



### The Secret Life of Shrews (トガリネズミひみつのくらし)

Text/Photos ROKUTA Haruhito  
SEKAIBUNKA PUBLISHING Inc. | 2024 | 40pp |  
ISBN 978-4-4182-481000  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. IIZUKA Yukiko (Foreign Rights)  
y-iizuka@sekaibunka.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall26-B57

### A photo picture book about the mysteries of the life of the shrew mouse, an unusual animal found in Hokkaido

The Tokyo shrew mouse is about five centimeters in length and weighs about two grams. Despite its name, it is only found in Hokkaido. The allure of the creature, though, is not limited to its just being tiny and cute. Surprises await when the reader learns what it eats, where its home is hidden, how it raises its young, and more. This book about one of the smallest mammals on earth illustrates how precious life is and how many mysteries it holds. It also contains the first published photos of shrew mouse babies!



Chapter Books & Novels for Young People

1) Lifelong
Long-time sellers that remain popular among children today

In 2021 the Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) and the Japan Foundation selected 59 Japanese children's books recommended for translation into other languages.
"Lifelong Favorites — Selections from the Bookshelves of Young Readers in Japan" covers books written in Japanese, chiefly for children aged between 5 and 12, that are widely read in Japan — books that can be found on children's bookshelves as well as local and school libraries across the country.

The Japan Foundation Support Program for Translation and Publication can offer priority support for those seeking to publish translations of the books listed in "Lifelong Favorites".



Granny's Airplane
おばあさんのひこうき
Text SATO Satoru III. MURAKAMI Tsutomu
Kosmos Shoten Co., Ltd. | 1973 | 101pp | ISBN 978-4-338-01804-3
R: All rights available
C: Ms. YOSHIDA Yurika
Japan Foreign-Rights Centre)
yurika@jfc-tokyo.co.jp
Stand No. Hall29-B20 (JFC)



The Car Is the Color of the Sky: The White Hat
車のいろは空のいろ 白いぼうし
Text AMAN Kimiko III. KITADA Takushi
POP LAR PUBLISHING CO., LTD. | 2000 | 125pp | ISBN 978-4-591-06442-9
R: Chinese (Simplified)
C: Ms. OHMURA Takashi (Foreign Rights)
t\_ohmura@poplar.co.jp
Stand No. Hall26-A136



Sumire
すみれちゃん
Text ISHII Mutsumi III. KUROI Ken
KAISEI-SHA PUBLISHING CO., LTD. | 2005 | 138pp | ISBN 978-4-033-45270-8
R: Chinese (Complex), Chinese (Simplified)
C: Ms. NONAKA Yoko / Ms. IMAMURA Yoko (Editorial Dept.)
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp
Stand No. Hall29-B18



The Hungry Saucepan
はらべこおなべ
Text KANZAWA Toshiko III. WATANABE Yoji
AKANE SHOBO Publishing Co., Ltd. | 1970 | 94pp | ISBN 978-4-251-00648-6
R: All rights available
C: Tuttle Mori Agency
foreignrights@tuttle-mori.com



The Talkative Omelet
おしゃべりなたまごやき
Text TERAMURA Teruo III. MATSUNARI Mariko
Rironsha co., Ltd. | 1998 | 158pp | ISBN 978-4-652-00662-7
R: All rights available
C: Mr. YOSHIDA Akihiko (Management Office)
rights@rironsha.co.jp



When a Dragon Calls 1: The Curse of the Bow Witch
竜が呼んだ娘 ① 弓の魔女の呪い
Text KASHIWABA Sachiko III. SATAKE Miho
KODANSHA LTD. | 2024 | 256pp | ISBN 978-4-06535-543-5
R: Korean, English, Russian, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Complex), Korean
C: Tuttle Mori Agency (International Rights Department)
oube1\_shoseki@kodansha.co.jp
Stand No. Hall29-B14



Upcycle for Our Future! アップサイクル! ぼくらの明日のために
Text SATO Madoka III. KIUCHI Tatsuro
POP LAR PUBLISHING CO., LTD. | 2023 | 223pp | ISBN 978-4-591-17926-0
R: All rights available
C: Mr. OHMURA Takashi (Foreign Rights)
t\_ohmura@poplar.co.jp
Stand No. Hall26-A136

Members of the Japan Foundation (JF) and Japanese Board on Books for Young People (JBBY) Joint Booth

Grid of member photos and names: MATSUOKA Kiyoko, TAMURA Aya, HIROMATSU Yukiko, MORIIZUMI Ayami, TAKAGI Yoshiko, MATSUOKA Minori, TAKANO Naoko, KAKINOKIHIARA Masahiro, MURAUCHI Mirei, SASAKI Aru, TORIZUKA Naoko, NOGAMI Akira.

For Infants and Very Young Children



- 1) Lifelong
A) Fluff Fluff Fluffy
B) Grow Grow Grow Bigger
C) Peek-a-boo
D) Splish Splash in the Bath
E) Alligator-Alli, Splashing in My Bath
F) Hello, Moon!
G) Rainy and Sunny
H) The Sunflower
I) Who Won't Go to Bed?
J) Little Eyes 01
K) Hello, Love!
L) Magic Words: Tsuru-kame
M) Baby
N) Cuddle Me
O) Peace and War
P) Still Stuck
Q) Circle, Triangle, Elephant!
R) Spooky Noodle
S) Go Right Ahead, Little Ants
T) Can You Hear That Sound?
U) I Can't Sleep
V) Penguin Gymnastics
W) May I Hug You?
X) What Kind of Fruit Behind the Window?
Y) 100
Z) Pop, Peep
- 2) NEW!
A) Fluff Fluff Fluffy
B) Grow Grow Grow Bigger
C) Peek-a-boo
D) Splish Splash in the Bath
E) Alligator-Alli, Splashing in My Bath
F) Hello, Moon!
G) Rainy and Sunny
H) The Sunflower
I) Who Won't Go to Bed?
J) Little Eyes 01
K) Hello, Love!
L) Magic Words: Tsuru-kame
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R) Spooky Noodle
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U) I Can't Sleep
V) Penguin Gymnastics
W) May I Hug You?
X) What Kind of Fruit Behind the Window?
Y) 100
Z) Pop, Peep



# HCAA 2026 Nominees from Japan



Photo: ASAD / Masashi

## TOMIYASU Yoko : Author Award

Born in Tokyo in 1959, she spent early childhood in Canada before returning to Japan at age five. Growing up, she was fascinated by yokai and mysterious tales told by her grandmother and great-aunts.

She studied Heian-period literature at university, drawn to ghost and ogre stories in *The Tale of Genji*. In 1979, while still a student, she debuted as a writer with a piece published in a children's magazine. In 1990, she won the Japanese

Association of Writers for Children's Newcomer Prize for *Noisy House in Oak Forests*

Her books, influenced by her sons, range from picture books to young adult literature and have won numerous awards. *Mokko in Mount Yamanba* was selected for the IBBY Honour List (2002), and her works frequently appear in *White Ravens*. In 2020, she was nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award and received the JBBY Award.



### Suzuna, The Little Mountain Goddess 小さな山神スズナ姫

Text TOMIYASU Yoko  
Ill. IINO Kazuyoshi  
KAISEI-SHA  
PUBLISHING CO., LTD. I  
1996 | 134pp |  
ISBN 978-4-03-528310-2  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yuko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko  
(Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18



### Mayu & Ogre: A Story of Witch's Daughter まゆとおに

Text TOMIYASU Yoko  
Ill. TAKAHASHI Kazue  
Fukuinkan Shoten  
Publishers, Inc. I  
2004 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-8340-0998-9  
R: Korean  
C: Ms. UESUGI Yoko  
(Foreign Rights)  
international-rights  
@fukuinkan.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-C13



### Invitation to Bon Festival 盆まねき

Text TOMIYASU Yoko  
Ill. TAKAHASHI Kazue  
KAISEI-SHA  
PUBLISHING CO., LTD. I  
2011 | 191pp |  
ISBN 978-4-03-530610-8  
R: Chinese (Simplified)  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yuko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko  
(Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18



### Illustrated Stories from the Record of Ancient Matters 絵物語 古事記

Text TOMIYASU Yoko  
Ill. YAMAMURA Koji  
KAISEI-SHA  
PUBLISHING CO., LTD. I  
2017 | 155pp |  
ISBN 978-4-03-744870-7  
R: Russia  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yuko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko  
(Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18



### A Girl at the Museum: The Mysterious Research Begins 博物館の少女

Text TOMIYASU Yoko  
KAISEI-SHA  
PUBLISHING CO., LTD. I  
2021 | 342pp |  
ISBN 978-4-03-814510-0  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yuko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko  
(Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18



## ABE Hiroshi : Illustrator Award

Born in 1948 in Asahikawa, Hokkaido. He worked as a zookeeper at Asahiyama Zoo for 25 years, known for his illustrations on the zoo's walls and publications.

In 1989, he debuted as a picture book author with *Zoo on the Snow: The Mystery of Footprints*. His illustrations for *One Stormy Night* (written by KIMURA Yuichi) won the Kodansha Publishing Culture Award and the Sankei Children's Publishing Culture Award JR Prize. The series

became widely popular and was adapted into an animated film, musical, and Kabuki performance.

Since retiring in 1996, he has traveled extensively, drawing inspiration from nature and wildlife. His book *To the New World* was selected for the IBBY Honour List (2014) and won the JBBY Award. A seven-time nominee for the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB), he remains one of Japan's leading illustrators.



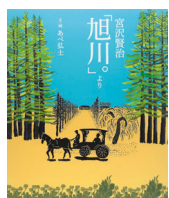
### First Book of Zoo Guide for Small Children どうぶつえんガイド

Text/Ill. ABE Hiroshi  
Design NAKANO Masataka  
Fukuinkan Shoten  
Publishers, Inc. I  
1995 | 88pp |  
ISBN 978-4-8340-1288-0  
R: Chinese (Simplified),  
Korean  
C: Ms. UESUGI Yoko  
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international-rights  
@fukuinkan.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-C13



### A Long Day for the Lion ライオンのながいいちにち

Text/Ill. ABE Hiroshi  
KOSEI Publishing Co. Ltd. I  
2004 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-3330-2041-6  
R: All rights available  
C: Mr. FUJIMOTO Yoshihide  
(Editorial Dept.)  
y-fujimoto  
@kosei-shuppan.co.jp



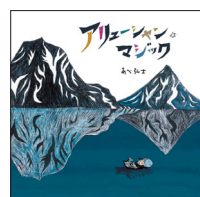
### Inspired by the poem "ASAHIKAWA," of MIYAZAWA Kenji

宮沢賢治「旭川」より  
Text/Ill. ABE Hiroshi  
BL Publishing Co., Ltd. I  
2015 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-7764-0686-0  
R: All rights available  
C: Ms. TSUJI Michiyo  
(Editorial Dept.)  
blp-tsuji@blg.co.jp



### The Dawn よあけ

Text/Ill. ABE Hiroshi  
KAISEI-SHA PUBLISHING  
CO., LTD. I 2021 | 32pp |  
ISBN 978-4-03-352120-6  
R: Chinese (Simplified)  
C: Ms. NONAKA Yuko /  
Ms. IMAMURA Yoko  
(Editorial Dept.)  
foreign@kaiseisha.co.jp  
Stand No. Hall29-B18



### Aleutian Magic アリューシャン・マジック

Text/Ill. ABE Hiroshi  
Nora Shoten | 2022 | 35pp |  
ISBN 978-4-905015-67-3  
R: Chinese (Simplified)  
C: Ms. SATO Yukiko  
(Editorial Dept.)  
sato@norashoten.co.jp