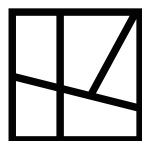


- P**icture Books
- E**arly Readers
- M**iddle Grade & **YA**
- N**on-Fiction & **E**ducation
- G**raphic Novels
- C**haracters



**KODANSHA**

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

**2024 Bologna**



# Downpour



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

**Ages 4+**  
32 pages / 2018  
Sold: China, Italy, Korea,  
Taiwan, USA, Vietnam



**coming soon**

From the husband-wife duo who created "Downpour" comes a new picture book about using your body's senses.

Late Autumn 2024

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.

# Boo Boo Boo



When you talk to babies, they can't use words yet, so it's all about touching, looking, and listening. Boo-boo-boo may just sound like babble, but look at all the different things in the world that make that noise! You can probably think of even more besides the elephants and cars in this book.

**Ages 0+**  
24 pages / 2013 / Sold: China, Korea



**Squeeze Squeeze Squeeze**



**Ages 0+**  
24 pages / 2014  
Sold: China, Korea

Babies need lots of hugs and this book introduces a variety of techniques. Hands, tummies, stuffed animals—all for the squeezing!

**The Wait Ups**



**Ages 0+**  
24 pages / 2016  
Sold: China, Korea

Wait up! This baby's socks are chasing him around, but what happens when the tables turn?

**Coochie Coo**



**Ages 0+**  
24 pages / 2016  
Sold: China, Korea

Coochie coo! Babies love to giggle and Mommy's hands are the best tickle bugs.

# Chocolat series

Ages 3+  
24 pages / 2001~ / Sold: China

As a little girl who can do anything, Chocolat inspires children to make their dreams come true. Beloved for 20 years since the first volume, the series now has 13 books.



## Chocolat Goes on a Drive

Chocolat can even drive a car! But what happens when she gets a flat tire?



## Chocolat the Florist



What will Chocolat the florist do when a customer orders 100 roses and she only has 99?

## Chocolat's Restaurant



Chocolat is a great cook, too. She can make anything, but did she really need to make this much?

## Chocolat the Doctor



When Dr. Chocolat gets the call, she drops everything and flies to Africa to rescue the animals.

Writer  
**Hiroataka Nakagawa**

Born in Saitama Prefecture in 1954. Nakagawa has made use of his experience as Japan's first male nursery school teacher to write stories, poems, and songs for children. He won the Japan Picture Book Prize for *Naita* (I cried; Kinnohoshi).

Illustrator  
**Koshiro Hata**

See previous page for bio.

# Which?



Ages 3+  
32 pages / Dec. 2023

Can you guess which piece of cake is made of wood? It's obvious after someone tries to take a bite. Which cheese doesn't melt? Which pistachio can't be opened? Item after photorealistic item is revealed to be a clever carving by the viral sculptor Kibori no Konno.



Which?



This one.



Which one?



This one.

Author  
**Kibori no Konno**

Wood sculptor. Born in 1988. Began carving wood in 2021 as a hobby, and has since been producing works that make people gasp in surprise, sharing them on social media. *Tokekake no k̄iri* (Melting ice), *Sosogareru k̄ohii* (Coffee being poured), and other pieces have gone viral online and been introduced on TV, and since 2023, he has been sculpting professionally.

# Let's Have a Snack



**NEW!**

Hedgehog boils water to make tea, but it escapes out the window as steam. The animals chase after it, but the steam keeps rising higher and higher. Having given up, they are staring at the sky when...?

**Ages 3+**  
24 pages / Feb. 2024  
Sold: Germany



Writer  
**Hans ten Doornkaat**

Born in 1952. Living in Switzerland. After being an editor and managing editor for many years, he began working on picture books. This book is an expanded version of an idea he first talked to his son about 30 years ago.

Illustrator  
**Yumi Shimokawara**

Picturebook author and illustrator. See next page for bio.

# Star Hunting



**Ages 3+**  
32 pages  
2017  
Sold: Bulgaria, China, Germany, Korea, Russia, Thailand

# I Just Wanted to Say...



**Ages 2+**  
24 pages  
2022  
Sold: Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam

# Thank You, Buddy



**Ages 2+**  
24 pages / 2022  
Sold: Bulgaria, France, Italy

# Have a Seat



**Ages 2+**  
28 pages / 2018  
Sold: China, Italy, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam

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



**Ages 2+**  
28 pages / 2017  
Sold: China, Germany, Italy, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

# The Hat



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

# I'm the Big Brother



**Ages 3+**  
24 pages / 2022  
Sold: Vietnam

# The Baby of the Family



**Ages 3+**  
24 pages / 2022  
Sold: Vietnam

Author & Illustrator  
**Yumi Shimokawara**



Born in Tokyo Prefecture. 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).

## 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.



### Panda Face Exercises

Follow the panda examples and try out these face exercises. Flap your ears like an elephant, wink like an owl, and more as you exercise your imagination along with your body. This book is guaranteed to have everyone laughing by the end.

Nov. 2023



Sold: China, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam



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



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



Sold: China, Vietnam

Author & Illustrator  
**Satoshi Iriyama**

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

## Nyooop Cake Nom

NEW!



Ages 1+  
24 pages / Feb. 2024

A beautifully designed picture book for enjoying the sights and sounds of cake from decoration to degustation. Filled with fun onomatopoeia and colors babies will love, this is a perfect pick for a first read-aloud with a child.

Author  
**Mayumi Oono**

Born in Tokyo. Selected for the nonfiction category of the 2017 Bologna International Illustrators Exhibition. She publishes around the world including titles such as *Il mio post preferito* (kira kira edizioni) in Italy and *Mi pequeña pastelería* (Zahori books) in Spain.

## The Apples Goes Rolling, Kololinko



Ages 1+  
28 pages / 2011

Elephant tries to pick an apple, but it goes rolling, rolling, kololinko instead. Over Giraffe's back, over Hippo's back. How far will it go? Over the camels humps, kobulinko. Over the flamingo's feathers, furalinko. Who gets to eat the apple in the end?

Author & Illustrator  
**Taro Miura**

Born in 1968 in Aichi Prefecture. He began working as an illustrator after graduating from Osaka University of Arts. After being selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition, he has published picture books overseas including in Switzerland, Italy, and Spain.

## A Gyoza Went Missing



Skyrocketing  
Bestseller

Police alert the town of Oba that a gyoza has gone missing, and a boy named Toshio imagines why the gyoza might have left. Did it go visit the hometown of all gyoza? Or did it get sick of being a gyoza and go train to become a spring roll? Where could it be?

Ages 4+

32 pages / Sept. 2023  
Sold: China



Author  
**Michiko Tamada**

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

## We Are Penguin Explorers: That Day Is Coming Soon



*Heave and-a ho ho, heave and-a ho ho.* The penguin explorers take a big sleigh to an island of ice on their canoe. And it seems like they're waiting for someone. Animals show up and wait with them until finally...? A perfect picture book for kiddos who can't wait for Christmas.

Ages 3+

32 pages / Oct. 2023

## We Are Penguin Explorers: The Shady Ghost Ship



As the penguin explorers paddle along in their canoe, they encounter a shady seagull, a shady sea turtle, a shady dolphin, and a shady ghost ship!

Ages 3+

32 pages / May 2023

## We Are Penguin Explorers: The Southern Isle



*Heave and-a ho ho, heave and-a ho ho!* The penguin explorers land on the southern isle and begin their expedition. They are unfazed by their "dangerous" encounters with a lion, a python, and a crocodile, and equally unfazed when a dinosaur shows up.

Ages 3+ 32 pages / 2022 / Sold: Korea



## We Are Penguin Explorers (Early readers)

The much-beloved Penguin Explorers early reader series was launched in 1991 and has sold over 500,000 copies in Japan and China. These penguins march to the beat of their own drum. That and the series's humor are the keys to its popularity.

Ages 6+ 78 pages / 1991 / Sold: China, Taiwan

Writer  
**Hiroshi Saito**

Born in Tokyo. German literature scholar and author of children's literature. Professor at Asia University. See page 16 for details.

Illustrator  
**Jun Takabatake**

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

## Doctor Anton Series

Ages 3+  
32 pages



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



### Doctor Anton

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

2013 / Sold: China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

### Doctor Anton's Baby Checkup (tentative)



Late Autumn 2024

### Doctor Anton Makes a House Call



2015 / Sold: China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

### Doctor Anton, It's a Piglet!



2017 / Sold: China, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

### Doctor Anton, Helping Each Other



2022 / Sold: China, Thailand, Vietnam

Author & Illustrator  
**Toshio Nishimura**

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

## Mottainai Grandma Series



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

### Mottainai Grandma's Grandama

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

NEW!

Ages 3+

32 pages / March 2024



### Mottainai Grandma



Ages 3+

34 pages / 2004

Sold: China, India, Taiwan, Vietnam

### Mottainai Grandma Goes to the River



Ages 4+

36 page / 2019

Sold: China, India, Taiwan, Vietnam

### Mottainai Grandma Let's Eat With Gratitude



Ages 3+

36 pages / 2009

Sold: India, Taiwan, Vietnam

Author & Illustrator  
**Mariko Shinju**



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

## Pihotek: walking the Arctic With the Wind



Ages 6+

32 pages / 2022 / Sold: USA

Writer

**Yasunaga Ogita**

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



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

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.

## Pitch Black



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*.

When a teacher asks children to draw what is on their minds, one of the boys paints his paper pitch black. The teacher is surprised and tells him to paint a proper picture, but he doesn't stop. After school, when he goes home, in the morning, at recess—he's always painting more and more papers black. Soon his room is full of them. All the adults are worried. One day, however, something curious happens. What was he actually painting all this time?

Twenty years ago, a shocking TV commercial left a lasting impact with the message that children shouldn't be deprived of their imagination. Now that commercial has been transformed into this new picture book.

Ages 4+

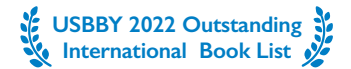
36 pages / 2021 / Sold: Taiwan, USA

Illustrator

**Ken Kuroi**

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

## The Book of Water



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

Ages 5+

32 pages / 2019

Sold: China, Sweden, USA

## A Forest Picture Book



Ages 5+

32 pages / 1999

Sold: China

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: China, USA

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.



## Treasures of the Sea



Ages 4+  
32 pages  
July 2023  
Sold: Korea

As a spiritual successor to *Kurumi no naka ni wa* (Inside a walnut), which mixed a boundless imagination with the growth of a tree, Yuko Takao presents this book about seashells and how fossils are made. If you shake a shell and it rattles, that means there are tiny, little treasures inside. If a shell floats, that means it's a tiny, little boat from a far-off country. But what if it's more like a rock than a shell? That means it's a shell that lived millions of years ago and became fossilized as sand and mud settled over it. Shells tell the story of the sea, and Takao illustrates it beautifully.



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 Curious Umbrella Shop



Ages 4+  
32 pages / May 2023

“Ugh! I hate the rain!” Remi just wants to go out and play, but the weather cramps his style. Refusing to use his mom’s umbrella in place of his broken one, he races outside only for it to start raining so hard that he has to take shelter next to a shop. Inside, a cat offers him magical umbrellas, but the cat is actually the Spirit of Stormy Nights, and he tricks Remi into setting him free. Remi teams up with the traveling umbrella artisan and his collection of raindrops to defeat the spirit and clear up the storm. During the course of his adventure, he learns to see the beauty in rain and appreciate it as the source of all life—and his mom buys him a new umbrella at the end.

## A Curious Night at the Christmas Market

When Johann goes to the Christmas Market for the first time, he meets a nutcracker who tells him that the north wind has blown the star off the top of the tree. Can he help get her back into place? And why is the north wind so cranky to begin with? Charming illustrations bring a European Christmas tradition to life in this magical holiday tale.

Ages 4+  
36 pages / 2019



Author  
**Ayuko Tanaka**

Born 1972 in Fukuoka Prefecture and grew up in Miyagi Prefecture. Finished a graduate degree at Chelsea College of Arts in London. After working for a design firm, she started doing mainly art exhibitions. In 2000, she was selected to participate in the Bologna Children's Book Festival's picture book art exhibition. Her picture books include *Fiōra to fukō no majo* (Flora and the unlucky witch), *Marūshika to 12 no tsuki* (Maryushka and the twelve moons; text by Yuko Kanno) among others. She also does cover illustrations. Living in Paris.

# Monster Encyclopedia Series

Over **2 million** copies in print

## Monster Encyclopedia: At School



Over 2 million copies sold in Japan! Adapted as both anime and a live-action movie. The secret to this series's popularity is finding humor in the spookiness and always offering a solution to give readers peace of mind. These books come with the message that no matter what life throws at you, "You'll be fine!"

34 volumes and counting!

Ages 9+  
80 pages  
2014  
Sold: Taiwan

### Goofy Monsters



The Skeleton Model



Beethoven on the poster



Toilet Hanako

## From Monster Encyclopedia: At School

1.



If you forget something at school, you mustn't go back at night to get it—especially not to the science room.

2.



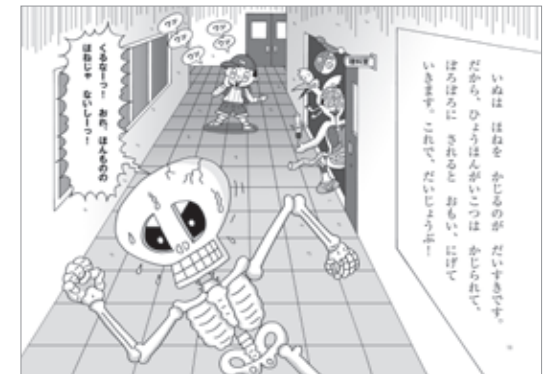
Because the science room at night... is a monster paradise! And the scariest of all is... the skeleton model!

3.



Once he grabs you, he won't let go till morning. He'll make you dance for hours and hours.

4.



To avoid all of that, you need to not go to the science room at night. But if the skeleton model grabs you, pretend to be a dog by barking, "Woof! Woof-woof-woof!"

Writer  
**Hiroshi Saito**

Born 1952 in Tokyo Prefecture. Won the Kodansha Award for New Writers of Children's Literature for *Rudorufu to Ippaiattena* (Rudolf and Gotta Bunch), the Noma Prize for New Writers of Children's Literature and the Robo no Ishi Young Readers Award for *Rudorufu tomodachi hitoridachi* (Rudolf with friends and on his own), as well as the the Noma Prize for Children's Literature for *Rudorufu to Sunō Howaito* (Rudolf and Snow White).

Illustrator  
**Etsuyoshi Miyamoto**

Born 1954 in Osaka Prefecture. After working in graphic design, he switched to illustrating and authoring picture books. Winner of the Kodansha Character Creation Award, the Sankei Shimbun Advertising Award, and the Parco Parody Prize.

## When a Dragon Calls: The Curse of the Bow Witch

NEW!



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

Ages 10+

256 pages / Jan. 2024

## 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: China, France, Thailand, Russia, USA

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.



The anime adaptation won two Kids' Jury awards at Les Toiles Filantes!

A 2024 Mildred L. Batchelder Award Honoree

A 2024 USBY Outstanding International Book

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



## Temple Alley Summer

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

Ages 10+

338 pages / 2011

Sold: Germany, Indonesia, Korea, USA

Winner of the 2022 Mildred L. Batchelder Award

Winner of the 2022 SCBW Crystal Kite Award



## The Marvelous Village Veiled in Mist

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. This is the classic Japanese fantasy that inspired Studio Ghibli's *Spirited Away*!

Ages 10+

216 pages / 1975

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



## A Strange Journey From the Basement

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

Ages 10+

256 pages / 1981

Sold: China, France, Taiwan

## The Beast Player



**Ages 11+**

319-486 pages  
2006-2010  
Sold: China, France, Italy, UK

A 2020 Michael L. Prinz  
Award Honoree

3.1  
million  
copies sold  
in print

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



2014 Han Christian  
Andersen Award

Author  
**Nahoko Uehashi**



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

## Soul Lanterns



The White Ravens  
2014

The Shogakukan  
Publication Culture Award

The Fukuda Kiyoto  
Literary Award.

**Ages 13+**

189 pages  
2013  
Sold: USA

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

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

Author  
**Shaw Kuzki**

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

## The Mirage Queen Series

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

Over **1.3 million** copies in print



**Ages 10+**  
257-320 pages

Series: 2002-present 17 volumes



### A Warning from the Queen: Mirage Queen, Episode 0

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

**Ages 9+**  
384 pages  
2020

Author  
**Kaoru Hayamine**



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



**Ages 8+**  
36 pages / Apr. 2023 / Sold: Korea

## 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.



## What Is the Future?

Why do we sometimes get worried about things that will happen way later—even fun things? This cute graphic novel-style picture book follows a girl who is anxious about going on a field trip even though she's looking forward to it and helps readers explore our mind's conception of the future. Hopefully it can assuage some fears.



**Ages 8+**  
32 pages / Nov. 2023

Author  
**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.

## Varicolorful: How Sight Has Evolved

NEW!



Ages 9+  
40 pages  
March 2024

Colors are actually created by our eyes and brains in our mind, so everyone sees them a little differently. For example, some people see red and green—what to many are quite distinct colors—as similar. If you take 100 people, a few of them will see in that special way. This book looks back at evolution from the time of the dinosaurs to see how our way of seeing colors evolved.



Writer  
**Hiroto Kawabata**

Born in 1964 in Hyogo Prefecture. Graduated from Tokyo University's College of Arts and Sciences. Has written everything from nonfiction to novels.



Illustrator  
**Yutaka Nakagaki**

Born in the Kokura neighborhood of Kitakyushu. He's been illustrating professionally since 2005 and debuted as a picture book author in 2013 with *Gyoretsu* (The line; Kaiseisha).

## The Long, Long Journey of Our Bones

Winner of a JASCL Honken  
Best Book Prize in 2018

The next generation  
in the Association of Studies for  
Picture Books's BOOKEND 2018

Winner of a Children's Welfare  
Culture Award in 2019



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

Ages 7+ 36 pages / 2017 / Sold: China, Taiwan

Writer  
**Motoko Matsuda**

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

Supervision  
**Akihiko Sakuragi**

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

Illustrator  
**Kazuo Kawakami**

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

Supervision  
**GUNMA MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY**

## The Evolution of Whales



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

Ages 10+ 40 pages / 2022 / Sold: China, Taiwan

Writer  
**Hiroya Minakuchi**

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

Illustrator  
**Takashi Oda**

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

Supervision  
**Toshiyuki Kimura**

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

## Cells at Work Picture Books 1-5



Illustrator  
**Kumi Makimura**

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

The hit anime and manga *Cells at Work* is now a series of graphic novel-style picture books!

**Vol. 1 :** The "Blood"y Battle Between Bacteria and White Blood Cells

What do your cells do when you get hurt? How do your cells fight bacteria when you get pneumonia?

**Vol. 2 :** Fearsome Enemies! Influenza and Food Poisoning

**Vol. 3 :** A New Opponent! COVID-19

**Vol. 4 :** Injections Aren't Scary! Heatstroke and Mumps

**Vol. 5 :** Familiar Ailments! The Secrets of Colds and Bumps

**Ages 10+**

36 pages / 2020-present

Sold: China, Taiwan

Original Creator  
**Akane Shimizu**

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

## The Singing Body NEW!



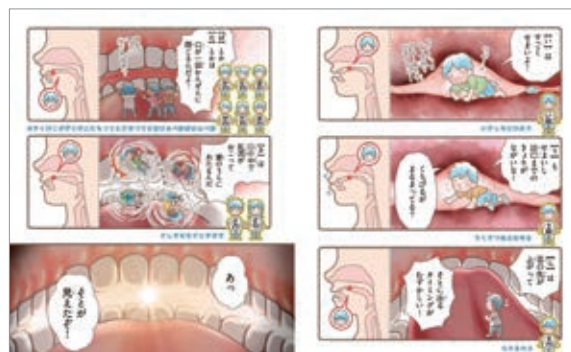
**Ages 10+**

32pages / Jan.2024

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.

Many people are able to sing and talk without really thinking, but do you know what is happening inside your body when you do those things? This fun, educational graphic novel features the air you take into your body on its journey to becoming your voice.



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.

Illustrator  
**Kumi Makimura**

See above for bio.

## MOVE Comics Series

MOVE Comics — a Japanese graphic novel series. Enjoy stories of adventure and gain knowledge of nature, science, and life!

### Wonders of the Dinosaurs Vol. 1-2



**Ages 10+**

144 pages / 2015

### The Earth and the Evolution of Life: 4.6 Billion Years of Secrets!



**Ages 10+**

140 pages / 2017

The world is full of wonders. Dinosaurs, insects, animals, the deep sea, the human body, space... Why were dinosaurs so big? What enables life in the dark, cold, deep sea? Children go on big adventures, wherever curiosity leads them to, in worlds they don't come across in everyday life. Reading MOVE Comics, you'll be excited and be absorbed with its manga and also gain knowledge of science.

### MOVE Comics Series

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Dinosaurs 1: The Birth of Dinosaurs and the Leap in their Evolution!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Dinosaurs 2: The Magnificence of Dinosaurs and Their Extinction!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Animals 1: Savannah, Here We Come!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Animals 2: The Big Amazon Adventure!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Insects 1: Welcome to the World of Insects!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Insects 2: Insect Survival Tactics!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Deep Sea: Deep Sea Creatures and the Giant Shark Revealed

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Human Body: Exploring Inside the Human Body!

MOVE Comics Wonders of the Human Body: Exploring Inside the Human Brain and Blood Vessels

MOVE Comics The Earth and the Evolution of Life: 4.6 Billion Years of Secrets!

MOVE Comics: The Mysteries of Space and Life Revealed: Does Extraterrestrial Life Exist?

# Galvania: When a Gal Adores Sylvanian Families

NEW!



July 2023



Dec. 2023



May 2024



One gyaru in love with Sylvanian Families and one serious member of the handicrafts club—though there was no reason for this pair of high school girls to ever meet, they bond over their shared obsession. Their pure adoration will give you all the warm fuzzies. "We had to make this explosion of love official," say the creators of Sylvanian Families, Epoch. This viral manga got over 6 million likes on Twitter.

**Ages 10+**  
144 pages

Author  
**Kuko Okano**

Mangaka. Wears kimono fashion as her usual style. Lives with her black cat.

# Manga Coloring Book Series

## Blue Lock / Witch Hat Atelier/ Attack on Titan Vol. 2

Official coloring books based on global manga hits are coming in autumn, 2024! Enjoy your favorite stories more deeply by coloring in and adding dialogue to carefully selected scenes.

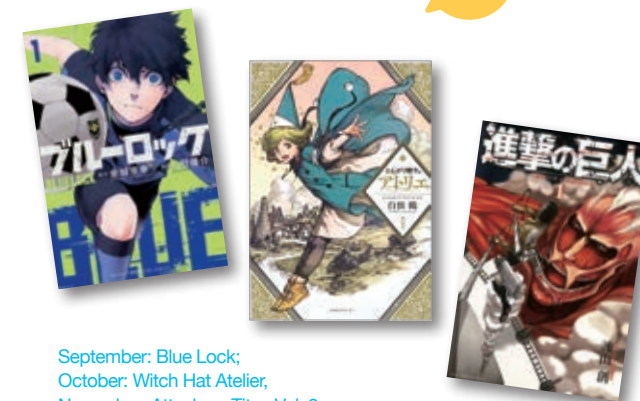
All Ages 60 pages / Autumn 2024

## Attack on Titan Coloring Book

NEW!



60 pages / 2016  
Sold: USA



September: Blue Lock;  
October: Witch Hat Atelier,  
November: Attack on Titan Vol. 2



# STUDIO GHIBLI

## The Complete Works

This book introduces 26 Ghibli works from Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind to Earwig and the Witch. Get the inside scoop on the studio's first fully CG film, Earwig and the Witch, from director Goro Miyazaki and read an interview with the producer and managing director Toshio Suzuki. This is a must-read volume if you want to learn about Studio Ghibli's past and future!

**All Ages**  
160 pages / 2021  
Sold: China, France, Italy, Korea, Spain, Taiwan, USA