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# Japanese Children's Favorite Stories: Anniversary Edition



## Synopsis

This colorfully illustrated multicultural children's book presents Japanese fairy tales and other folk stories providing insight into a rich literary culture. For 60 years, generations of English-speaking children around the world have been enchanted by Japanese Children's Favorite Stories and for good reason. With such titles as "The Toothpick Warriors" and "The Rabbit Who Crossed the Sea", these 20 stories offer age-old lessons in kindness and goodness that are still riveting to children and parents alike. This 60th Anniversary Tuttle edition is proof that good stories never wear out. In this treasure trove of much-beloved Japanese children's stories, you'll meet charming characters drawn from folklore and passed down for generations. These tales about playful goblins with long noses, walking statues, and a delightful hero who just happens to be one inch tall speak of the virtues of honesty, humility and hard work. What better way for a parent to teach than through stories that thrill their children! Author Florence Sakade, a pioneer of English-language publishing in Japan, has compiled so many enchanting stories, readers will have a difficult time deciding which is their favorite. The sparkling illustrations by Yoshisuke Kurosaki are a visual treat that readers of all ages will enjoy! His original and stylized watercolors bring to life the fascinating tales of fairy cranes, eel catchers, and singing turtles, among many others. These Japanese stories shine on every page, and are sure to captivate your family as they have many others. The Children's Favorite Stories series was created to share the folktales and legends most beloved by children in the East with young readers of all backgrounds in the West. Other multicultural children's books in this series include: Asian Children's Favorite Stories, Indian Children's Favorite Stories, Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories, Singapore Children's Favorite Stories, Filipino Favorite Children's Stories, Favorite Children's Stories from China & Tibet, Chinese Children's Favorite Stories, Korean Children's Favorite Stories, Balinese Children's Favorite Stories, and Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories.

## Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (62 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,114 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #30 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #41 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 9 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

First printed in the early 1950's, this is the 51st printing of the book. It contains ten classics from the first printing 50 years ago, and ten newer stories. Stories include (1) Momotaro the Peach Boy, a boy who is found in a peach by a childless couple, who goes off to fight ogres with his animal friends when he reaches his teens; (2) The Magic Tea Kettle about the badger who is mistaken for a kettle; and (3) Silly Saburo, the hilarious and entertaining story about a boy and his misadventures, all because he does exactly what he is told. Also among the twenty are (4) The Crab and the Monkey, about a plotting monkey and his hapless friend, a crab, and a riceball and persimmon seed; and (5) Why The Jellyfish Has No Bones, about a jellyfish and an evil octopus.

As a child I was enchanted by the tales of Little Peach Boy, Inchling, and the other characters whose stories are featured in this book. Each story has a positive theme such as politeness, helpfulness and sacrifice. The characters are as memorable as those of the Brothers Grimm and the stories are complemented by beautiful illustrations. I still have my 25 year old copy of this book and am purchasing a copy for each of my children to have for themselves.

As a small child I lived for three years in Japan. Before we moved overseas, my mother bought me this book, I suppose to encourage an interest in Japanese culture. Ever since, I have loved this book, with its beautiful illustrations and thoughtprovoking and entertaining stories. Now I've purchased a new edition for my little boy. If you're looking to broaden your child's horizons, this is a must for the bookshelf.

I haven't read ALL the stories in this book, but sadly, the authors have tidied up the elements in the original folk and fairy tales to make them "suitable" for young readers. One example, in the classic tale The Monkey and the Crab, originally Monkey kills crab (in this version Monkey just kind of injures Crab); and in the original, charmingly, one of the friends of crab that ambushed Monkey was

a cow pie! The cow pie is just sort of left out here. I would LOVE to see a collection of translated classic Japanese kid stories with the warts left where they are!

Overall, this is a well illustrated and well written book. For my son. I don't like the themes. Bad people getting what they deserve, etc. Aesop's fables were not much different in this regard, so I should not have had such a utopian expectation that Japanese fables would be different. If you don't mind Aesop and want to explore Japanese children's stories, this is a good choice.

A wonderful collection of enchanting stories for young children, 3-7 years old. We have read from it since my boy was 3 years old - it is one of the very few books that have kept with him for a long period (he is now 5.5). I figure that he will be able to read the stories himself pretty soon, making this volume one of a handful of books that can be read to him and by him. The stories are imaginative, full of fantasy, culturally different yet appealing to "standard" elements of the children's minds. The plots are interesting to the children, who quickly learn them by heart and ask for specific stories night after night. The drawings are marvelous. The fact that there are multiple, independent stories, makes it easy to customize the length of the day's reading as needed. Of the many books that my boy has this is definitely one of the best, from his point of view as well as from mine. The wonderful illustrations, evocative of some of Miyazaki's magnificent animated movies, only add to the attraction of this exceptional book.

I grew up with this book and my children in turn have enjoyed it. These very traditional and/or popular Japanese children's tales all bring the flavor of Japan to readers through the the illustrations and the style of the stories, which mostly are "shushin" (include morals). This is one of several books of Japanese children's stories by Tuttle Publishing which would be valuable in classrooms as examples of a different style of storytelling ... and yet some sound so familiar... and as a look into a different culture.

I had this book growing up and remember reading and re-reading each story. The watercolor illustrations capture perfectly everything I associate with Japanese folklore - the beauty, the countryside, the ogres, the gentle mountain people. We now have 3 new babies in the family, so I bought this book for their bedtime stories, hoping that they will get as much joy as I did and instill the love of reading in them.

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