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Little One-Inch & Other Japanese Children's Favorite Stories



Synopsis

This delightfully illustrated multicultural children's book presents Japanese fairy tales and other folk stories that children and parents alike will love. Welcome to a fantastic world populated by mischievous monkeys, a dragon king, and a host of other beloved characters who have lived on for centuries in the traditional tales of Japan. Drawn from Japanese folklore passed down from generation to generation, the ten enchanting stories collected in this volume have been lovingly retold for today's readers. Vibrantly illustrated and full of thrilling adventure, funny discoveries, and important lessons, they're sure to become story time favorites. Included are some of Japan's best-loved stories: The Spider Weaver Little One-Inch The badger and the Magic Fan Mr. Lucky Straw Why the Jellyfish Has No Bones The Old Man Who Made Trees Blossom And many more!

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"The books have a generous, easy-to-handle size and the text is produced in a large font. Charmingly decorated endpapers welcome readers. All of the artwork—consisting of numerous full-page pictures and smaller detail illustrations—is in color. The delicate paintings blend traditional images with touches of gentle humor. Incorporating straightforward language and clear dialogue, the retellings are accessible to youngsters and read aloud smoothly."
—School Library Journal

Florence Sakade was an experienced editor and author of numerous books about Japan, including Tuttle Publishing's Kintaro's Adventures and Other Japanese Children's Stories, Peach Boy and Other Japanese Children's Stories, and Urashima Taro and Other Japanese Children's Stories. Yoshisuke Kurosaki was one of Japan's most noted illustrators of children's books. He also illustrated Peach Boy and Other Japanese Children's Stories.

Very thrilled to be able to get this book. Have wanted to find it to buy it for my kids.

This was a childhood favorite of mine while growing up, and I wanted to get a copy to pass onto my kids.

Great gift.

My kids are 4 and 6 and enjoy hearing these stories again and again. The pictures are really lovely too.

My son really likes this book. We want our children to not only love books we want them to know about the world around them. Experience pieces of other cultures and this book allows us to offer that from the comfort of our home. The stories are delightful and we get many hours of reading it. The stories are not too long and not too short. As the pregnant mother of a potty training 3 year this fact is important. This book has graduated from bookshelf to nightstand because my son enjoys reading the different stories. We would definitely give this book as a gift to others.

Issunboushi (Little One Inch) is a staple of Japanese children's stories, and there is even a children's song based on it. While the violence in the stories is a bit much for 21st century Western culture, this English translation has toned down the more graphic details. For example, this version says Issunboushi stabs the evil ogre's nose and eye. The original had the ogre swallowing Issunboushi and vomiting him out after the latter had stabbed his stomach lining with his needle-sword. A Japanese version of "The Crab and the Monkey" (Saru-Kani Gassen) said the monkey killed the crab by pelting it with hard persimmons and the crab's children got revenge by beating him to a pulp. This English version has the injured crab exacting a less extreme form of justice by having allies injure the monkey until he admits and apologizes for his

transgressions. While this may appear much now, children actually find comfort in seeing the bad guy getting his just deserts. The stories are clear and straightforward-- those who do evil lose and those who do good win. The illustrations are simple and magical ("suitable for framing" as the old saying goes). I grew up with these stories, and I in turn read them to my children as bedtime stories. They love the stories and pictures and ask me to read them repeatedly. Of all the books I read to them, this book and the "Peach Boy" volume are their favorites.

I received this book as a gift from my grandmother when I was a small girl and loved the book. I especially liked "The Spider Weaver" and "Why the Jellyfish Has No Bones." Fast forward 25 years, I was delighted to find this book on . The first read transported me back to sitting on my grandmother's lap while she read to me before bed. Perhaps because of the sentimental value attached I may be biased about this book but it was just as good as I remembered it being. Some of the tales took on a new meaning and I found "The Grateful Statues" to be very moving. I can't wait to read these tales to my children.

Introduce your children to the wonderful tales Japanese children know and love! A bit abridged, if you know the tales already, but these are a fine collection. Little One-Inch is Japan's Tom Thumb, and he is shown wending his way down a stream in a boat made of a rice bowl, using a chopstick for propulsion. There are ten stories in all, sweetly illustrated in Japanese style. Kids 3 to 10 will enjoy these; my favorite is The Rabbit Who Crossed the Sea ...on the backs of sharks he somewhat maliciously tricks into helping him. The listener learns Rabbit's hard-won lesson about fooling people, and they are given a delightfully amazing picture of Rabbit using the sharks as an inter-island bridge. One warning: there is a color picture of Little One-Inch poking a needle into the eye of a demon, but I've seen more frightening pictures in Disney publications. In general, the book has nothing scarier than what western fairy tales offer.

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