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# Once Upon A Time In Japan



## Synopsis

**\*\*Winner of the 2016 Creative Child Magazine Book of the Year Award\*\* \*\*Winner of the 2015 Gelett Burgess Award for Best Multicultural Book\*\*** When wily animals, everyday people and magical beings come together in a collection of Japanese fairytales, wonderful things are bound to happen! Each story is brilliantly illustrated by a different talented Japanese artist. The tales recounted here are among Japan's oldest and most beloved stories. Entertaining and filled with subtle folk wisdom, these retold stories have been shared countless times in Japanese homes and schools for generations. Like good stories from every time and place, they never grow old. Kids (and their parents!) will enjoy hearing these stories read aloud on the accompanying CD. The fairytales and classic stories in this collection include: The Wife Who Never Eats – the story of a man who learns the hard way the evils of stinginess. The Mill of the Sea – the story of how a greedy man was responsible for the saltiness of sea water. The Monkey and the Crab – the crabs teach a tricky monkey a lesson in fairness and honesty. The Magical Hood – an act of kindness reaps great rewards. Sleepyhead Taro and the Children – a story about what can be accomplished at the right time, and with the right help and the right spirit. The Fox and the Otter – how a fox pays the price of deceit and selfishness. The Gratitude of the Crane – a story about the rewards of kindness and the danger of curiosity. The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter – a girl who starts life very tiny turns out to be big in many ways.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

## Customer Reviews

"I really like the layout of this book. It is really a beautiful book. The fact that there are different illustrators for each story is awesome, as they make each story even more unique. I like the variety of the tales selected. It makes it an enjoyable read. While the book is a bit long for reading at one time, you can just read one of the folktales. The organization of this book is done very well. It is really cool that there is a free audio CD with the book. That makes it perfect for car rides. I give this book five out of five bookworms." This Kid Reviews Books blog

"The moral lessons in these tales are universal and should transcend the reader's age." — reading this book leads to a discovery about the nature of old folktales: A sprinkling of cruelty and weirdness help engrave moral lessons deeper on the minds of readers." — The Japan News

"The overall quality of production matches the care taken in narrative choices and imagery. The stories and artwork work very well together and will likely delight young readers, particularly when read aloud." — Booklist

"The traditional beliefs of long ago come alive through the work of several artists." — Skipping Stones magazine

"Once Upon a Time in Japan is an ideal introduction to Japanese folktales." — the publication's beautiful layout showcases a variety of award-winning Japanese illustrators." — The Japan Times

"Each double-page spread is a marvelous blend of simply resonating text and dynamic wondrous art." — Smithsonian Book Dragon

"This collection has a very nice variety to the stories and are going to surprise readers if they are unaccustomed to Japanese myths and tales." — Readers will be fascinated by different takes on some familiar ideas as they are introduced to ancient stories from a culture with which they may not be familiar. A CD of the stories being read is included." — Manhattan Book Review

"The illustrations in this book are very pretty and nice, and some are like Japanese paintings. The stories are like fables and like fairy tales. Some of them are a lot like other stories that you may already know, like there is one that is about a magic mill that explains why the sea is salty. [ ] If you are interested in fairy tales and fables, you will like reading these stories from a different land." — San Diego Book Review

NHK World is the international service of Japanese public broadcaster NHK. The stories published in this book were part of a special series produced by Radio Japan, NHK World's radio service in 18 languages.

**Illustrators** After working as a graphic designer, Manami Yamada became an author of children's books and an artist. Her books include *Grandma Nosehair*, whose illustrations were

selected for the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition in 2008, and Kaeru to Okan ("The Frog and the Crown"). She is the recipient of several awards. Tomonori Taniguchi was born in Osaka in 1978, and studied Nihon-ga Japanese painting at Kanazawa College of Art. His children's books have been published in Japan, France and Italy. They include Sarukun to Banana no Yuenchi ("Monkey and Banana's Amusement Park") and Pinocchio, la marionnette de fer ("Pinocchio the Iron Puppet"). Born in Gifu prefecture in 1978, Nao Takabatake is an author of children's books and an illustrator. He received the Japan Picture Book Award in 2013 for Kaeru no Odekake ("The Frog Goes Out"). His other works include Chiita Dai Se-ru ("Cheetah's Big Sale") and Banana Jiken ("The Banana Incident"). Takumi Nishio was born in Tokyo in 1968. He worked as graphic and set designer for public broadcaster NHK from 1994 to 1999, and later produced animations, illustrations and opening titles for TV programs. He currently teaches at the Yokohama College of Art and Design.

I love the story and illustration in this book. It comes with a CD ( i have not played it yet ) which i think will be useful to play and fall asleep with. Kids seems to love looking at the pictures and reading the stories.

Nicely articulated stories with moral in each one of them. This book also tells children's to be wise through its morals.

sent this to my granddaughters in japan.

It is fun to read the fairytales from other countries, with these stories obviously from Japan. You get eight of them, each attempting to teach a lesson to the reader. You get talking animals, family feuds, and anxious children among other things. The eight stories have four different illustrators, presenting a little bit of a different feel to the stories. Great illustrations I should add, too, to help bring the stories to life. While the whole book is 120-ish pages, none of the stories are too long. You can certainly read the whole book in one sitting, but the tales will be more enjoyable if you read each separately and think about the lesson you just learned from the story. Great book for the active young reader. Don't miss the audio CD in the back of the book if you ever want the stories read to you or your child while on the go. Received promotional copy from publisher with promise of an honest, unbiased review

Synopsis- If you like cultural fairytales, then this is the book for you! With eight well-known fables from Japan, you actually learn of the essence of the small country through the actions of humans, personalities of animals, and the mysteries of magic. What I Thought- I really like the layout of this book. It is really a beautiful book. The fact that there are different illustrators for each story is awesome, as they make each story even more unique. I like the variety of the tales selected. It makes it an enjoyable read. While the book is a bit long for reading at one time, you can just read one of the folktales. The organization of this book is done very well. It is really cool that there is a free audio CD with the book. That makes it perfect for car rides. \*NOTE\* I got a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

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