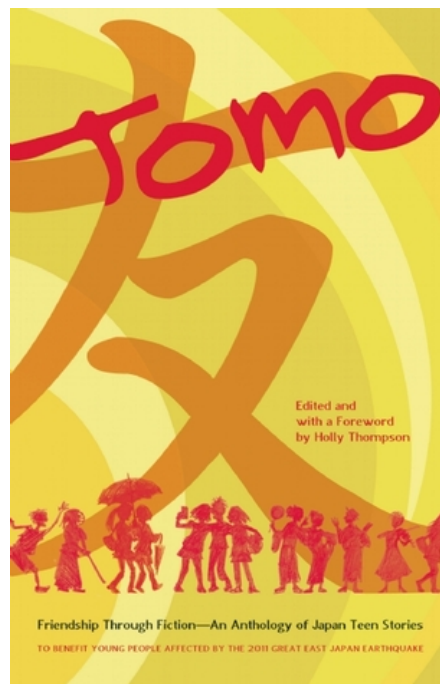




Tomo: Friendship through Fiction: An Anthology of Japan Teen Stories

Holly Thompson (Editor) , Andrew Fukuda (Contributor) , Charles De Wolf (Contributor) , Alan Gratz (Contributor) , Sachiko Kashiwaba (Contributor) , John Paul Catton (Contributor) , Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Contributor) , Kelly Luce (Contributor) , more... Leza Lowitz (Contributor) , Shogo Oketani (Contributor) , Ryusuke Saito (Contributor) , Marji Napper (Contributor) , Liza Dalby (Contributor) , Fumio Takano (Contributor) , Wendy Nelson Tokunaga (Contributor) , Kenji Miyazawa (Contributor) , Louise George Kittaka (Contributor) , Claire Dawn (Contributor) , Arie Nashiya (Contributor) , Thersa Matsuura (Contributor) , Sarah Ogawa (Contributor) , Megumi Fujino (Contributor) , Deni Y B  chard (Contributor) , Kaitlin Stainbrook (Contributor) , Yuichi Kimura (Contributor) , Y?ko Katakawa (Contributor) , Chlo   Dalby (Contributor) , Jennifer Fumiko Cahill (Contributor) , Katrina Goldsaito (Contributor) , Suzanne Kamata (Contributor) , Avery Fischer Udagawa (Translator) , Yukie Chiri (Translator) , Deborah Davidson (Translator) , Tak Toyoshima (Contributor) , Sako Ikegami (Translator) , Hart Larrabee (Translator) , Misa Dikengil Lindberg (Translator) , Juliet Winters Carpenter (Translator) , Lynne E. Riggs (Translator) , Alexander O. Smith (Translator) , Deborah Iwabuchi (Translator) , Ann Tashi Slater (Contributor) , Graham Salisbury (Contributor) , Mariko Nagai (Contributor) , Trevor Kew (Contributor) , Toshiya Kamei (Contributor) , Catherine Torres (Contributor) , John Shelley (Illustrator) ...less

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This aptly named fiction anthology—tomo means “friend” in Japanese—is a true labor of friendship to benefit teens in Japan whose lives were upended by the violent earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. Authors from Japan and around the world have contributed works of fiction set in or related to Japan. Young adult English-language readers will be able to connect with their Japanese counterparts through stories of contemporary Japanese teens, ninja and yokai teens, folklore teens, mixed-heritage teens, and non-Japanese teens who call Japan home. Tales of friendship, mystery, love, ghosts, magic, science fiction, and history will propel readers to Japan past and present and to Japanese universes abroad.

Portions of the proceeds of Tomo will be donated to the Japanese non-profit, HOPE FOR TOMORROW, to support ongoing relief efforts for teens in Japan.

Contents:

Shocks and tremors: Lost by Andrew Fukuda
Shuya's commute by Liza Dalby
Half life by Deni Y Béchard
Kazoku by Tak Toyoshima
Aftershocks by Ann Tashi Slater
Friends and enemies: Bad day for baseball by Graham Salisbury
Half a heart by Mariko Nagai
The bridge to Lillooet by Trevor Kew
Blue shells by Naoko Awa, translated by Toshiya Kamei
Borne by the wind by Charles De Wolf
Ghosts and spirits: The ghost who came to breakfast by Alan Gratz
House of trust by Sachiko Kashiwaba, translated by Avery Fischer Udagawa
Staring at the Haiku by John Paul Catton
Kodama by Debbie Ridpath Ohi
Where the silver droplets fall by transcribed and translated from Ainu into Japanese by Yukie Chiri,
translated and illustrated by Deborah Davidson
Powers and feats: Yamada-san's toaster by Kelly Luce
Jet black and the ninja wind by Leza Lowitz and Shogo Oketani
Hachiro by Ryusuke Saito, translated by Sako Ikegami
The lost property office by Marji Napper
Anton and Kiyoshime by Fumio Takano, translated by Hart Larrabee
Talents and curses: Love right on the yesterday by Wendy Nelson Tokunaga
The dragon and the poet by Kenji Miyazawa, translated by Misa Dikengil Lindberg
Just wan-derful by Louise George Kittaka
Ichinichi on the Yamanote by Claire Dawn
A song for Benzaiten by Catherine Rose torres
Insiders and outsiders: Fleecy clouds by Arie Nashiya, translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter
The zodiac tree by Thersa Matsuura
One by Sarah Ogawa
Love letter by Megumi Fujino, translated by Lynne E. Riggs
Signs by Kaitlin Stainbrook
Wings on the wind by Yuichi Kimura, translated by Alexander O. Smith
Families and connections: The law of gravity by Yuko Katakawa, translated by Deborah Iwabuchi
The mountain drum by Chloë Dalby
Paper lanterns by Jennifer Fumiko Cahill
I hate Harajuku girls by Katrina Toshiko Grigg-Saito
Peace on earth by Suzanne Kamata

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From Reader Review Tomo: Friendship through Fiction: An Anthology of Japan Teen Stories for online ebook

Linda says

Meant for teens and about teens, but I liked these stories, too. There is something for everyone: a Tohoku earthquake survival story, a WWII internment camp baseball lesson, the toaster of death, a dream come true, bullies, a new love, an annoying "chanto shita" girl. Almost all stories are set in Japan and flavored with Japanese words and phrases. There are a few translated legends that Western ears may find awkward, but the stories of Japanese "yokai" spirits are fun.

Asuka says

I picked up this book because I thought it was an anthology about March 11, 2011 (earthquake and tsunami) written by foreign authors who had some stakes in Japan. But most of the stories were nothing to do with it, and there were quite a few about the WWII concentration camp and Pearl Harbour. It's not that I don't want to admit that Japan has done some wrong too, but it wasn't enjoyable reading the word "jap" over and over. Plus I think it's a book meant for Non-Japanese people to get a better understanding of Japan. I should have figured that out based on the fact that it's written in English. I think it's an okay book, but I didn't enjoy it very much.

Trevor Kew says

Interesting collection of short stories, all connected to Japan, both by Japanese authors (in translation) and ex-pats living in Japan. All proceeds from this book go to earthquake/tsunami relief efforts as well, which was inspiring to see.

Gillian says

I won this book through Goodreads and was not disappointed. What a wonderful book which supports such an excellent cause. A great mix of stories from all walks of life without being too heavy. A book you can put down and come back to at a later time without any difficulty. Fab!

Diana Renn says

One of the best anthologies I've read in years. This is a fascinating mix of authors -- emerging and established, Japanese and American, novelists and graphic novelists/artists. It offers many perspectives on Japan, from the realistic to the magical, that teens and adults will enjoy. A percentage of proceeds from the book benefit teens affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Wonderful introduction by editor (and novelist) Holly Thompson is an added bonus. This collection is one to keep on a shelf and revisit; it will also make a great gift for Japanophiles of all ages.

Teresa says

Though this anthology is marketed for teens, I enjoyed it as well, from the stories that reminded me of my recent trip to Japan to the ones that showed me something new. The stories are varied and well-written. There are even some translations to stories originally written in Japanese.

I recognized the names of a few authors (Katrina Toshiko Grigg-Saito, for one, who also has a piece in The Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays) or at least the names of their more famous works (in the case of quite a few of the Japanese authors) that were mentioned in their bios.

The design of the book is very attractive. Proceeds from the volume are benefiting young people affected by the 2011 East Japan earthquake and tsunami.

Rosanne says

This is a collection of stories, most about the Sendai Earthquake in 2011, all about the Japanese or Japanese-American experience, many are works in translation.

Corinne Morier says

Unimpressed.

DNF'ed this book.

The first story was not all that impressive. The writing needed work, and I didn't really enjoy it all that much.

Being someone who was published in an anthology, I can say that your first story has to rock the socks off the reader. Of course, all stories in an anthology should be good, but the first one needs to be extra-good, to impress those readers who download the free Kindle sample of the book as a way to test whether or not to read more, and I was rather unimpressed with the first story in this anthology. Considering that there are over 100 contributors, there are bound to be some lower-quality stories, but you really don't want your first story to be one of those. Not to mention that I have to question the pricing of this book--the page count is the same as our anthology, yet the e-book of this anthology is double the price of our paperback, and the paperback is dirt cheap. Looks a bit unprofessional--usually the paperback would cost more than the e-book, simply because e-books are cheaper to produce, and printing costs, etc.

There was nothing about this book that really stood out as "bad," but there was nothing that really impressed me too much about it. That, combined with the hideous price on the e-book (and in order to get the paperback shipped to me in Japan would cost around thirty dollars) means that I will not be picking up the full version of this book to read.

Melissa says

Having been to Japan recently, I loved reading all the references to the place I so enjoyed visiting. The essence of Japanese culture came through in the stories so strongly that it was hard to believe these stories were written by teens. Several of the stories will stay with me long after I have put this book down.

Suzanne says

Editor Holly Thompson and Stone Bridge Press pulled this collection of mostly original stories and translations together in less than a year, in time for the anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, but there is nothing slapdash about it. This is a book that will endure.

Thirty-six writers (plus 10 translators) contributed a dazzling variety of stories featuring ninja, scientists, baseball players, yokai (spirits), pop stars, Little-Bo-Beep-look-alike Harajuku girls, and ordinary kids. Interestingly, a lot of writers chose to write across gender.

It's impossible for me to choose a favorite, or even favorites, but I especially enjoyed Andrew Fukuda's "Lost," about an amnesiac girl post-earthquake; "Aftershocks" by Ann Slater, about the reverberations of the 3/11 disasters in a bicultural family in Tokyo; "Kodama," an illustrated story in notebook form by Debbie Ridpath Ohi; and "Fleecy Clouds" by Arie Nashiya. But ask me tomorrow, and I might name different stories. I enjoyed every single one.

The proceeds of this book will benefit teens in northeastern Japan who survived the earthquake and tsunami.

K. Lincoln says

Tomo is a charity anthology (in the wake of the recent tsunami) that brings together a wide range of voices writing about young people related to Japan in some way. Japanese, ex-pat, male, female, young, old, professional and amateur; the authors of this anthology represent a varied array of experiences with disasters, youth, and Japan.

Holly Thompson, whom I know from the fabulous children's book, "Wakame Gatherers" (which never fails to make me cry when I read it) edited the anthology.

It's well worth reading. There are "slice of life" stories along with stories of the fantastic, folktales, classics (Kenji Miyazawa), manga, and poetry.

You won't get bored.

The story opens with Andrew Fukuda's "Lost", about a girl awakening after a disaster who has lost her memory and must start over.

But it is the last stories of the anthology (in the section titled "Families and Connections") that resonated with me the most. (No surprise as I am married to a Tokyo boy and have two bicultural/biracial daughters forming their own identities in the US).

"The Law of Gravity" by Yuko Katakawa and translated by Deborah Iwabuchi features the voice of a young Japanese man, Kai, who is questioning the "perfect son" role he has played all his life for his parents; who all but ignore his little sister, Maika. It is Maika who ends up giving Kai a reason for continuing, and it is in their relationship that I find a bitter hope; parents can never really know the life of their children, but siblings can sometimes be the greatest support to each other.

"Paper Lanterns" by Jennifer Fumiko Cahill uses the conceit of a dead friend who accompanies a haafu (biracial) girl to visit her grandparents in Japan to be the voice of the "clueless foreigner." The snarky voice of the dead friend clashing with the half-exasperated, half-embarrassed voice of Mina as she explains funerary customs brings to light the complicated ways we deal with grief.

"I Hate Harajuku Girls" by Katrina Toshiko Grigg-Saito is a tale of another biracial girl, for the first time in Japan confronting in reality the place her beloved father had only shown her in tales. She attempts to come to terms with her father's death by finding a certain shrine he loved, and instead confronts some stereotypes.

"Peace on Earth" features Taiga, a biracial son of an American mother and Japanese father living in Tokyo after the earthquake and tsunami. While the world around them begins to recover from disaster, Taiga's family also deals with upsets and differences. This story really hit home for me; especially the descriptions of the sacrifices each parent makes for the other's country, as well as the mundane things such as blueberry pancakes vs. Miso soup and rice for breakfast!

This Book's Snack Rating: a smorgasbord of voice, styles, and genres all flowing together into a thoughtful feast on youth, disaster, and Japan.

James says

An interesting set of short stories, poems (I skimmed these) and amateur comics along with a smattering of translated older works. While billed as a teen collection, they are mature enough to be enjoyed by anyone. I really liked some of the ghostly monster stories, many others are quite well done, especially considering most of the writers are new to print.

Tracy says

I've read a few stories, and so far I love it. I gave a copy to a teacher to give to his family. His wife's sister lives in and was affected by the earthquake in Japan. Their daughter has read several stories, and her teacher has asked her to pick a couple of her favorites and class will read them. It is great for middle school through adults. Check out the book trailer:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZyDrA...>

Marcia says

I enjoyed this anthology very much. Written after the March 11, 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami it combines

stories all tied in some way to Japan. Some dealt with the tragedy, others with WWII. The struggles of Japanese-Americans both in Japan and in the U.S. were explored in several stories. Ghosts, graphic stories, poetry--it's all here. A taste of Japanese flavor. I really want to visit Harajuku Station!

Chris says

This collection of short stories and poems written and published to raise funds to benefit those affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan is wonderful! There is something for everyone in this book - ghost stories, romance, family stories, self-reflective journeys and more.
