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# The Last Kappa Of Old Japan Bilingual English & Japanese Edition: A Magical Journey Of Two Friends (English-Japanese)



## Synopsis

With unique and playful illustrations this multicultural children's book is a classic Japanese fairy tale that young children and parents alike will love. The Last Kappa of Old Japan is a warmly written and beautifully illustrated bilingual Japanese children's book that introduces many aspects of traditional Japanese culture and folklore, while teaching an important lesson about environmentalism. The story is of a young Japanese farm boy who develops a friendship with a mythical creature—the kappa—a messenger of the god of water. The tale begins in post-Modern Japan when the boy is young and the kappa is healthy and ends when the kappa, now the last one left on Earth, keeps an important promise to his human friend. A story of love, friendship, and adventure, readers of all ages will enjoy this picture book by award-winning author/illustrator, Sunny Seki. This bilingual edition includes Japanese text alongside the English, making it a great way for kids to learn Japanese.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Bilingual edition, Hardcover with Jacket edition (October 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4805313994

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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

Best Sellers Rank: #598,685 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #589 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 5 - 14 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 8

## Customer Reviews

"This is a wonderful book filled with interesting illustrations and an important message embedded in a lovely story. It can be used as a bridge to talking with children about how they can help the water clean, as well as the environment as a whole." —Castle View Academy blog "The kappa, translated 'river child,' are believed to be messengers of the god of water and have been part of Japanese folklore for hundreds of years." —California Kids! Family Fun Guide "This is a

Japanese 'Lorax' folk tale with a cautionary message about taking care of our earth!"

•PragmaticMom.com blog "The illustrations, mostly bordered rectangles set against handmade paper, combine elements of Japanese wood-carved prints with cartoonlike faces and great detail, showing both traditional agricultural scenes and industrialization."

•Kirkus "A beautifully scripted and illustrated story of love, friendship, and adventure that includes Japanese text alongside the English translation, making it a great way for kids to learn Japanese."

•Midwest Book Review "The illustrations are beautiful, engaging and ever so detailed! There is a really good balance of description vs. dialogue in this book!"

•MissJennysClassroom.com "A cautionary tale about protecting the environment, and having the courage to help our friends despite the danger to ourselves. (As a side note, the myth of the kappa is actually the origin of our modern story of mutant ninja turtles!)"

•AllDoneMonkey.com "This engaging tale offers an easy-to-understand environmental lesson along with an accessible introduction to Japanese folklore and culture for young readers."

•School Library Journal

Kappas are mythological creatures that have been a part of Japanese folklore for centuries. They are believed to be messengers of the god of water; they often do mysterious things and like to eat cucumbers. This warmly written and beautifully illustrated book introduces young readers to many aspects of traditional Japanese culture and folklore while teaching an important lesson about maintaining a clean environment.

Absolutely love this book. Super quick delivery! Very pleased with purchase.

This is a great culturally responsive text that also guides readers in social-emotional learning! Cute illustrations!

A beautiful and moving book about friendship, caring, and taking care of our earth. This book moved me (and my children) tremendously, and I think it is a wonderful book to share with kids. A great book to discuss empathy and compassion. I also love Sunny Seiki's other book, "The Daruma Doll." Wonderful books. Thank you for these - they also offer children a unique insight into the changes in Japan over time. I can't recommend this book highly enough!

In heart-warming traditional folklore style, Sunny Seki in "The Last Kappa of Old Japan" weaves a

story of the fundamental affinity between all creatures, real and mythical, and the sanctity of our interaction with the physical environment which sustains us. It is beautifully written and beautifully illustrated as a children's book, but has universal appeal for all ages and all cultures for the many lessons it imparts, ---some directly, some by inference. Yet, in its basic simplicity, it follows the age-old principle of "doing more, with less". "The Last Kappa of Old Japan" is essentially a beautiful love story,---without the fluff. Yosh, 3-15-10

I personally did not know what a kappa was until I read this story. It's very well written showing life in early Japan. The Kappa character ironically enhances the reality of trials and tribulations of the main character. This includes growing up, showing respect for nature, life, and the development of core values such as working hard, as well as building friendships and a family. I enjoyed this story as much as my son!

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