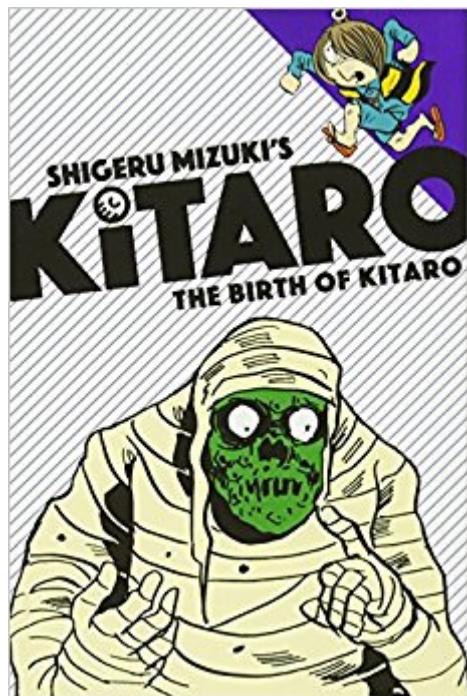


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The Birth Of Kitaro



Synopsis

Meet one of Japan's most popular characters of all time-Kitaro, the One-Eyed Monster Boy. The Birth of Kitaro collects seven of Shigeru Mizuki's early, and beloved, Kitaro stories, making them available for the first time in English, in an all-new, kid-friendly format. These stories are from the golden era of the late 1960s, when Gegege no Kitaro truly hit its stride as an all-ages supernatural series. Mizuki's Kitaro stories are both timelessly relevant and undeniably influential, inspiring a decades-long boom in stories about yokai, Japanese ghosts, and monsters. "Kitaro's Birthday" reveals the origin story of the yokai boy Kitaro and his tiny eyeball father, Medama Oyaji. "Neko Musume versus Nezumi Otoko" is the first of Mizuki's stories to feature the popular recurring character Neko Musume, a little girl who transforms into a cat when she gets angry or hungry. Other stories in The Birth of Kitaro draw heavily from Japanese folklore, with Kitaro taking on legendary Japanese yokai like the Nopperabo and Makura Gaeshi, and fighting the monstrous recurring villain Gyuki. With more than 150 pages of spooky and often funny comics about the titular yokai boy, The Birth of Kitaro is the perfect introduction to the award-winning author Mizuki's most popular series, seminal comics that have won the hearts of Japanese children and adults for more than half a century.

Book Information

Series: Kitaro

Paperback: 200 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #431,497 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Drawn and Quarterly #856 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Action & Adventure Manga #2022 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up  Originally published in magazines between 1966 and 1968, these humorous and spooky entries introduce readers to one of the most famous characters in Japan. The book focuses on the character of Kitaro but includes lots of different yokai (monsters and other mysterious beings), which make these stories exciting and surreal. In Kitaro's origin story, readers learn that he is the last member of the Ghost Tribe, he was born from his mother's grave, his late father's eyeball follows and protects him, and he can use his own hair as a weapon. The other selections present different human and yokai characters and expand Kitaro's story as he helps to fight the evil creatures with powers of his own. The illustrations range from cute and cartoony to finely detailed, and they add to the action and energy. Readers will see why Kitaro has been a popular character for decades in Japan and will want to read more volumes to discover the rest of his adventures. The book concludes with a history of Kitaro, an overview of yokai, and several puzzles featuring the characters. **VERDICT** For fans of manga, monsters, and extremely weird stories.  Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library

"There are incredibly detailed establishing images, quite beautiful, long shots with very little negative space [Ã¢â€ž] these contrast with the more event-driven panels, which tend to be much simpler and are much closer to the characters. This is a book that will appeal to children and adults alike, and IÃ¢â€žm already looking forward to the next volume."  **The Quietus** "ThereÃ¢â€žs no doubt that *Birth of Kitaro* is a great entry point into KitaroÃ¢â€žs yokai filled world, and itÃ¢â€žs worth picking up."  **The OASG** "Originally published in magazines between 1966 and 1968, these humorous and spooky entries introduce readers to one of the most famous characters in Japan."  **Andrea Lipinski, School Library Journal** "Its deep background in Japanese mythology and folklore can make it slightly less accessible to western audiences, until you start to read it and get sucked in by MizukiÃ¢â€žs ability to spin a yarn."  **Paste** "[The] *Birth of Kitaro* is a great read for any young readers or fans of Shigeru Mizuki or yokai."  **Manga Xanadu** "Readers will see why Kitaro has been a popular character for decades in Japan and will want to read more volumes to discover the rest of his adventures."  **Library Journal** "... a fantastically eerie read ... for long time readers, [Shigeru Mizuki's] early [work] is a great historical marker of his growing talent, allowing to see where this master artist got his start."  **Fangoria** on *The Birth of Kitaro* "The aesthetics on display in *The Birth Of Kitaro* are diverse, and MizukiÃ¢â€žs ability to affect three or four different complex styles in the same story is mesmerizing. His stories are quaint and

fun. It's certainly enjoyable to read, but the way he draws establishes him as a titan, and his reputation as a major talent is confirmed again and again." *AV Club* "If you haven't experienced Kitaro before, this is a perfect place to start." *The Anime News Network*

Till quite recently, Shigeru Mizuki was the most famous manga author that English speakers didn't know about even if they were really into manga. Little or nothing had been translated into English, and if his name sounds familiar it's probably because his recent death was more covered in the English press than his work ever was. Finally, though, we're getting some of his work in translation thanks to Drawn and Quarterly and translator Zack Davisson. You should buy this if you're interested in Japanese folklore and pop culture (as I understand it, Mizuki is largely responsible for the modern interest in Japanese yokai, which is very much part of current manga and anime, and basically everyone in Japan is familiar with Kitaro so he's a fundamental part of that culture). But you should also buy it if you just like fun, fantastic, silly stories set in a Japanese context. Mizuki was a writer of great range, and most of the translations so far have been of his nonfiction historical manga about World War Two. This is not like that. Share it with your kids. Then you will want to go back and buy two previous volumes, a big fat Kitaro collection (none of the stories overlap with this book) and *NonNonBa*, a story of Mizuki's childhood and the woman who taught him about the folklore. Then preorder the forthcoming volumes in this series so the publisher knows it's worth it to keep them coming!

This is a nice edition of some of Shigeru Mizuki's Kitaro stories. It's much shorter than the previous D&Q Kitaro book but the production value is very high (which is usually true for all of Drawn and Quarterly's releases) and the stories are a lot of fun. There are a TON of untranslated Kitaro stories so I'm looking forward to the other books in this series.

My nephews new the Japanese original and found it too old fashioned - they are into more modern comics, but it made a nice gift for another kid.

One of the greatest classical manga ever made! All of the characters are likable and the stories in this compilation are such timeless classics that are worth re-reading!

Great Book. Thank you.

Fun book by the Japanese master of monster stories! Kids of all ages, who don't mind being grossed out will love this volume!

Fantastic love Kitaro stories

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