

Space Japan Book Review

From a satcom researcher point of view

Reviewer: Takashi Iida, Editorial Advisor

Shinsuke Yoshitake: "It may be an apple", Bronze Pub., 2013 (in Japanese).
Shinsuke Yoshitake: "How to make my fake", Bronze Pub., 2014 (in Japanese).
Shinsuke Yoshitake: "There is a reason", PHP Pub., 2015 (in Japanese).
Shinsuke Yoshitake: "What shall we do after this", Bronze Pub., 2016 (in Japanese).

I picked up "Bushido" as a topic different from obedience in the last column [1]. In addition, I take up this book as the second part of a different topic this time as well. This book is a large sized book as large as a letter size. I happened to know this book when I saw it at a bookstore. I bought it as a picture book for young children, although the applicable age will be described later. Since it is a book of a completely different kind so far, I do not know how to write its book review, but I'll start with the introduction of the author following the conventional format for the time being.

The author, Shinsuke Yoshitake, was born in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, in 1973 and completed the comprehensive modeling course at the Graduate School of Arts in Tsukuba University. In addition, being active in a wide range of fields such as illustration and drawing of children's books as an illustrator, it is that he writes books such as sketch collections that cut the daily scenes into comics [2]. The first book, "It may be an apple" is his first picture book work.

Then, what kind of book are these? The first book, "It may be an apple" is that the child who came back from school saw an apple placed on the desk of his home, and he thinks that it may not be an apple, then what is it, it may be a toy packed a mechanism inside, and it may be a big house when raising. It is a story to develop various imaginations like this. All illustration has been drawn in detail, so it is fun to watch. This book got the first ranking of the 6th MOE picture book store grand prize in 2013.

The second book, "How to make my fake", is that a child who had been tired of doing homework, assistance etc. thought of using his own counterfeit robot, then the story begins when he bought a robot. However, in order to make the robot look exactly like himself, starting with teaching the robot his profile, favorite things / dislikes, what he can / can not do, he becomes to know that he himself is various mechanical system, and there is only one person himself.

The third book, "There is a reason" is that reasons for child's habit is interesting such as habit of picking up nose, habit of biting nails, etc. which are said to be no good normally. For example, it is a reason why the overflowing of rice balloons is asked to divide it into small strange creatures, and it is because it is being asked to divide it into small marvelous creatures, and walking on a high curbstone is because he practices helping a cat out when he finds a cat which can not get off the tree.

The fourth book, "What shall we do after this" is a story having full of pleasant pictures in a note which were drawn by the deceased grandpa, including the schedule of a posthumous journey, a picture of what he would like to reborn, and a picture of heaven. This book got the second ranking of the 9th MOE picture book store grand prize in 2016.

All of them have detailed and dreamed pictures, Furthermore, there includes an end in each of the books' story, and each one comes back to reality by assuming a conversation with his mother. There is something that calms down.

Well, since this book is an early childhood picture book, the third book, "There is a reason" is recommended to be suitable from 4 to 5 years old. But the recommended age is not written for others. I read the first book, "It may be an apple" to my 4-year old grandson, and he showed interest like reading once more. On the other hand, when I read him the third book, "There is a reason", he applied it himself soon, like that he developed it into a topical application, such as "Because this is such and such" for habit that he was said to be no good. So I think that he was impressed strongly. I have not read other else yet, in particular, the fourth book, "What shall we do after this" is about a dead grandpa, so I am hesitant to read my grandson its story so far.

Finally these books include pictures related to satellite communications technology. There is a picture called as an apple antenna in the first book, "It may be an apple". The second book, "How to make my fake", contains a parabola antenna and the third book, "There is a reason", a picture that poverty rush is for communication with a mole via Morse code dah di dah. There is a picture of a space astronaut one of what would like to reborn in the fourth book, "What shall we do after this". In addition, there is a picture like an electric circuit, although I do not know it is workable or not.

I now finish to introduce these books, but I remained the feeling that I read a interesting story.

References

- [1] Takashi Iida: "Space Japan Book Review From a satcom researcher point of view Inazo Nitobe: 'Bushido, The Soul of Japan', 1899, Merchant Books, 2009.", Space Japan Review, No.96, Spring, 2017.
- [2] <https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/ヨシタケシンスケ> (in Japanese).