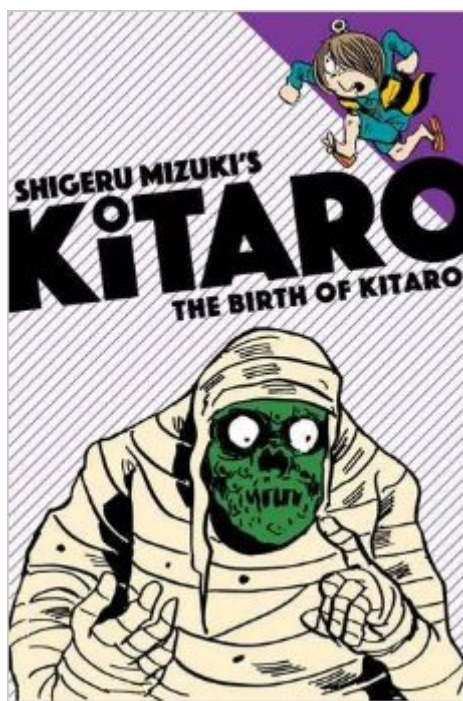


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# The Birth Of Kitaro



## 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

Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly (May 31, 2016)

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ISBN-13: 978-1770462281

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #70,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Drawn and Quarterly](#) #176 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Action & Adventure Manga](#) #283 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels](#)

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

## Customer Reviews

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.

Fantastic love Kitaro stories

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