



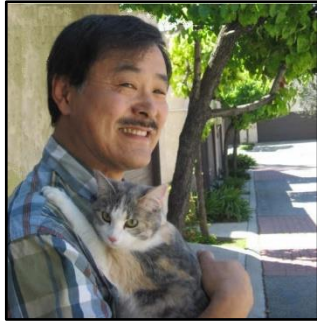
Presentation Information For Schools and Organizations

Sunny Seki • 626-673-3407 • www.sunnyseki.com

<https://www.facebook.com/sunnyseki/>



Who is Sunny Seki?



Sunny Seki is the author/illustrator of four award-winning Japanese children's books: *Yuko-chan and the Daruma Doll*, *The Last Kappa of Old Japan*, *The Tale of the Lucky Cat*, and *the Little Kokeshi Doll from Fukushima*.

Born in Tokyo in 1947, he graduated from Nihon Daigaku with a degree in Photography. He then came to the United States, where he studied illustration at Pasadena Art Center of Design. For the next 32 years he operated Sunny Seki Photography in Rosemead. Today he presents his books and other Japanese folktales at schools and community events.

Sunny and wife Judy have nine children, and they live in San Gabriel. In 2009 he was featured on The Disney Channel, a two-minute spot that can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_xeKF6Dejw.

Sunny is also the teacher of a Southern California Japanese senryu poetry group. (Senryu has the 5-7-5 format of haiku, but is themed on humorous or sentimental commentary of the human situation.) In 2007 he published *Gardeners' Pioneer Story*, an account of the 100-year history of Japanese gardeners through the sensitive senryu poems created by this group of immigrants. In 2010 he published another annotated poetry collection, *Hokubei Senryu Michi Shirube*, sharing the journey of Japanese-Americans in North America.

Where have we presented?

- Long Beach, Walnut, Claremont, & Los Angeles Unified School Districts
- Los Angeles County, Orange County, Torrance, and Oahu (Hawaii) Public Libraries
- Japanese-American National Museum
- Japanese American Cultural Center of Hawaii
- Nakayoshi Gakko (Mountain View); Kodomo no Gakko (Gardena)
- Medaka no Gakko (San Jose); Suzume no Gakko (Pacoima)
- Target Free Day
- Fontana Public Library and Festival of Arts
- Cherry Blossom Festivals (Monterey Park, Torrance, Huntington Beach)
- Arizona Matsuri (Phoenix)
- Japan Study Club
- Riverside and Fontana Lunar Festivals
- Odyssey Charter School
- Lomita Railroad Museum
- Wilmington YMCA
- Los Angeles Times Festival of Books
- Logan, Utah Unified School District
- ...and more!



How long are our presentations?

Our presentation time is centered on the best match for your age group and time availability. Most last from 20- 60 minutes.



What do we offer our audiences?

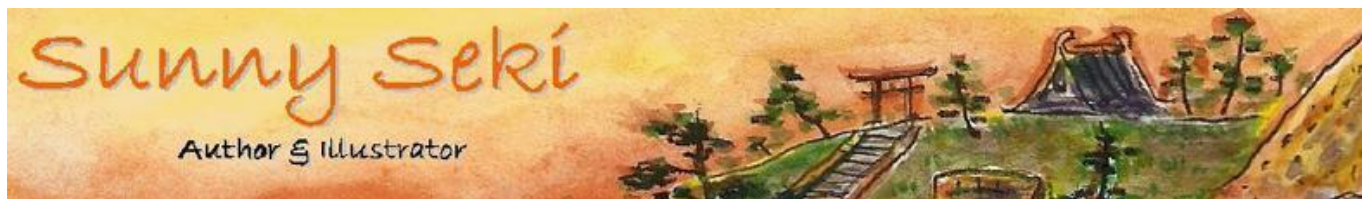
We love to vary our presentations for the type and age group of our audience. We usually use PowerPoint, and we bring our own computer and projector. All we ask is that you provide us a screen or blank wall!

Here are some of the activities we have done:

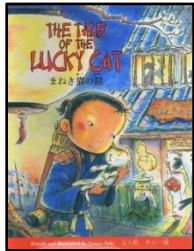
- Interactive reading of *The Tale of the Lucky Cat* or *The Last Kappa of Old Japan*. Children dress up in our kimonos, while others specialize in sound effects! Sunny appears as the main character, while Judy reads.
- Kokeshi Fashion show, featuring Sunny's own 6-foot wooden dolls
- Shadow Puppet show and workshops featuring Sunny's own Japanese folk tales, followed by explanation of the art of shadow puppetry. Sunny loves to show audiences how he creates his puppets and all his effects and intricately-cut backgrounds. For this presentation, we request that you be able to blacken out the room. Recommended for up to 50 people.
- Shadow Puppet Workshops: Children actually cut their own puppets, and perform with them.
- Daruma Doll Craft Workshops: Children create their own Daruma dolls with simple craft materials.
- Drawing, manga demonstrations
- Explanation and demonstration of traditional Japanese wooden toys, with children given the opportunity to try for themselves!
- Lecture and PowerPoint about Sunny's journey to becoming a published author/illustrator.
- Question/Answer sessions

What is our fee?

We offer a flexible fee schedule, depending on the venue and amount of time. We are pleased to offer special promotions when you allow us to sell books at your event.



One-Hour School or Library Presentations



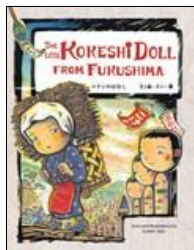
The Tale of the Lucky Cat

We begin our presentation with a PowerPoint introduction to Sunny and his four books. Included is the story of his journey to becoming a published children's author, description of how he creates his books, backgrounds of his stories, and what he does as an author/illustrator. Next we conduct an interactive reading, with Sunny making an entrance as Tokuzo, the main character, while Judy reads. 5-8 children from the audience wear our yukata kimonos and pantomime the story with Sunny, and also produce sound effects. This reading is followed by question/answer. If time allows, we conclude with a simple craft activity.



The Last Kappa of Old Japan

We begin our presentation with a PowerPoint introduction to Sunny and his four books. Included is the story of his journey to becoming a published children's author, description of how he creates his books, and history and facts about the mythological Kappa character. Next we conduct an interactive reading, with an audience member wearing our kappa costume while others provide sound effects. If time allows, we conclude with a simple craft activity.



The Little Kokeshi Doll from Fukushima

We begin with a PowerPoint introduction to Sunny and his books. Included is his journey to becoming a published author, how he creates his books, and history and facts about kokeshi dolls. Next we have an interactive reading, with audience volunteers providing sound effects. We conclude with our very own audience-participation "Kokeshi Fashion Show," featuring life-size wooden dolls that Sunny carved and painted. If time allows, we conclude with a simple craft activity.



Shadow Puppets

Sunny, Judy and their son appeared for four years on The Disney Channel on "What a Life! – Puppeteer Dad."

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_xeKF6Dejw. We show this two-minute spot, and then present a shadow puppet story featuring Sunny's own Japanese folk tales. We follow with an explanation of the art of shadow puppetry, and

Sunny shows the audience how he creates his puppets, effects and intricately-cut backgrounds. Finally, children are given the opportunity to cut out and demonstrate their own simple shadow puppets. For this presentation, we request that you be able to blacken out the room. Recommended for groups no larger than 50 children.



Welcome Aboard the Shinkansen!

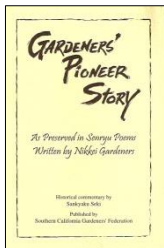
We introduce Sunny's self-crafted 16-foot "Bullet Train," and a large map of the Shinkansen lines. Then we invite members of the audience to serve as the engineer, food vendor, cleaning crew, and passengers, who all board the train and show posters of famous products from different stops from northern to southern Japan. We adjust this program for groups of all ages, and it is a truly an entertaining, multicultural, and educational experience.



The Manga Connection to Old Japan

Sunny introduces his characters - the Lucky Cat, Kappa, Daruma, and Kokeshi, sharing their origins and the steps he took to design them for his books. He also shows and explains the very earliest *manga* beginning from the Heian Period more than 500 years ago. If time allows, he guides the audience as they draw their own *manga* characters. This presentation is popular with teen and adult groups, and anybody who has a fascination for the art of *manga*!

In all of our presentations we include age-appropriate discussions of literacy, love of reading, and the writing process. Since Sunny is also the illustrator, we discuss the "drawing process" as well!

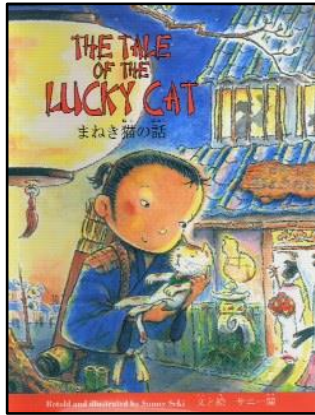


The Story of the Japanese Gardeners, as Documented in Their Poetry

In addition to his children's stories, Sunny has written two books about the lives of early Japanese-Americans via the Senryu poetry that they wrote. Senryu has the same pattern as Haiku – 5/7/5 – but instead of nature, Sentry addresses the human situation with a touch of humor or sadness. One of these books, *Gardeners' Pioneer Story*, is a compilation of poems written by the early West Coast gardeners; by categorizing these poems into categories, Sunny has documented the history, feelings, joys, and hardships experienced by these gardeners. He shows how the lawnmower became the means of Japanese acceptance in American society, and how it enabled future generations of Japanese to become college graduates. This paperback book, published by the Southern California Gardeners' Federation, is available in both bilingual and English versions. This presentation is for adults, and consists of PowerPoint and question/answer. It provides much insight into Japanese-American history, and to the gardening profession in Southern California.

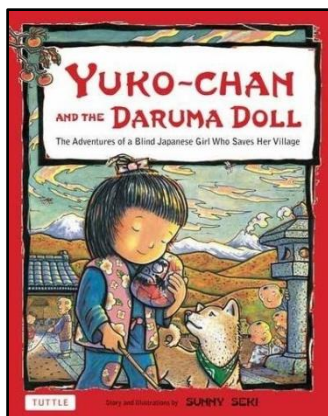
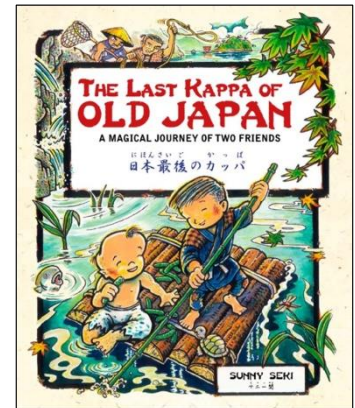


What books have we published?



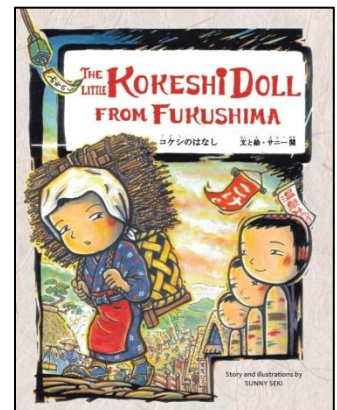
This is an English/Japanese story retelling an ancient Japanese legend about a humble toymaker who cared for an injured cat before its tragic death, and in turn was saved from lightning by the cat's beckoning spirit. To remember his friend, he worked hard to create clay statues of a cat with a raised paw. It teaches children not only about kindness and how the maneki neko came about, but also about homes, village organization, transport, markets, etc. in the past. This is an excellent resource for both social studies and English language arts teachers. This book is also available in eight other language combinations.

The Last Kappa of Old Japan 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 enjoy this picture book, written in bilingual English/Japanese.



Set in ancient Japan, this English/Japanese bilingual book tells story behind the famous Daruma Doll. Yuko-chan, an adventurous blind orphan, is able to do amazing things. She confronts a temple burglar in the dead of night, and crosses treacherous mountain passes to deliver food to hungry people. During her travels, Yuko-chan trips and tumbles down a snowy cliff. She discovers that her tea gourd, regardless of how she drops it, always lands right-side-up. The tea has frozen in the bottom of the gourd! Inspired by this, she creates the famous Daruma doll toy, which rights itself when tipped—a true symbol of resilience. Thanks to Yuko-chan's invention, the villagers are able to earn a living and feed themselves by selling the dolls, and all of us are given the message of the power of perseverance.

The Little Kokeshi Doll from Fukushima introduces Kana-chan - a brave, clever girl who works at a hot springs in Fukushima. One day the village is struck by a powerful earthquake, and because of Kana-chan's heroism, the kokeshi doll is born. Written in bilingual English/Japanese, this is a beautiful story of the harmony of people, nature, traditional craftsmanship, and survival.

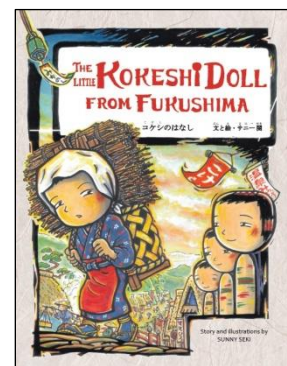
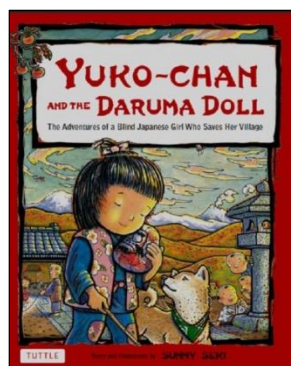
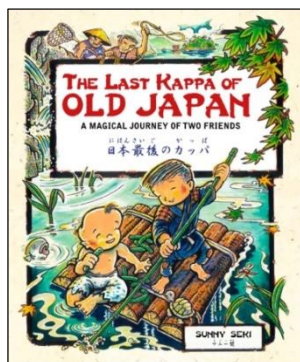
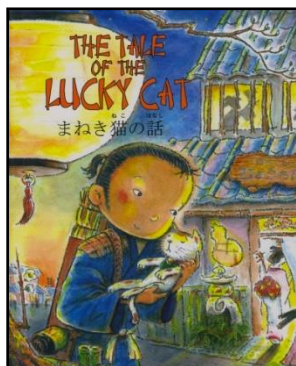


AUTHOR VISIT and Book Order Form

Sunny Seki, author and illustrator of four bilingual picture books, will visit our school on _____.

The Tale of the Lucky Cat (East-West Discovery Press, 2007) is his 2007 NAPPA and Preferred Choice award-winning story that retells a famous Japanese folktale explaining the origin of the famous *maneki neko*, or paw-waving cat. ***The Last Kappa of Old Japan*** (Tuttle Publishing, 2010) is a heart-warming story that takes place during the industrialization of Japan, and addresses the themes of environment and the friendship of a boy and a traditional Japanese character. ***Yuko-chan and the Daruma Doll*** (Tuttle, 2012), tells the story of a brave little blind girl who saves a village with her creativity and courage. It won the Book of the year Award from Creative Child Magazine, and has also gone all over the world as the 2012 winner of Paper Tiger's Book Set program. ***The Little Kokeshi Doll from Fukushima*** (Seki, 2015) explains a possible origin of the famous kokeshi doll, and shows how perseverance can overcome any ordeal – even a massive earthquake. The illustrations in all our books are rich in the depiction of old, traditional Japan.

Sunny earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in photography in Japan and studied illustration at Pasadena Art Center College of Design. For the past 30 years he operated a portrait studio in Southern California, but now he writes and illustrates stories full time. He also leads a Japanese poetry *senryu* group and published *Gardeners Pioneer Story*—the history of Japanese gardeners in California as reflected in the *senryu* poetry of gardeners themselves. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, nine children, and cat.



-----DETACH AND SUBMIT WITH PAYMENT-----

I would like to order _____ (qty) copies of ***THE TALE OF THE LUCKY CAT*** English/Japanese (\$20)
_____ (qty) copies of ***THE TALE OF THE LUCKY CAT*** English/Spanish (\$20)
_____ (qty) copies of ***THE LAST KAPPA OF OLD JAPAN*** (\$19)
_____ (qty) copies of ***YUKO-CHAN AND THE DARUMA DOLL*** (\$19)
_____ (qty) copies of ***THE LITTLE KOKESHI DOLL FROM FUKUSHIMA*** (\$20)

All copies will be signed by Mr. Seki. Please indicate below if personalization is requested (for example, "To Stephanie" or "To the Chavez Family").

Book	Personalization
1. <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
2. <i>1984</i> by George Orwell	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
3. <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
4. <i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
5. <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
6. <i>The Harry Potter</i> series by J.K. Rowling	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
7. <i>The Hunger Games</i> by Suzanne Collins	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
8. <i>The Divergent Series</i> by Veronica Roth	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
9. <i>The Maze Runner</i> by James Dashner	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.
10. <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> by John Green	Personalized recommendations based on user preferences and reading history.

Book _____ Personalization _____

Book _____ Personalization _____

☐ Additional orders or instructions are listed on the back side of this form.

ORDERED BY: _____ PHONE: _____

STUDENT: _____ GRADE: _____

Please enclose this form with your PAYMENT to *Sunny Seki*.

For questions, please contact Sunny Seki at 626-673-3407. Thank you!





"This was a wonderful presentation! Mr. Seki, Mrs. Seki, and Mario did a fantastic presentation/performance @ Kodomo No Gakko! Thank you!!! Can't wait to find out the ending to the story :)" - D.Y. (Torrance)

"Thank you for such an outstanding memorable presentation at Suzume. This was such an enlightening, fun experience for everyone! We will enjoy your stories

for years to come." - M.K. (San Jose)

"Loved the show ... Beautiful! - Terri C. (Fontana)

"As always, your Children's Folktale performance contributed to making this year's Festival a Success!" - A.F. (Monterey Park)

"Your participation in the 2012 Arizona Matsuri made this one the best ever. Arigato Gozaimasu." - D.A. (Phoenix)

