



I Live in Tokyo

By Mari Takabayashi

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Have you ever been to Tokyo, Japan? Far away, in the Pacific Ocean, Tokyo is a busy city of color, activity, celebrations, gigantic buildings, and much more. Seven-year-old Mimiko lives in Tokyo, and here you can follow a year's worth of fun, food and festivities in Mimiko's life, month by month. Learn the right way to put on a kimono and see Mimiko's top ten favorite meals—just try not to eat the pages featuring delicious wagashi!

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I Live in Tokyo By Mari Takabayashi Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bright, bustling illustrations abound in this pictorial peek at Japanese life and customs through the eyes of a Tokyo schoolgirl. Mimiko takes readers on a journey through the calendar year, highlighting each month's important traditions. Takabayashi (Marshmallow Kisses) devotes a two-page spread to each month, filling it with petite, concentrated watercolors (many of them captioned in Japanese and English). Pictures of Mimiko's 10 favorite meals (curry rice and tempura top the list) fill one page, while 20 appealing wagashi cakes for a tea ceremony occupy another. Takabayashi marks the start of school in April with intricate pictures of school uniforms, Japanese notebooks and school lunches. On the facing page, she acquaints readers with Japanese writing and forms a clever border by pictorially showing how 10 kanji characters (Chinese characters used in Japanese writing) evolved from the pictures they represent. Such versatile artwork demonstrates the text's examples throughout the book. Though the busy layout may be visually overwhelming at times, it invites readers to slow down and savor each picture. A glossary of Japanese words and numerals plus some simple phrases conclude this informative volume. From Ichigatsu (January) to Junigatsu (December), Takabayashi accessibly and handsomely gives children a taste of life in Tokyo. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2-Seven-year-old Mimiko leads readers through a year highlighting the festivals, activities, food, and her family's daily routine. The name of each month is written along the left border in phonetic Japanese, English, and Kanji (Chinese characters used in Japanese writing). January begins with oshogatsu, a New Year celebration. The illustration depicts the family having a special meal, and various holiday items. The facing page is about calligraphy, or shodo. The illustration shows mother and daughter practicing their brushwork (January 2nd is said to be perfect for writing), as well as the Japanese zodiac, and a racket used for Japanese badminton, which seems out of place. Other festivals included are setsubun, celebrated the day before the first day of spring (February 3rd); the Bon Festival in July; and school field day (undokai) in October. Readers learn that Valentine's Day is celebrated, and although Christmas is not, Mimiko observes the tradition of decorating a tree. The last page lists the months again, with a pronunciation guide, as well as common words and phrases. This book's gentle, childlike watercolor illustrations capture an array of special and mundane events in one youngster's life. An appealing browsing item rather than fodder for reports.

DeAnn Tabuchi, San Anselmo Public Library, CA

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 6-8. Takabayashi offers little ones a child's-eye view of life in suburban Tokyo, along with a chance to roll some Japanese words and phrases around on their tongues. For each month, seven-year-old Mimiko supplies a description of a holiday celebration or other family activity, new or traditional, shown in vignettes drawn with fresh, childlike simplicity. After putting down newspapers to protect the *tatami* (straw floor mat), Mimiko and her mother roll out special paper to practice *shodo* (calligraphy); Mimiko studies pictographic *kanji* in school (several characters are shown and translated), dons a beautiful but uncomfortable kimono for a *Juichigatsu* (November) holiday, and helps to decorate a small Christmas tree (because "Even though we

don't celebrate this holiday, it is still a fun tradition"). The Japanese vocabulary is reprised, with pronunciation and definitions, at the end. Whether her audience is driven by interest or assignment, Mimiko makes a lively guide with a distinct voice. *John Peters*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Manuel:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book I Live in Tokyo ended up being making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book I Live in Tokyo is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book I Live in Tokyo. You never experience lose out for everything if you read some books.

Robert Ross:

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Jo Villegas:

I Live in Tokyo can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing I Live in Tokyo nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

Andrew Blanton:

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