

Kokomi Katsube

Yuna Kobayashi

## One Inch Boy

Long ago, a gentle old couple went to the temple every week. They would ask Buddha to bless them with a child. They pleaded, "Please give us a cute baby".

One morning they heard a baby crying outside their home. They were very surprised and went to look. They said, "What a cute baby, it is a one-inch boy. They carried him carefully into their home. They called him Issunboshi. They lived happily together.

The years passed happily, but Issunboshi didn't grow at all. He had the heart of a lion, and he always said, "I will be a strong samurai". One day he decided to go to Kyoto. His parents were sad but cheered him on. They said cheerfully, "Do your best".

The quickest way to Kyoto was by river. Issunboshi set off in a boat made from a rice bowl. His paddle was one of his mother's chopsticks. He looked back at his parents. They shouted, "Be fine", it was sad, but they kept brave faces.

In Kyoto, he found a big house, and he worked there. He was appointed as a special bodyguard to the cute Princess Makiko because he was small but strong. They became close. One day, the princess was suddenly attacked by a demon. When the brave Issunboshi tried to help her, he was eaten by the demon. Inside the demon, he stuck the demon's stomach with a needle instead of a sword. The demon screamed out in pain, "Stop, stop!" The demon spat Issunboshi out of his mouth and ran away to the mountain. The princess said, "Thank you very much".

Finally, Issunboshi shook the gravel dropped by the demon and began to grow and grow and grow. He married the princess. Not forgetting his loving parents, Issunboshi invited them to share his home and newfound happiness in Kyoto. And they all lived happily ever after.

Arisa Omura

Miyu Shiozaki

## The Man with the Lump

This is the story of 'The Man with the Lump', a very famous folk tale.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there were two old men with lumps on their cheeks. One was a kind old man with a lump on his right cheek, the other was a mean old man with a lump on his left cheek. These two men were friends.

One day, the kind old man went by himself to the temple and prayed desperately for the lump to disappear. When he realized it was nighttime, he heard joyful music coming from outside the temple. Some demons were having a feast. At first the old man could only watch from the inside the hall, but since he loved to dance, he began to dance in front of the demons. The old man was a great dancer. "That was amazing", called the demons. As a reward for entertaining them, the demons took the lump from the man's face and his cheeks became smooth.

The kind old man told the mean old man about his visit to the temple and what happened. The next day the mean old man waited in the hall for the demons to come. When the feast started, he immediately danced in front of them. However, the old man was not a good dancer and angered the demons. As a punishment, the demons put the lump they had taken from the kind old man's cheek, yesterday, on the right cheek of the mean old man. So, the mean old man got lumps on both cheeks.

After that, no more demons came to the temple.

Thank you for listening.

Kagura Arimoto

Ema Kawakita

## Click Click Mountain

Once upon a time, there was an old man and an old woman. They were living near a field. One day when the old man went to see the field, it had been dug up. "Who did this?" he said angrily. Suddenly a raccoon dog appeared in front of the sad old man. "Yay! I ate all your vegetables!" said the bad raccoon dog. After that the raccoon dog stole the vegetables in the field, both in the morning and at night. Finally, the old man got so angry, that he grabbed the raccoon dog and tied him up. Then he went to the field to work.

Meanwhile, the raccoon dog was looking for an opportunity to escape. He decided to deceive the kind old woman. "This rope is a little tight, so could you loosen it, please? I won't do anything bad anymore!" he said, sweetly. The old woman was worried and approached the raccoon dog. "Poor thing, I'll loosen the ropes now," she said. The moment she did so, the raccoon dog hit her. "It's all a lie!" he said cruelly.

Soon, the old man came home. He was shocked to see what had happened. He decided to go to the mountain to get medicine for his wife. He trudged up the mountain looking for herbs. There he met a rabbit. The rabbit called out, "Hi, grandpa. What's wrong?" The old man told the rabbit everything. When the old man had finished the story, the rabbit said he would help the old man.

That night, the rabbit went up the mountain. He found the raccoon dog and set a fire on its back causing a serious burn. He also put spicy miso on the burn, making the raccoon dog scream in pain. When the raccoon dog asked the rabbit for help, the rabbit said with a tight face, "What are you saying? The old woman is injured because of you!" The raccoon dog ran away and never did anything bad again.

When the rabbit told the old man what had happened to the raccoon dog, the old man was so happy. The old man and the old woman lived happily ever after and the raccoon dog never bothered them again.