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# Kitaro



## Synopsis

Meet one of Japan's most popular characters of all time-Kitaro, the One-Eyed Monster BoyMeet Kitaro. He's just like any other boy, except for a few small differences: he only has one eye, his hair is an antenna that senses paranormal activity, his geta sandals are jet-powered, and he can blend into his surroundings like a chameleon. Oh, and he's a three-hundred-and-fifty-year-old yokai (spirit monster). With all the offbeat humor of an Addams Family story, Kitaro is a lighthearted romp in which the bad guys always get what's coming to them. Kitaro is bestselling manga-ka Shigeru Mizuki's most famous creation. The Kitaro series was inspired by a kamishibai, or storycard theater, entitled Kitaro of the Graveyard. Mizuki began work on his interpretation of Kitaro in 1959. Originally the series was intended for boys, but once it was picked up by the influential Shonen magazine it quickly became a cultural landmark for young and old alike. Kitaro inspired half a dozen TV shows, plus numerous video games and films, and his cultural importance cannot be overstated. Presented to North American audiences for the first time in this lavish format, Mizuki's photo-realist landscapes and cartoony characters blend the eerie with the comic.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 18 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

It is not overstatement to say that in Japan everybody knows Kitaro, popular manga/anime character of the "Ge Ge Ge no Kitaro" franchise created by veteran manga artist Shigeru Mizuki (born in 1922). The widely known one-eyed yokai boy is a pop culture icon like Mickey Mouse or

Superman."Kitaro" series centers on the titular hero Kitaro, the last survivor of the ghost tribe, who lives in an isolated tree house surrounded by the swamps. Kitaro helps humans in trouble with bad yokai (supernatural creatures in Japanese folklore) or punishes bad men in his own way, using his supernatural powers. Each episode is fast-paced and unpredictable, with mysterious Kitaro investigating paranormal activities in modern-day Japan. Manga creator Mizuki is not only a skilled storyteller; he is also a great illustrator masterful at evoking eerie atmosphere, or drawing some weird-looking creatures and atmospheric landscapes where something strange is going to happen. The history of the character Kitaro is long and complicated. Originally created for "kamishibai" ("paper drama" performed in the streets) during the early 1930s, the character was slowly developed into what he is during the late 1950s and early 1960s when Mizuki created the series featuring this yokai hero first for kamishibai, then rental manga books. In 1965 "The Hand" (included in this volume) was published in Kodansha's Weekly Shonen Magazine. The comic was regularly serialized 1967 to 1970, and since then the series has been hugely popular in Japan. Drawn and Quarterly's English edition is probably based on the collection published by Kodansha in 2007 (406370436X) featuring 13 episodes.

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