



## Synopsis

\*Picked as one of the best books of 2013 by the Association of Booksellers for Children\* A perfect introduction to Japanese culture for kids, *My Awesome Japan Adventure* is the diary of an American fifth grader who travels to Japan to spend four exciting months with a Japanese family as an exchange student. He records all his adventures in this diary so that he can tell his friends back home about what he did and saw during his time in Japan. With the help of a Japanese foster brother and sister he visits a Ninja village, tries new foods, learns brush painting, and gets the inside scoop on daily life in a Japanese school. Readers of all ages will love experiencing life in Japan from a kid's point of view! Dan's adventures include: *My First Week of School*, *Visiting a Ninja Village*, *Fun with Origami*, *Practicing Aikido*, *Making Mochi*, and much more! As a multicultural children's book, *My Awesome Japan Adventure* is perfect for kids who want to explore another culture and have fun in the process!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Original edition (November 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4805312165

ISBN-13: 978-4805312162

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #533,755 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #259 in [Books > Children's](#)

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Age Range: 7 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

## Customer Reviews

"This book is great for introducing older children to Japanese culture or for more advanced Japanese children learning English. How interesting to see your country through the eyes of a foreigner. Highly recommended for children interested in learning about other parts of the world. It would also be great for a book report on Japan." [CatherineAmi.com blog](#) "I highly

recommend this incredible cultural gem – my kids poured over the pictures and text. Absolutely packed with cultural information: geography, breakfast, school, origami, history, rice harvest, food, pastimes, customs, tea ceremony – and much, much more! Its unique layout and illustrations cover so many aspects of Japan – and mix the authentic information with the fictional journal of a 5th grade boy." – Kid World Citizen blog "There's a lot covered here but it's all presented at a level that's rather accessible for both those with no knowledge of Japan and for a younger audience that doesn't want to (or can't) pour through dry guidebooks. [ ] Rebecca Otowa truly knows her subject – having lived in Japan for 30 years and raised children and grandchildren here, she has a good feel for what will interest her younger readers." – Uncovering Japan blog "My Awesome Japan Adventure is lush with specific, intriguing details about the Japanese culture and the lives of Japanese children and families. It's the voice, though, that will win kids over. Otowa smartly chose to write about Japanese culture, using the point of view of Dan, who, at the end of the book, vows to come back to Japan." – The Children's Book Review "I liked this book [ ] I liked what Dan learned and I thought that he made some pretty fun choices. At the end he hoped he would be coming back soon." – Miriam, age 10, City Book Review "the story and illustrations will hold a child's interest with comparisons to Japanese and American culture written in a voice they can easily identify with." – The Japan Times "This notebook style graphic story is informative and fun to read!" – Pragmatic Mom blog "This diary-cum-travelogue surveys aspects of traditional and modern Japanese culture from sushi and bowing (how and when to do it) to ninjas and manga." – School Library Journal

Originally from California, Rebecca Otowa is a writer, painter and teacher who – during her thirty years in Japan – has become a wife, mother, grandmother, and the chatelaine of a 350-year-old farmhouse in Shiga, Japan. She is the author of *At Home In Japan*.

Charming, funny, educational: "My Awesome Japan Adventure" is a wonderful book for all ages. Written from a pre-teen perspective, it moves through the various stages of anticipation, discovery and delight as its young protagonist immerses himself in a foreign culture. As a cross-cultural hand across the ocean, this book reaches out to children of all ages who are open-minded, unafraid and eager to learn. Rebecca has many years' experience teaching English in Japan at all levels from kindergarten through university, besides hosting many home-stay students. She is uniquely qualified to shift gears and teach Japanese culture to English-speaking students. Her heart shines through every word and picture, and I hope "My Awesome Japan Adventure" finds a home in school

libraries everywhere. You will find something new every time you open this book. For me, that is the hallmark of the very best in children's literature.

This book truly is terrific. Every page is covered in wonderfully detailed drawings and descriptions of traditional Japanese family life and culture. All of it told so entertainingly and informative. From origami to the story of ninjas. I bought a copy for my 8 year old granddaughter, Lexianna, who read it cover to cover. When she finished all she could talk about was Japan! If you liked this book, you'll also love Mrs. Otowa's (Becky) first book "At Home in Japan" in which she writes of her life and how she got there in the first place. A wonderful story. Her hand drawn illustrations are simply incredible. I love her insightful way of describing and explaining how things are. I would recommend this book to everyone...

Great way for children to learn about Japan.

Really good book--both interesting in its story line...and effective for conveying cultural differences in story-like manner for grade school children. In addition, since it is written in a blog/journal style, it might even encourage children to keep their own journals while traveling. One of the best books I have found for children going to Japan.

This is a lovely book, which actually brought tears to my eyes when I first read it. Full disclosure, I am an expat American mother living in Japan with my mixed 1/2 Japanese son and Japanese husband. Perhaps because it was from the perspective of a little boy, or perhaps because the author describes with joy so many of the local aspects of life, it truly feels like a book that we will read many times. Additionally, I would love to give this book to our son's family friends back in the US, as a great way to see what life is like here in Japan. Brava!

This book was the perfect item to discuss a recent trip to Japan with my six year old child. Although she was in country for nine days it is not enough time to absorb the culture, geography, and history. This book has helped me to discuss our adventures in Japan and expand on what we saw and what we hope to see in another trip. I highly recommend this for someone traveling to Japan or just hoping to. I even bought a second copy to donate to my child's school.

The kids really enjoyed this book. 6 and 7 year olds. It was fun for a summer day of learning and

fun.

Gave this as a Christmas presentThe little boy who loves Japan was super excited. I've seen him reading it, he likes it.

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