

Mizuto and the Wind

AUTHOR

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ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Mizuto is a young boy living an ordinary life in Japan until one day, something extraordinary happens.

Inspired by real events, *Mizuto and the Wind* is a story about the forces of nature, grief, family and the importance of hope.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kaye Baillie is a writer of fiction and non-fiction children's picture books and short stories. She has a Diploma in Professional Writing and Editing. In 2022 her picture book *When the Waterhole Dries Up* was shortlisted in the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Awards and in 2021 her picture book *Boo Loves Books* won the Speech Pathology Australia Book Awards. Her work has been published in Australia and internationally. One of Kaye's passions is bringing stories about remarkable people to young readers.

You can contact Kaye through her website. <https://kayebaille.com/>.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Luisa Gioffre-Suzuki is a professional illustrator, artist and teacher based in Victoria. After spending over a decade in Japan, her personal style has developed with influences from vibrant Japanese culture and is underpinned by her Fine Art training and love of colour. Luisa uses a variety of mixed media including inks, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, pen and pencil to create her colourful imagery.

You can follow Luisa on Instagram. <https://www.instagram.com/luisagioffresuzuki/>.

THEMES

- Natural disasters
- Loss
- Grief
- Family
- Pets
- Hope
- Imagination
- Kindness

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, view the cover and title. Ask students to identify:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The illustrator.
- Once you have observed the cover, as a class, discuss the following questions:
 - What can you see on the cover of the book?
 - The boy is looking at the ocean. What might he be thinking? What mood does the cover convey?
- After reading the story, ask the students what other natural disasters they are aware of.
 - Has anyone in the class experienced a natural disaster?
- Mizuto lives in Japan. Has anyone in the class travelled to Japan or other countries? Talk about Japan's geography in relation to earthquakes and tsunamis.
- Ask the students if they can relate to Mizuto's experience of loss. How would they comfort someone like Mizuto?
- Why did the telephone in Mr Sasaki's garden bring comfort to Mizuto and his mother?
- Ask the students to choose a favourite illustration and discuss why they chose it.
- Explore how the illustrator uses colour and texture to create mood and emotion. Ask students to draw an image that evokes a mood or emotion.
- Look at a world map and ask students to compare the size and shape of Australia and Japan. Compare populations in relation to each country's size and whether the geography of the land influences how many people live near the sea.
- Ask students to create a cardboard telephone using the below template and instructions. Then ask students how they would feel if they spoke on the telephone like Mizuto and what they might say if they were trying to reach out to someone. How does imagination facilitate this activity?

Activity: Make a Telephone**What you will need**

- Recycled strong cardboard (eg. from a box)
- Scissors
- Pens/pencils
- Glue stick
- Hole punch or tool to poke holes in cardboard
- String or gift ribbon
- Phone template

Instructions

1. Glue template onto strong cardboard and separately cut out the receiver and telephone.
2. Draw numbers 1 to 0 in the finger dials and decorate/colour telephone.
3. Punch holes where indicated.
4. Tie each end of a piece of string or ribbon through holes to create a telephone cord.

