

STAFF PICK

BAM AND KERO SERIES

PICTURE BOOKS BY YUKA SHIMADA

I came across Yuka Shimada's books when I was a young librarian in Japan. Lacking experience in Children's Literature at a small local public library, I actively joined some study groups to learn more about children's books and services. There, I was introduced to the author Yuka Shimada and her works for the very first time. I noticed that her name was often brought up in different workshops led by the library community and picked up her book *Bam and Kero's Sunday*.

Even now when reading *Bam and Kero's Sunday*, I am instantly drawn into the cute characters and adorable designs of small items in the background (I want them!!!). Also, the interaction between Bam and Kero reminds me of movies like the ones with Charlie Chaplin or Buster Keaton. The art may not illustrate a "typical" scene in Japan, but it feels nostalgic. Her book captivates both children and adults in an instant.

One day, a librarian in the study group told us that her library would

be holding an exhibition of original works from *Bam and Kero Go Shopping*. I of course went there and was excited to see how cute and detailed all the illustrations were. I got myself a copy of the book, which I personally got autographed and still keep in Canada. After I moved to Canada from Japan, I learned that Yuka Shimada lives in Ontario. That's when I realized, "So that's why the way she draws scenery seems so familiar."

JFT Library was able to invite Yuka Shimada in 2018 to the event "An Afternoon with Bam and Kero". It was very crowded with a lot of family members in the audience. We were surprised by people's enthusiasm for Bam and Kero.

The Bam and Kero series is available in English and French (and in Japanese) at JFT. I would like everyone to enjoy Bam and Kero series. I'm sure the adorable friendship between the two characters will make you feel warm and smile a lot.

— Hiroko, Library Staff
May, 2020

ABOUT AUTHOR

Yuka Shimada (島田 ゆか) graduated in graphic design from the Tokyo Design Academy. She worked as a package designer before becoming an author/illustrator of children's books in 1994. Her debut work, *Bam to Kero no Nichiyoubi*, was turned into a series, with five books published so far. Yuka Shimada currently resides in Ontario.

— from bamkero.com

