



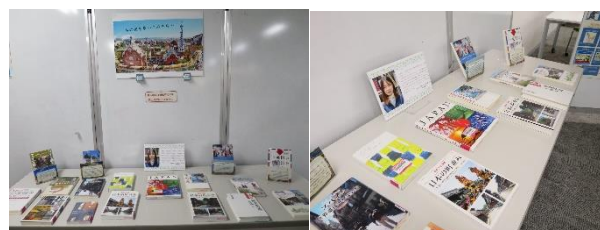
## Book Exhibition

Hello, everyone. I'm Zhang Sen, a member of the International Student Concierge from Tohoku University Library. We regularly hold book exhibitions at the entrance of the Global Learning Room. The books at the exhibition are usually related to intercultural themes.

This time, the theme of the book exhibition is "*How about Walking Down the Street?*" For this exhibition, I picked up several books written about countries around the world. In these books, you can find pictures showing the sceneries, buildings, culture, and life style recommended by people who once lived there. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have few chances to go abroad. However, by reading these books, you will feel as if you are following the writers, walking around various cities around the world. Communicating and befriending with local people from different places is interesting for me. And I think knowing a country is not just about knowing the tourist attractions, it is more about what people think, behave and how their lifestyles are. Some people may have stereotypical or bad impression towards certain countries or towards other people. It is hard to get to know the reality and charm of a country if we haven't been there. It is also a fascinating fact that people with different cultural backgrounds and experiences may have different feelings towards the same culture.

For example, in the book "私なぜ旅行作家になったか—地球を歩いてみて" (*Why did I become a travel writer: just take a walk on the Earth*, in free translation), the writer depicted the life of the nomadic people. While most of the people living in the cities are pursuing high technology, how do the other minorities who don't rely on modern technology live and think? What is happiness for them? What education do they accept? If we do not live a nomadic life, it is hard to imagine how they live. From these books, we can have a quick glance into different cultures. Maybe you will have different opinions about this. So, how about reading some books you are interested in and tell me how you think of them?

This exhibition was until June 20, 2021. What will be the next one? Let us look forward to it together! You are welcomed to come and have a look.



Written by **Zhang Sen**

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## Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

*This section introduces a new book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pick your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!*

One of the New York Times Bestsellers, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, is the very first book in the series of fiction books written by American author and cartoonist, Jeff Kinney. It is a novel in cartoon illustrations. From the very first page until the last one, the book brings the reader along with the fascinating diary of a kid. The book is written from the point of view of a middle school pre-teen kid called Greg Heffley. You are placed inside the head of the kid from the moment you start reading, and you will get to know how a middle school boy sees the world and thinks. If you love comedy, this is the book you should surely reach to, relax, and have yourself a lot of long quiet smiles throughout reading the book.

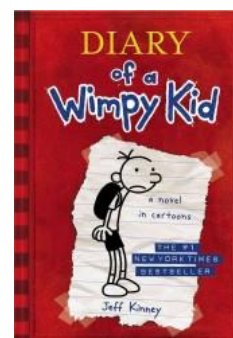
There are a lot of fascinating and adventurous days in Greg's secret diary, which he claims as a journal rather than a diary. There are days like the one about the notorious tricks that the kids did to each other, for example, the "Cheese Touch Games" that they played among themselves. They created the idea that the person being touched with that moldy and nasty cheese would be stuck with it until it was passed on to others by touching them. Kids have endless stories to annoy each other and play with each other. Once in a summer vacation, at one midnight, Greg was tricked by his wicked cousin's brother, Rodrick, that it was the time for them to go to school because summer vacation was over. Rodrick's trick was convincing, since

Greg saw the alarm clock set on purpose and Rodrick himself was dressed up for school. Greg did not realize the trick until his dad finally came and yelled at him because he was making breakfast at 3 a.m. in the morning and preparing to leave for school.

The most fascinating thing we get from this book might be how a pre-teen boy sees life. What is important to him? Of course, things like to get as many candies as possible in Halloween trick-or-treat, to wear an amazing costume in Halloween, to look popular among girls the same age at school, to play video games, not to get bullied by bigger kids at school, and so on are the most important things going on in this boy's daily life. It is also very lovely to read about the special bond of friendship between Greg and his neighbor friend Rowley, who always puts up with his notorious and playful plans.

One of the reasons that this story is engaging and interesting is because of the protagonist of the story, Greg. We are attracted to Greg's unique personality. There are times he is sly and notorious. There are times he is too wise and impressively handling challenges on his own way, and there are times when he is thoughtful and emotional. The combination of these personalities creates such a wonderful and creative narrative with a clever kid as the main subject of this novel.

Book: *Diary of a wimpy kid*  
Author: Jeff Kinney  
Publisher: New York : Amulet Books  
ISBN: 9780810993136  
Call No: KS141/462  
Location: LIB-Global-Forgn  
本館グローバル留学生用



Reviewed by **Thiri Soe**

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## My hometown: Muar

*In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you a glimpse into their culture and some traveling tips from locals!*

Hello! It is me again, the representative from *Malaysia*. This time, I am going to introduce my hometown to you. It is a place called *Muar*. It is a small and lovely town that contains all the memories of my childhood. *Muar* is a place located in Johore state, about 50 km away to the south from Malacca, the famous historical state in Malaysia. *Muar* is also called *Bandar Maharani* or literally the town of the empress named *Maharani Fatimah*. *Muar* is a historical town that is believed to have been existed before the presence of the *Malacca* sultanate around the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Now, *Muar* consists of about 350 thousand population made up of Malays, Chinese and Indians. It is famous for its food, coffee and historical prewar buildings.

### **My former high school, *Muar High School*, which is also one of the historical buildings in *Muar*.**

Source: <https://bit.ly/2WgRDa0>  
"Muar High School" by Azizul Ameir

Besides the historical buildings I mentioned above, *Tanjung Emas Muar* is also a must-visit. *Tanjung Emas Muar* is a recreational park located in *Sungai Muar* estuary. It is a place for you to calm down your nerves when you get stressed out.

Source: <https://bit.ly/3xvjUr5>

When talking about food in *Muar*, everyone in Malaysia will think of *Otak-otak*. *Otak-otak* is fish cake made of ground fish meat mixed with spices such as coconut milk and chili, wrapped into a leaf parcel. The *otak-otak* is normally served by grilling or steaming according to one's preference. For me, I prefer the grilled one as shown in the picture below.

### ***Otak-otak***

Source: <https://bit.ly/3hmp8Qt>

Besides *otak-otak*, *Muar* is also famous for the Chinese street food such as dumplings, *dim-sum* (a kind of Cantonese food normally served as breakfast), noodles, Hainanese chicken rice, and so on. Craving for Malay and Indian food? No problem. There are also restaurants serving nice *nasi lemak* (coconut milk rice with spicy sambal sauce) and *roti canai* (Indian bread with curry sauce).

These were some introductions about my hometown *Muar*. How do you like it? If you like it, I welcome you to pay a visit to *Muar* when the Covid-19 pandemic is over.

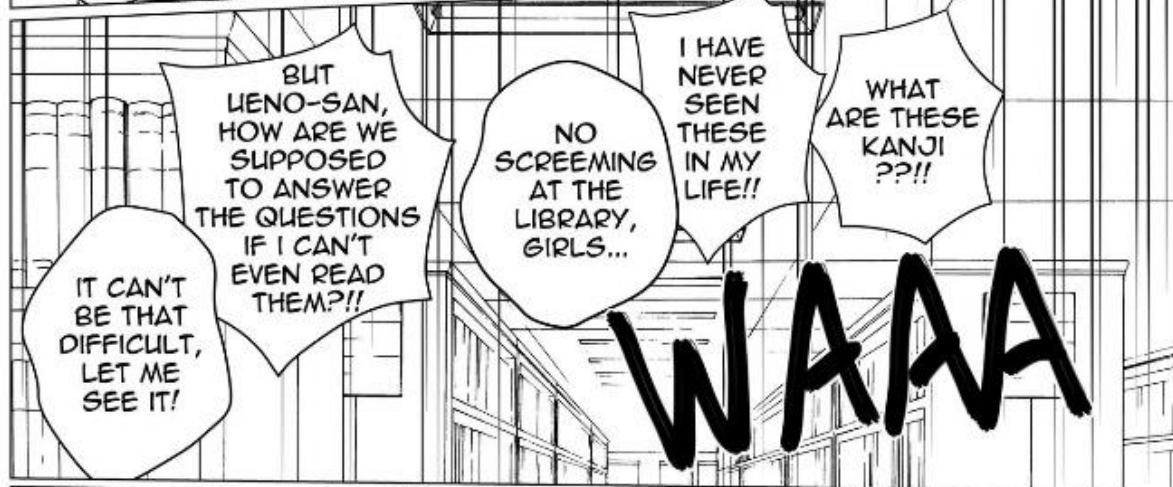
Written by **GAN WEN SHUOH**



## Manga Corner

This corner is about things that happen in the library, especially when you are a new student at Tohoku University.

Hello! I am Marina from Brazil! I like drawing for fun, so I hope you have fun reading too!



\*1 Read the "Kojiki" and choose the correct answer. (This question is fictional.)

## Editors



### **Thiri Soe [Editor-in-Chief]**

A language science student from the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She is from Myanmar, a land of Golden Pagodas, in South East Asia. Thiri is studying applied linguistics, seeking knowledge to benefit her teaching profession. Her hobby is cooking and writing. She believes that things happen for a reason and the reason is to be good.

### **Gan Wen Shuoh**

A graduate student of Cultural Anthropology from Malaysia, a country with multiple ethnics and cultures. He likes Japanese culture and especially loves Japanese chess (*Shogi*) and watching Japanese dramas. By setting "Choose what you like and like what you choose" as his life motto, he believes life can be difficult but when you try to accept it, it gives you rewards.



### **Marina Nascimento**

A Brazilian graduate student from the Innovative Japanese Studies department. She enjoys drawing and reading comics as well as traveling around the world. Mari has been to 13 different countries and loves to talk about new places she would like to discover. If you want to become her friend just show her cat pictures, she will automatically love you!

**If you feel unwell, even just a little, please do not come to the campus or to the library. Rest at home and get well soon.**

## How to reach us?

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