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### Book I: Nihon wa hajimete desu

Liam has won a scholarship to study Ninjutsu in Japan. He meets his host family, friends and the class mascots—a raccoon dog and a monkey, who both speak English. All this happens as he blunders through his first clashes with Japanese culture.

### Book 2: Jikanwari

Liam's first real day at school arrives. He and his classmates get to know each other better and he sees some quirky aspects of their personalities. Sa-chan and Ta-chan help with his studies and the day finishes with a tough workout in the Ninjutsu club.

### Book 3: Jouba Kurabu de

It's summer holidays and the six friends are helping out at the riding club. Early starts, hard work and adventures on horseback are the order of the day, and Liam reveals his amazing talent as a horseman.

## Book 4: Yamanobori

The friends go mountain climbing. They relax in the sun, swim in the lake, and experience the vagaries of weather in the mountains. Ta-chan and Sa-chan help, but Kazuki's Grandma is the star of the show.



### Rokunin no Tomodachi Series I

Hiragana readers for beginner students of Japanese



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# Rokunin no Tomodachi— Rationale

These supplementary Japanese Readers for Students in Year 7 or 8—their first year of learning Japanese—are designed to provide enrichment material that appeals to students in this age group, while extending their vocabulary and understanding of Japanese language and culture. These readers encourage students to read for enjoyment as they increase their exposure to the language.

Set in Japan, Rokunin no Tomodachi, Series I consists of four readers. Each story is approx. 500 words in length, and is followed by a wordlist, comprehension exercises and a creative task. Teacher notes are also included. Illustrated in manga style, these books are visually appealing. The picture support allows the stories to be developed beyond the boundaries imposed by limited linguistic ability. The aim is to encourage students to deduce meaning from the text with minimal reliance on translation.

The readers employ the language most commonly taught to students in their first year of learning lapanese, and it is used naturally as it would be by native speakers. Different course books present language in different orders, so all but the most basic language structures appear as vocabulary items in the word lists.

Each reader is a self-contained story, though there is a common thread running through the series.

### **About the Author**

Trish Takahashi has taught Japanese in NSW state high schools since 1989. During that time she has also been actively involved in curriculum development at both primary and secondary levels, HSC marking and teacher training.

Trish has been married to her Japanese husband for thirty-eight years and is as much at home in Tokyo as she is in Sydney. Their four children were all educated in the Japanese school system from Years 1–6.

#### **About Series I**

Liam is in Japan for six months on a scholarship. He is 15 and wants to become a Ninja. His school specialises in Ninjutsu. We follow Liam's adventures as he encounters Japanese language and culture, makes new friends and enjoys summer holidays in Japan.

