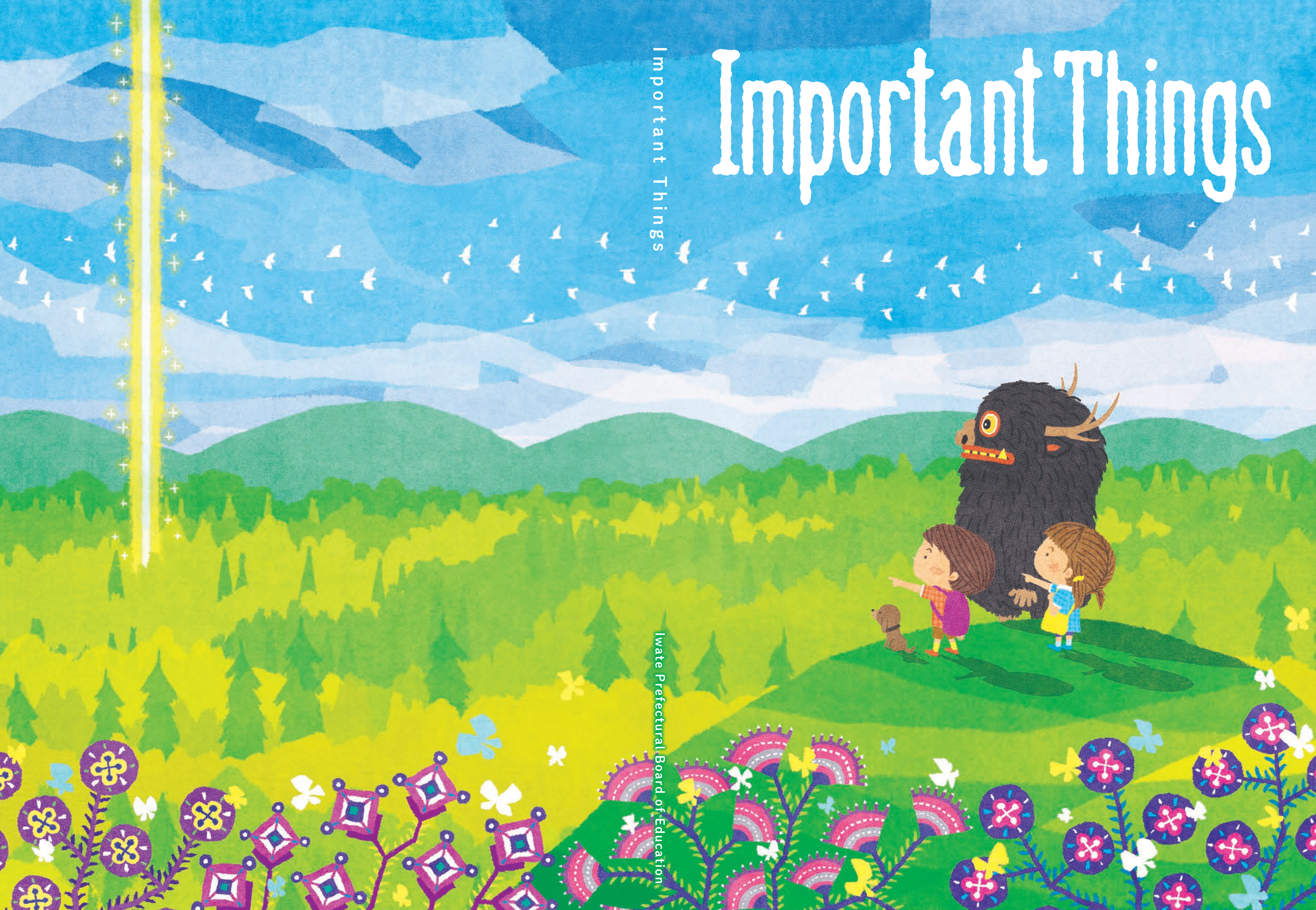


# Important Things

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Iwate Prefectural Board of Education

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Two good friends, Nozomi and Mirai, are playing together when Nozomi's dog, Pecco, was about to fall into a hole!

**Watch out!**

Ahhhh!



Nozomi, Mirai, and Pecco  
all fell into the hole.



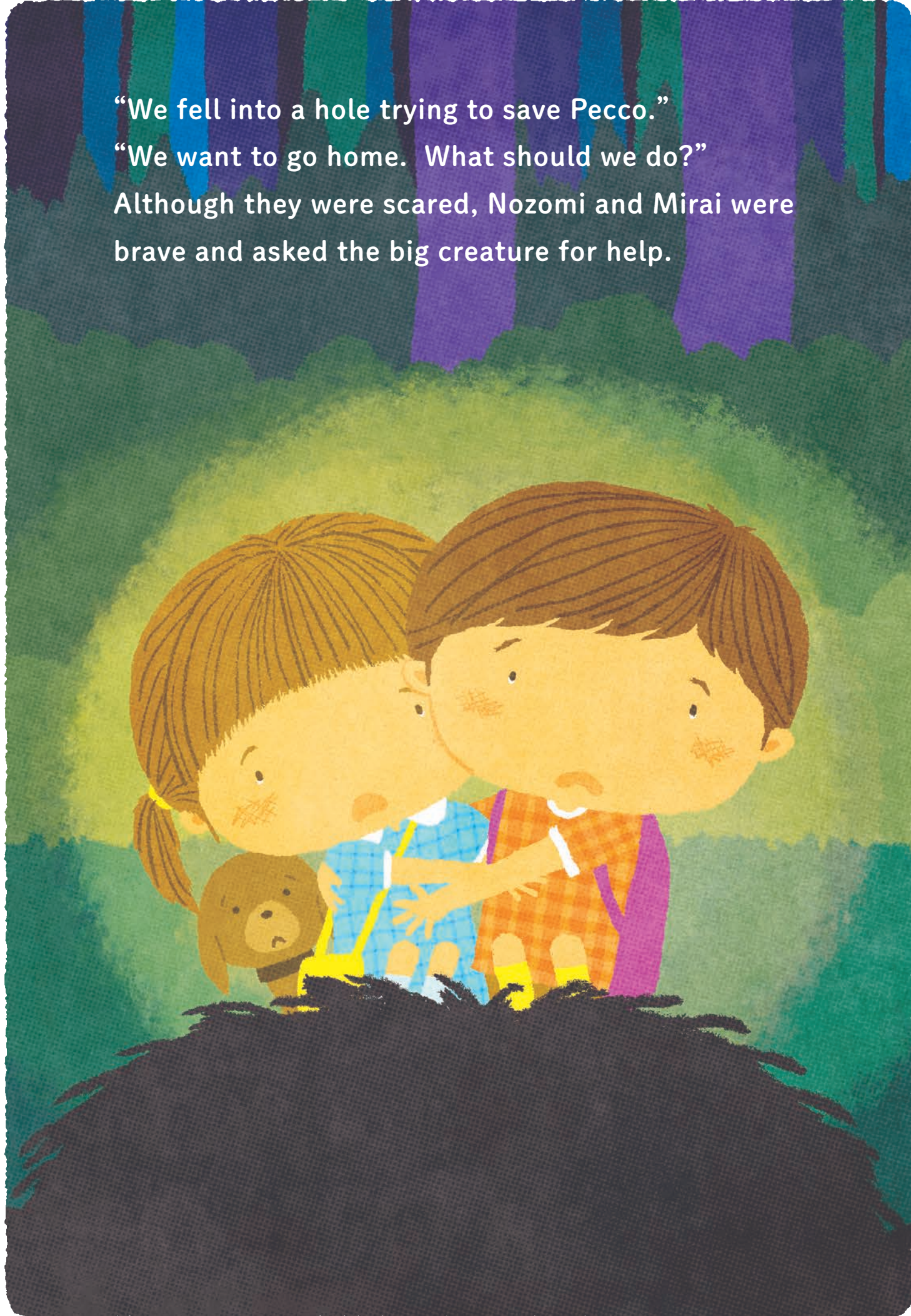
“What do we do? Where are we?”  
They’ve fallen into the middle of a dark forest.  
They felt like crying.

“Hey kids! What are you doing here?”

Ahhhh!



“We fell into a hole trying to save Pecco.”  
“We want to go home. What should we do?”  
Although they were scared, Nozomi and Mirai were  
brave and asked the big creature for help.



“I see. I am Gongon, the guardian of this forest.  
You did a great job explaining what happened.  
Okay! Follow me,”  
he said, and started to walk, lighting up the forest  
with his eyes.





After passing through the dark forest and arriving at the top of a hill, Gongon said to Nozomi and Mirai, “You will be able to go home if you jump into that pillar of light, but it is very far from here. Can you walk all the way there?”

“It’s *that* far away.”

“But if we don’t go, we’ll never get back home...”

After a bit, they made up their minds.

“We’ll walk to the pillar of light!”

So they walked and walked, until they became thirsty.

“Uh-oh, I’m out of water,”  
said Nozomi, then Mirai also spoke up,  
“My bottle is empty, too.”





So, Gongon brought  
them to a secret spring  
flowing with fresh water.



## gulp gulp gulp

They gulped the water down.  
“It’s nice and cold.” “Ahh, so good.”  
Drinking water made everyone feel better.  
They started walking again.



After walking for a while, their stomachs started rumbling.

“I didn’t bring anything to eat with me...”

Hearing Gongon’s murmur, Nozomi and

Mirai said,

“I have some sweets in my backpack.”

“Me too.”



“I just have these chocolates.”

“I have some candies and cookies.”

Nozomi and Mirai shared their sweets  
with Gongon and Pecco.



om nom nom

They munched on the sweets.

“Food tastes better when we share it.”

They regained their strength after eating  
the sweets.





As they continued walking, it started to get dark.  
“It’s a little cold, isn’t it?”  
“Yeah, I’m cold, too.”  
Nozomi and Mirai took their jackets out of their  
bags, but it was still cold even with their jackets on.



“Okay, let’s make a bonfire!”  
said Gongon, so everyone  
started gathering branches.

As the bonfire crackled,  
Gongon gently embraced Nozomi,  
Mirai, Pecco.





Morning has come!  
Everyone's spirits were lifted by the shining sun.  
"We'll definitely get there!"  
"Yeah! Let's do this!"  
With that, Nozomi and Mirai started walking.

**We finally arrived!**




“We made it!”

“We did our best together!”

Nozomi, Mirai, and Pecco are filled with happiness.







And so, Nozomi, Mirai, and Pecco stepped into the light.

It was hard to say goodbye to their new friend, but in loud voices, they said, "Bye, Gongon! Thank you!"

In response, Gongon waved at them. "Goodbye! You did a great job!"

After getting home safely, Nozomi and Mirai gathered all the things they realized were important in times of trouble, after spending time with Gongon.  
 “Flashlight, water, food. What else do we need?”



This picture book was made for children aged 4 to 5 as part of the “Iwate Reconstruction Education” program. Iwate Reconstruction Education aims to nurture three educational values: “living,” “engaging,” and “preparing.” This story focuses on “preparing.”

We follow the journey of Nozomi and Mirai, who one day suddenly find themselves lost in an extraordinary world. Although they encounter numerous hardships such as anxiety, hunger, and a cold night without shelter, they bravely face each one head-on, help each other, and are able to return to their original world. In the end, Nozomi and Mirai are able to think about the essential items they will need if they are ever in trouble, making use of their experiences and lessons learned.

It is often said that “Natural disasters come right when you’ve forgotten about them.” Nobody knows when, where and how disasters will strike. You might even be forced to spend a night at an evacuation shelter. How about trying to talk with your children about what items would be helpful to have in the event of a natural disaster?



【Example checklist】

- Emergency rations Spare masks Work gloves First-aid kit
- Towels Plastic bags Emergency blankets Portable battery
- Valuables (ID, cash, etc.) Flashlight Portable radio
- Spare batteries Toothbrush Rain gear, change of clothes
- Slippers etc.

[Reference materials: manga booklet “Megaquake along the Japan Trench and Chishima Trench,” published by the Cabinet Office]

Cabinet Office  
 Japan Disaster  
 Management in  
 Japan

Each person’s “essential items” are different, and they may change based on their age, environment, and the times. When we ask ourselves “What are the essential items?” it also makes us think “What do I cherish?” as well.

In our children’s future, they will encounter and live with all kinds of people and have many new experiences. It is our wish that they lead happy lives, and keep their “essential items” close to their hearts.

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 Picture Book

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