

MBBY International Conference on Children and Books

Main Theme: Stories for Survival:

“Kamishibai: We Are All Here Together” by Etsuko Nozaka

In my presentation “Kamishibai; We Are All Here Together”, I would like to explain how kamishibai works to encourage the children who are suffering in isolation caused by the corona pandemic. Firstly, I introduce the theory of kamishibai created by Noriko Matsui, and analyze how *kyokan* (the shared feelings) peculiar to kamishibai is born. Kamishibai is not bound like a book, and the story progresses by sliding-out and sliding--in movements of each picture sheet, while the performer reads the text. This format leads to two key features of kamishibai, which raise *kyokan* for the story-world, which are concentration and communication. Secondly, I introduce the report “Kamishibai for Young Children during Covid-19” of Michele Valentines from France. She wrote about the special moment when she performed kamishibai “Y-e-es!” at a kindergarten in June, 2020, how the children were thrilled to be there together, replying “Y-e-es!” It helped her to fight fear, give joy and comfort and impart hope to very small children. Thirdly, I refer to two kamishibai for peace, “Never Again” and “Live Voices”, as they seem to contain some elements necessary for our survival. Both depict the disaster of atomic bombs and their aftermath. Covid-19 and wars are different, but they still have something in common. They deprive children of a secure daily life. Kamishibai is just a small torch of hope, but it encourages children, in the atmosphere of *kyokan*, to feel that they are not alone. We are all here together. And kamishibai for peace stimulates them to think how it could be. Especially in this time of the pandemic, we should make a place for kamishibai. My presentation includes two video clips, one of which is my own performance of “The Kind Monster Wapper”.