



House Husband in Tokyo: A Romp through D-Tier Attractions and the City's Hidden Gems

D 級景點！踏破不為人知的東京秘境（？）：最軟！東京人夫日記

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When Mickeyman moved from Taiwan to Tokyo for his wife's career, he dove headfirst into his new life as a househusband. But he's no ordinary homemaker. Between tidying up and managing the household, he carves out time for his whimsical "Grade D small trips"—secret spots that even locals often overlook. These quirky adventures focus on uncovering Tokyo's offbeat attractions while cleverly doubling as grocery runs and sticking to a tight budget. It's all part of his practical yet delightful approach to exploring hidden gems.

Taiwanese manga artist Mickeyman captures Tokyo's lesser-known attractions with a unique perspective, revealing unexpected insider tips and tricks for exploring the city's hidden gems. Tokyo is a must-visit destination for anyone traveling to Japan, but why stick to the usual tourist hotspots? With his trusty bicycle as his companion, Mickeyman leads readers on a charming and offbeat journey to experience the city.



Author Mickeyman

An atypical manga creator, this artist's work is deeply tied to travel, as inseparable as chicken fillet and pepper. He is known for his extremely frugal approach to traveling, often funding trips by selling personal work. His journeys have taken them to places ranging from Shinsaibashi to East London, Harbin to Paris. In 2016, he represented Taiwan as a resident manga artist at the Angoulême International Comics Festival in France. Currently, he works as a professional househusband in Tokyo.

Grade D Attractions! Uncovering Tokyo's Hidden Gems: *House Husband in Tokyo*

by Shiuan Chiang

Tokyo is undoubtedly a top destination for tourists visiting Japan. With abundant resources on popular attractions available online and in guidebooks, it's easy to stick to the well-trodden paths. However, through the unique perspective of "the softest househusband," Mickeyman, readers are invited to explore Tokyo's lesser-known "Grade D attractions"—hidden spots even locals might not know, let alone tourists. Armed with his trusty bicycle, Mickeyman takes readers on a journey to uncover the fascinating stories behind these overlooked gems.

After relocating from Taiwan to Tokyo for his wife's job, Mickeyman fully embraced the role of househusband.

Between managing household chores during the day, he finds time and budget to plan his quirky "Grade D small trips." These trips center around offbeat attractions but are thoughtfully planned to include grocery shopping on the way back and remain budget-friendly—a practical approach for a househusband's hidden-gem adventures. Most importantly, the insights he gathers are often shared with his wife during weekend strolls, adding joy to their life as an expatriate couple navigating a foreign land together.

The attractions featured in the book range from historical archives and playground slides with intriguing backstories to thrift stores for bargain

hunting and luxury department stores for occasional indulgence. Mickeyman's unique taste and ranking of destinations make the book engaging and fun. Through his humorous and entertaining illustrations, he presents fascinating trivia about each location in a simple yet captivating way.

From the seemingly frivolous yet historically significant "Trash Wars" to the emotionally complex World War II "Peace Memorial" viewed through a Taiwanese lens, Mickeyman introduces readers to Tokyo's obscure cultural and historical tidbits. With each adventure, readers not only discover hidden corners of Tokyo but also gain insight into the city's lesser-known stories, all delivered with Mickeyman's signature humor and charm.

Beyond the Grade D attractions, the book chronicles the life of a Taiwanese couple living abroad. From cultural clashes and bizarre requests from Taiwanese friends for overseas shopping to comparisons between Taiwanese and

Japanese train bento and curry, this illustrated book stands apart from typical travel guides. Whether you're seeking a charming glimpse into a couple's life or looking to explore Tokyo off the beaten path, *House Husband in Tokyo* delivers a delightful mix of humor, heart, and travel inspiration.

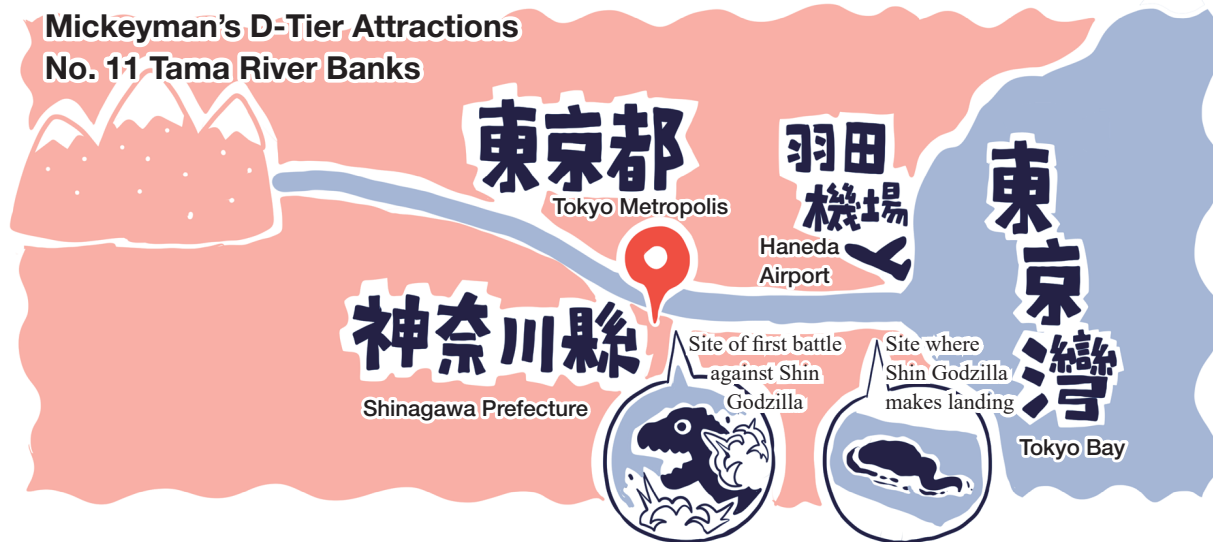
Shiuan Chiang was born and raised in Taipei, with time spent in Hsinchu, Tainan, and London. Fascinated by anything that brings an extraordinary atmosphere to everyday life, she finds inspiration in museums, idol groups, and literature. Once an avid novel reader, she has recently noticed her bookshelves filling up with nonfiction.

With a background in anthropology and art history, Shiuan has spent much of her time reading and writing descriptions of museum exhibitions and artifacts. When not immersed in these pursuits, she enjoys knitting and baking.

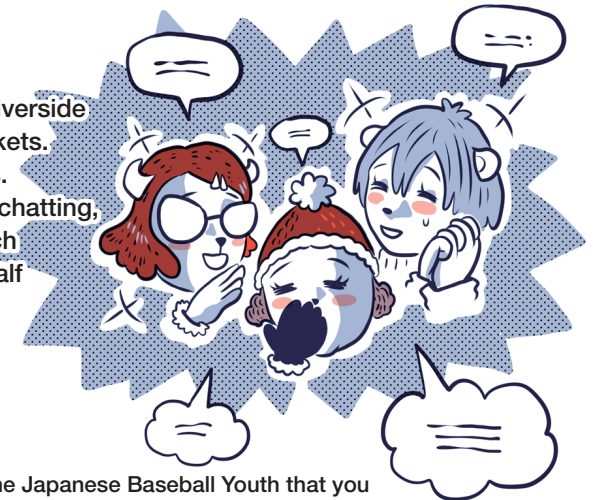
奇觀のD級景點 No.11 多摩川旁

Mickeyman's D-Tier Attractions
No. 11 Tama River Banks

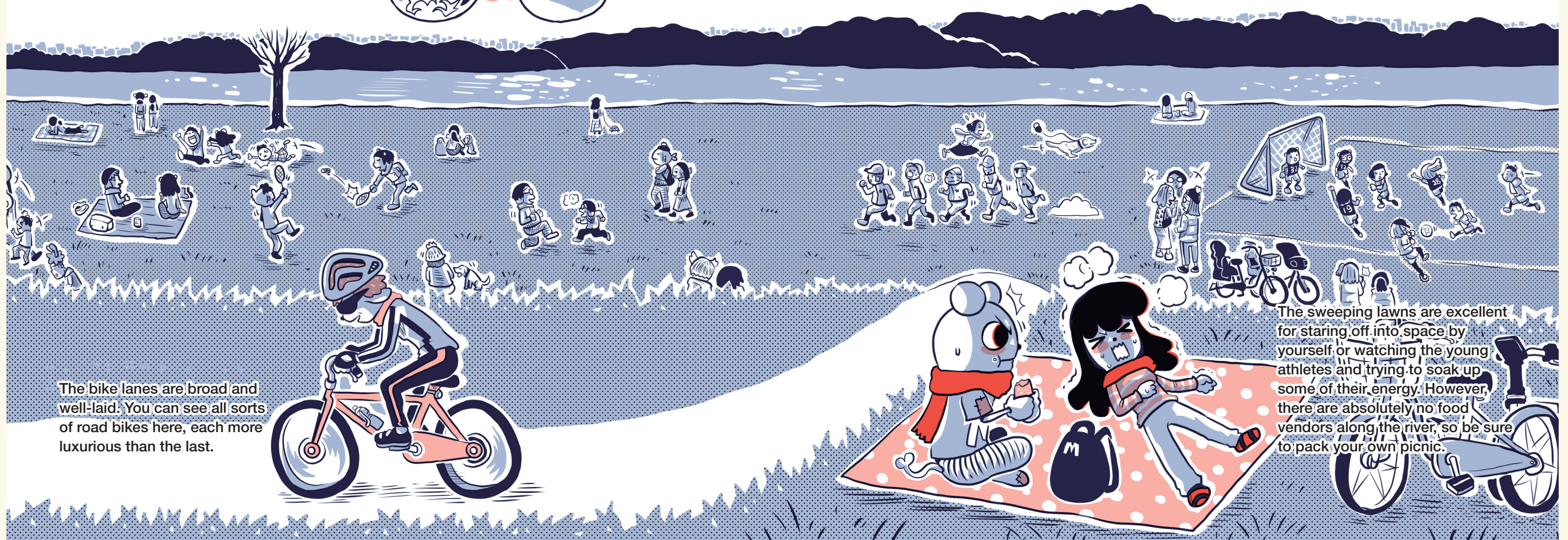
The Tama River runs between Tokyo Metropolis and Shinagawa Prefecture. The riverside parks are spacious and open to the public, making them the perfect spot to hang out all day on a weekend and very popular among parents of small children (free entertainment)! Staking out a spot here gives you a glimpse into a typical Tokyo family's day off. As a bonus, many famous scenes in movies were filmed here! (People in some regions refer to the river as the Futakotama River.)



There's always a row of kid-friendly bikes along the riverside soccer field, meaning bikes with child seats and baskets. Bikes are the only vehicles allowed on the riverbanks. While the kids play soccer, the mothers can be seen chatting, exchanging the latest parenting tips and praising each other and their children. It must be draining to lose half a weekend day to your kids' soccer practice! *Sobs*



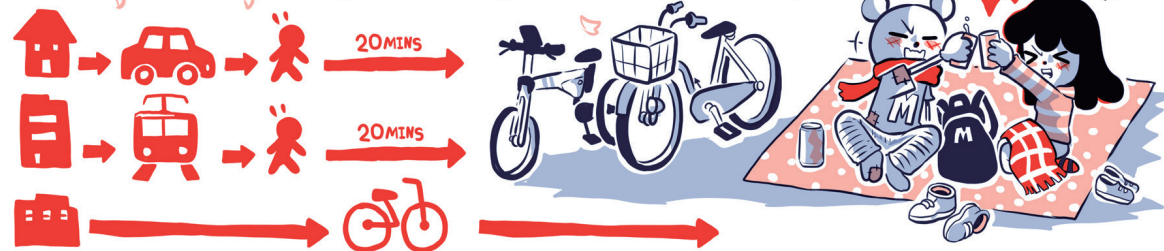
You'll come across the Japanese Baseball Youth that you see in movies and anime, with their close-shaved heads and uniforms—they really exist! Baseball stresses teamwork and persistent practice, both of which are values Japanese society prioritizes. Aside from the sport itself, the cleaning up of the field and equipment, and learning rules that are slightly more extensive than for soccer, helps children to socialize in groups.



The bike lanes are broad and well-laid. You can see all sorts of road bikes here, each more luxurious than the last.

The sweeping lawns are excellent for staring off into space by yourself or watching the young athletes and trying to soak up some of their energy. However, there are absolutely no food vendors along the river, so be sure to pack your own picnic.

Most of the Tama River is lined with different varieties of cherry trees. Since the riverside parks are farther from metro stations and lesser-known among foreign tourists, so there are relatively few picnickers during sakura season. It's a great spot for going on bikes!



You'll also see many fascinating and sometimes difficult-to-describe activities.

BBQ

Tokyo has many regulations about barbecuing in the city. Near Tama River Station, there's a designated area under the Maruko Bridge that many young people use for social events. There are businesses that cater you'd need from grill to charcoal to ingredients; the days of going to the supermarket to pick out meat and beverages yourself are ancient history! *Weeps*



殺陣練習

"Tate" Combat Performance

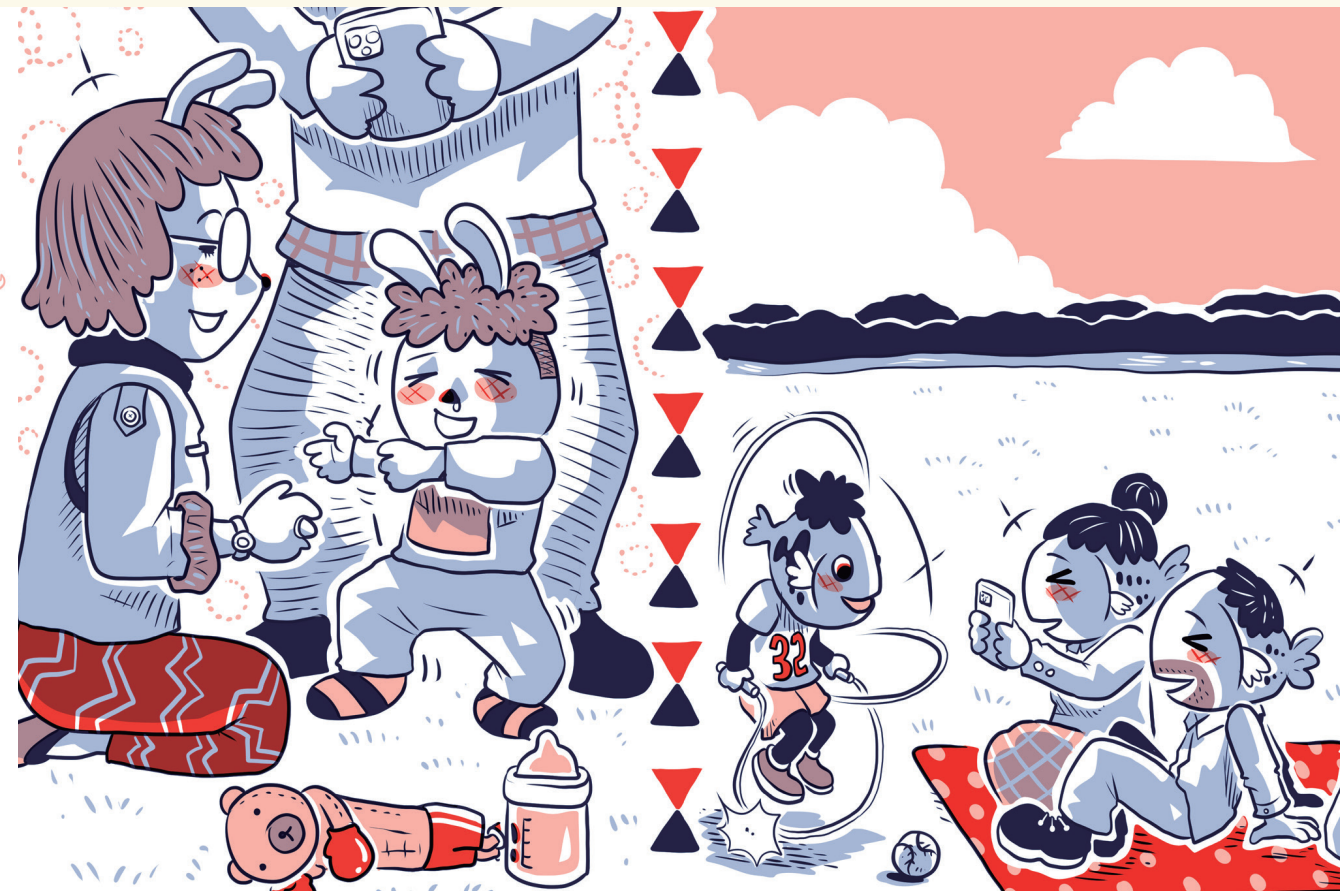
Tate (pronounced tah-teh) is an imposing type of stylized sword fighting that emerged from kabuki and period theater. It usually involves a protagonist defeating many small-fry opponents with a samurai katana. Rehearsals require a lot of space, so you can sometimes spot them on the riverbanks. Watching these spectacles live really gets the blood pumping!



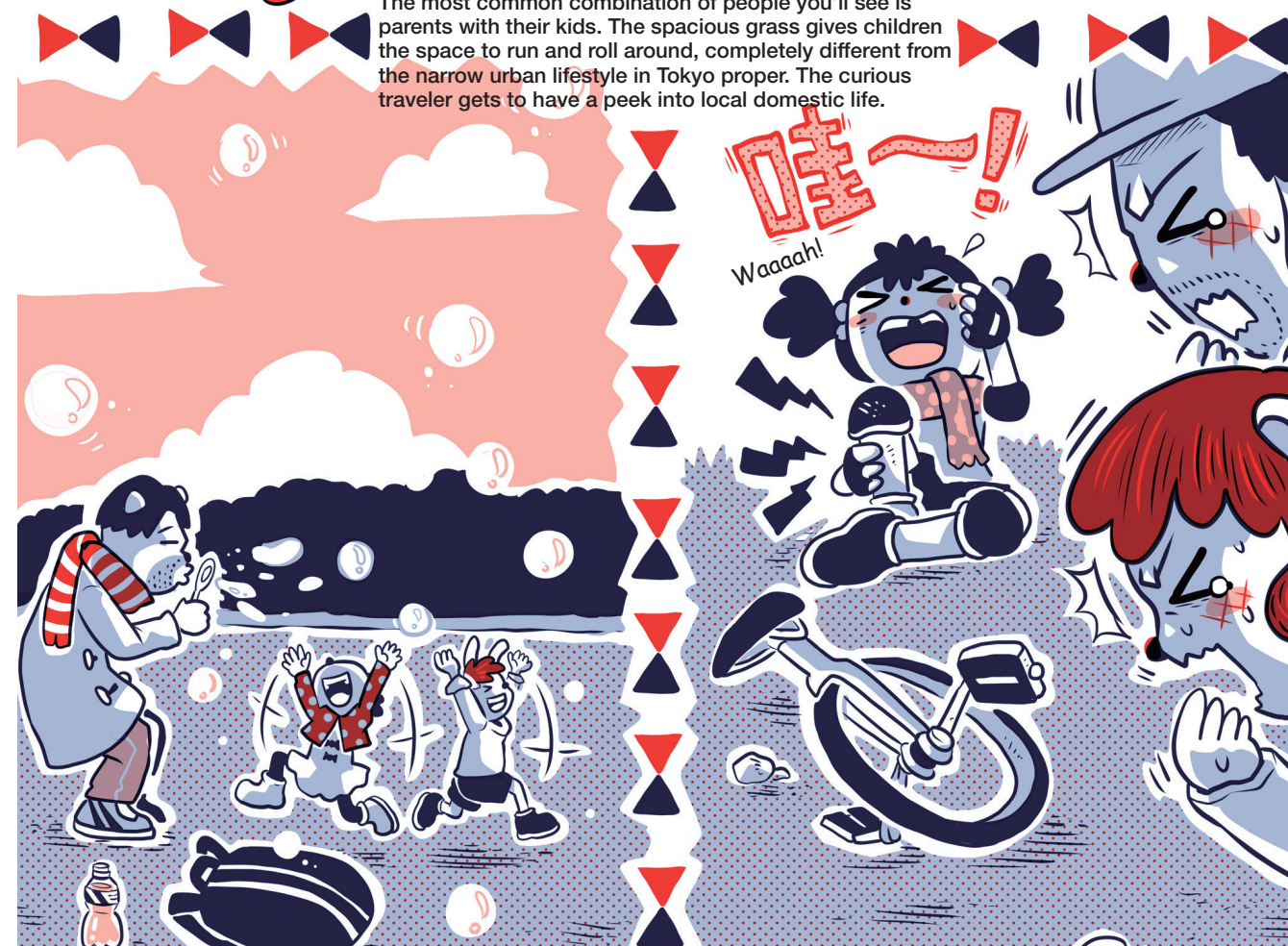
袋棍球 LACROSSE

Lacrosse

A fun sport that was imported to Japan from North America and Europe. You usually see it in the form of two people practicing passing in the park, wearing and carrying a lot of equipment that you don't otherwise often see in East Asia. Based on the amount of protective gear, an actual game must involve a lot of brutal contact! *Shivers*

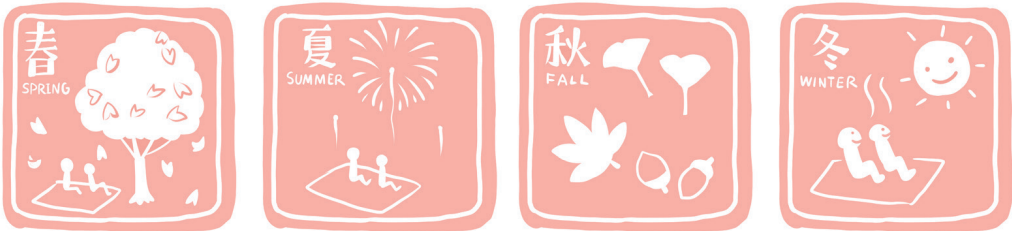


The most common combination of people you'll see is parents with their kids. The spacious grass gives children the space to run and roll around, completely different from the narrow urban lifestyle in Tokyo proper. The curious traveler gets to have a peek into local domestic life.



The best activity for the riverside parks is picnicking! With a beautiful view of nature and well-maintained sites, this is a treasured spot for all who are willing to make the trek! CrystalCherry and I discovered this almost by accident when we went to see the fireworks. As it turns out, food tastes better when eaten outdoors, and it's weirdly nice to drop a crumb on the grass and not have to pick it up! Also, the temperate climate makes most of the year picnic-appropriate.

PICNIC



There's no place like home! Whenever you venture out to the river, how much and what to pack becomes a tricky question. After all, you'll have to carry it some distance! Let's take a look at some common types:

青春嚐鮮

Young and Fresh



擺拍夢幻

Photogenic and Dreamy

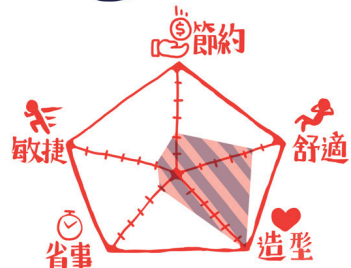


奇鯪流®

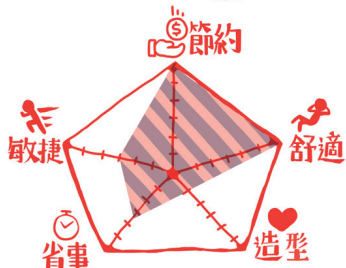
Mickeyman Style



Going on a spontaneous date without any planning or prepping is the prerogative of the young! In their bags, you'll only find lip balm and a portable charger. They usually leave as soon as they finish their fast food.



Woven baskets and gingham cloths are a must, plus a few plushies. The gadgets and food are not only aesthetic but also meticulously arranged. It takes a lot of manpower to transport everything, but the perfectly shot is worth the work!



Making coffee at home and bringing it in a thermos is always best (take it from a veteran)! Picnicking is all about timing! Buying bento and sweets from a nearby supermarket takes less time and offers more variety! Biking means no extra transportation costs!

What's in Mickeyman's Backpack? Featuring other picnic-related goods!

