The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome

A Tsunami Boat Comes Home

いつまでもともだちでいようね

Written by Lori Dengler and Amya Miller, Designed and Illustrated by Amy Uyeki
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2011年3月11日

クレ セントシ ティー

2013年4月7日

Rikuzentakata, Japan

March 11, 2011

リクゼンタカタ

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Crescent City, U.S.A
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Summary: A tsunami boat brings hope and friendship to two communities on opposite sides of the ocean
Tsunami-Japan-Juvenile non-fiction
Earthquakes-Juvenile non-fiction
Cultural exchange-Juvenile non-fiction
With historical references, guide to talking to children about disaster preparedness

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To all of the children in Japan and elsewhere in the Pacific who were affected by the 2011 Japan tsunami.

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Written by Lori Dengler and Amya Miller
Designed and Illustrated by Amy Uyeki
There is a place called Rikuzentakata in Japan near the beautiful Pacific Ocean. The people love their high mountains, beaches, and tall pine trees.

There is a place called Crescent City in America on the other side of the Pacific Ocean. The people love their beautiful beaches, mountains, and giant redwood trees.
Who lives in Rikuzentakata? There are grandparents, mothers, fathers, teenagers, and young children. The grownups have many different jobs. Some are teachers, police officers, firefighters, and chefs. Some work on boats and fish and others have jobs that help their city.

Families live in Crescent City, too. There are small children and teenagers and mothers and fathers and grandparents. People work as fishermen, teachers, chefs, police officers, firefighters and at many other jobs.
There is a school in Rikuzentakata called Takata High School. Here, Japanese teenagers know that America is very far away and that the people speak a different language and eat different foods. The students had never heard of Crescent City.

There is a school in Crescent City called Del Norte High School. American teenagers there know that Japan is on the other side of the ocean, and that the people speak another language and eat different food. They had never heard of Rikuzentakata and couldn't imagine going to such a far away place.
Takata High School had a little boat to help students learn about the ocean and how to fish. It was named “Kamome,” the Japanese word for seagull. They painted “Takata High School” on the side so that everyone would know it was their boat.
One day there was a very big earthquake. The ground shook and shook and shook. The earthquake caused big waves called a tsunami. The tsunami swept over the city of Rikuzentakata and washed many buildings, cars, and boats into the ocean. The people were frightened and angry and sad.

The tsunami traveled all the way across the Pacific Ocean to America. By the time it reached Crescent City, it was much smaller, but was still big enough to sweep over the harbor in Crescent City and sink many boats.
Kamome and the other boats were washed out into the ocean by the big tsunami waves. Kamome was carried far, far off the coast. The people thought the little boat and all the other things caught in the tsunami were lost forever.

The big tsunami waves flipped Kamome upside down. The only part of the little boat above the water was her blue bottom. The winds and the ocean slowly pushed Kamome away from Japan and towards America.
Kamome was alone in the big Pacific Ocean. Sometimes Kamome was caught in big storms that tossed the little boat back and forth, up and down. Great waves splashed completely over her. But the little boat was very strong and kept on floating.
The little boat's only companions were sea birds, whales, dolphins, fish, and other sea creatures.

Sea animals called barnacles stuck to every part of Kamome that was beneath the water. Their long necks floated beneath the little boat. Kamome must have looked very strange to the dolphins and other creatures that swam beneath her.
The barnacles grew and grew until they were more than a foot long, dangling beneath the boat like big noodles.

Month and months went by. The New Year came and went and came again.

It was hard for the people in Rikuzentakata to enjoy New Year’s celebrations like making mochi. Most of their beautiful town was gone and they were reminded of the terrible tsunami every day.

In America, many people had forgotten about the tsunami and what had happened in Japan.
One day more than two years after the tsunami, a strange little boat washed ashore near Crescent City. The Americans had never seen a boat like this before. The long barnacles completely covered the sides.

Many people came to look at the boat. They scraped some of the barnacles off the boat and saw the Japanese writing. They wondered what it said.
A Japanese person read the characters which said "Takata High School." The people in Crescent City learned that Takata High School was in Rikuzentakata, Japan and that the boat had been lost in the tsunami.

The students from Del Norte High School saw the boat, too. They were amazed that the little boat hadn’t sunk. They liked the name, Kamome, because there were a lot of seagulls in Crescent City.
No one knew what to do with the little boat. For weeks and weeks the little boat sat alone. One day the Del Norte High School students said, “Maybe we could send this boat back to the people who lost it.”

The students cleaned the boat. They talked to their teachers about how to send the boat home.

ある日
デルノーテこうこうのせいとがいいました。「ボートをきれいにして かえしてあげよう。つみまでたくさんのものを なくしてしまったので ジョーがえってくるようつぶかね。」

デルノーテこうこうのせいとたちはふねをきれいにしてそれから 先生にどうしたらふねをりくせんかたにかえろかを ききました。
The teachers talked to officials in America and Japan. Many people wanted to help return the little boat.

Finally, Kamome was put on a ship to return to Japan.

It had taken the little boat two years to travel to America. The big ship took less than a week to take Kamome back to Japan!
Takata high school students came out to see the little boat when she arrived in Rikuzentakata. It made the students smile to see their boat again.

Takata High School students and teachers were very thankful that the American students had worked so hard to send their boat back. They invited the American students to visit them in Japan.
The American teenagers were a little scared to go to Japan. They had never traveled so far away before. They didn’t speak Japanese and wondered what it would be like to eat Japanese food and if the Japanese students would like them.

They flew in an airplane across the Pacific Ocean and took a bullet train to Rikuzentakata. They visited Takata High School and met the Japanese teenagers. The American students were happy to see Kamome in Japan.
The American students learned to cook Japanese food and discovered it tasted good. They learned to sing a folk song and write their names in Japanese characters.

Everyone smiled and laughed.

The people in Rikuzentakata were happy to see the students having fun. When it was time for the American students to leave, they asked their new friends to visit them in Crescent City.
The next year, students from Takata High School got on an airplane and flew across the Pacific Ocean to America. They visited Crescent City and the students from Del Norte High School. The Japanese students had never been to America. They studied English in school but were a little scared about talking to the Del Norte High School students and eating American food. They wondered if the American students would like them.
The Takata High School students saw the big redwood trees. They visited the spot where Kamome had washed ashore. The Japanese students and the American students laughed together.

The Japanese students learned to sing an American song and write their names in English. They went to a restaurant and ate American food. Seeing the American and Japanese students laughing together made the people in Crescent City happy.
What an amazing little boat! She survived the tsunami, traveled all the way across the ocean and then came back to Japan. Everywhere Kamome went, she made people happy.

The students from Takata High School and Del Norte High School made a pledge to each other. “Let’s be friends forever.”

For Parents and Educators

On April 7, 2013, a little over two years after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake triggered a massive tsunami off the coast of northeastern Japan, a lone boat washed up on the shores of Crescent City, California. Humboldt State University Geology Professor Lori Dengler was one of the experts called in to examine the boat. Dr. Dengler contacted Amya Miller, the Director of Global Public Relations for Rikuzentakata, beginning the process of linking the boat to Takata High School.

The Japanese Consulate in San Francisco and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration declared the boat as tsunami debris, lost in the disaster of March 11, 2011. At the time of the tsunami, Kamome was tied up in a storage area. No one was in the boat.

Students at Del Norte High School in Crescent City, California cleaned the boat and worked with Amya Miller to find resources to return the boat. On October 21, 2013, 954 days after it was pulled away by the tsunami, the boat returned to Rikuzentakata.

Kamome has become a symbol of resilience, hope, and dialogue. Amya Miller worked with both Takata High School and Del Norte High School administrators, staff, and students, to forge a formal sister school partnership. In February 2014, Del Norte High School students visited Rikuzentakata, and in January 2015, Takata High School students visited Del Norte County, California.

The bonds formed between the students and the communities have transformed the lives of people in Rikuzentakata and Crescent City, California. One boat and its voyage across the Pacific Ocean and back to Japan has resulted in two very different high schools and communities committed to friendship.

In 2014, Kamome was moved to the National Tokyo Museum as a special exhibit on the 2011 tsunami and Japanese recovery. Kamome’s voyage has triggered a new wave. It is our hope this new wave leads to happiness, awareness, and hope for all people who read this story.

Visit humboldt.edu/kamome for more information and photos about the extraordinary voyage of Kamome.
ポートから始まった交流

この本は実話に基づいて書かれたものです。東日本大震災の約2年後、2013年4月7日にアメリカのカリフォルニア州のクレセンティーニーの海岸に一隻のボートが漂着しました。ハンブルト大学の地理学の専門家、ローリー・デングラー教授はボートに関する調査をしにクレセンティーニーに4月7日に向かいました。デングラー教授は陸前高田市当時海外広報ディレクターであったアミラさんが連絡をとり、ボートが陸前高田市の高田高校のものであると知りました。

在米フランクフルト日本領事館と米国海洋大気庁が正式にこのボートは震災で流されたものであると判明しました。クレセンティーニーの地元の高校生からボートを陸前高田に返したいとの声が上がり、生徒たちは陸前高田市役所のミラーさんと一緒にどのようボートを返せるかの交渉を始めました。震災の954日後にボートはクレセンティーニーを立ち、陸前高田に向かいました。

このボートは希望と奇跡と絆のシンボルになりました。ミラーさんは高田高校とデルノーテ高校との話し合いを始め、長期的な交流の為の金銭的な支援を手配しました。2014年の2月にはデルノーテ高校の生徒が陸前高田へ、2015年1月には高田高校の生徒がクレセンティーニーに行くなど、交流が深まっています。

震災後、ボートは国立博物館に展示され、震災に関する教訓と交流を説明するものにもなりました。

このボートが震災から生まれた奇跡はこれからも陸前高田市とクレセンティーニーをつなげる架け橋になります。この実話を世界の子供に知ってもらい、防災教育に活用していただきたいと思います。

ご父母、教師の方へ

東日本大震災で亡くなられた方のご冥福をお祈りと共に、被害を受けられた方々と共に1日も早い復興を願います。

震災がもたらした悲惨な映像は世界各地で多くの方々が見られたものでしょう。また、2011年3月11日の地震は日本はもちろん、津波は太平洋のあらゆるところで起きました。自然がもたらす災害が多い日本では日頃から避難訓練などが学校で行われています。東日本大震災だけではなく、洪水、火山の噴火、地震、サイオニクス、そしてインテンショナルディストラクターも、災害の東北地方だけではなく、日本全国で放送された東日本大震災に関する映画は子供にとっては痛いものです。子供を保護者が守るという映画のことを話すべきなのでしょうか。

防災教育は国によって、文化の違いによって異なります。アメリカの防災教育は必ずしも日本では通用しません。この本の内容も文化の違いに基づいて文言を変えていますので、英語と日本語の文章には少々違いがあります。

特に、被災地に住んでいる子供達のメンタルヘルスケアを意識し、津波で流された人達は意図的に書かない事にしました。

アメリカでは感情を表に出し、家族と、学校内で、また友達同士で気持ちを表した防災教育が重視されています。子供が抱く恐怖感をなくす事はできません。でも、アメリカでは事前に「地震が来たらどうするか」、また「津波が来たらどうするか」の話し合いは必要だと思います。子供の気持ちを把握し、家全体で、または学校で避難についての映像と学話も事前に聞くと、その時どうするのかを思い出してもらえるでしょう。そして話し合っていく事に恐怖感が和らぐだろうと思われています。

事前に出来る事は、

- 避難訓練の際に子供に責任を持たせる行動が必要です。子供に何をさせればいいのか、体験をさせる事にすればよいでしょう。子供は、あくまで自己の防災力を学ぶための訓練に集中する事でしょう。

- 家族ぐるみの避難訓練も行いましょう。どの場所に行けばいいのか、どうやって逃げるのかは家族の方と一緒に練習することによって体も慣れますし、全家で避難できる確率が高まります。

- 子供の小さなリュックに避難時に持つたいものを事前に準備し、「逃げる時にはこれを持っていこう」話してみましょう。子供が好きなぬいぐるみ、絵本、おもちゃなどが避難しつつでも心を開きやすくなります。

- 地震、津波、竜巻、火山の噴火などの映像や写真はテレビでのみ見ることが好ましいです。特に、東日本大震災の生々しい映像は未だに子供達にとって怖いものです。

作者はこの本を通じて子供たちが防災に関する話をどう考えるか、また考える事を求めています。感情を満たし、話を深めて話し合うことで、また世界のどこかで起きる自然が齎す災害から身を守ることに繋がる事と思います。

Involving your children in the process of preparing.

- Practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drills at home or at schools. Practice out how long your pretend earthquake lasts — a great way to learn numbers and a help to stay calm when a real earthquake strikes.

- Do an earthquake safety hunt in your home. Look for things that might fall or slide. Your children might spot things you haven't noticed.

- Work with your child to put together a personal kit. Talk about what items should be in the kit and let your child choose a stuffed toy, a blanket or a favorite book.

- Hold family tsunami evacuation drills. After you have done the drill a few times, let your children lead the way. The more you practice, the more familiar the process will become.

Talking to Young Children about Disasters

Psychologists believe that children can cope more effectively with a disaster when they know there are things they and their family can do to keep safe. Providing age-appropriate information will help them to understand what might happen and lessen their anxiety if a disaster does occur.

- Help your children to feel safe and secure during the disaster. Give them clear, simple instructions about what to do.

- After the disaster, limit media coverage of the disaster — if children are going to watch television or video material, consider taping it and previewing the material. Then watch it with them so you can answer any questions they may have and help them process the information. Children (and adults) don't benefit from graphic details or repeated exposure to disturbing images or sounds. The aftermath of a crisis is a good time to disconnect from all media and sit down together as a family.

We hope that this book will provide a first step in talking with your children about disasters. For more information you can visit the website: humboldt.edu/kamome.
2013年10月りくぜんたかにボートがとうちくする

2013年9月クレセントシティーをボートがしゅっぱつする

Return to Rikuzentakata, Japan October 2013

Left Crescent City, U.S.A. September 2013
One small boat — One vast ocean

The true story of a small boat set adrift by the 2011 Japan tsunami and the friendships it forges between high school students in Japan and America.

Kamome is capturing hearts on both sides of the Pacific!

“I had the great honor of befriending the wonderful and resilient people of Rikuzentakata after the disaster in 2011. The amazing story of Kamome is the story of the genuine friendship between Japan and the United States - particularly between our young people — that became even stronger after the tsunami.”

John V. Roos, Former United States Ambassador to Japan

“The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome not only represents an extraordinary story of survival, it tells us how the caring from total strangers can bring repair and healing to hopelessness and despair, and how children can model for us a path to world peace.”

Dr. Satsuki Ina, therapist and specialist working with trauma victims

“Through the trials of disaster, this is an amazing story of how the journey of one small boat built huge and lasting bonds of international respect and friendship.”

Rocky Lopes, NOAA/National Weather Service Tsunami Program Deputy

“The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome has all the ingredients of an epic odyssey - born of tragedy, sustained by suffering, that ends with love and friendship. I highly recommend this book for all ages, as it will become an ageless classic.”

Dr. Eddie Bernard, Emeritus Director NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Science Laboratory

“This is a must-read story about how a shared disaster and one boat’s incredible journey across the Pacific brought together two different cultures who found out they had more in common than they thought... Loved it!”

Ron Gastineau, Crescent City Mayor

“This story floats on a sea of kindness.”

Malcolm Margolin, Publisher, HeyDay Books