

## LESSON NOTES

# Japanese Children's Songs #1

## Furusato

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# 1

## KANJI

1. うさぎ追いし かの山
2. こぶな釣りし かの川
3. 夢はいまも めぐりて
4. 忘れがたき ふるさと
5. いかにいます 父 母
6. つつがなしや 友がき
7. 雨に風に つけても
8. 思いいずる ふるさと
9. こころざしを はたして
10. いつの日にか 帰らん
11. 山はあおき ふるさと
12. 水は清き ふるさと
13. 英語訳: 山岸 勝榮

## KANA

1. うさぎおいし かのやま

CONT'D OVER

2. こぶなつりし かのかわ
3. ゆめはいまも めぐりて
4. わすれがたき ふるさと
5. いかにいます ちち はは
6. つつがなしや とものがき
7. あめにかぜに つけても
8. おもいいずる ふるさと
9. こころざしを はたして
10. いつのひにか かえらん
11. やまはあおき ふるさと
12. みずはきよき ふるさと
13. えいごやく: やまぎし かつえい

## ROMANIZATION

1. Usagi oi shi kano yama
2. Kobuna tsuri shi kano kawa
3. Yume wa ima mo megurite

CONT'D OVER

4. Wasure gataki furusato
5. Ika ni imasu Chichi Haha
6. Tsutuga nashi ya Tomogaki
7. Ame ni kaze ni tsukete mo
8. Omoi izuru furusato
9. Kokorozashi o hatashite
10. Itsu no hi ni ka kaeran
11. Yama wa aoki furusato
12. Mizu wa kiyoki furusato

## ENGLISH

1. I hunted rabbits on that mountain.
2. I fished for minnows in that stream.
3. I still dream about those days I spent when I was a child.
4. How I miss and long for my old country home.
5. Mother and father—are they doing well?
6. Is everything all right with my old friends?

CONT'D OVER

7. When the rain falls, when the wind blows, I recall
8. My happy childhood and my old country home.
9. Some day when I have done what I set out to do,
10. I will return to where I used to have my home.
11. Lush and green are the mountains of my homeland.
12. Pure and clear is the water of my old country home.
13. TRANSLATION: YAMAGISHI Katsuei

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
釣る	つる	tsuru	to fish
ふるさと	ふるさと	furusato	hometown
がたい	がたい	gatai	hard, difficult
忘れる	わすれる	wasureru	to forget
夢	ゆめ	yume	dream
川	かわ	kawa	river
ふな	ふな	funa	crucian carp
山	やま	yama	mountain
追う	おう	ou	to chase, to run after
うさぎ	うさぎ	usagi	rabbit
めぐる	めぐる	meguru	to go around, to return

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>大きな魚を釣った。 <i>Ōkina sakana o tsutta.</i></p> <p>I got a big fish.</p>	<p>一年に一度ふるさとに帰ります。 <i>Ichi-nen ni ichi-do furusato ni kaerimasu.</i></p> <p>I go back to my hometown once a year.</p>
<p>彼女の態度は理解しがたい。 <i>Kanojo no taido wa rikai shi gatai.</i></p> <p>It is hard to understand her behavior.</p>	<p>悪い夢を見た。 <i>Warui yume o mita.</i></p> <p>I had a bad dream.</p>
<p>日本一長い川は、信濃川です。 <i>Nihon ichi nagai kawa wa, Shinano-gawa desu.</i></p> <p>The longest river in Japan is Shinanogawa.</p>	<p>ふなを釣りに川に行きます。 <i>Funa o tsuru ni kawa ni ikimasu.</i></p> <p>I'm going to fish for crucian carps in the river.</p>
<p>元旦のご来光を拝むために、山に登る人もいます。 <i>Gantan no go-raikō o ogamu tame ni yama ni noboru hito mo imasu.</i></p> <p>Some Japanese people go to the top of a mountain to see the sunrise on the 1st of January.</p>	<p>富士山はとても高い山です。 <i>Fuji-san wa totemo takai yama desu.</i></p> <p>Mt. Fuji is a very tall mountain.</p>
<p>最近、うさぎを飼っている人の間で、うさぎを散歩につれていくのがはやっています。 <i>Saikin, usagi o katte iru hito no aida de, usagi o sampo ni tsurete iku no ga hayatte imasu.</i></p> <p>Lately there is a trend among rabbit owners to take their rabbits for walks.</p>	<p>茶色いウサギが庭の葉っぱを食べている。 <i>Chairoi usagi ga niwa de happa o tabete iru.</i></p> <p>The brown rabbit is eating leaves in the garden.</p>
<p>家で二匹うさぎを飼っている。 <i>Ie de ni-hiki usagi o katte iru.</i></p> <p>I have two rabbits at home.</p>	

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson is the Japanese Children's Song, *Furusato*

This song was released in 1914 as a song for elementary school students in sixth grade. This song is about people who move far away from their hometown to work or study and

feel nostalgic about the scenery of fields or mountains they were familiar with when they were kids. This song has been very popular, especially among people who live in countries far away from their hometowns, because they can share the nostalgia they are feeling with others by singing this song. Kids used to sing this song at their graduation ceremony, but they don't sing it much anymore.

## Interpretation in Modern Japanese

Original	Interpretation in Modern Japanese
うさぎ追いし かの山 <i>Usagi oishi, kano yama</i>	うさぎを追いかけたな~、あの山で <i>Usagi o oikaketa na~ ano yama de</i>
こぶな釣りし かの川 <i>Kobuna tsurishi, kano kawa</i>	こぶなを釣ったな~、あの川で <i>Kobuna o tsutta na~ ano kawa de</i>
夢はいまもめぐりて <i>Yuma wa ima mo megurite</i>	今でも夢に出てきて、 <i>Ima demo yume ni dete kite,</i>
忘れがたきふるさと <i>Wasure gataki furusato</i>	忘れられないふるさと <i>Wasurearenai furusato</i>

### うさぎ追いし かの山

This literally means, *usagi o otta ano yama* (うさぎを追ったあの山), which is "that mountain where I hunted rabbits" in English. *Shi* in *oishi* is an auxiliary verb that people used in old Japanese to express recollection of one's own past. So, the breakdown of *oishi* is: a verb, *ou*, meaning "to run after" + the auxiliary verb, *shi*. It means almost the same as *otta*, which is the past form of *ou*. You cannot see this *shi* used in modern Japanese, but you will see it in a set phrase such as *wakakarishi toki* (若かりし時), which means "the times when I was young."

### Examples:

1. こぶな釣りし かの川 = こぶなを釣った かの川  
*Kobuna tsurishi kano kawa*  
"that stream where I fished for minnows"

2. 若かりし時 = 若かった時  
*Wakakarishi toki*  
"the times when I was young"

## かの山 かの川

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*Kano* (かの) in *kano yama* or *kano kawa* is the same as *kano* in *kanojo* (彼女), which means "she." *Kanojo* comes from "that woman" and *kano* means "that." But writers used it in old Japanese literature to mean "that." This word sounds like something is physically as well as emotionally remote from you.

## 夢はいまもめぐりて

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*Yume* (夢) is "dream", and *ima mo* (いまも) means "even now". *Megurite* (めぐりて) is the same as *megutte* (めぐって) in modern Japanese, which is the te-form of the verb *meguru* (めぐる), which means "to go around". So all together, it's saying that the mountains and the river still show up in the person's dreams. In modern Japanese, this line would be: *Ima demo yume ni dete kite* (今でも夢に出てきて).

## 忘れがたきふるさと

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The first word in this line is *wasuregataki* (忘れがたき). *Wasure* comes from the verb *wasureru*, "to forget", and *gataki* is a suffix from classical Japanese grammar. When attached to a verb, it means "difficult to do". So in this case, it means "difficult to forget/can't forget", and it refers to the next word, *furusato*, which is one's hometown. So all together, this line is *wasurerarenai furusato*, or "my hometown I can never forget".