



## The Drums of Noto Hanto

By J. Alison James

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## **The Drums of Noto Hanto** By J.Alison James Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #11161962 in Books
- Published on: 2000-05-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 3
- Binding: Hardcover
- 40 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Strikingly handsome cut-paper illustrations, reminiscent of David Wisniewski's work, light up the pages of this dramatic picture book, based on a historical incident in ancient Japan. From the opening image of a drum that protrudes onto the spread as theatrically as the nearby isles erupting from the Sea of Japan, this tale will grab readers' attention. The villagers of Noto Hanto mark each change of season with the playing of the drums. But when a covetous warlord threatens to invade the town, the drums take on a new role. As samurai warriors approach, the villagers join forces to scare off their attackers with bonfires, monster masks fashioned from bark and seaweed, and drums that "boomed like thunderADON kada DON kada DON DON DON!" James (Sing for a Gentle Rain) parades a series of verbal images as colorful as they are powerful (e.g., the village "points upward like a thumb into the Sea of Japan"), and her skillful use of onomatopoeia conveys the differing timbres and types of drums. The text exudes a palpable energy that will spark inspired read-aloud sessions. Tsukushi's artwork matches the intensity of the prose with fluidity of line and complexity of composition. A samurai battleship sails against a blood-red sky, masked villagers dance wildly by firelight and drummers sit in a circle concentric with the edge of the globe and the drum as they beat for their lives. The vividness of the spreads is nothing short of hypnotic. Wit triumphs over will in this splendid picture book. Ages 4-8. (Sept.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2-5-A simply yet powerfully told tale of underdogs who triumph not by brawn but by courage and ingenuity. In 1576, the people of Nabune, a prosperous village on the Noto Hanto peninsula in Japan, hear that the warlord Kenshin is coming with several shiploads of samurai to attack them. Having few weapons, they decide to try and trick their enemy. They gather all of the drums in the village, from the smallest to the giant Taiko, which takes eight men to play it. They build bonfires and make monster masks from bark and seaweed. When the ships approach the shore, the villagers don their masks, light their fires, beat their drums, and dance in a frenzy until at last the samurai sail away, never to return. The suspense that builds as the drums crescendo will have young listeners riveted. Tsukushi's cut-paper illustrations capture the time, place, and mood of the story. A unique and interesting tale.

*Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ*

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From [Booklist](#)

A Japanese-born artist makes her children's book debut with a set of attention-grabbing collages reminiscent of David Wisniewski's boldly colored and gloriously dramatic compositions. Commemorating a 400-year-old incident, still celebrated annually, in which Japanese villagers frightened off a fleet of invading samurai with bells, drums, and monster masks constructed from bark and seaweed, James layers her strongly written tale with percussive rattles and thunder, from the "ton ton ton ton tiki tiki tiki" of the small drums to the eight-man Taiko's "DON DON DON DON," that "sounded like a mountain exploding." The heavy beat and capering, fearsome-looking creatures create a wild rumpus that not only will have readers and viewers pounding along but also brilliantly evokes the heart-stopping power of Japanese drumming. *John Peters*

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Scott Barbour:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do this. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need that The Drums of Noto Hanto to read.

**James Dorman:**

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