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## Another World on My Bookcase

Nao Shimizu

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There is only one world—this is the present understanding of our world. However, I think the idea of formless worlds is interesting. If we can regard formless places as worlds, too, there are a great number of worlds. Where we can know the worlds is in books, especially novels. In this paper, I will talk about some books on my bookshelf and the worlds expanded in the books. In a small space, which is the shelf on my desk, I can enjoy exciting trips. To take very interesting and easy trips, we must have only books.

In the top tier of the shelf, there are several small books lined up. They are called *bunkobon* [pocket books], and I prefer to buy this size of books these days. Pocket books are easy to carry so I can read them while commuting to university. That's why the pocket books in the top tier seem rather new, compared to other books in the other two tiers. Then, I will tell you about one world of the pocket books. The title is *Shabake*, which is an archaic Japanese word. I'm sorry that I can't explain the meaning of the word because it's difficult to explain. The book is the first volume of a series which was written by Megumi Hatakenaka. The story of *Shabake* is made up of three factors: fantasy, period pieces, and mystery. The main character, Ichitaro, and many specters solve difficult problems in Edo. I read the series many times but it always amuses me so I love it.

The second tier has books more related to the real world than the former ones: my favorite books, magazines, and yearbooks. They are larger than the books of the top tier. One of my favorite books is written by Haruichi Shindō. He is a guitarist and the essay book he wrote is easy to read and makes me happy. In addition, I recommend the book written by Hiro Arikawa, *Sanbiki no Ossan* [Three Old Men]. I chose this in a bookstore since I was interested in the title. As a result,

this choice was quite right because I really enjoyed reading the novel. Switching from the side of books to the other side, there are some music magazines and yearbooks. The music magazines' covers are mainly the photos of my favorite musicians. My four yearbooks, from my preschool, elementary school, junior high school, and high school, are lined up. They are helpful to remind me of my classmates and those days, thanks to a lot of pictures in them.

The last tier has only one series. What do you think is that? The series is very famous and a best seller all over the world. It is the series of Harry Potter. The reason why the tier has only Harry Potter series is simple: It takes up much room. Perhaps as you know, it has seven volumes and each volume has many pages. The books I have in the shelf are Japanese hardcover versions, so they are felt to have power at a glance. Each volume has different colors to distinguish it easily. When the first one was published, I was an elementary school student. Then the seventh was on sale last year. In other words, seven years have passed since I knew Harry Potter. Last summer, I took and read the books in order for about two weeks. At that time I noticed reading in one stretch has a different kind of forte from reading per annum.

You can have nice trips easily in some unreal worlds. I keep my own favorite books on a bookshelf on my desk to take trips over and over. In the top tier of the shelf, there are large worlds in small books. The middle one has both fiction and nonfiction books. Having a look at the bottom, you never miss the presence of the Harry Potter series because of the colors and sizes. To tell the truth, I cannot tell you all the good points of those books in my bookshelf so that they are very attractive. The most important thing I want to say is books have expanding worlds which cannot be seen by eyes.

**About the author:** Nao Shimizu is a second-year student at Tsukuba University in the School of Human Sciences, Department of Psychology.

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