Gregory and his family are moving to Japan for his dad’s job. After the long flight, they arrive at their new apartment. Gregory is surprised to find lots of things that are different: he needs to remove his shoes and wear slippers, he has to sit on pillows at the table, and he has to take a shower before getting into the bathtub! As Gregory’s dad points out, That’s the way they do it in Japan. When Gregory starts school, he’s afraid that the kids won’t like him. That morning, he works hard writing the letters of the Japanese alphabet and is glad when it’s time for lunch. But he’s embarrassed when he takes out his peanut butter sandwich and sees everyone else eating rice and soybeans. Gregory wonders if he’ll ever fit in.

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My Personal Review:
I am a director of a childcare center and I am running a multicultural program for our children. It is sooo hard to find good materials for small children that discuss other cultures. This book was excellent. The children loved it and so did I.

It not only taught about the differences but it also had Japanese words strewn throughout the book. It also had a very simplistic pronunciation key so that I didn't need to skip a beat while reading. One of our children who is from Japan and his mother came in while I was reading. The mother understands very little english but was very pleased with the book. The book ends on such a loving note. I wish they had books like this for every culture.

I thank the authors for such a book.

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