Tokyo Friends: Tokyo No Tomodachi
by Betty Reynolds

Katie is a young American girl living in present-day Tokyo. One day, as she walks her dog, she meets Keiko, a young Japanese girl, and her brother Kenji. Together they explore the city and its surroundings as they teach each other the customs of their respective countries. Whether dining on soba (spaghetti), studying kana (the alphabet), or dancing at the Obon festival, the Tokyo friends discover just how much their two culture differ-and how much they are alike. Vibrantly illustrated by the author, Tokyo Friends introduces young readers to Japanese traditions, customs, and language by means of helpful English-Japanese glosses, which augment the delightful and lively narrative. Valuable as a beginners guide to Japanese language and culture, Tokyo Friends is also an enchanting adventure for young readers.

My Personal Review:
I am not related to the author and I love this book. I am an expat living in Tokyo and have bought several copies as gifts for my children's friends back home in the States. It gives a nice comparison of typical American living and Japanese living through the eyes of childhood friends. It is a great way to show that although there are cultural differences, we are all friends. The illustrations are wonderful giving both the Japanese and English words for the items in the pictures. Simplistic, but cute.

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