

## The Golden Turtle and other tales

Lexile level: 775

Kobayashi Issei was a poor fisherman who fished the clear waters in his old leaky rowing boat near the small island of Tsunoshima, catching just enough to feed himself and his family. The other fishermen, with their large strong nets and fast, new boats, would catch all the biggest and the tastiest fish. They laughed at Kobayashi Issei in his old leaky rowing boat as they sped past him for the open sea, rising the waves, sails billowing in the wind.

But the young fisherman did not mind. He smiled and waved, then cast his net and sang to himself. He loved the open sea, the taste of salt on his lips and the warmth of the sun on his face. Kobayashi Issei wanted nothing more than his small boat and a few fish each day to feed him and his family.