

Thank you for taking the time to read this magazine. "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" is a free publication put out by a group of people who love Tajimi. We call it "Kurukuru Rokuro Manga."

The city of Tajimi, located in the southern part of Gifu Prefecture, Japan, is famous for Mino earthenware. The city is dotted with historical pottery producers and ceramic art museums. It has facilities where you can try your hand at making pottery, and many restaurants that serve food on Minoware dishes.

The story begins when a high school girl moves to a shopping street in Tajimi. Many encounters await her, friends, town folk, ceramic art, etc. What will she discover in a town famous for ceramics?

"Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" is a collaborative work by many people involved with Tajimi's pottery culture. Like it's main characters, "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" will develop slowly. We invite you to watch it grow.

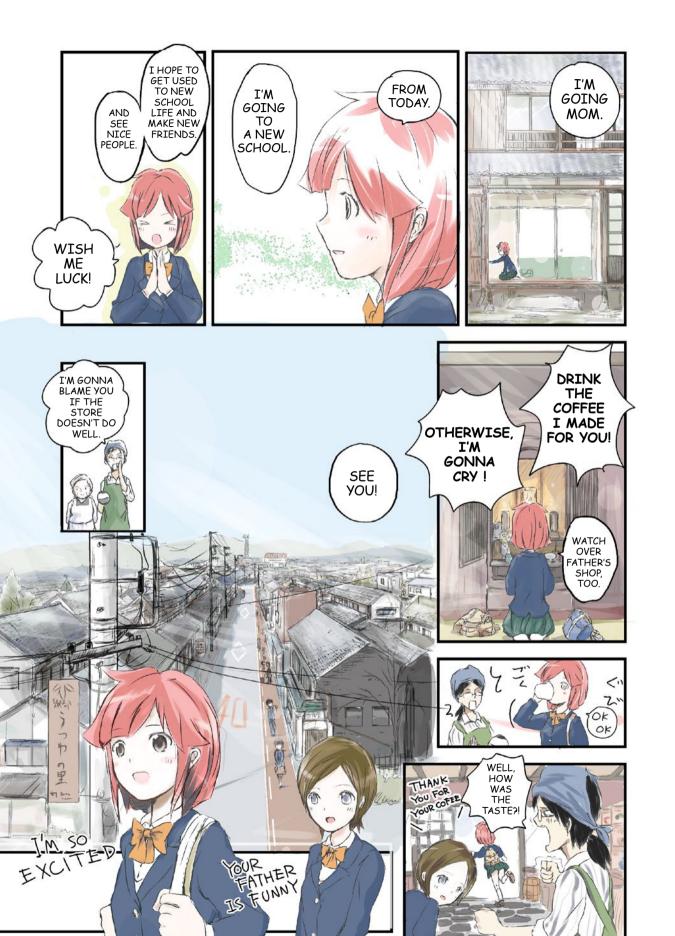
Yakunara Mug Cup Mo staff



EPISODE 01

Himeno begins pottery-making.



























































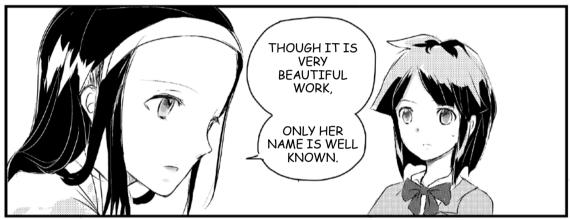




























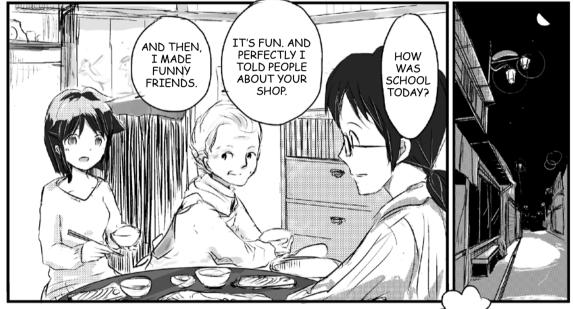




















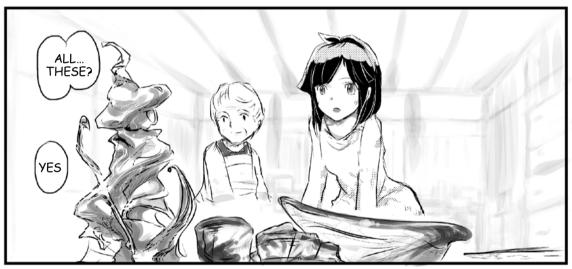








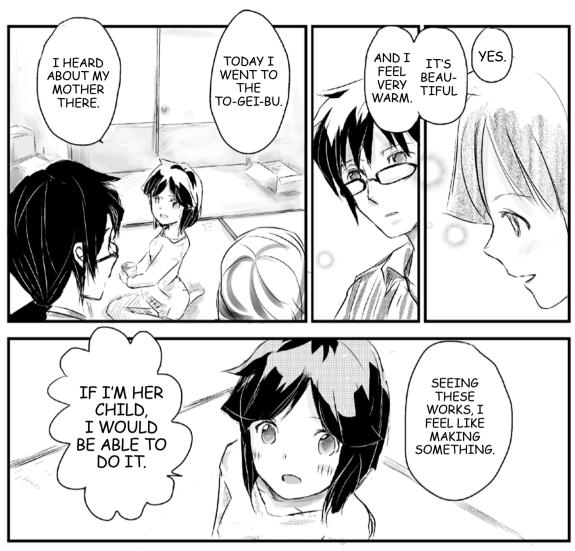










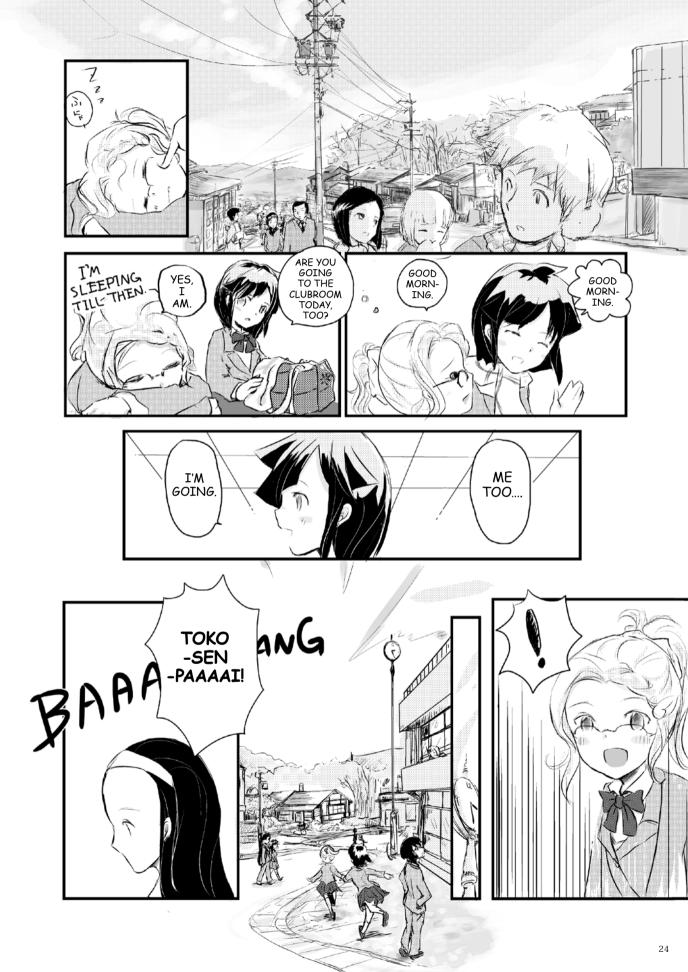


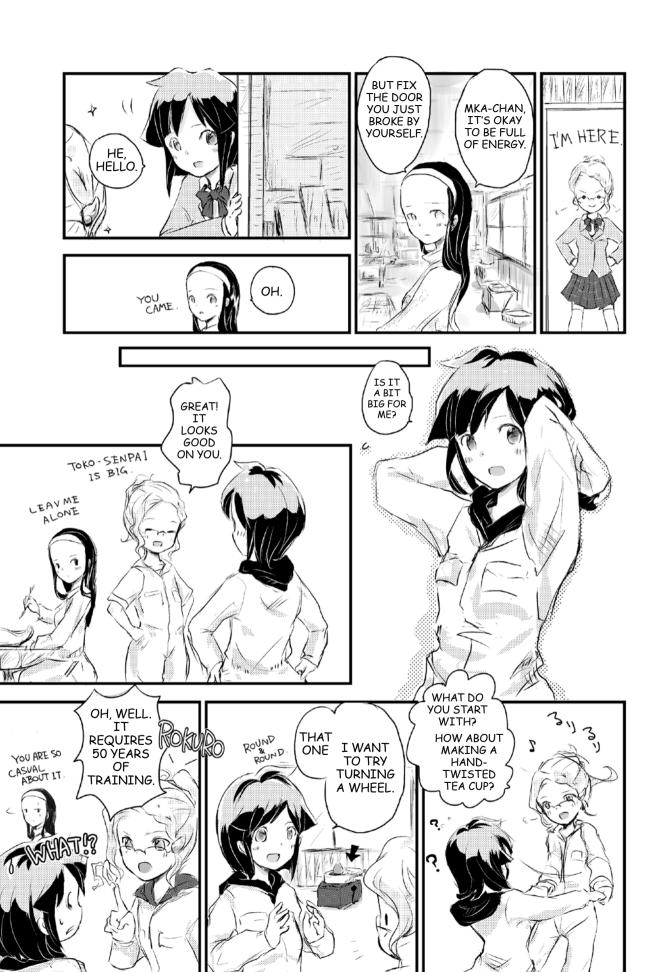
















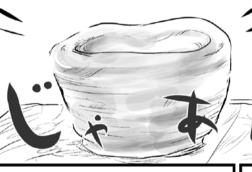




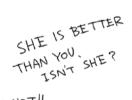




REALLY?
I THINK IT'S
DONE VERY
WELL.



YOU DIDN'T INHERIT YOUR MOM'S TALENT.











The panoramic view of Tajimi



TAJIMI Tajimi-city < Gifu-ken < Japan (Nihon)

Tajimi is located near the center of the Japanese Archipelago. With a population of 115,000, it is also central to the region. Tajimi is a city surrounded by abundant nature and mountains. It is easily accessed by Japan's three main metropolitan areas, the Chukyo area around Nagoya, the Kanto area around Tokyo, and the Kansai area around Osaka. Because it is surrounded by mountains, it is known as one of the hottest cities in Japan. Tajimi is blessed with high-quality clay and has a history over 1,000 years as the center of Japan's pottery industry. It has produced the most living national treasures in the pottery field.

Minoware potteries

The Tono district, including Tajimi-city, is renowned for pottery called "Minoware". Minoware accounts for over 50% of the market share in the domestic business, and the Tono district is the largest ceramic producer in Japan. Tajimi's pottery history can be traced back to the Nara period and its industry has lasted over 1,300 years. Momoyamato, a group name comprising 4 pottery styles, Shino, Ki-zeto, Seto-guro and Oribe, is one of Japan's major pottery industries. The techniques of Momoyamato have been passed down through the ages. The pottery culture blends into the community and local children have grown up with Minoware. Time for pottery making is provided in local community and school activities.



SHINO UZMAKIMON(scrolls)CHAWAN (16th-17th century) A photograph by "Tajimi Story" (written by Teiichiro Hori published by Yoka Tsusinsya)

High school students and club activities

In Japan, most junior and senior high schools have club activities called "Bukatsudo" in addition to classes. The students pursue what they are good at or are interested in through "Bukatsudo" with their seniors and juniors before classes early in the morning and after school. They work hard together to achieve their own goals: they participate in interschool games on behalf of schools, they take certifying examinations, or they exhibit their works.

"Bukatsudo" is a place where students train and share their school lives with other club members. They can make ties, cooperate, and practice mutual support in "Bukatsudo."

Togei-bu (pottery club)

In "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo," three out of the four main characters belong to the "Togei-bu." Each school has various club activities. Although a new club activity can be made if it is permitted, not many schools have a pottery-related club in Japan because large-scale equipment is required. Though there are four senior high schools in Tajimi, only one has a pottery-related club such as Togei-bu. High schools in famous pottery producing areas all over Japan have pottery clubs.

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