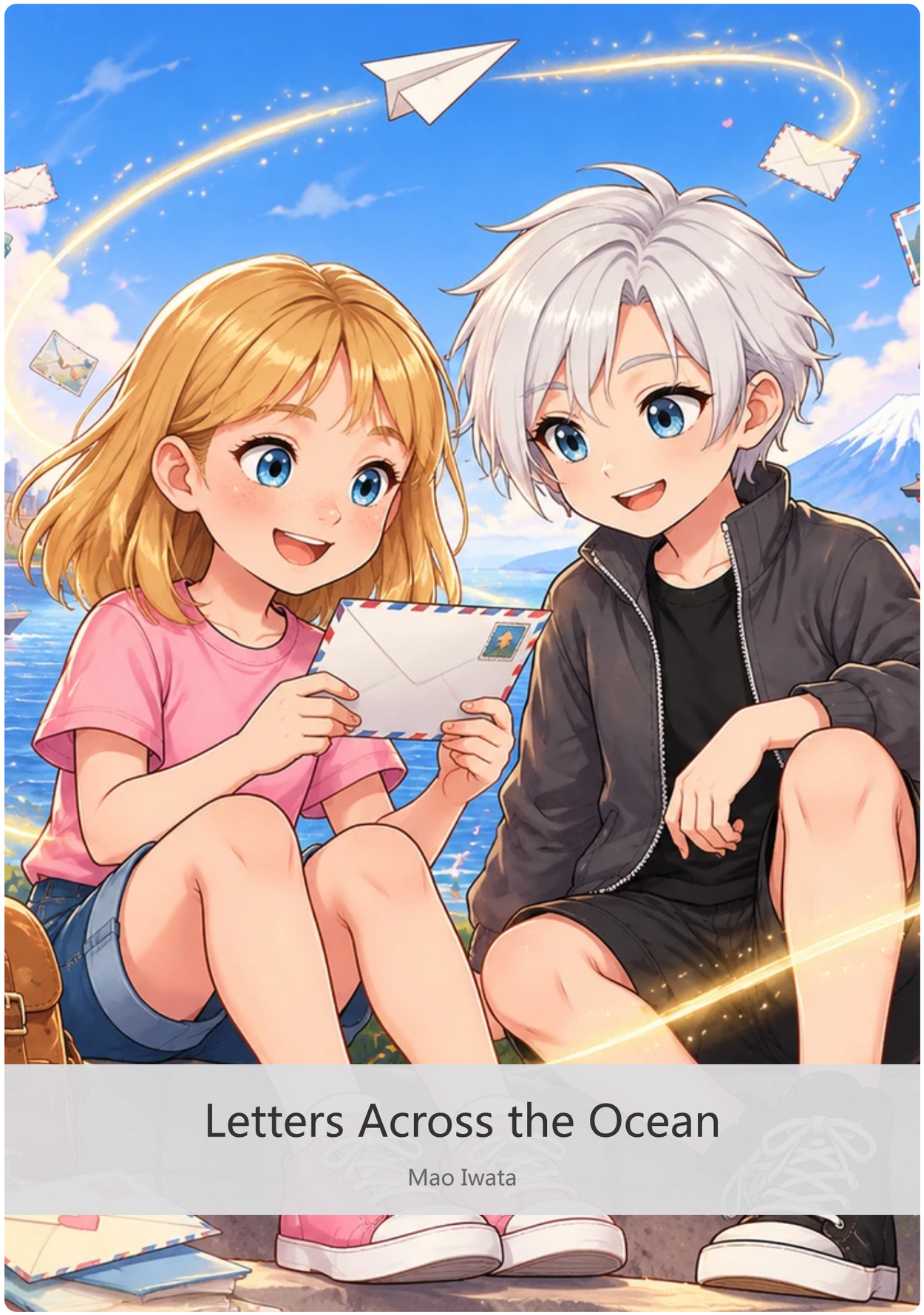


Letters Across the Ocean

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In a bright and cheerful American classroom, a teacher happily announces to the students that they are all getting international pen pals. Eight-year-old Lily gasps with excitement, holding a shiny globe in her hands while wondering who she will be paired with across the vast ocean.



Halfway across the world in a cozy Japanese schoolroom, another eight-year-old girl named Yuki listens intently as her teacher hands out colorful envelopes. Yuki smiles shyly, clutching her favorite cherry blossom stickers and wondering what life is like in America.



Lily sits at her wooden desk at home, carefully writing her very first letter with bright pink crayon strokes. She draws a picture of her playful golden retriever and tells her new pen pal all about her favorite weekend hobbies.



On a quiet afternoon in Tokyo, Yuki opens a mysterious international envelope with wide, sparkling eyes. She gently reads the friendly English words and smiles at the colorful drawing of the dog, feeling a sudden warmth of connection.



Sitting by a sunlit window, Yuki dips her brush in black ink to write her reply on delicate paper. She carefully folds an origami crane to tuck inside the envelope, sharing a piece of her cherished Japanese traditions.



A few days later, Lily squeals with pure delight when she pulls a beautiful paper crane out of her mailbox. She gently rests the tiny masterpiece on her palm, fascinated by the art and eager to learn more about Japan.



Lily sits on her living room floor surrounded by colorful sticky notes, writing about her family's Thanksgiving celebration and traditional pumpkin pie. She sketches a warm dinner table filled with laughter to help Yuki visualize the holiday.



In her cozy bedroom adorned with traditional lanterns, Yuki reads about the sweet American holiday treats while enjoying a warm bowl of green tea and rice crackers. She giggles as she compares Lily's favorite foods with her own beloved snacks like onigiri and ramen.



Both girls sit at their respective desks oceans apart, smiling as they realize how much they have in common despite living in different worlds. They both love drawing, sharing stories about school, and dreaming of big adventures under the same starry sky.



Side-by-side illustrations depict Lily and Yuki holding up letters and waving happily toward each other across a glowing, bridge-like map of the world. Their growing bond proves that true friendship knows no distance and celebrates the beauty of learning from one another.