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Jasmine Toguchi #3: Drummer Girl

Jazmin Gomez

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The school talent show is coming up, and everyone has a talent to share—everyone except Jasmine. When her mom suggests she learn to play taiko (a Japanese drum), Jasmine isn’t too sure. It looks fun, but there are rules. Although she’s not a fan of rules, she tries it out and finds that playing taiko makes her feel strong and happy. After taking lessons, making mistakes, and practicing A LOT, Jasmine learns her taiko song and delivers a perfect performance for her friends and family on the big night.

Fans of Jasmine Toguchi will not be let down with this third installment in the series. Aside from acquiring a new talent, Jasmine comes to understand that we shouldn’t compare ourselves to others or judge others by their outward appearance. The author’s note delivers extra insight into Japanese taiko, and readers can make their own hachi-maki headband to match Jasmine’s using the easy instructions that are included at the end.