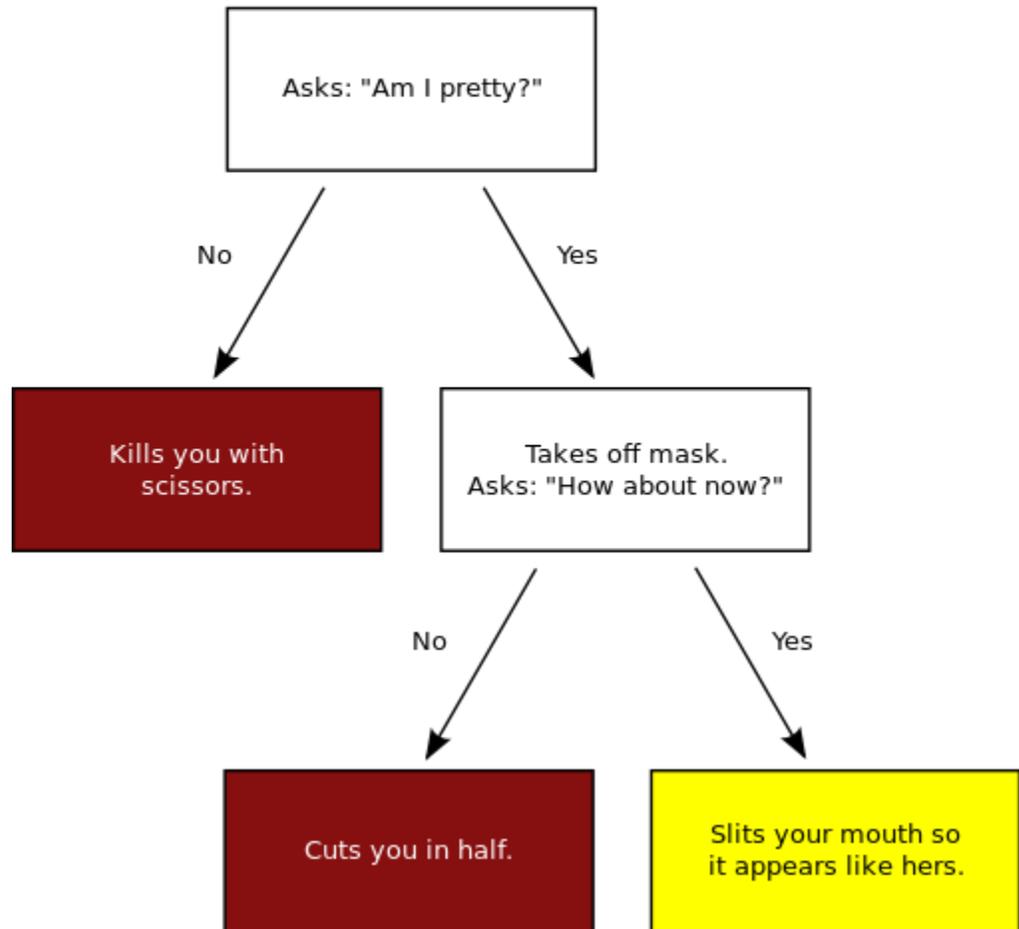


List of Yurei, Yokai, & Oni/Onna

- “Usual suspects”
 - i.e., could each have their own panel since there’s so much on them/super popular
 - **Kuchisake-onna**
 - **Woman killed by her jealous husband/had her mouth slit from ear to ear so “no one would find her pretty”**
 - Walks around wearing a surgical mask, which is not uncommon in Japan
 - Has been reported being seen in South Korea back in 2004
 - **How to avoid/escape:** can encounter when walking alone at night, particularly children
 - One of those “don’t be out late” type yokai/yurei/obake
 - Impossible to run away from b/c, depending on the variation, can reappear in front of you or can run extremely fast/long periods of time

Kuchisake-onna (口裂け女) Conversation Diagram



- - However, giving her ambiguous answers may confuse her long enough so you can run
 - Throwing fruits/candies at her or offer her hard candy
 - To ask her if she thinks you're pretty (may actually leave w/ this one)

○ Kappa

- More than eighty other names associated with the *kappa* in different regions, including *kawappa*, *gawappa*, *kōgo*, *mizushi*, *mizuchi*, *enkō*, *kawaso*, *suitengu*, and *dangame*
- *Kappa* legends are based on the Japanese giant salamander or *hanzaki*,
 - An aggressive salamander that grabs its prey with its powerful jaws

- appearance varies from region to region, the most consistent features are a beak, a shell, and a plate (*sara*), a flat hairless region on the top of the head that is always wet, and is regarded as the source of the *kappa's* power
 - scaly reptilian skin ranges in color from green to yellow or blue
 - if *sara* is empty when outside of water, they'll lose power & can die
 - plate can be covered with a metal cap for protection
- some stories is that the arms are said to be connected to each other through the torso and can slide from one side to the other
- believe they can take ppl's powers by taking the shirikodama (a mythical ball said to contain the soul), which is located in, where else, the @\$\$
- Although they are reported to live throughout Japan, they are often said to be particular to Saga Prefecture
- are curious about human civilization, can speak Japanese
- may even befriend human beings in exchange for gifts or offerings of eggplant, esp. cucumbers (only other food they enjoy more than human children)
- *Kappa* may also be tricked into helping people. Their deep sense of decorum (politeness) prevents them from breaking an oath, for example
- **Variations:** usually seen as mischievous troublemakers or trickster figures. Their pranks range from the relatively innocent, such as looking up women's kimonos, to the malevolent, such as drowning people and animals, kidnapping children, and raping women
 - In his *Tōno Monogatari*, Kunio Yanagita records a number of beliefs from the Tōno area about women being accosted and even impregnated by *kappa*
 - Offspring were said to be repulsive to behold, and were generally buried
- **How to escape/avoid:** be cautious around rivers, esp. if near the where you can be pulled in
 - *Kappa* are obsessed with politeness, so if a person makes a deep bow, it will return the gesture, the water in the plate on its head spills out and it is rendered unable to leave the bowing position until the plate is refilled with water from the river in which it lives
 - If a person refills it, the *kappa* will serve that person for all eternity
 - Similar weakness of the *kappa* involves its arms, which can easily be pulled from its body. If an arm is detached,

the *kappa* will perform favors or share knowledge in exchange for its return

- Another method of defeat involves *shogi* or *sumo* wrestling: a *kappa* sometimes challenges a human being to wrestle or engage in other tests of skill. This tendency is easily used to encourage the *kappa* to spill the water from its *sara*.
- In some regions, it was customary to eat cucumbers before swimming as protection, but in others it was believed that this act would guarantee an attack
- **Stories:** *Kappa* also accept challenges put to them, as in the tale of the farmer's daughter who was promised to *akappa* in marriage by her father in return for the creature irrigating his land. She challenged it to submerge several gourds in water and, when it failed in its task, it retreated and she was saved from the promised marriage.
- Shapeshifters
 - **Kitsune**
 - All foxes have the ability to shape shift into women. While some folktales speak of kitsune employing this ability to trick others—as foxes in folklore often do—other stories portray them as faithful guardians, friends, lovers, and wives.
 - Japanese believe that foxes have extremely long life spans, so they believed every 100 years they grow a new tail. After Kitsunes get 9 tails, the number of tails decrease until 6, then they become celestial foxes (associated w/ the kami Inari, sometimes called Inari foxes).
 - Kitsunes love fried tofu, lamp oil, and are weak to alcohol. When a kitsune is drunk in human form, they often forget to hide their tails
 - They also have the power of shape shifting, mimicry, spirit possession, and can control fox fire.
 - Japanese fox myths had its origins in Chinese mythology. Chinese folk tales tell of fox spirits called huli jing that may have up to nine tails (Kyūbi no Kitsune in Japanese). Many of the earliest surviving stories are recorded in the Konjaku Monogatari, an 11th-century collection of Chinese, Indian, and Japanese narratives.
 - **Tanuki**
 - East Asian canine that resembles a badger or a raccoon; also, a real animal
 - Have a pic for proof
 - Shape-shifting yōkai with the shape of a raccoon. This legendary creature is said to be mischievous and joyous, but

can also gullible and absentminded. The tanuki may use a magical leaf that can give them the power to metamorphosis

- Love sake
- Tanuki possesses powerful magical abilities. They are similar to kitsune in their superb ability to change shape. They have a jovial nature, and delight in playing tricks on humans.
- MAGIC NUTS!!
- While tanuki are not generally feared or considered malicious yokai, they are not entirely harmless either. Like humans, each one is a unique individual, and while many tanuki are jovial do-gooders who love the company of humans, some locals tells of horrible tanuki who snatch humans to eat, or spirit them away to become servants of the gods.

▪ **Bakeneko**

- When cats live to an old age, they begin develop supernatural powers and transform into yokai. Bakeneko begin their supernatural life looking almost identical to an ordinary housecat. Soon they begin to walk about at on their hind legs. As they age and their powers increase, they can grow to be very large, sometimes as big as a full-grown human.
- Bakeneko possess great shape-shifting abilities and frequently disguise themselves as smaller cats or humans – sometimes even their own masters. While in disguise, they like to dress up as humans with a towel wrapped around their head and dance around merrily.
- They also have the disturbing ability to reanimate fresh corpses and use them like puppets for their own nefarious purposes.
- If they do not kill their owners, they often bring down great curses and misfortune upon them
- They are generally a menace to any house they live in or near.
 - Why Japanese would bob cat tails; to avoid them becoming bakeneko, & worse yet nekomata

▪ **Nekomata**

- Nekomata (2 tails), They are born in the same way as other bakeneko, though only the oldest, largest cats with the longest tails (and thus more power and intelligence) become this powerful variety. When these cats transform from ordinary animals into yokai, their tale splits down the center into two identical tails. These are the monster cats most likely to be seen walking about on their hind legs and speaking human languages.

- While not all bakeneko are malicious or violent towards their masters, all nekomata certainly are. They look upon humans with contempt, and are often responsible for summoning fireballs that start great conflagrations, killing many people. They frequently control corpses with their necromantic powers like puppet-masters, and they use their powerful influence to blackmail or enslave humans into doing their bidding.

○ Inugami

- Seen in Kekkaishi
- **Kind of familiar; summoning attributed to the use of Black magic**
- **In public, an inugami looks identical to an ordinary dog in order to blend in with society.** However, its true form is that of a desiccated, mummified dog's head, often dressed up in ceremonial trappings. This is kept safe (and away from prying eyes) in a secret shrine in its owner's house.
- Folklore has it that Inugami can be conjured from a complex and cruel ceremony: A common pet dog must be buried up to his neck, only the head remains free. Then a bowl with food or water must be placed close but in unreachable distance before the snout of the dog. Several days after that, when the dog is about to perish and tortured by hallucinations, his head must be severed and buried beneath a noisy street. After a certain time, head and body must be placed in a well prepared shrine. Now an Inugami can be evoked.
- **They are loyal to one person or one family only, and unless seriously mistreated they remain loyal forever; these spirits can be passed down from generation to generation like an heirloom.**

○ Tengu

- **"Heavenly dog"**
- Type of legendary creature found in Japanese folk religion and are also considered a type of Shinto god (kami) or yōkai (supernatural beings).
- **Take their name from a dog-like Chinese demon (Tiangou),** the tengu were originally thought to take the forms of birds of prey, and they are traditionally depicted with both human and avian characteristics. The earliest tengu were pictured with beaks, but this feature has often been humanized as an unnaturally long nose, which today is widely considered the tengu's defining characteristic in the popular imagination.
- **Buddhism long held that the tengu were disruptive demons and harbingers of war.** However, their image gradually softened, however, into one of protective, if still dangerous, spirits of the mountains and

forests. Tengu are associated with the ascetic practice known as Shugendō, and they are usually depicted in the distinctive garb of its followers, the yamabushi.

- He says that they fall onto the *tengu* road because, as Buddhists, they cannot go to Hell, yet as people with bad principles, they also cannot go to Heaven. He describes the appearance of different types of *tengu*: the ghosts of priests, nuns, ordinary men, and ordinary women, all of whom in life possessed excessive pride. The god introduces the notion that not all *tengu* are equal; knowledgeable men become *daitengu* (*greater tengu*), but ignorant ones become *kotengu* (*small tengu*).
- Demons of Kurama and Atago are among the most famous *tengu*
- During the 14th century, the *tengu* began to trouble the world outside of the Buddhist clergy, and like their ominous ancestors the *tiāngoǔ*, the *tengu* became creatures associated with war. Legends eventually ascribed to them great knowledge in the art of skilled combat
 - Also, they totes kick @\$\$
- **Yuki Onna (“snow demon”)**
 - 1 ep. Xxxholic
 - Straight up Rukia’s (Bleach) Bankai
 - May also go by such names as *yuki-musume* "snow girl", *yuki-onago* "snow wench", *yukijorō* "snow harlot", *yuki anesa* "snow sis", *yuki-omba* "snow granny or snow nanny", *yukinba* "snow hag" (Ehime), *yukifuri-baba*(?) "snowfall hag"(Nagano)
 - May be the ghost of someone that perished in the snow
 - Until the 18th century, she was almost uniformly portrayed as evil. Today, however, stories often color her as more human, emphasizing her ghost-like nature and ephemeral beauty.
 - She sometimes wears a white kimono, but other legends describe her as nude, with only her face and hair standing out against the snow
 - **How to avoid/encounter:** appears to travelers trapped in snowstorms
 - Will either kill by draining the victim of their life force (perhaps when sleeping), leaving them a frost covered corpse or by causing them to wander in the cold till they die of exposure
 - When a well-intentioned soul takes the "child" from her, they are frozen in place
 - Parents searching for lost children are particularly susceptible to this tactic.
 - Other legends make Yuki-onna much more aggressive. In these stories, she often invades homes, blowing in the door with a gust of

wind to kill residents in their sleep (some legends require her to be invited inside first)

- What Yuki-onna is after varies from tale to tale. Sometimes she is simply satisfied to see a victim die. Other times, she is more vampiric, draining her victims' blood or "life force." ***She occasionally takes on a succubus-like manner, preying on weak-willed men to drain or freeze them through sex or a kiss***
- **Mokumokuren ("many eyes")**
 - Eyes in torn shoji (paper sliding walls)
 - Usually inhabit abandoned houses
 - **How to remove:** patch up those holes in your wall, duh!
 - **Legends:** A stingy traveling merchant once tried to save money by sleeping in an abandoned house rather than sleeping in an inn. Waking in the middle of the night, he was confronted by an (almost) entire shoji screen staring down at him. Instead of becoming scared, he removed the eyeballs from the screen and sold them to a local eye surgeon.
 - In another story, a traveller was determined to remain in the same house as a Mokumokuren, attempting to ignore it by wrapping tightly around his head the blanket he had been sleeping beneath. When he awoke, he discovered that his eyeballs had been removed, and were nowhere to be found. Perhaps his eyes had joined those already entombed in the Mokumokuren...
- **Hanako-san**
 - Young WWII era girl who haunts school bathrooms. She allegedly appears when one shouts her name.
 - **How to encounter/How to avoid/escape:** According to the legend, a person who goes to the third stall in the girls' bathroom on the third floor and knocks three times before asking, "Are you there, Hanako-san," will hear a voice answer, "I'm here." If the person chooses to enter the stall, there will be a small girl in a red skirt.
 - **Variations:** Hanako-san has been noted to have various origins and behaviors, depending on the area or school, and is a widespread legend across Japan. Her appearance can also be different, but is usually that of a young girl with bobbed hair and a red skirt. She can be either mischievous, malevolent or benign.
 - Yamagata prefecture: After Hanako-san has answered and one enters the stall, he or she will find and be eaten by a three-headed lizard who had mimicked a girl's voice.
 - Iwate prefecture: After one has called Hanako-san, a large white hand emerges from the door.

- Kanagawa prefecture: After one has called her, a blood-stained hand will appear.
 - "Hanako" was a common and typical girl's name in Japan during the 1950s when the legend supposedly began.
- **Wanyudo**
 - yokai that is said to take the form of a burning oxcart wheel bearing the tormented face of a man
 - His head is shaved like a monk's in penance for his sins during life
 - If you glimpse at it, will be dragged to Hell or burst into flames
 - Wa-nyūdō are servants of Hell, but spend most of their time on Earth, patrolling for the wicked. They are in constant suffering from the flames and the wheel, and take a sadistic pleasure in inflicting pain on others. When they capture a victim – ideally a wicked criminal or a corrupt priest, but often enough just an ordinary person – they drag their victim back to Hell to be judged and damned. Then the wa-nyūdō returns to Earth to repeat his work until the sins of his former life have been redeemed.
 - **Stories/Variations:** (Based in Kyoto) a woman who peeked out her window at a wa-nyūdō as he passed through town. The demon snarled at her, saying, "Instead of looking at me, have a look at your own child!" She looked back at her baby, who was screaming on the floor in a pool of blood – both of its legs had been completely torn from its body. When she looked back at the wa-nyūdō, the child's legs were in its mouth, being eaten by the mad, grinning monster
 - Another story a pregnant woman peeks & catches the back of it but is spared, only to give birth to ashes (she was not of the village but she had a child from someone who was)
 - **How to avoid:** keep off the roads at night and stay away from all doors and windows to avoid any notice by this demon. The extra-cautious decorate their homes with prayer charms in hopes that the monster will be repulsed and not come near
- * **Katawaguruma ("crippled wheel")**
 - Instead of a giant monk's head stuck in a wheel, katawaguruma appears as a tormented naked woman riding a single, flaming ox-cart wheel, eternally suffering and burning with pain.
 - looks and acts in much the same manner as wa-nyūdō
 - These demons bestow powerful curses on any who see them, and this curse spreads rapidly through town, by the sharing of news and gossip about the katawaguruma. Eventually this can bring calamity upon an entire village.
 - Despite this, there is evidence that the katawaguruma has a capacity for mercy alien to its male counterpart.

- **Legend:** In a 17th century record, when a katawaguruma attacked a village in what is now Shiga, she abducted the child of a woman who dared to peek at her through a crack in her door, saying "Instead of watching me you should have been watching your child!" The woman was distraught and realized her own curiosity was responsible for the loss of her child. She composed a poem expressing her faults, and displayed it all around town, warning others to watch their children more carefully. The next night, the katawaguruma returned and saw that the woman was truly regretful, and returned the child unharmed. The katawaguruma was never seen in that village again.

○ Yurei

- **Basic idea of a yurei (namely, forgetting to honor the dead)**
- **Japanese ghost; name consists of two kanji, (yū), meaning "faint" or "dim" and rei, meaning "soul" or "spirit." Alternative names include Bōrei meaning ruined or departed spirit, Shiryō meaning dead spirit, or the more encompassing Yōkai or Obake**
 - (Obake) Thus 'obake' are preternatural beings who have undergone some sort of change, from the natural realm to the supernatural.
- **Types**
 - **While all Japanese ghosts are called yūrei, within that category there are several specific types of phantom, classified mainly by the manner they died or their reason for returning to Earth.**
 - **Onryō:** Vengeful ghosts who come back from purgatory for a wrong done to them during their lifetime.
 - Will majorly f**k you, & anyone else, up
 - **Most famous Onryo is Oiwa** (haven't visited her grave, not telling it)
 - Visit her grave to essentially ask for permission to tell her story...or be cursed
 - Whenever performers do a play about her life, go through this process before performing; have been cases of 'cursed' things happening if a group performs a play based on her life w/o her permission
 - **Ubume:** A mother ghost who died in childbirth, or died leaving young children behind. This yūrei returns to care for her children, often bringing them sweets.
 - **Goryō:** Vengeful ghosts of the aristocratic class, especially those who were martyred.
 - **Funayūrei:** The ghosts of those who died at sea. These ghosts are sometimes depicted as scaly fish-like

humanoids and some may even have a form similar to that of a mermaid or merman.

- **Zashiki-warashi:** The ghosts of children, often mischievous rather than dangerous.
- **Samurai Ghosts:** Veterans of the Genpei War who fell in battle. Warrior Ghosts almost exclusively appear in Noh Theater. Unlike most other yūrei, these ghosts are usually shown with legs.
- **Seductress Ghosts:** The ghost of a woman or man who initiates a post-death love affair with a living human, as seen in *Botan Dōrō*.
 - **On such story:** Otogi Boko version
 - On the first night of Obon, a beautiful woman and a young girl holding a peony lantern stroll by the house of the widowed samurai Ogiwara Shinnojo. Ogiwara is instantly smitten with the woman, named Otsuyu, and vows an eternal relationship. From that night onward, the woman and the girl visit at dusk, always leaving before dawn. An elderly neighbor, suspicious of the girl, peeks into his home and finds Ogiwara in bed with a skeleton. Consulting a Buddhist priest, Ogiwara finds that he is in danger unless he can resist the woman, and he places a protection charm on his house. The woman is then unable to enter his house, but calls him from outside. Finally, unable to resist, Ogiwara goes out to greet her, and is led back to her house, a grave in a temple. In the morning, Ogiwara's dead body is found entwined with the woman's skeleton.

- **Buddhist ghosts: Gaki & Jikininki**

- Both are examples of unfulfilled earthly hungers being carried on after death. They are different from other classifications of yūrei due to their wholly religious nature.

- **Ikiryō**

- A living ghost that can enact its will while still alive
- Famous example, Rokujo no Miyasundokoro, from the novel *The Tale of Genji*

- **Everyone Else**

- **Hone onna** (“bone woman”)

- Not all who die turn into vengeful beings of grudge and jealousy. Hone onna retain an undying love that persists long after their flesh has rotted away, allowing them to continue to be with the object of their affection despite having died.
- These ghosts appear as they did in life – young, beautiful women in their prime.
- Only those unclouded by love or with strong religious faith are able to see through their disguise to their true form: rotting, fetid skeletal corpses returned from the grave.
- At night, a hone onna arises from the grave and wanders to the house of her former lover. Her appearance is a great shock to those who had believed her to be dead. This shock quickly turns into such joy that it blinds them to any clues that something might be wrong. Even the hone onna herself does not know of her condition, as she is driven only by love; she exists as a ghost only to continue the love she had in life. She spends the night and leaves in the morning, and this unholy coupling can continue for days or even weeks without being noticed. Each night she drains some of her lover's life force, and he grows ever sicker and weaker. Without intervention, he will eventually die, joining his lover forever in death's embrace.
- **Warding:** can put charms around the house & using prayers/magic, but they only work as well as the owner believes in them
 - As her body decays further, her enchanting allure only increases, and eventually most men succumb and let her into their homes one last time, sacrificing their own lives to the ghost of the woman they loved.
- **Legends:** Perhaps the most famous hone onna story is that of Otsuyu from Botan Dōrō, the Tale of the Peony Lantern. It has been adapted into puppet shows, kabuki plays, rakugo, and film, and remains a famous and influential ghost story today.
- **Basan (onomatopoeic; the sound of its flapping wings)**
 - Very rare birds found only in the mountains of Ehime, on the island of Shikoku.
 - They are roughly the size of a turkey, and shaped like a chicken. They are easily recognized by their brilliantly colored plumage and bright red comb, which appears like tongues of flame.
 - Their most notable feature is their breath, which flows visibly from their mouth just as a dragon's fire; however, the flame gives off no heat, nor does it ignite combustible material.
 - When pleased or startled, basan beat their wings, creating the distinctive rustling "basabasa" sound from which they get their name.

People who have witnessed this action report that the birds vanish into thin air when they realize they have been noticed.

- Nocturnal
- Diet consists of charred wood and embers, and they have been known to occasionally wander into remote villages at night to feast on the remains of bonfires or charcoal
- **Uji no Hashihime (“the maiden of the bridge”, in this case the bridge Uji)**
 - Hashihime are intensely jealous goddesses who inhabit bridges — in particular, very old and very long bridges.
 - As goddesses, hashihime may take different forms depending on occasion, however they are commonly depicted wearing white robes, white face-paint, an iron trivet, and carrying five candles. This is a ceremonial outfit used to perform curses.
 - Ferociously guard the bridges they inhabit.
 - As with most gods connected to a location, they are very competitive and jealous. If one praises or speaks positively about another bridge while on top of a hashihime’s bridge, or if one recites lines from certain Noh plays that feature a woman’s wrath as the main theme, something terrible is likely to happen to that person.
 - **Legends:** The most famous hashihime story comes from *Tsurugi no Maki*, in *The Tale of the Heike*, and is retold in the noh play *Kanawa*.
 - (con’t) A woman visited the Kifune-jinja in Kyoto at the hour of the ox (roughly 2 am), filled with rage and jealousy towards her ex-husband who had thrown her away for another woman. Night after night she visited the shrine, praying to the gods enshrined there to turn her into a powerful demon. The woman wanted nothing else other than to see her ex-husband destroyed, even at the cost of her own life. After seven nights of pilgrimage, her prayers were answered: the gods told her that if she immersed herself in the Uji river for twenty-one nights, she would become a living demon.
 - (con’t) The woman did as she was bid. She donned a white robe and tied her hair up into five horns. She painted her face and covered her body in crimson dye. She placed an upturned trivet on her head and attached torches to each foot. She lit a torch on both ends and placed it in her mouth. She immersed herself in the Uji river and for twenty-one days she kindled the hatred in her heart. Then, just as the gods told her, after twenty-one days she transformed into a terrible kijo with supreme power. She had become the hashihime of Uji.

- (con't) That night, her husband awoke from a horrible dream with a premonition of danger. He quickly sought out the famous onmyōji, Abe-no-Seimei. Seimei recognized the dream as a sign that the man's former wife would come and destroy the couple that very night, and promised to save them. He went to their house, recited magical prayers, and crafted two katashiro — magical paper doll representations of the man and his wife, meant to be used as substitutionary targets for the kijo's rage. That night, as Seimei had predicted, the demon appeared. She attacked the two katashiro instead of the real couple, and Seimei's magic worked: her power was reflected back upon her and she was driven away. The demon woman, realizing that she could not overcome Abe-no-Seimei's magic, vanished, threatening that she would come back another time.
- **Kama Itachi ("sickle weasel")**
 - Itachi have learned to ride the swirling whirlwinds of this cold region.
 - They have claws that are as strong as steel and as sharp as razors. Their fur is spiny like a hedgehog, and they bark like a dog. They move so quickly that they are invisible to the naked eye, and they come and go with the wind.
 - Kama itachi travel and attack in threes, striking out at people from thin air.
 - The first kama itachi slices at its victim's legs, knocking him to the ground. The second one uses its fore and hind legs to slice up the prone victim with thousands of dreadful cuts. The third one then applies a magical salve which heals up the majority of the wounds instantly, so that none of them proves fatal
 - The attack and the healing happen so fast that the victim cannot perceive them; from his perspective he merely trips and gets up with a bit of pain and a few scratches here and there.
 - One theory about the kama itachi's origin is that it is only a joke: a play on words based on a sword fighting stance known as kamae tachi.
 - However, legends of invisible beasts that ride the wind and attack humans in a similar manner are found in all regions of Japan, and the sickle weasel remains a popular explanation for these incidents throughout the country.
- **Aka Manto ("Red Cape")**
 - malicious spirit who haunts public and school toilets
 - Often described as a beautiful man in life and hounded constantly by admirers, he now wears a mask to hide his face

- **How to avoid/how it tricks you:** If you are sitting on the toilet (usually the last stall), a mysterious voice will ask you if you want red paper or blue paper...
 - If you answer red paper, you will be sliced apart until your clothes are stained red. If you choose blue paper, you will be strangled until your face turns blue. Any attempt to outsmart Aka Manto by asking for a different color will result in you being dragged to the Netherworld. The only correct answer is to say no paper and he will leave you alone
- **Variations:** Aka Manto is sometimes referred to as Aoi Manto (Blue Cape).
 - Sometimes the voice will ask you if you want a cape rather than paper. If you agree to red, the skin on your back is ripped off to resemble a red cape. If you ask for blue, all the blood is drained from your body.
 - One popular version of the story changes the choice from red paper to a red vest:
 - A police man and woman were called to a school after a student reported hearing a male voice in the girl's bathroom. The police woman went to the bathroom while her male partner waited outside. When inside the stall a voice asked "Shall we put on the red vest?" The police man outside, who was listening at the door, heard his partner answer "Yes". A sudden scream and loud thud followed. When the policeman opened the bathroom door, he found the police woman decapitated. Her blood had soaked into her vest, turning it red.[2]
- Another version of the story says that if you ask for yellow cloak, you will have your head forced into the toilet you've just used.
- **Jorogumo ("entangling bride/whore spider")**
 - Their name is written with kanji that mean "entangling bride." However, these characters were added on to her name much later to cover up the original meaning of the name: "whore spider."
 - In Japan, some spiders are known to possess amazing supernatural powers. One of these, the jorōgumo, known as the golden orb-weaver in English, is the most well-known of the arachnid yokai
 - Live solitary lives, both as spiders and as yokai. When a golden orb-weaver reaches 400 years of age, it develops magical powers and begins to feed on human prey instead of insects.
 - Skillful deceivers and powerful shapeshifters, usually spending their lives appearing as young, sexy, and stunningly beautiful women

- Jorōgumo’s favorite prey is young, handsome men who are looking for love. When a jorōgumo spots a man she desires, she invites him into her home, and he is usually never seen again.
 - Her shadow is that of a spider
- **Tsuchigumo (“ground spider”)**
 - **Known as the purseweb spider in English, can be found all over the Japanese islands and throughout much of the world.**
 - Long-lived tsuchigumo can transform into yokai, and grow to a monstrous size, able to catch much larger prey (particularly humans).
 - **Tsuchigumo live in the forests and mountains, making their homes in silk tubes from which they ambush prey that passes by.** Like other spider yokai, they rely on illusion and trickery to deceive humans into letting down their guard. While the jorōgumo uses her sexuality to seduce young men, the tsuchigumo has a wider selection forms of deception, and often has bigger ambitions in mind.
- **Kekkai**
 - **Kind of sankai, childbirth monster**
 - **Their hair is said to grow in backwards, and they have two tongues: one red and one white. They are sometimes born from pregnant mothers instead of human babies.**
 - When a kekkai emerges, covered in blood and amniotic fluid, it quickly scampers away from its mother and tries to escape. This is most often accomplished through the irori, or earthen hearth, a common feature in old country houses. It either burrows down beneath the floorboards, or climbs up the long pothook which hangs above the irori and flees.
 - If the kekkai is able to escape, it will return later to kill its mother. It does this by burrowing up through the floorboards and into its sleeping mother, tearing her apart.
- **Ittan Momen (“one bolt of cotton”)**
 - **Formed from a roll of cotton**
 - **Native to Kagoshima, and can be seen flying through the sky at night, occasionally attacking people**
 - Attacks by wrapping its body around a person’s face and neck, strangling or smothering them to death
 - As far as tsukumogami go, they are fairly malicious and often dangerous or deadly instead of simply mischievous.
- **Isonade**
 - **mysterious shark-like sea monsters which scour the rocky coastlines searching for boats to scuttle and fishermen to snatch**

- Their bodies are enormous, and their fins are covered with countless tiny metallic barbs, like a grater. They use these to hook their prey, dragging it deep into the water to be eaten.
- They are said to appear when the north winds blow and the sea currents change.
- They can swim without creating so much as a splash, making them very difficult to notice. By the time most sailors have noticed that the winds have changed and a strange color is upon the sea, it is too late; a huge tail is already rising out of the water, above their heads.
- When isonade strike, they do not thrash about violently like a hungry shark, but instead hook their prey on their fins or tail with a gentle stroking motion, dragging them into the depths almost peacefully.
- They do this without a sound and without ever showing their bodies, making them all the more dangerous for their stealth.
- **Bakekujira (“ghost whale”)**
 - Animated whale skeletons which sail near the surface of the sea, rising as they did in life when they would have had to breathe.
 - They are followed by a host of eerie birds and strange fish.
 - They appear on rainy nights near coastal whaling villages.
 - Seek revenge against the humans who took their lives
 - Those who witness a bakekujira are infected with its horrible curse, which they bring back to their villages when they return home. The whale’s curse brings famine, plague, fires, and other kinds of disasters to the villages it hits.
- **Hyosube**
 - cousins of kappa and garappa, but much more savage and belligerent
 - name is said to come from the “hyo- hyo-” sound they make
 - hyōsube’s thick hair builds up a lot of dirt and grime, and they love nothing more than to sneak into houses at night and slip into the bathtub.
 - When a hyōsube finds a bathtub it likes, it will often return every night, leaving a thick scum of greasy body hair and a horrible stench to be found in the morning
 - Hyōsube are capricious, insolent, and extremely dangerous. A person who simply looks at a hyōsube may be struck with a terrible and highly contagious fever, which can quickly spread and turn into an epidemic.
 - Hyōsube cackle with an evil laughter which is also quite contagious; an unlucky person who hears a hyōsube laugh, and who laughs himself, will be struck with a sudden fever and die within hours.

- **Legends:** unlucky owner of such a house emptied the bathwater and threw out the hair and grease. This angered the hyōsube so much that it slaughtered the owner's horse the next night.
 - In another story, some hyōsube hairs dumped from a bathtub landed on a nearby horse, and the animal promptly dropped dead.
 - In yet another tale, a woman spied on a hyōsube ravaging her eggplant garden; the next morning her entire body had turned purple, and she died soon after that.
- Farmers living in areas inhabited by hyōsube often leave offerings of the first eggplants harvested in hopes that the hyōsube will spare their fields for the remainder of the year. Those who do not leave offerings occasionally find their fields trampled in anger
- **Akaname ("red/filth licker")**
 - **B/c of name, why it's often depicted as red**
 - Its body is naked, its skin greasy like its hair. Akaname come in many colors and varieties, ranging from a dark mottled green reminiscent of mold, to the ruddy pink color of bedsores. They come in both one-eyed and two-eyed varieties, and can have anywhere from one to five fingers and toes
 - personification of the fear of using a dark bathroom late at night
 - **said to come out at night to literally lick up the grime and dirt that accumulates in unclean bathrooms**
 - **They are shy and stay clear of humans, scattering in the light like cockroaches.**
 - They can spread disease, however, so it is a good idea to keep bathrooms and houses clean enough that akaname do not wish to settle down.
- **Rokurokubi/Nukekubi**
 - **Two types, the ones whose necks stretch, and the ones whose heads come off and fly around freely (nukekubi)**
 - **Usually found in brothels**
 - By day, rokurokubi appear to be ordinary women. By night, however, their bodies sleep while their necks stretch to an incredible length and roam around freely
 - **Rokurokubi and their close relatives nukekubi are former humans, transformed by a curse resulting from some evil or misdeed.**
 - **Perhaps they sinned against the gods or nature, or were unfaithful to their husbands.**
 - **In many cases their husbands or fathers actually committed the sin, but by some cruel twist of fate the men escape punishment and the women receive the curse instead**

- Curse only affects women, even though the cause of it may not be their own.

- **Nuppeppo**

- Appears as a blob of flesh with a hint of a face in the folds of fat. It is also described as having fingers and toes that are vaguely defined lumps.
- Nuppeppō is passive and unaggressive. The body odor is said to rival that smell of rotting flesh
 - Or it IS decaying flesh
- Rumor that states that those who eat the flesh shall have eternal youth.
- Aimlessly wanders deserted streets of villages, towns and cities, often at night towards the year-end, or graveyards or abandoned temples
 - normally solitary

- **Nurikabe**

- Manifests as a wall that impedes or misdirects walking travelers at night
 - Trying to go around is futile as it extends itself forever
- Created to explain travelers losing their bearings on long journeys
 - Appear late at night
- Little is known about the true appearance of nurikabe because these yokai are usually said to be invisible
 - However, modern representations of the nurikabe depict it as a plain, gray, bipedal wall with vague face-like features
- **How to avoid/exorcise:** Knocking on the lower left part of the wall makes it disappear
- It is said that if one taps it near the ground with a stick, it will vanish

- **Oboroguruma (“gloom cart”)**

- Yokai of a bullock cart that is said to run over anyone in its path
- Has the appearance of the woman's face infused on it because she was killed by an ox driven cart as she was out selling her goods
 - “Many have stated that the face of a moaning and crying woman can be seen on the back of it”
 - Who the f*** are these ppl.???
- In Japan it is a symbol of anger from someone who has long died and feels the pain of having to live cursed forever as an object.

- **Konaki jiji (“Old man crying”)**

- The Konaki-jiji is said to be able to take the appearance of an old man or a baby. In either case, the spirit lures an unwary bystander towards it and allows him or her to pick it up. After the spirit is picked up, it suddenly becomes a heavy stone that crushes the victim to death.

- In some versions of Konaki-jiji stories, the spirit is that of a baby left to die in the wilderness.
- **Shirime**
 - **EYE ANUS!**
 - **Legend:** Long ago, a samurai was walking at night down the road to Kyōto, when he heard someone calling out for him to wait. "Who's there?!" he asked nervously, only to turn around and find a man stripping off his clothes and pointing his bare buttocks at the flabbergasted traveler. A huge glittering eye then opened up where the strange man's anus should have been.
- **Teke teke**
 - **The Teke Teke is a Japanese urban legend about the ghost of a young woman, or school girl, who fell on a rail way line and was cut in half by the oncoming train.**
 - **Legend/Stories:** As a young school boy was walking home at night, he spotted a beautiful young girl standing by a windowsill resting on her elbows. They smiled at each other for a moment. The boy wondered what a girl was doing in an all-boys school, but before he could wonder more about the girl she jumped out of the window and revealed her lower half was missing. Frightened, he stood in the sidewalk, but before he could run she cut the boy in half.
 - **2nd story/legend (alt version):** A very similar urban legend concerns another girl, Kashima Reiko, who died on the train tracks and lost her legs. Kashima Reiko, appears to be an abbreviation of Kamen Shinin Ma (Mask, dead person demon).
 - **How to encounter/How to avoid/escape:** Kashima haunts bathroom stalls and will ask the occupant where her legs are. Answering incorrectly will result in having your legs ripped off. To save yourself, you must tell her that her legs are at the Meishin Railway and answer Kashima Reiko if she asks you who told you this. Sometimes she will ask you what her name is, which is a trick question.
 - Answering "Kashima Reiko" will result in her attacking you. The correct answer is "Mask Death Demon," derived from the meaning of her name.
- **Makura-Gaeshi**
 - **They take the form of a small child dressed as a Niō, a monk, or a samurai, and appear in bedrooms late at night.**
 - **Flips or moves your pillow while you sleep**
 - **May also run through ashes & leave dirty footprints all over the room they haunt**

- On the more dangerous side, will lift your bed/tatami mat & may bounce them around, sit on occupants chest & squeeze the wind out of them, sleep paralysis; if you see one, will lose consciousness & have your soul robbed, leaving the victim dead
- **Anime/OVAs (arrange according to clusterf**ks & focused)**
 - Bleach
 - Like YuYu Hakusho but w/ Kyo (Fruits Basket)
 - Dusk Maiden Amnesia
 - Ghost seeing boy meets ghost in haunted/abandoned part of middle school
 - BlazBlue (since there's an anime)
 - Anime based off a fight game w/ a super complicated obtuse plot that involves time travel, magic weapons that will corrupt you, & ancient Japanese gods...somehow
 - Ghost Stories
 - Children exorcising ghosts/demons in their school
 - Dub only ☺
 - Inari, Konkon, Koi Iroha
 - One day, after rescuing a fox pup named Kon from falling into a river, Inari is greeted by the shrine god [Uka-no-Mitama-no-Kami](#), who gives Inari a portion of her power, allowing her to transform her appearance to that of any other human; basically greeted by the kami of the same name
 - Houzuki no Reitetsu
 - Jigoku as a bureaucracy ☺
 - InuYasha
 - Girl falls in a well, is transported to feudal Japan (to a rural village), adventures ensue
 - 1st movie, legend of the celestial robe
 - Mononoke
 - Follows the ventures of a wandering 'medecine seller' (who is unnamed) & is primarily made up w/ his dealings w/ exorcising mononoke, type of ayakashi (unnatural spirit). Basically, Mushishi but w/ Ayakashi & *spoiler for protag*
 - Kekkaishi
 - Like InuYasha but based in 'present' day Japan & centers around the school of the main character; also, less annoying characters (for the most part)
 - Kamisama Kiss
 - Like Fruits Basket, but w/ yokai

- Momo Kyun Sword
 - Based on the Momotaro myth/lore + b00bs
- Gingitsune: Messenger Fox of the Gods
 - Shrine miko (Makoto Saeki) + messenger of kami Inari watching over the shrine dedicated to Ukanomitama (assoc. w/ food & agriculture, sometimes identified w/ Inari, deity of rice; translates to “the spirit of the rice in storehouses”) & is the 15th generation heiress
- Naruto
 - Some of the summonings & characters
- Petshop of Horrors
 - Clients come looking for pets, get “pets” from the count (that look like their long lost loved one), & only need to follow 3 rules to maintain their newfound “pet”
 - Kirin, last OVA episode
- Noragami
 - Minor kami of calamity, trying to (re)make a name for himself & grant wishes along the way
- Natsume Yuujinchou (Natsume’s Book of Friends)
 - Inherits a book of spirits from his grandma once she passes, spends his time dissolving said contracts & releasing the spirits.
Assisted/advised by Nyanko-sensei, Madara, who also acts as a bodyguard to him to protect him from the more malicious spirits
- Nurarihyon no Mago (Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan)
 - Follows a 1/3 yokai, human by day yokai by night, trying to escape his fate to succeed his grandfather as 3rd head of the Nura clan.
Eventually accepts his fate but still tries to help humans.
- Pokemon
 - Lots of the Pokemon have mythological routes
- *Lots from Miyazaki
 - Princess Mononoke
 - Spirited Away
 - Pom Poko (Tanuki)
- RDG: Red Data Girl
 - Girl, Izumiko, finds out she’s possessed by a Shinto spirit known as a kami, Himegami
- Shounen Onmyouji
 - Follows the ventures of Abe no Masahiro, grandson to the famous onmyouji (more or less exorcists) Abe no Seimei; dreams of surpassing his famous grandpa (& regain his 6th sense)
- Youkai Watch
 - Like Pokemon but catching yokai. Mascot yokai = nekomata
- xxxHolic

- Wish granting witch along w/ the spirit seeing Watanuki & anti-ghost b.s. Doumeki & their adventures
 - Ceres, Celestia Legend
 - 1st InuYasha movie
 - The Tale of the Princess Kaguya
- **Live action**
 - *Kirin Rider/The Great Yokai War
 - Hodge podge of multiple yokai, yurei, etc.
 - Housu
 - Haunted house adventures; horror/comedy
- **Other notes**
 - Tsukimogami = household spirits
 - Usually just mischievous, but some are malicious/deadly
 - Brothel yokai!
 - Generally, anything 100+ yrs. old will have a soul
 - & be kinda a d**k, scare you s***less, or try to kill you >.>
 - Honestly, if it's some type of animal, especially if it's old, has some sort of supernatural qualities
 - & will also try to/will kill your face & family >.>
 - Can shapeshift to some degree
- **Resources**
 - <http://yokai.com/>
 - Great source!
 - Translated Japanese Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird and the Strange
 - <http://hyakumonogatari.com/>
 - <http://io9.com/14-terrifying-japanese-monsters-myths-and-spirits-1498740680>
 - Types of yurei: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Y%C5%ABrei>
 - <http://mentalfloss.com/article/59737/10-horrifying-demons-and-spirits-japanese-folklore>
 - Great/huge list of Japanese mythical figures <https://gist.github.com/seaofclouds/645490>
 - <http://boredbug.com/weirdest-mythical-creatures-from-japanese-folklore/>
 - <http://listverse.com/2010/01/20/10-bizarre-creatures-from-japanese-folklore/>
 - Yokai Wiki: http://yokai.wikia.com/wiki/Y%C5%8Dkai_Wiki
 - List of anime w/ Japanese myth & lore
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Japanese_mythology_in_anime_and_manga
 - (specifically Kamisama Kiss) <http://www.animenewsnetwork.com/advertorial/2015-01-27/kamisama-kiss-and-japanese-mythology/.83755>

- (great list) <http://www.anime-planet.com/anime/tags/japanese-mythology>
- (great book) <http://www.amazon.com/Japanese-Mythology-Film-Semiotic-Approach/dp/073919092X>, Japanese Mythology in Film: A Semiotic Approach to Reading Japanese Film and Anime
- http://www.amazon.com/Japanese-Aesthetics-Anime-Influence-Tradition/dp/0786471514/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1438564600&sr=8-1-fkmr0&keywords=%EF%82%A7%09Japanese+Aesthetics+and+Anime%3A+The+Influence+of+Tradition, Japanese Aesthetics and Anime: The Influence of Tradition By Dani Cavallaro
- Hanako-san
 - <http://anitasnotebook.com/2014/10/legend-of-hanako-san-spooky-japanese-ghost-of-the-school-bathroom.html>
- Further reading
 - <http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Iz-Le/Japanese-Mythology.html>
 - [Yokai Attack!: The Japanese Monster Survival Guide](#)
 - [Pandemonium and Parade: Japanese Monsters and the Culture of Yokai](#)