

AKIRA 『アキラ』

- *Manga (comic)* by Katsuhiro ŌTOMO
 - 1982–1990 in *Young Magazine* (cca 2000 pgs.)
 - In 6 volumes published in Kōdansha
- *Animated movie* in 1988
 - dir.: Katsuhiro ŌTOMO



Struggles of adolescence

- Kaneda and Tetsuo
- Tetsuo's lack of strength → frustration
- Power – too much to handle
- → Destruction
- Symbol of Japan of the late 80s (?)
 - Kaneda = U.S.A.
 - Tetsuo = Japan



Metamorphosis

- “Sense of disaster being visited at the level of the body itself.”
- Crossing gender boundaries
- “Body horror”
- Questions of identity



Double symbolism in *AKIRA*

- 1. Individual level:** Child's transformation rooted in the need to be accepted in the world of adults.
- 2. Social level:** Fears of apocalypse caused by the impotence of people to control powers of transformation; dealing with modernity.