



Japan



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The following list is a sampling of the books we have on this subject. Children's, teen, and adult books are included here. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Beyond Me

by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu

J F DONWERTH CHIKAMAT

Eleven-year-old Maya survived a major earthquake and now, in the aftermath, needs strength to overcome her fears to help others at home and in northeast Japan, where a tsunami caused great damage. 290 pages

A Place to Belong

by Cynthia Kadohata

J F KADOHATA

Reeling from their confinement in an internment camp in the United States, 12-year-old Hanako and her family renounce their American citizenship to move to Hiroshima, a city devastated by the atomic bomb. Now she struggles to adjust to find her place in the world. 405 pages

The Japanese Tsunami, 2011

by Lauren Tarshis

J F TARSHIS

Ben and his family visit Japan after the death of their father and are swept away and pulled apart when a terrible tsunami hits their uncle's coastal village. 83 pages

How Do You Live?

by Genzaburo Yoshino

J F YOSHINO

Copper struggles to confront inevitable and enormous change after his father's death and his uncle writes to him in a journal, sharing knowledge and advice in 1937 Japan. 280 pages

Eliza's Cherry Trees

by Andrea Griffing Zimmerman

J BIO SCIDMORE

Eliza Scidmore had an idea to bring the famous Japanese Cherry Blossom Trees to her home, Washington D.C. In this book there are beautiful pictures depicting that journey and how she was inspired to get this gift from Japan. 32 pages

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

by Caren B Stelson

J BIO YASUI

Tells the story of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki through the eyes of Sachiko Yasui, who was six when the devastation was wrought, describing her experiences in the aftermath of the attack as well as her long journey to find peace. 144 pages

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Flame in the Mist

by Renee Ahdieh

YA F AHDIEH

The daughter of a prominent samurai, Mariko has long known her place. She may be an accomplished alchemist, whose cunning rivals that of her twin brother Kenshin, but because she is not a boy, her future has always been out of her hands. 392 pages

Seven Deadly Shadows

by Courtney Alameda

YA F ALAMEDA

Seventeen-year-old Kira Fujikawa is not your typical Japanese high school student. She is a Miko in training and she can see yokai, the ghosts and demons. After her family shrine gets attacked she must enlist the aid of seven powerful death gods to help her slay Shuten-doji, the demon king, on the next blood moon. 376 pages

We are Not Free

by Traci Chee

YA F CHEE

Teenagers in a Japanese American community in Southern California experience racism and abuse in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor. 384 pages

Samurai Shortstop

by Alan Gratz

YA F GRATZ

While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, 16-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father. 280 pages

Tokyo Ever After

by Emiko Jean

YA F JEAN

California raised Izumi discovers that her father is the Crown Prince of Japan and her life changes when she must embrace Japanese imperial life. 322 pages

I Love You So Mochi

by Sarah Kuhn

YA F KUHN

Kimi Nakamura loves nothing more than transforming the outfits of her friends into expressions of their "Ultimate Selves" but her mother thinks it's a waste of time. After a fight, Kimi goes to live in Kyoto with her grandparents and she is surrounded by her heritage. Living there helps her understand her mother better than ever before. 308 pages

The Blossom and the Firefly

by Sherri L. Smith

YA F SMITH

Japan 1945. Taro is a kamikaze pilot in the days before his first and only mission. He believes he is ready to die for his country, until he meets Hana. Hana was buried alive during a bomb raid and wonders if it would have been better to have died, until she meets Taro. Is it possible to live an entire lifetime in eight short days? 310 pages

Displacement

by Kiku Hughes

YA COMICS HUGHES

On vacation to San Francisco, Kiku finds herself stuck back in time in a 1940s Japanese-American internment camp. Living alongside her young grandmother and other Japanese-American citizens in internment camps, Kiku gets the education she never received in history class. 274 pages

Sumo

by Thien Pham

YA COMICS PHAM

A washed-up American football player finds a new life in sumo wrestling. 96 pages

ADULT FICTION

The Travelling Cat Chronicles

by Hiro Arikawa

F ARIKAWA

With his crooked tail- a sign of good fortune- and adventurous spirit, Nana is the perfect companion for the man who took him in as a stray. They travel across Japan and as they explore the ever-changing scenery in the various seasons they learn the true meaning of courage and gratitude. 277 pages

The Woman in the White Kimono

by Ana Johns

F JOHNS

Oceans and decades apart, two women are inextricably bound by the secrets between them. In Japan 1957, 17-year-old Naoko is in love with an American soldier and carries his child. In present day America, Tori Kovac finds a letter containing a shocking revelation that leads her halfway around the world. 341 pages

Fifty Words for Rain

by Asha Lemmie

F LEMMIE

Kyoto, Japan, 1948. Child of a Japanese aristocrat and her African American lover, Nori is an outsider from birth. Her grandparents take her in to conceal her, fearful of staining the royal pedigree. When Nori meets her half-brother, she forms an unlikely bond and starts to think there is a place for her in the world. 452 pages

Kamusari Tales Told at Night

by Shion Miura

F MIURA

It's been a year since Yuki Hirano left home—or more precisely, was booted from it—to study forestry in the remote mountain village of Kamusari. Being a woodsman is not the future he imagined, but he's adapting to his job, learning constantly, and recording local legends. A spirit-lifting novel about tradition, first love, and ancient lore in a Japanese mountain village. 177 pages

Fish Swimming in Dappled Sunlight

by Riku Onda

F ONDA

Set in Tokyo over the course of one night, the relationship between Aki and Hiro has broken down after a mountain trek during which their guide died inexplicably. Now each believes the other to be a murderer and is determined to extract a confession before the night is over. 204 pages

Shadow Child

by Rahna R. Rizzuto

F RIZZUTO

A haunting and suspenseful literary tale set in 1970s New York City and World War II-era Japan, about three strong women, the dangerous ties of family and identity, and the long shadow our histories can cast. 341 pages

There's No Such Thing as an Easy Job

by Kikuko Tsumura

F TSUMURA

A recently burnt out woman search for meaning in the modern workplace. Her search for a job that 'requires no reading, no writing, and ideally, very little thinking', sets a gripping plot in motion – while illuminating Japan's working culture, plus our potential to affect change in the world through our work. 401 pages

Idol, Burning

by Rin Usami

F USAMI

When rumors surface that her idol assaulted a female fan, social media explodes. Akari immediately begins sifting through everything she can find about the scandal, and shares every detail to her blog—including Masaki's denials and pleas to his fans—drawing numerous readers eager for her updates. 134 pages

A Death in Tokyo

by Keigo Higashino

MYSTERY HIGASHINO

Tokyo Police Detective Kaga finds himself forced to try and makes sense of an unusual murder... 363 pages

Ichiro

by Ryan Inzana

GRAPHIC NOVELS INZANA

Raised by a Japanese mother in New York City, his American father killed in a war, Ichiro finds it difficult to figure out where he fits in. A trip to Japan leaves the boy with his grandfather. One night he gets dragged down a hole by a monster into the domain of the gods. Will Ichiro ever find a place to call home? 275 pages

NONFICTION

Pure Invention

by Matt Alt

306.3095 ALT

In the 70s and 80s, Japan soared on the superior technology of Sony and Toyota while the west struggled to catch up. The 1990's stock-market crash should have plunged Japan into irrelevance; instead its cultural clout soared. Alt reveals how Japanese ingenuity remade global culture and may have created modern life as we know it. 352 pages

Samurai in 100 Objects

by Stephen R. Turnbull

355.0095 TUR

Explore the story of the Samurai through their own objects carefully selected and gathered from Japanese locations and from museums around the world. These priceless artifacts include castles, memorial statues, paintings and prints, along with their famous armor and weapons. See why they live on in stories and film to this day. 206 pages

Bridge to the Sun

by Bruce B. Henderson

940.5308 HEN

The true story of the Japanese American soldiers who helped fight the war in the pacific in World War II. 448 pages

Uprooted: The Japanese-American Experience During World War II

by Albert Marrin

YA 940.5317 MAR

Takes a magnifying glass to the history of racism in America and follows the treacherous path that led one of the nation's most beloved presidents to make the decision to put over 100,000 citizens in camps for four years. It also tells the history of Japan and its own struggle with racism and xenophobia which led to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, ultimately tying the two countries together. 246 pages

Exploring the Life, Myth, and Art of Japan

by Tony Allan

YA 952 ALL

With information on Japanese myths and culture, as well as a discussion of the legacy of these myths, readers will gain a greater understanding and respect for the ancient culture and mythology of Japan. 146 pages

Japan

by Ann Heinrichs

YA 952 HEI

Describes the history, geography, plants and animals, economy, language, people and culture of the island nation of Japan. 144 pages

Japan

by Rex Shelley

YA 952 SHE

Part of the Cultures of the World series, this book provides a wealth of information on Japan, including environment, politics, culture, and history. With an abundance of vibrant photographs, this book will stimulate the imaginations of young readers as they learn about Japan. 144 pages

Samurai: The Last Warrior

by John Man

952.025 MAN

The complete and authentic history of the most elite class of warriors' profiles; one of the most infamous samurai of all time – Saigo Takamori – from his birth to his glorious death by ritual suicide that brought about the end of hundreds of years of Samurai tradition. 321 pages

Samurai: An Encyclopedia of Japan's Cultured Warriors

by Constantine Nomikos Vaporis

952.025 VAP

A detailed look inside the samurai and their way of life during the Tokugawa or Edo period (1603-1868). Includes a narrative timeline and explains topics such as ritual suicides, castles, weapons, housing, clothing, samurai women, and more. 419 pages

A Beginner's Guide to Japan

by Pico Iyer

952.05 IYE

Iyer admits that Japan is an enigma, even to those who have lived in the country for decades. He recounts the adventures he went on and the observations he had as he travelled throughout the intriguing country and crafts those stories in this playful and profound book. 223 pages

Bending Adversity

by David Pilling

952.0511 PIL

The author argues that the Japanese may use the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and consequent terrifying meltdown at the nuclear complex at Fukushima, to stimulate their economy and turn it into a mature economy, comfortable in itself, with satisfactory growth and a senior and respected seat in the global parliament. 382 pages

Ghosts of the Tsunami

by Richard Lloyd Parry

952.0512 PAR

The Tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 was Japan's greatest single loss of life since the atomic bomb. Richard Lloyd Parry lived through the earthquake in Tokyo and spent six years reporting from the disaster zone. This is an intimate account of an epic tragedy, told through the accounts of those who lived through it. 295 pages

Samurai Rising

by Pamela Turner

YA BIO MINAMOTO

Documents the true story of the legendary samurai who was raised in the household of the enemies who killed his father before being sent to live in a monastery where, against the odds, he learned and perfected his fighting skills. 236 pages

Showa: A History of Japan

by Shigeru Mizuki

GRAPHIC NOVELS 952.033 MIZ

This is a meticulously researched historical portrait of 20th century Japan. Mizuki's photo-realist style effortlessly brings Japan to life, making history compelling for young audiences as well as mature readers. 533 pages

They Called Us Enemy

by George Takei

GRAPHIC NOVELS BIO TAKEI

A beautiful graphic memoir of actor George Takei's childhood spent in American concentration camps during World War II. Read his firsthand account of those early years spent behind barbed wire and the joys and terrors of growing up under legalized racism. 204 pages



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