

The following titles provide insight into the vast changes in Japanese Literature over the past hundred years. Titles are available at IVPL in either the Adult Fiction or Young Adult Fiction collections or starred titles\* can be obtained through inter-library loan.

Adult
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Ariyoshi, Sawako  
The Doctor's Wife\*  
The River Ki\*

Akutagawa, Ryunosuke  
Rashomon and Other Stories\*

Dazai, Osamu  
Blue Bamboo\*  
No Longer Human\*

Endo, Shusaku  
Deep River\*  
Silence\*

Hino, Ashihei  
Wheat and Soldiers\*

Ikeda, Diasaku  
Letters of Four Seasons

Inoue, Yasushi  
Chronicle of My Mother\*  
Wind and Waves\*

Ishikawa, Tatsuzo  
Soldiers Alive\*

Kawabata, Yasunari  
The Old Capital\*  
Palm of the hand Stories\*  
Snow Country\*  
Thousand Cranes\*

Kirino, Natsuo  
Out

Kobayashi, Takiji  
The Cannery Boat\*

Kuroshima, Denji  
A Flock of Swirling Crows and Other Proletarian Writings\*

Matsumoto, Seicho  
Points and Lines\*  
Inspector Imanishi Investigates\*

Matsuno, Masako  
A Pair of Red Clogs

Mishima, Yukio  
After the Banquet\*  
Confessions of A Mask\*  
The Decay of the Angel  
Runaway Horses  
Spring Snow  
Sound of Waves\*  
Sun and Steel  
The Temple of Dawn

Miyabe, Miyuki  
All She Was Worth  
Crossfire\*  
Shadow Family\*

Mori, Ogai  
The Wild Geese\*

Murakami, Haruki  
After The Quake  
Dance, Dance, Dance\*  
Hard-Broiled Wonderland and the End of the World\*  
Kafka on the Shore  
Norwegian Wood\*  
South of the Border, West of the Sun\*  
Sputnik Sweetheart\*  
A Wild Sheep Chase\*  
The Wind Up Bird Chronicles  
Underground

Naka, Kansuke  
The Silver Spoon\*

Natsume, Soseki  
Botchan\*

Oe, Kenzaburo  
An Echo of Heaven\*  
Nip the Buds, Shoot the Kids\*  
A Personal Matter\*  
The Pinch Runner Memorandum\*  
A Quiet Life  
Rouse Up, O Young Men of the New Age  
The Silent Cry\*  
Somersault  
Teach Up To Outgrow Our Madness\*

Shiga, Naoya  
A Dark Night's Passing\*

Tanizaki, Junichiro  
Diary of A Mod Old Man\*

Tsukiyama, Gail  
The Samurai's Garden

Waters, Mary Yukari  
The Laws of Evening\*

Yoshimoto, Banana  
Asleep  
Goodbye Tsugumi  
Hardboiled and Hard Luck

Yoshimura, Akira  
On Parole\*  
One Man's Justice\*  
Shipwrecks\*  
Storm Rider\*

Young Adult
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Mori, Kyoko  
One Bird\*  
Shizuko's Daughter\*

Say, Allen  
The Inn-keeper's Apprentice

Yumoto, Kazumi  
The Friends

Manga
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Miyazaki, Hayao  
Nausicaä

Tezuka, Osamu  
Buddha series  
Kapilavastu, Book 1  
The Four Encounters, Book 2  
Devadatta, Book 3  
The Forest of Uruvela, Book 4  
Dear Park, Book 5  
Phoenix

## Overview

Modern Japanese literature started with the Meiji Era around 1868 with the re-opening of Japan to the West and a period of rapid industrialization. Exposure to European literature sparked changes from the poetic repertoire to expanded prose and colloquial literature. Included in this period are Natsume, Shiga, Mori, and Akutagawa.

During the Proletarian Literary Movement of the 1920s and 1930s, literature focused on the harsh lives of the Japanese people and their struggles for change. Writers during this period included Kobayashi and Kuroshima.

World War II saw a divergence in Japanese literature, with tales of love and sensuality, psychological suspense, and both pro-war and anti-war sentiments. Writers during this period include Tanizaki, Hino, Ishikawa, and Japan's first winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Kawabata.

Post-war Japanese literature was heavily impacted by Japan's defeat in World War II, with themes of disaffection, loss of purpose and coping with the aftermath of war. Post-war writers include Dazai and Mishima.

Intellectual and moral issues became popular during the 1970s and 1980s in an attempt to raise social and political consciousness of the Japanese people. This period includes Japan's second winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (1964), Oe. Other writers from this period are Endo and Inoue.

The 1980s also saw an increase in the importance of women's issues, the plight of the elderly and disadvantaged, and the complexities of urban culture. Popular

contemporary authors include Murakami and Yoshimoto.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the most popular form of literature in Japan is Manga (or Japanese comics), representing over 30 percent of annual publications and over \$5 billion in annual sales globally. Although manga has a long history in Japan, it was developed into its current story format shortly after World War II by Tezuka. Popular manga are often adapted into anime (Japanese animation). Manga can be found in almost every genre, including non-fiction works on the history of Japan and economics.



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# MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE



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