



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Global Reading Challenge: Japan

DB45460 The Silent Cry by Kenzaburō Ōe (general fiction)

In this allegorical tale, two Japanese brothers retreat to their ancestral village. While learning about the family's past, they discover startling things about themselves. 1967. Nobel laureate in Literature, 1994.

DB78212 Rashōmon And Seventeen Other Stories by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa

Eighteen short stories by renowned Japanese writer Akutagawa (1892-1927). In the 1915 title piece an unemployed servant takes shelter in a dilapidated gate to the devastated city of Kyoto.

DB34473 The Lady And The Monk: Four Seasons In Kyoto by Pico Iyer (travel)

In Kyoto to learn and write about old Japanese culture and Zen Buddhism, author Iyer meets Sachiko, a curious mix of old and new Japan, and he tells her story instead. A young, unhappy housewife and mother, Sachiko dreams of faraway places and true love. Her eclectic interests range from rock music to tea ceremonies to Iyer, after whom she tries to pattern herself. 1991.

DB35710 The Shining Princess And Other Japanese Legends

by Eric Quayle (folktale)

This collection of ten Japanese folktales introduces readers to the exquisite world of Japanese folk tradition. Included are familiar tales such as "Momotaro-- The Peach Warrior," as well as lesser-known tales such as "The Matsuyama Mirror." A cousin of Brer Rabbit appears in "The White Hare and the Crocodiles," and the "The Ogre of Rashomon" reminds one of Grendel and Beowulf. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

DB107621 Soul Lanterns by Shaw Kuzki (juvenile, historical fiction)

Twelve-year-old Nozomi's understanding of the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 is transformed when she learns how those she knows and loves were affected by the event. For grades 5-8. 2021.

DB88748 The Nakano Thrift Shop by Hiromi Kawakami (human relations, fiction)
Hitomi works for Mr. Nakano in a Tokyo thrift store, and she develops a crush on coworker Takeo. She turns to Mr. Nakano's older sister, Masayo, for relationship advice, but Masayo has interesting notions. 2005.

DB66359 So Sad To Fall In Battle: An Account Of War Based On General Tadamichi Kuribayashi's Letters From Iwo Jima by Kumiko Kakehashi (biography)
Portrait of Japanese lieutenant general Kuribayashi Tadamichi, commander in chief of Iwo Jima during the infamous World War II battle. Draws on interviews with survivors and relatives as well as Tadamichi's personal correspondences to recreate the thirty-six-day campaign including Tadamichi's defeat and death at the hands of American marines. 2007.

DB80607 The Life-Changing Magic Of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art Of Decluttering And Organizing by Marie Kondō (homemaking)
This best-selling guide to decluttering your home from Japanese cleaning consultant Marie Kondo takes readers step-by-step through her revolutionary KonMari Method for simplifying, organizing, and storing, which focuses on categories of items rather than rooms. 2011.

DBC02784 Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War by Susan Southard (history)
Three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, an American B-29 bomber dropped a five ton plutonium bomb on Nagasaki. The explosion equaled 21,000 tons of TNT, the blast tore through factories, shops and homes, carrying unprecedented levels of radiation that penetrated humans and animals. An estimated 74,000 people were killed and another 75,000 were wounded. Much of the world saw this as an end to a long and costly global war, but for tens of thousands, their lives as hibakusha, atomic bomb effected people, had just begun. Contains some violence. 2015.

DB86144 Modern Japan: A Very Short Introduction (world history)
History of Japan from the mid-nineteenth century--when U. S. Commodore Matthew Perry landed at Uruga Bay to demand more open trade with the isolated, feudal country--to the present. Covers Japan's pursuit of empire, post-World War II democratization and economic boom, and contemporary quest for identity. 2009.