

japanese short stories

japanese short stories offer a captivating window into the rich tapestry of Japanese literature, culture, and history. This article explores the world of Japanese short stories, tracing their origins, highlighting famous authors, and examining recurring themes and styles. Readers will discover how these concise literary works have shaped modern Japanese storytelling and why they continue to resonate globally. The article also provides guidance on how to read and appreciate Japanese short stories, as well as recommendations for must-read collections. Whether you are a literature enthusiast, a student, or simply curious about Japanese culture, this comprehensive guide will deepen your understanding and appreciation of Japanese short stories. Dive in to explore their unique narrative techniques, cultural significance, and enduring appeal.

- Understanding Japanese Short Stories
- Historical Development of Japanese Short Stories
- Famous Japanese Short Story Authors
- Key Themes in Japanese Short Stories
- Narrative Styles and Literary Techniques
- Popular Japanese Short Story Collections
- How to Read and Appreciate Japanese Short Stories
- Influence of Japanese Short Stories on World Literature

Understanding Japanese Short Stories

Japanese short stories are a distinct and influential form of literary expression that distills complex emotions, cultural values, and philosophical ideas into concise narratives. While short stories exist worldwide, Japanese short stories often feature unique narrative structures, subtle character development, and an emphasis on atmosphere and mood. These works reflect the intricacies of Japanese society and tradition, making them an essential part of the country's literary heritage. The brevity of these stories allows for experimentation with style and theme, enabling authors to explore a wide range of subjects from the mundane to the supernatural.

Definition and Characteristics

Japanese short stories are typically defined by their length, focus on a singular event or emotion, and their ability to evoke thought-provoking responses from readers. Characteristically, they emphasize subtlety, introspection, and often employ ambiguity, leaving interpretation open to the reader. These stories may draw from folklore, daily life, or existential themes, and frequently utilize minimalistic language and understated symbolism.

Historical Development of Japanese Short Stories

The evolution of Japanese short stories can be traced back to classical works such as "Utsubo Monogatari" and "Tsurezuregusa," which laid the foundation for later forms. During the Meiji period, Japanese literature experienced significant transformation as Western influences began to merge with traditional storytelling. The short story, known as "tanpen shōsetsu," emerged as a popular literary form, capturing the complexities of modern life and the changing social landscape.

Major Literary Movements

- Naturalism: Focused on realistic depictions of life and the influence of environment on characters.
- Shin Kokugo (New National Language): Encouraged the use of modern Japanese, making literature more accessible.
- Modernism: Experimented with narrative forms and psychological depth.
- Postwar Literature: Explored themes of loss, identity, and reconstruction.

Famous Japanese Short Story Authors

Japan has produced numerous celebrated short story writers whose works are recognized both domestically and internationally. Their stories offer insight into diverse aspects of Japanese society, tradition, and the human experience.

Ryūnosuke Akutagawa

Often called the “father of the Japanese short story,” Ryūnosuke Akutagawa is known for his masterful storytelling and psychological depth. His stories, such as “Rashomon” and “In a Grove,” have become classics and are frequently included in anthologies worldwide.

Yasunari Kawabata

Nobel Prize winner Yasunari Kawabata’s short stories are renowned for their poetic style and focus on fleeting moments. Works like “The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket” showcase his ability to capture subtle human emotions and the beauty of everyday life.

Haruki Murakami

Haruki Murakami is known for his surreal, modern short stories that blend fantasy, psychological exploration, and contemporary themes. His collection “Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman” illustrates his unique narrative voice and international appeal.

Key Themes in Japanese Short Stories

Japanese short stories encompass a wide variety of themes, often reflecting the complexities of Japanese culture, spirituality, and societal norms. These themes provide insight into the Japanese worldview and the universal aspects of human experience.

Impermanence and Transience

Many stories emphasize “mono no aware,” the awareness of the impermanence of things and the beauty found in fleeting moments. This theme reflects Buddhist influences and is prevalent in both classical and modern works.

Alienation and Identity

Stories frequently explore the sense of isolation and the search for self-identity, particularly in the context of modern urban life. This theme resonates with readers facing rapid social and technological change.

Nature and the Supernatural

Nature plays a significant role in Japanese short stories, often symbolizing

emotional states or serving as a backdrop for supernatural events. Folklore and ghost stories are also popular, blending everyday reality with mystical elements.

Narrative Styles and Literary Techniques in Japanese Short Stories

Japanese short stories are known for their innovative narrative approaches and literary devices. These techniques contribute to the distinct atmosphere and emotional resonance of the stories.

Minimalism and Suggestion

Many authors employ a minimalist writing style, using sparse language and relying on suggestion rather than explicit description. This technique encourages readers to engage actively with the text and draw their own conclusions.

Fragmentation and Nonlinear Narratives

Some Japanese short stories utilize fragmented or nonlinear storytelling, reflecting the complexities of memory and perception. These structures allow authors to explore psychological depth and ambiguity.

Symbolism and Imagery

Symbolic imagery is a hallmark of Japanese short stories, with everyday objects and natural phenomena often representing deeper emotional or philosophical ideas. This technique enriches the text and invites contemplation.

Popular Japanese Short Story Collections

Anthologies and collections of Japanese short stories provide readers with access to a diverse range of voices and styles. These compilations often feature works from different time periods and genres, offering a comprehensive overview of Japanese storytelling.

Essential Collections

- “Rashomon and Other Stories” by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa

- “Palm-of-the-Hand Stories” by Yasunari Kawabata
- “Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman” by Haruki Murakami
- “The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories” (Various authors)
- “Japanese Ghost Stories” (Classic and contemporary tales)

How to Read and Appreciate Japanese Short Stories

Reading Japanese short stories requires a mindful and open approach. Their brevity and subtlety demand attention to detail and an appreciation for nuance. Readers are encouraged to consider cultural context, historical background, and the author’s intent when interpreting these works.

Tips for Enjoyment

- Read slowly and reflect on imagery and symbolism.
- Consider the cultural and philosophical influences on the story.
- Pay attention to character interactions and emotional undertones.
- Explore translated versions for broader accessibility.
- Discuss stories with others to gain new perspectives.

Influence of Japanese Short Stories on World Literature

Japanese short stories have made a significant impact on global literature, inspiring writers and readers around the world. Their innovative narrative techniques and profound themes have contributed to the evolution of short fiction internationally. Many Japanese stories have been translated into multiple languages, expanding their reach and influence beyond Japan’s borders. The universal appeal of their themes, coupled with their distinctive style, continues to attract new audiences and shape contemporary storytelling.

Questions and Answers About Japanese Short Stories

Q: What are the defining characteristics of Japanese short stories?

A: Japanese short stories are known for their brevity, subtlety, minimalistic language, and emphasis on atmosphere. They often explore themes related to impermanence, identity, and nature, using symbolism and suggestion rather than explicit description.

Q: Who are some famous Japanese short story authors?

A: Notable authors include Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, Yasunari Kawabata, Haruki Murakami, and Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, each contributing unique styles and perspectives to Japanese literature.

Q: What themes are commonly found in Japanese short stories?

A: Common themes include *mono no aware* (impermanence), isolation, identity, nature, and the supernatural. These themes reflect both traditional Japanese values and modern societal challenges.

Q: How have Japanese short stories influenced world literature?

A: Japanese short stories have inspired global writers with their innovative narrative techniques and philosophical depth. Many stories have been translated, influencing the development of short fiction worldwide.

Q: What are some recommended collections of Japanese short stories?

A: Recommended collections include "Rashomon and Other Stories," "Palm-of-the-Hand Stories," "Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman," and "The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories."

Q: What is *mono no aware* in Japanese literature?

A: *Mono no aware* is a Japanese concept referring to the awareness of impermanence and the gentle sadness associated with the passing of things. It is a prevalent theme in many Japanese short stories.

Q: How can readers better appreciate Japanese short stories?

A: Readers should approach these stories with patience, focus on imagery and symbolism, consider cultural context, and engage in discussion to gain deeper understanding.

Q: Are Japanese short stories suitable for people new to Japanese literature?

A: Yes, short stories are an excellent entry point for newcomers due to their concise format and accessibility. They offer a broad introduction to Japanese literary style and themes.

Q: What role does nature play in Japanese short stories?

A: Nature is often used symbolically to reflect emotions, themes of transience, and connections between characters and their environment. It is a central element in both classical and modern stories.

Q: Are supernatural elements common in Japanese short stories?

A: Yes, supernatural elements such as ghosts, spirits, and folklore are frequently incorporated, blending everyday reality with mystical or eerie experiences.

Japanese Short Stories

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Delve into the Enchanting World of Japanese Short Stories

Are you ready to embark on a journey into a world of subtle beauty, profound emotion, and

captivating narratives? Then prepare to explore the rich tapestry of Japanese short stories. This isn't just a collection of tales; it's a portal to understanding a unique cultural perspective, exploring themes of nature, honour, societal pressures, and the human condition like never before. This comprehensive guide will delve into the history, key characteristics, prominent authors, and where you can find the best Japanese short stories to satisfy your literary cravings.

A Glimpse into History: The Roots of Japanese Short Story Tradition

The tradition of short storytelling in Japan stretches back centuries, deeply intertwined with oral traditions and evolving literary styles. Early forms, like the *setsuwa* (legendary tales) and *monogatari* (narratives), laid the foundation for the concise and evocative storytelling that characterizes modern Japanese short stories. The influence of Zen Buddhism, with its emphasis on brevity and mindfulness, is palpable in many works, promoting a focus on the essence of the narrative rather than lengthy exposition. The rise of the modern short story in Japan closely mirrors developments in the West, but with a distinct and enduringly unique Japanese flavour.

Key Characteristics of Japanese Short Stories: What Sets Them Apart?

What makes Japanese short stories stand out? Several key characteristics distinguish them from their Western counterparts:

Subtlety and Nuance: The Power of Unspoken Emotion

Unlike some Western narratives that prioritize explicit exposition, Japanese short stories often rely on subtlety and implication. Emotions are conveyed through carefully chosen imagery, understated dialogue, and suggestive symbolism. The reader is left to actively participate in deciphering the deeper meaning, fostering a richer and more personal experience.

Focus on Atmosphere and Setting: Nature as a Character

Nature plays a pivotal role in many Japanese short stories. Descriptions of landscapes, seasons, and weather aren't merely background details; they become integral elements of the narrative, reflecting the characters' inner states and shaping the overall mood. The natural world often acts as a powerful symbol, mirroring the complexities of human experience.

Exploration of Morality and Social Commentary: Beyond the Surface

While often beautifully crafted, many Japanese short stories subtly explore complex moral dilemmas and societal issues. Themes of duty, honour, social hierarchy, and the pressures of conformity frequently surface, offering poignant insights into Japanese culture and values. These stories don't

shy away from examining the darker aspects of humanity.

Exploring the Masters: Celebrated Authors of Japanese Short Stories

The landscape of Japanese short stories boasts a pantheon of masterful authors. Studying their works reveals the evolution and diversity within the genre. Some notable names include:

Ryūnosuke Akutagawa: Known for his psychologically complex and often dark tales, Akutagawa's stories explore the depths of human nature with unflinching honesty. "Rashomon" and "In a Grove" are among his most famous works.

Yasunari Kawabata: A Nobel laureate, Kawabata's prose is characterized by its exquisite sensitivity and evocative descriptions. His short stories often explore themes of beauty, transience, and the bittersweet nature of memory.

Jun'ichirō Tanizaki: Tanizaki's works offer a nuanced portrayal of Japanese society, often contrasting traditional values with the impact of Westernization. His short stories demonstrate a keen understanding of human psychology and social dynamics.

Natsume Sōseki: While primarily known for his novels, Sōseki also penned remarkable short stories that showcase his sharp wit and insightful observations on human nature.

Osamu Dazai: Dazai's confessional and often melancholic stories explore themes of despair, disillusionment, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world.

Where to Find the Best Japanese Short Stories: A Reader's Guide

Finding excellent translations of Japanese short stories is easier than ever before. Many anthologies offer a curated selection of works from various authors and periods. Online resources like Project Gutenberg provide free access to some classic tales. Additionally, numerous publishers specialize in translated Japanese literature, offering high-quality editions with insightful introductions and notes. Exploring different anthologies allows readers to discover their favorite authors and thematic preferences.

Conclusion

The world of Japanese short stories offers a unique and rewarding literary experience. By understanding the historical context, stylistic characteristics, and prominent authors, readers can fully appreciate the depth and beauty of these captivating narratives. From exploring profound emotions to witnessing cultural nuances, venturing into this genre promises a journey of self-discovery and literary delight. So, pick up a collection, lose yourself in the tales, and uncover the enchanting secrets within.

FAQs

Q1: Are there any contemporary Japanese short story writers I should know about?

A1: Yes, many talented contemporary writers continue the tradition. Look into the works of authors like Hiromi Kawakami and Yoko Ogawa for modern takes on classic themes.

Q2: Are all Japanese short stories depressing or melancholic?

A2: While some explore darker themes, many Japanese short stories offer moments of beauty, humour, and hope. The range of emotions and tones is vast.

Q3: Where can I find translated Japanese short stories in my native language (other than English)?

A3: Many publishers worldwide translate and publish Japanese literature. Check online bookstores and libraries, searching for "Japanese short stories" in your language.

Q4: Are there any specific themes that are commonly explored in Japanese short stories?

A4: Common themes include nature, honor, family relationships, the impact of modernization, societal pressures, and the ephemeral nature of life.

Q5: How do I choose a good anthology of Japanese short stories for beginners?

A5: Look for anthologies with introductions that provide context and background information on the authors and stories included. Choose collections with a variety of authors and styles to get a broad introduction to the genre.

japanese short stories: The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories Jay Rubin, 2018-06-28
This fantastically varied and exciting collection celebrates the great Japanese short story, from its modern origins in the nineteenth century to the remarkable works being written today. Short story writers already well-known to English-language readers are all included here - Tanizaki, Akutagawa, Murakami, Mishima, Kawabata - but also many surprising new finds. From Yuko Tsushima's 'Flames' to Yuten Sawanishi's 'Filling Up with Sugar', from Shin'ichi Hoshi's 'Shoulder-Top Secretary' to Banana Yoshimoto's 'Bee Honey', The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories is filled with fear, charm, beauty and comedy. Curated by Jay Rubin, who has himself freshly translated several of the stories, and introduced by Haruki Murakami, this book will be a revelation to its readers.

japanese short stories: The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories Theodore William Goossen, 2002 Beginning with the first writings to assimilate and rework Western literary traditions,

through the flourishing of the short story genre in the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the Taisho era, to the new breed of writers produced under the constraints of literary censorship, and the current writings reflecting the pitfalls and paradoxes of modern life, this anthology offers a stimulating survey of the entire development of the Japanese short story.

japanese short stories: *50 Japanese Short Stories for Beginners Read Entertaining Japanese Stories to Improve your Vocabulary and Learn Japanese While Having Fun* Yokohama English Japanese Language & Teachers Club, Learning Japanese is hard and everyone says so. But not with this Japanese book. You may ask yourself how to learn Japanese fast without spending too much time with studying dry Japanese grammar. The answer is, learning Japanese with a cultural interesting short story book will definitely enhance your general understanding of the Japanese language and improve your Japanese vocabulary. There is no quick fix on how to learn Japanese the best way, but If you need a practical learn Japanese workbook get this Japanese learning book in ebook format, paperback or hardcover. Whether you're a just starting out or are already familiar with the Japanese language, this book will help you with expanding your Japanese vocabulary and improve your reading skills while having fun. This book contains 50 entertaining and culturally interesting Japanese short stories for beginners and intermediate Japanese learners. The Japanese stories are written in Hiragana, Katakana, and about 250 basic Kanji characters which correspond to the advanced beginner and low intermediate levels. The stories are followed by line-by-line English translation, which will certainly speed up the the learning process quite a bit. This book also includes a reading guide that explains the basics of the Japanese language and its characters. You get many practical examples on how to read the characters and you can also use this book as a language learning tool or Japanese text book to advance with your Japanese skills at your own pace.

1. The Tokyo Fish Market
2. Buddhism in Japan
3. Lost in Tokyo
4. Teaching in Japan
5. Karaoke
- Japanese Style
6. Saving Face
7. Faux Pas in the Restaurant
8. Just a Couple of Drinks
9. Humour Is if You Still Laugh
10. A Special Geisha
11. A Happy Marriage
12. Under the Lamp Post
13. Group Learning
14. I Marry My Office
15. Dialogue - Today We Have Rabbit
16. Dialogue - Dining European Style
17. The Tourist Guide
18. Inexpensive Shopping in Japan
19. Born in Michigan
20. Easter
21. Foreigners in Britain
22. Kindness
23. My Hobbies
24. Studying Abroad
25. A New Recipe
26. Social Media
27. Vegan Food
28. Bad Luck
29. Our Hotel
30. In the Theatre
31. Dialogue - Where is Our Cat?
32. A Special Public Swimming Pool
33. On Fridays We Go Swimming
35. Best Friends
36. The Order
37. Food Poisoning
38. New Year's Eve in Europe
39. The Circus
40. The Car Accident
41. A Japanese in Munich

Japanese Short Stories for Intermediate Learners

42. The Polish Maid
43. Americans in Germany
44. The Treasure in the Forest
45. The Barbecue Evening
46. How to Find a Billionaire on a Cruise Trip
47. Crowdfunding for a New Kitchen
48. A very Catholic Irish Family
49. I Meet You in the Sauna
50. Classic Story: The Legend of Princess Kaguya (Japanese novels series second version)

There are many Japanese books out there, but this book will entertain and help you in many ways. Learn Japanese with stories and start your journey of active Japanese learning TODAY!

japanese short stories: Japanese Stories for Language Learners Anne McNulty, Eriko Sato, 2018-11-20 A great story can lead a reader on a journey of discovery—especially if it's presented in two languages! Beautifully illustrated in a traditional style, Japanese Stories for Language Learners offers five compelling stories with English and Japanese language versions appearing on facing pages. Taking learners on an exciting cultural and linguistic journey, each story is followed by detailed translator's notes, Japanese vocabulary lists, and grammar points along with a set of discussion questions and exercises. The first two stories are very famous traditional Japanese folktales: Urashima Taro (Tale of a Fisherman) and Yuki Onna (The Snow Woman). These are followed by three short stories by notable 20th century authors: Kumo no Ito (The Spider's Thread) by Akutagawa Ryunosuke (1892-1927) Oborekaketa Kyodai (The Siblings Who Almost Drowned) by Arishima Takeo (1878-1923) Serohiki no Goshu (Gauche the Cellist) by Miyazawa Kenji (1896-1933) Reading these stories in the original Japanese script--and hearing native-speakers read them aloud in the accompanying free audio recording--helps students at every level deepen their comprehension

of the beauty and subtlety of the Japanese language. Learn Japanese the fun way—through the country's rich literary history.

japanese short stories: Japanese Short Stories for Beginners Lingo Mastery, 2020-08-07

Do you know what the hardest thing for a Japanese learner is? Finding PROPER reading material that they can handle...which is precisely the reason we've written this book! You may have found the best teacher in town or the most incredible learning app around, but if you don't put all of that knowledge to practice, you'll soon forget everything you've obtained. This is why being engaged with interesting reading material can be so essential for somebody wishing to learn a new language. Therefore, in this book we have compiled 20 easy-to-read, compelling and fun stories that will allow you to expand your vocabulary and give you the tools to improve your grasp of the wonderful Japanese language. How Japanese Short Stories for Beginners works: - Each chapter possesses a funny, interesting and/or thought-provoking story based on real-life situations, allowing you to learn a bit more about the Japanese culture. - Having trouble understanding Japanese characters? No problem - we provide you with the English translation below each paragraph, allowing you to fully grasp what you're reading! - The summaries follow a synopsis in Japanese and in English of what you just read, both to review the lesson and for you to see if you understood what the tale was about. Use them if you're having trouble. - At the end of those summaries, you will be provided with a list of the most relevant vocabulary from that chapter, as well as slang and sayings that you may not have understood at first glance! Do not get lost trying to understand or pronounce it all, either, as all of the vocabulary words are Romanized for your ease of learning! - Finally, you'll be provided with a set of tricky questions in Japanese, allowing you the chance to prove that you learned something in the story. Whether it's true or false, or if you're doing the single answer questions, don't worry if you don't know the answer to any - we will provide them immediately after, but no cheating! We want you to feel comfortable while learning Japanese; after all, no language should be a barrier for you to travel around the world and expand your social circles! So look no further! Pick up your copy of Japanese Short Stories for Beginners and level up your Japanese language skills right now!

japanese short stories: Three Japanese Short Stories Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Kafu Nagai, Chiyo Uno, 2018-03-08 'Oh the cruelty of time, that destroys all things!' Beguiling, strange and hair-raising tales from early 20th century Japan: Nagai's Behind the Prison, Uno's Closet LLB and Akutagawa's deeply macabre General Kim. Penguin Modern: fifty new books celebrating the pioneering spirit of the iconic Penguin Modern Classics series, with each one offering a concentrated hit of its contemporary, international flavour. Here are authors ranging from Kathy Acker to James Baldwin, Truman Capote to Stanislaw Lem and George Orwell to Shirley Jackson; essays radical and inspiring; poems moving and disturbing; stories surreal and fabulous; taking us from the deep South to modern Japan, New York's underground scene to the farthest reaches of outer space.

japanese short stories: Japanese Tales Royall Tyler, 2012-08-22 Two hundred and twenty tales from medieval Japan—tales that welcome us into a fabulous faraway world populated by saints, scoundrels, ghosts, magical healers, and a vast assortment of deities and demons. Stories of miracles, visions of hell, jokes, fables, and legends, these tales reflect the Japanese civilization. They ably balance the lyrical and the dramatic, the ribald and the profound, offering a window into a long-vanished culture. With black-and-white illustrations throughout Part of the Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library

japanese short stories: The Best Japanese Short Stories , 2023-03-14 An anthology of the greatest stories by modern Japanese masters (including previously overlooked women writers)! Fourteen distinct voices are assembled in this one-of-a-kind anthology tracing a nation's changing social landscapes. Internationally renowned writers like Yasunari Kawabata, Ryunosuke Akutagawa and Junichi Watanabe are joined by three notable women writers whose works have not yet received sufficient attention--Kanoko Okamoto, Fumiko Hayashi and Yumiko Kurahashi. Highlights of this anthology include: Kafu Nagai's bittersweet portrait of a privileged family's expiring existence in The Fox Ango Sakaguchi's heartening celebration of postwar chaos in One Woman and the War Fumiko Hayashi's unabashed exploration of female sexuality in Borneo Diamond Junichi Watanabe's chilling

assessment of alienation and social dislocation in *Invitation to Suicide* Gishu Nakayama's look at an out-of-place prostitute recovering at a hot-spring resort in *Autumn Wind Through* brilliant, highly-praised translations by Lane Dunlop, *The Best Japanese Short Stories* offers fascinating glimpses of a society embracing change while holding tenaciously onto the past. A new foreword by Alan Tansman provides insightful back stories about the authors and the literary backdrop against which they created these great works of modern world literature.

japanese short stories: *Short Stories in Chinese* John Balcom, 2013-06-25 A dual-language edition of Chinese stories—many appearing in English for the first time This new volume of eight short stories offers students at all levels the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of contemporary literature from the world's most spoken language, without having to constantly refer back to a dictionary. The stories—many of which appear here in English for the first time—are by well-known writers as well as emerging voices. From a story by Li Rui about the honest simplicity of a Shanxi farmer to one by Ma Yuan exposing the seamy underside of contemporary urban society, they are infused with both rural dialect and urban slang and feature a wide range of styles and points of view. Complete with notes, the stories make excellent reading in either language. Note: For each short story in this eBook edition, the full English translation is followed by its original Chinese text.

japanese short stories: *Intermediate Japanese Short Stories* Lingo Mastery, 2021-05-14 Are you on your way towards learning Japanese and need a new challenge? We're constantly trying to improve and master new skills, and the Japanese language is no exception. We have created the next level of Japanese stories for the students who have already surpassed the beginner level: *Intermediate Japanese Short Stories*! In this book we have compiled 10 challenging, compelling and fun stories that will allow you to expand your vocabulary and give you the tools to boost your grasp of the wonderful Japanese tongue. How *Intermediate Japanese Short Stories* works? Each chapter possesses a funny, interesting and/or thought-provoking story based on real-life situations, allowing you to learn about the Japanese culture. Having trouble understanding Japanese characters? No problem - despite being *Intermediate Japanese*, we have still included a romanization to help guide you through your learning process, just like in the beginner stories! The summaries follow the story: a synopsis in Japanese and in English of what you just read, both to review the lesson and for you to see if you understood what the tale was about. Use them if you're having trouble. At the end of those summaries, you'll be provided with a list of the most relevant vocabulary involved in the lesson, as well as slang and sayings that you may not have understood at first glance! Don't get lost trying to understand or pronounce it all, either, as all of the vocabulary words are Romanized for your ease of learning! Finally, you'll be provided with a set of tricky questions in Japanese, allowing you the chance to prove that you learned something in the story. Don't worry if you don't know the answer to any - we will provide them immediately after, but no cheating! We want you to feel comfortable while mastering the Japanese tongue; after all, no language should be a barrier for you to travel around the world and expand your social circles! So look no further! Pick up your copy of *Intermediate Japanese Short Stories* and level up your Japanese language learning right now!

japanese short stories: *Patriotism* Yukio Mishima, 1995 'Was it death he was now waiting for? Or a wild ecstasy of the senses?' For the young army officer of Yukio Mishima's seminal story, 'Patriotism,' death and ecstasy become elementally intertwined. With his unique rigor and passion, Mishima hones in on the body as the great tragic stage for all we call social, ritual, political.

japanese short stories: *Modern Japanese Stories* Ivan I. Morris, 1961

japanese short stories: *Short Stories in Japanese* Michael Emmerich, 2011-05-31 A dual-language edition of Japanese stories—many appearing in English for the first time This volume of eight short stories, with parallel translations, offers students at all levels the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of contemporary literature without having constantly to refer back to a dictionary. The stories—many of which appear here in English for the first time—are by well-known writers like Haruki Murakami and Banana Yoshimoto, as well as emerging voices like Abe Kazushige, Ishii Shinji, and Kawakami Hiromi. From the orthodox to the cutting-edge, they represent a range of styles and themes, showcasing the diversity of Japanese fiction over the past few decades in a

collection that is equally rewarding for beginning, intermediate, and advanced students of English or Japanese. Complete with notes, the stories make excellent reading in either language.

japanese short stories: Japanese Ghost Stories Lafcadio Hearn, 2019-07-25 The dead wreak revenge on the living, paintings come alive, spectral brides possess mortal men and a priest devours human flesh in these chilling Japanese ghost stories retold by a master of the supernatural. Lafcadio Hearn drew on the phantoms and ghouls of traditional Japanese folklore - including the headless 'rokuro-kubi', the monstrous goblins 'jikininki' or the faceless 'mujina' who stalk lonely neighbourhoods - and infused them with his own memories of his haunted childhood in nineteenth-century Ireland to create these terrifying tales of striking and eerie power. Today they are regarded in Japan as classics in their own right. Edited with an introduction by Paul Murray

japanese short stories: *The Book of Tokyo* Hideo Furukawa, Kaori Ekuni, Mitsuyo Kakuta, Banana Yoshimoto, Toshiyuki Horie, Nao-Cola Yamazaki, Hitomi Kanehara, Osamu Hashimoto, Hiromi Kawakami, Shuichi Yoshida, 2015-06-12 A shape-shifter arrives at Tokyo harbour in human form, set to embark on an unstoppable rampage through the city's train network... A young woman is accompanied home one night by a reclusive student, and finds herself lured into a flat full of eerie Egyptian artefacts... A man suspects his young wife's obsession with picnicking every weekend in the city's parks hides a darker motive... At first, Tokyo appears in these stories as it does to many outsiders: a city of bewildering scale, awe-inspiring modernity, peculiar rules, unknowable secrets and, to some extent, danger. Characters observe their fellow citizens from afar, hesitant to stray from their daily routines to engage with them. But Tokyo being the city it is, random encounters inevitably take place - a naïve book collector, mistaken for a French speaker, is drawn into a world he never knew existed; a woman seeking psychiatric help finds herself in a taxi with an older man wanting to share his own peculiar revelations; a depressed divorcee accepts an unexpected lunch invitation to try Thai food for the very first time... The result in each story is a small but crucial change in perspective, a sampling of the unexpected yet simple pleasure of other people's company. As one character puts it, 'The world is full of delicious things, you know.'

japanese short stories: Tales of Times Now Past Marian Ury, 1979

japanese short stories: The Shōwa Anthology Van C. Gessel, Tomone Matsumoto, 1985

japanese short stories: Japanese Children's Favorite Stories Florence Sakade, 2014-02-04 This colorfully illustrated multicultural children's book presents Japanese fairy tales and other folk stories—providing insight into a vibrant literary culture. For 60 years, generations of English-speaking children around the world have been enchanted by Japanese Children's Favorite Stories—and for good reason. With such titles as *The Toothpick Warriors* and *The Rabbit Who Crossed the Sea*, these 20 stories offer age-old lessons in kindness and goodness that are still riveting to children and parents alike. This 60th Anniversary Tuttle edition is proof that good stories never wear out. In this treasure trove of much-beloved Japanese children's stories, you'll meet charming characters drawn from folklore and passed down for generations. These tales about playful goblins with long noses, walking statues, and a delightful hero who just happens to be one-inch tall speak of the virtues of honesty, humility and hard work. What better way for a parent to teach than through stories that thrill their children! Author Florence Sakade, a pioneer of English-language publishing in Japan, has compiled so many enchanting stories, readers will have a difficult time deciding which is their favorite. The sparking illustrations by Yoshisuke Kurosaki are a visual treat that readers of all ages will enjoy! His original and stylized watercolors bring to life the fascinating tales of fairy cranes, eel catchers, and singing turtles, among many others. These Japanese stories shine on every page and are sure to captivate your family as they have many others. The Children's Favorite Stories series was created to share the folktales and legends most beloved by children in the East with young readers of all backgrounds in the West. Other multicultural children's books in this series include: *Asian Children's Favorite Stories*, *Indian Children's Favorite Stories*, *Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories*, *Singapore Children's Favorite Stories*, *Filipino Favorite Children's Stories*, *Favorite Children's Stories from China & Tibet*, *Chinese Children's Favorite Stories*, *Korean Children's Favorite Stories*, *Balinese Children's Favorite Stories*, and

Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories.

japanese short stories: Naomi Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, 2024-03-16 A hilarious story of one man's obsession and a brilliant reckoning of a nation's cultural confusion—from a master Japanese novelist. When twenty-eight-year-old Joji first lays eyes upon the teenage waitress Naomi, he is instantly smitten by her exotic, almost Western appearance. Determined to transform her into the perfect wife and to whisk her away from the seamy underbelly of post-World War I Tokyo, Joji adopts and ultimately marries Naomi, paying for English and music lessons that promise to mold her into his ideal companion. But as she grows older, Joji discovers that Naomi is far from the naïve girl of his fantasies. And, in Tanizaki's masterpiece of lurid obsession, passion quickly descends into comically helpless masochism.

japanese short stories: Japanese Myths, Legends & Folktales Yuri Yasuda, 2019-03-26 ING_08 Review quote

japanese short stories: *The Cake Tree in the Ruins* Akiyuki Nosaka, 2019-05-14 Intensely moving stories that tell of the absurd violence of war, and tenderly depict the animals and children caught in its vortex. In 1945, Akiyuki Nosaka watched the Allied firebombing of Kobe kill his adoptive parents, and then witnessed his sister starving to death. The shocking and blisteringly memorable stories of *The Cake Tree in the Ruins* are based on his own experiences as a child in Japan during the Second World War. They are stories of a lonely whale searching the oceans for a mate, who sacrifices himself for love; of a mother desperately trying to save her son with her tears; of a huge, magnificent tree which grows amid the ruins of a burnt-out town, its branches made from the sweetest cake imaginable. Profound, heartbreaking and aglow with a piercing beauty, they express the chaos and terror of conflict, yet also how love can illuminate even the darkest moment.

japanese short stories: Miyazawa Kenji's Ten Japanese Stories for Children Kenji Miyazawa, 2005 Miyazawa Kenji is perhaps the most widely researched Japanese writer presently, not only by Japanese scholars but also by foreign scholars of Japanese literature worldwide. The relevance and meaning of Kenji's works to the contemporary world have increased manifold over the years and the researchers throughout the world unanimously agree to the truth that his works stand for the betterment and benefit of the mankind as a whole. This universality of his works appeals to the psyche of every human being on this earth, irrespective his/her age, race, gender, language or nationality. Ten of his representative short stories in English translation are introduced in this volume for my young fellow countrymen. Each of these ten stories enwrapped in Indian/Buddhist ideology bears a different colour and style, depicting through animals and birds the intricate human society, agonized by discrimination, infighting, deceit, fraud, muscle power, betrayal, arrogance, life and rebirth, cause and effect and lack of mutual love and concern. In *CHILDREN OF THE GINGKO TREE*, the true picture of this transient world is depicted through the separation of beloved ones. Nothing is permanent in this world. In *THE WILD GOOSE CHILD*, the concept of Karma, Cause and Effect, Rebirth and ultimate attainment of Nirvana through penitence are described. In *THE EARTH GOD AND THE FOX*, a triangular relationship of three characters, namely, the Earth God, the Fox and the beautiful Birch Tree unfolds the selfish, impatient and cruel mentality of man, who has no place in his mind for love, sympathy or fellow feeling towards others. In *WILDCAT AND THE ACORNS*, the fight among the acorns for superiority is depicted so realistically and vividly that it reflects the true daily life of human beings. In *THE LION KING* Kenji is narrating how effectively the ruler of the wild kingdom, the lion, maintain the law and order in his domain. This is a classic example of wise and prudent actions by the animals, something which is lacked by the human beings. In *THREE FROGS AND A RUBBER SHOE*, jealous and wickedness of human mind are depicted through the vicious actions of Bun and Ben frogs. However, one cannot escape from the retribution of his actions. In *THE SHELL FIRE*, Kenji is depicting the importance of selfless affection and love towards fellow beings. The Shell Fire in our hearts will glow brilliantly only if we have a kind, merciful and loving heart towards others. In *THE NIGHTHAWK STAR*, the author is depicting the successful life of a meek and weak nighthawk who attained his goal through sheer determination and strong will power, overcoming the social discrimination and willful threat from the mighty hawk.

In THE RESTAURANT OF MANY ORDERS, how the greed and wickedness of a man make him selfish and blind towards the suffering of others and lead him to the brink of destruction is narrated. In CHESTNUT TREE AND MONKEY CHAIRS, the fantasy of a young boy, where the boy himself has become the subject for classical deception by the tiny monkies, is narrated.

japanese short stories: *Japanese Fairy Tales* Yei Theodora Ozaki, 2017-07-12 This collection of Japanese fairy tales is the outcome of a suggestion made to me indirectly through a friend by Mr. Andrew Lang. They have been translated from the modern version written by Sadanami Sanjin. These stories are not literal translations, and though the Japanese story and all quaint Japanese expressions have been faithfully preserved, they have been told more with the view to interest young readers of the West than the technical student of folk-lore.... In telling these stories in English I have followed my fancy in adding such touches of local color or description as they seemed to need or as pleased me, and in one or two instances I have gathered in an incident from another version. At all times, among my friends, both young and old, English or American, I have always found eager listeners to the beautiful legends and fairy tales of Japan, and in telling them I have also found that they were still unknown to the vast majority...

japanese short stories: *Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds* Keller Kimbrough, Haruo Shirane, 2018-02-20 *Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds* is a collection of twenty-five medieval Japanese tales of border crossings and the fantastic, featuring demons, samurai, talking animals, amorous plants, and journeys to supernatural realms. The most comprehensive compendium of short medieval Japanese fiction in English, *Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds* illuminates a rich world of literary, Buddhist, and visual culture largely unknown today outside of Japan. These stories, called otogizōshi, or Muromachi tales (named after the Muromachi period, 1337 to 1573), date from approximately the fourteenth through seventeenth centuries. Often richly illustrated in a painted-scroll format, these vernacular stories frequently express Buddhist beliefs and provide the practical knowledge and moral education required to navigate medieval Japanese society. The otogizōshi represent a major turning point in the history of Japanese literature. They bring together many earlier types of narrative—court tales, military accounts, anecdotes, and stories about the divine origins of shrines and temples—joining book genres with parlor arts and the culture of itinerant storytellers and performers. The works presented here are organized into three thematically overlapping sections titled, “Monsters, Warriors, and Journeys to Other Worlds,” “Buddhist Tales,” and “Interspecies Affairs.” Each translation is prefaced by a short introduction, and the book features images from the original scroll paintings, illustrated manuscripts, and printed books.

japanese short stories: *Short Stories in Japanese for Intermediate Learners* Olly Richards, 2022-09-29 An unmissable collection of eight unconventional and captivating short stories for young and adult learners of Japanese. Olly's top-notch language-learning insights are right in line with the best of what we know from neuroscience and cognitive psychology about how to learn effectively. I love his work - and you will too! - Barbara Oakley, PhD, Author of New York Times bestseller *A Mind for Numbers* *Short Stories in Japanese for Intermediate Learners* has been written especially for students from low-mid intermediate (ACTFL) level of Japanese. Mapped to B1 and approaching B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference, these eight captivating stories are designed to give you a sense of achievement and a feeling of progress when reading, and most importantly - enjoyment! What does this book give you? - Eight stories in a variety of exciting genres, from science fiction and crime to history and thriller - making reading fun, while you learn a wide range of new vocabulary - Controlled language at your level to help you progress confidently - Spoken dialogues in a range of polite and casual forms in real settings to help you to improve the flow and accuracy of your spoken Japanese. - To help you advance your kanji recognition skills, furigana is used to support reading higher level or unusual kanji and for the first appearance for common kanji. - Common vocabulary from levels 4 and 5 of the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) along with vocabulary carefully chosen from the higher levels help you learn useful new expressions and progress through the intermediate reading levels. - Accessible grammar so you

learn new structures naturally, without feeling overwhelmed or frustrated - Practical tips help you to unlock the meaning of Japanese sentences and new kanji words successfully. - Beautiful illustrations accompanying each story, to set the scene and support your understanding - Pleasure! Research shows that if you're enjoying reading in a foreign language, you won't experience the usual feelings of frustration - 'It's too hard!' 'I don't understand!' With intriguing plots that will spark your imagination and keep you reading, *Short Stories in Japanese for Intermediate Learners* will take your grasp of Japanese to the next level with key features to support and consolidate your progress, including: - A glossary for bolded words in each chapter - Full plot summary - A bilingual word list - Comprehension questions after each chapter. As a result, you will be able to focus on enjoying reading, delighting in your improved range of vocabulary and grasp of the language, without ever feeling overwhelmed. From science fiction to fantasy, to crime and thrillers, *Short Stories in Japanese for Intermediate Learners* will accelerate your journey towards fluency. Use the codes inside the book and ebook to access a bonus story for free and the discounted audiobook on our Language Readers Library site or in the Language Readers app.

japanese short stories: *The Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories* Jhumpa Lahiri, 2019-03-07 'Rich. . . eclectic. . . a feast' Telegraph This landmark collection brings together forty writers that reflect over a hundred years of Italy's vibrant and diverse short story tradition, from the birth of the modern nation to the end of the twentieth century. Poets, journalists, visual artists, musicians, editors, critics, teachers, scientists, politicians, translators: the writers that inhabit these pages represent a dynamic cross section of Italian society, their powerful voices resonating through regional landscapes, private passions and dramatic political events. This wide-ranging selection curated by Jhumpa Lahiri includes well known authors such as Italo Calvino, Elsa Morante and Luigi Pirandello alongside many captivating new discoveries. More than a third of the stories featured in this volume have been translated into English for the first time, several of them by Lahiri herself.

japanese short stories: *Japanese Gothic Tales* Kyoka Izumi, 1996-06-01 Resisting the various forms of realism popular during the Meiji enlightenment, Izumi Kyoka (1873-1939) was among the most popular writers who continued to work in the old-fashioned genres of fantasy, mystery, and romance. *Gothic Tales* makes available for the first time a collection of stories by this highly influential writer, whose decadent romanticism led him to envision an idiosyncratic world--a fictive purgatory --precious and bizarre though always genuine despite its melodramatic formality. The four stories presented here are among Kyoka's best-known works. They are drawn from four stages of the author's development, from the conceptual novels of 1895 to the fragmented romanticism of his mature work. In the way of introduction, Inouye presents a clear analysis of Kyoka's problematic stature as a great gothic writer and emphasizes the importance of Kyoka's work to the present reevaluation of literary history in general and modern Japanese literature in particular. The extensive notes that follow the translation serve as an intelligent guide for the reader, supplying details about each of the stories and how they fit into the pattern of mythic development that allowed Kyoka to deal with his fears in a way that sustained his life and, as Mishima Yukio put it, pushed the Japanese language to its highest potential.

japanese short stories: *The Elephant Vanishes* Haruki Murakami, 2010-08-11 In the tales that make up *The Elephant Vanishes*, the imaginative genius that has made Haruki Murakami an international superstar is on full display. In these stories, a man sees his favorite elephant vanish into thin air; a newlywed couple suffers attacks of hunger that drive them to hold up a McDonald's in the middle of the night; and a young woman discovers that she has become irresistible to a little green monster who burrows up through her backyard. By turns haunting and hilarious, in *The Elephant Vanishes* Murakami crosses the border between separate realities—and comes back bearing remarkable treasures. Includes the story *Barn Burning*, which is the basis for the major motion picture *Burning*.

japanese short stories: *Toddler-hunting & Other Stories* Taeko Kōno, 1996 Disquieting stories exploring women's freedom & bondage in post-WWII Japan.

japanese short stories: *Japanese Short Stories for Beginners* Talk in Japanese, 2019-03-19

30 Japanese Short Stories for Complete Beginners One of the smartest ways to improve fluency is to read stories in your chosen language. Finding appropriate literature can be tough when you're just starting out, but this collection of 30 short stories is a fun and entertaining way of learning Japanese vocabulary and grammar. Each story is around 300 words, making them very quick reads without overwhelming you. Crafted for beginners, this is ideal for newcomers who are trying to approach fluency in a natural way. Rapidly Learn New Vocabulary Classes often emphasize the most proper way of speaking and writing a language, but that's rarely found with native speakers. These stories will help you learn how Japanese is commonly written and conveyed with natural dialogues and expressions. Following each story is a list of interesting words used in the story along with an English translation. No more reaching for an Japanese-to-English dictionary when encountering uncommon words. Grasp the Grammar Each story has a mixture of simple dialogue, descriptive sentences and everything in-between. This allows you to pick up how sentences are commonly written along with how to describe scenery, items and people, giving you an overall and detailed way of understanding the written language. Reading and Listening Skills Each story is only 300 words, giving you an engaging yet simple story that you can quickly read through. We also supply you with a free audio file so that you can follow along and understand how each word is said and how the sentences should be read. This is narrated by a native Japanese speaker, ensuring every inflection is correct. With this book you'll get: 30 short stories--each story just 300 words long, 110 pages 60 minutes of audio from a native Japanese speaker Their English translation after each paragraph If you want to improve your reading fluency as quickly and naturally as possible, then this book is ideal. Not only that, but each story is interesting, and you can read them in a matter of minutes.

japanese short stories: *Modern Japanese Stories* Ivan I. Morris, Ivan Morris, 1961

japanese short stories: *The Stories of Ibis* Hiroshi Yamamoto, 2010-04-20 In a world where humans are a minority and androids have created their own civilization, a wandering storyteller meets the beautiful android Ibis. She tells him seven stories of human/android interaction in order to reveal the secret behind humanity's fall. The tales Ibis tells are science fiction stories about the events surrounding the development of artificial intelligence (AI) in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. At a glance, these stories do not appear to have any sort of connection, but what is the true meaning behind them? What are Ibis's real intentions? -- VIZ Media

japanese short stories: *The Man in the High Castle* Philip K. Dick, 2011 Slavery is back. America, 1962. Having lost a war, America finds itself under Nazi Germany and Japan occupation. A few Jews still live under assumed names. The 'I Ching' is prevalent in San Francisco. Science fiction meets serious ideas in this take on a possible alternate history.

japanese short stories: *Japanese Short Stories for Beginners + Audio Download* Talk in Japanese, 2020-10-28 Improve your listening, reading and pronunciations skills in Japanese Brush up on your Japanese, improve your reading and listening skills, and make learning new vocabulary so much easier with Japanese stories. How will this book improve your Japanese language skills: Gain a greater vocabulary that you can use immediately, every day. You will add 1,500+ Japanese words and expressions to your repertoire through the encounter of descriptive sentences and casual conversations woven throughout the stories. Sharpen your listening comprehension of the spoken word by listening to a native Japanese speaker (with the free audio) Learn how to pronounce Japanese words by comparing the written word to the audio recording. Familiarize yourself with a wide range of grammar structures and put them to use today. With this book you'll get: 30 easy Japanese short stories 30 audio files from a native Japanese speaker Their English translation after each paragraph If you want to improve your reading fluency as quickly and naturally as possible, then this book is ideal.

japanese short stories: *Japanese Fairy Tales* Lafcadio Hearn, 1918 A collection of 20 fairy tales from Japan including Chin-Chin Kobakama, The Serpent with Eight Heads, and The Tea-Kettle.

japanese short stories: *Life Ceremony* Sayaka Murata, 2022-07-05 The long-awaited first short story-collection by the author of the cult sensation Convenience Store Woman, tales of weird love, heartfelt friendships, and the unsettling nature of human existence With Life Ceremony, the

incomparable Sayaka Murata is back with her first collection of short stories ever to be translated into English. In Japan, Murata is particularly admired for her short stories, which are sometimes sweet, sometimes shocking, and always imbued with an otherworldly imagination and uncanniness. In these twelve stories, Murata mixes an unusual cocktail of humor and horror to portray both the loners and outcasts as well as turning the norms and traditions of society on their head to better question them. Whether the stories take place in modern-day Japan, the future, or an alternate reality is left to the reader's interpretation, as the characters often seem strange in their normality in a frighteningly abnormal world. In "A First-Rate Material," Nana and Naoki are happily engaged, but Naoki can't stand the conventional use of deceased people's bodies for clothing, accessories, and furniture, and a disagreement around this threatens to derail their perfect wedding day. "Lovers on the Breeze" is told from the perspective of a curtain in a child's bedroom that jealously watches the young girl Naoko as she has her first kiss with a boy from her class and does its best to stop her. "Eating the City" explores the strange norms around food and foraging, while "Hatchling" closes the collection with an extraordinary depiction of the fractured personality of someone who tries too hard to fit in. In these strange and wonderful stories of family and friendship, sex and intimacy, belonging and individuality, Murata asks above all what it means to be a human in our world and offers answers that surprise and linger.

japanese short stories: My First Book of Japanese Words Michelle Haney Brown, 2012-11-10 My First Book of Japanese Words is a beautifully illustrated book that introduces young children to Japanese language and culture through everyday words. The words profiled in this book are all commonly used in the Japanese language and are both informative and fun for English-speaking children to learn. The goals of My First Book of Japanese Words are multiple: to familiarize children with the sounds and structure of Japanese speech, to introduce core elements of Japanese culture, to illustrate the ways in which languages differ in their treatment of everyday sounds and to show how, through cultural importation, a single word can be shared between languages. Both teachers and parents will welcome the book's cultural and linguistic notes and appreciate how the book is organized in a familiar ABC structure. Each word is presented in Kanji (when applicable), Kana, and Romanized form (Romaji). With the help of this book, we hope more children (and adults) will soon be a part of the 125 million people worldwide that speak Japanese!

japanese short stories: *The Sun Gods* Jay Rubin, 2015-05-18 Arriving in Seattle on the eve of World War II, Japanese-born Mitsuko falls for Tom, a widowed pastor, and becomes surrogate mother to his fair-haired American toddler, Bill. But the bombing of Pearl Harbor strains the newly formed family as U.S. government mandates and Tom's growing discomfort with all things Japanese force Mitsuko and young Bill to leave Seattle and Tom behind for the Minidoka Internment Camp, unsure if they will ever return. Two decades later, memories of Minidoka and long-lost Mitsuko haunt Bill, sparking an arduous journey that leads him from Seattle's International District to newly reconstructed Japan to find his Japanese mother and learn the truth about their shared past. Jay Rubin is one of the foremost English-language translators of Japanese literature. He is best known for his numerous translations of works by Haruki Murakami, Japan's leading contemporary novelist, and the study *Haruki Murakami and the Music of Words*. Most recently, he has translated the first two books of Murakami's bestselling novel, *1Q84*. In addition, Rubin's *Making Sense of Japanese* remains one the widely used guides to Japanese language studies. Jay Rubin received his PhD in Japanese literature from the University of Chicago and taught at Harvard University and the University of Washington. He lives near Seattle with his wife.

japanese short stories: *Norwegian Wood* Haruki Murakami, 2010-08-11 From the bestselling author of *Kafka on the Shore*: A magnificent coming-of-age story steeped in nostalgia, "a masterly novel" (*The New York Times Book Review*) blending the music, the mood, and the ethos that were the sixties with a young man's hopeless and heroic first love. Now with a new introduction by the author. Toru, a serious young college student in Tokyo, is devoted to Naoko, a beautiful and introspective young woman, but their mutual passion is marked by the tragic death of their best friend years before. As Naoko retreats further into her own world, Toru finds himself drawn to a

fiercely independent and sexually liberated young woman. Stunning and elegiac, Norwegian Wood first propelled Haruki Murakami into the forefront of the literary scene.

japanese short stories: In a Grove (口口口) Ryūnosuke Akutagawa, 2011-10-15

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