

Japanese Literature Cheat Sheet

Version 3.0

Authors are listed roughly chronologically, in order of the era with which their work is most closely associated. In all of these names, read A as "ah," E as "ay," I as "ee," O as "oh," and U as "oo."

Author Historical Era	Works	Details
<u>Murasaki</u> Shikibu Heian	The Tale of Genji	the title " Shining Prince " gets entangled romantically with Lady Aoi , Lady Fujitsubo , and others; his death is signalled by a blank chapter titled Vanished into the Clouds ; after his death, the book follows Kaoru and Niou
<u>Sei</u> Shonagon Heian	The Pillow Book	includes lists describing elements of Heian-era court life, including lists of " Splendid Things " and " Irritating Things "
<u>Matsuo</u> Basho Edo	The Narrow Road to the Deep North (The Narrow Road to the Interior)	combines prose and haiku
	[frog/ancient pond haiku]	untitled haiku that describes an ancient pond and a splash of water as a frog jumps in
	The Seashell Game	book of haiku and commentary
<u>Natsume</u> Soseki Meiji	I Am a Cat Kokoro Botchan	
<u>Tanizaki</u> Junichiro Meiji, Taisho	The Makioka Sisters Some Prefer Nettles	
<u>Akutagawa</u> Ryunosuke Taisho	In a Grove	short story; a story consisting of multiple conflicting accounts of the death of a samurai named Takehiro
	Rashomon	short story
<u>Kawabata</u> Yasunari Showa	Snow Country	Shimamura , a ballet critic, goes to a hot spring, where he has an affair with Komako , a geisha
	The Master of Go	Minoru Kitani defeats Honinbo Shusai at the game of go
	Thousand Cranes The Sound of the Mountain	
<u>Mishima</u> Yukio Showa	The Temple of the Golden Pavilion	Mizoguchi burns down Kinkaku-ji , the title structure
	Confessions of a Mask	Kimitate, nicknamed Kochan , fails to make himself love Sonoko while struggling against his homosexuality
	Spring Snow	part of the Sea of Fertility tetralogy
	The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea	
	committed seppuku on live TV after leading a failed coup to overthrow the 1947 constitution.	
<u>Oe</u> Kenzaburo Showa, Heisei, Reiwa (current)	A Personal Matter	Bird has an affair with Himiko after learning that his newborn son has been diagnosed with a brain hernia
	The Silent Cry Nip the Buds, Shoot the Kids	
<u>Murakami</u> Haruki Heisei, Reiwa (current)	The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle	Toru Okada searches for his missing cat, Noboru Wataya , and missing wife, Kumiko
	1Q84	Aomame realizes she and Tengo are in an alternate version of 1984 that she calls 1Q84 (a pun in Japanese); contains the story/chapter " Town of Cats "
	Killing Commendatore Norwegian Wood Kafka on the Shore	
	Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage	