Japanese Resources

Books for Students


Bryan, A. (1988). *Sh-ko and his eight wicked brothers*. New York: Atheneum. (A kind boy ridiculed by his brothers for being ugly is rewarded by a princess to whom "good" means "handsome." Illustrations are in black ink.)


Coatsworth, E. (1958). *The cat who went to heaven*. New York: Scholastic, Inc. (A cat comes to live with a poor artist and wants to be in his paintings. For older children.)

Coerr, E. (reteller). *Sadako and the thousand paper cranes*. JACP/Dell Publishing Group. (True story of the girl who developed leukemia from the radiation of the atomic bomb, and whose classmates folded a thousand cranes to extend her life.)

(Describes the daily life of a twelve-year-old Japanese boy living with his family in a town near Tokyo.)

(Designed by Gerard Nook. Photography by Alfred Tamarin; Comprehensive survey of Japanese art.)

(An old, childless man unknowingly adopts and raises the daughter of the sun who is pursued by earthly suitors.)

(Illustrated by Martin Skoro; Uses Japanese numbers 1-10 to introduce diverse aspects of Japanese culture.)

(Traditional folktale which pairs an old man (age and wisdom) with his grandson (youth and impetuousness) in a dramatic story about man and nature.)

(Siblings in war-torn Japan experience hope for the future through helping to save a damaged cherry tree.)

(A collection of haiku selected for children; each poem relates to a season.)

(A Japanese folk tale about goblins and a tricky badger who ends up being tricked worst of all.)

(Adventure of two children who visit Japan.)

(Moontoo learns about playing with others.)

(Illustrated by Fuku Akino; Japanese concepts of beauty, devotion, and self-sacrifice for a greater good are illustrated by a small, unnoticied pine tree which undergoes excruciating pain in order to be made beautiful for an ailing princess.)

(Shiro, a white rabbit, longs to be a samurai. Traditional black and white illustrations.)


Maruki, T. (1980). *Hiroshima no pika*. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books. (A little girl and her parents were eating breakfast when the bomb was dropped.)


Mochizuchi, K. (1993). *Baseball saved us*. New York: Lee and Low Books. (Story of a Japanese boy's quest to gain dignity and respect through the game of baseball, both at the camp where he is interned during WWII and at home after the war.)


Mosel, A. (1972). *The funny little woman*. New York: Dutton. (A little woman in Old Japan follows a dumpling that has rolled through a hole.)


Stamm, C. (1962). *Three strong women: A tall tale from Japan*. New York: The Viking Press. (A Japanese wrestler called Forever Mountain has a chance meeting with a young girl. Along with her mother and grandmother, she is also a wrestler, and they are stronger than Forever Mountain.)


Tsuchiya, Y. (1988). *Faithful elephants*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. (Illustrated by Ted Lewin; The story of how three elephants were starved to death to prevent them from escaping from the Tokyo Zoo during the last days of WW II.)


Mifflin/ Bantam Books.
(Japanese American family who were subjected to forced detention during WWII.)

(A Japanese girl living in Korea during World War II must flee with her mother and sister.)

Weston, R. *Cooking the Japanese way.* Minneapolis: Lerner Publications.
(An introduction to Japanese food featuring recipes and directions for using chopsticks.)

(Illustrated by Suekichi Akaba; Folktale of the farmer who rescues a crane and gets a wife who weaves wonderful cloth, but has a mysterious secret.)

(Accurate coverage of Japan's history, cultural heritages, modern society, etc.; an excellent overview.)

**Videos for Students**


*Living Treasures of Japan.* High School Level. National Geographic Video. Vestron Video, 1980. To order, send a check for $19.95 plus $3.50 for shipping to MSE, Inc., 84 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780 or order by phone (800)873-8433.

A young survivor of Hiroshima lives with an American family while undergoing reconstructive surgery.


*Japan Series.* Boxed set of four tapes originally shown on PBS; hosted by Jane Seymour. Order from Viewfinders Catalog of Uncommon Video, 1-800-342-3342.
LaFosse, Michael. *Origami: Square 1.* Available from Fascinating Folds, P.O. Box 2820-235, Torrance, CA 90509-2820.


**Books for Teachers**


Koren, L. *Wabi-Sabi: For artists, designers, poets & philosophers.* Available for $14.95 plus $2.00 shipping from Stone Bridge Press; call 800-947-7271 to order. (An extended illustrated essay that shows how the quintessential Japanese aesthetic of imperfect and impermanent beauty can be considered a prototypical "complete" aesthetic system, nature-based and "soft" in contrast to the "hard" digital value system of the computerized 1990s.)


Sakata, H. *Origami*. Available from Fascinating Folds, P.O. Box 2820-235, Torrance, CA 90509-2820.

Schodt, F.L. *America and the four Japan: Friend, foe, model, mirror*. (A wide-ranging analysis that brings readers quickly up to speed on Japan; provides fresh, subtle, and often funny insights and valuable ideas about how and why the U.S. might apply lessons from Japan.)


Tanizaki. *In praise of shadows*.


**Other References for Teachers**

Bernson, M.H., and Goolian,B. *Modern Japan: An idea book for K-12 teachers*. Available from Publications Manager, Social Studies Development Center, Indiana University, 2805 E. 10th Street, Suite 120, Bloomington, IN 47405. (812) 855-3838. $6.00 + $2.00 s&h.


*Gallery Guide*, San Diego Museum of Art, teaching kit that includes 28 slides of Japanese works; send a check for $15.00 to San Diego Museum of Art, PO Box 2107, San Diego, CA 92112-2107.

Gakushu, T. *Learning with enjoyment*. Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies, Room 230, Int'l Studies Bldg., 910 South Fifth Street, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820. (217) 333-4850. $8.00.


*Japan Activity Sheets* (directions for paper dolls, New Year's cards, chopsticks, paper samurai helmets, carp streamers, and fish printing). Available from The Children's Museum, 300 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210 (800) 370-5487. $5.95.


*Japan: Images and words*. Available from School and Family Programs, Education Department, Freer/Sackler, MRC 707, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. (202) 357-4880.


Loudon, S. (Ed.). *Spring blossoms, autumn moon: Japanese art for the classroom*. Available from Seattle Art Museum, Education Department, P.O. Box 22000, Seattle, W98122-9700 (206) 654-3124.

Bernson, M.H. and Goolian, B. (Eds.). *Modern Japan: An idea book for K-12 teachers*; send a check for $6.00 plus $2.00 for shipping to Publications Manager, SSDC, 2805 E. 10th St., Suite 120, Bloomington, IN 47408-2698.


Nasco Fish Replicas for Gyotaku (Fish Printing), 901 Janesville Ave., P.O. Box 901, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538-0901 (414)563-2446.

Olander, D. *Gyotaku fish impressions*, Frank Amato Publications, P.O. Box 82112, Portland, Oregon 97282.


*Teaching Japan through the arts*. Four Books: Natsu Matsuri (summer festivals),
Traditional Arts and Culture, Japan Through Art Activities, and School Days in Japan. Available from East Asia Resource Center, the University of Washington, Thomson Hall DR05, Seattle, WA 98195. (206) 543-1921.