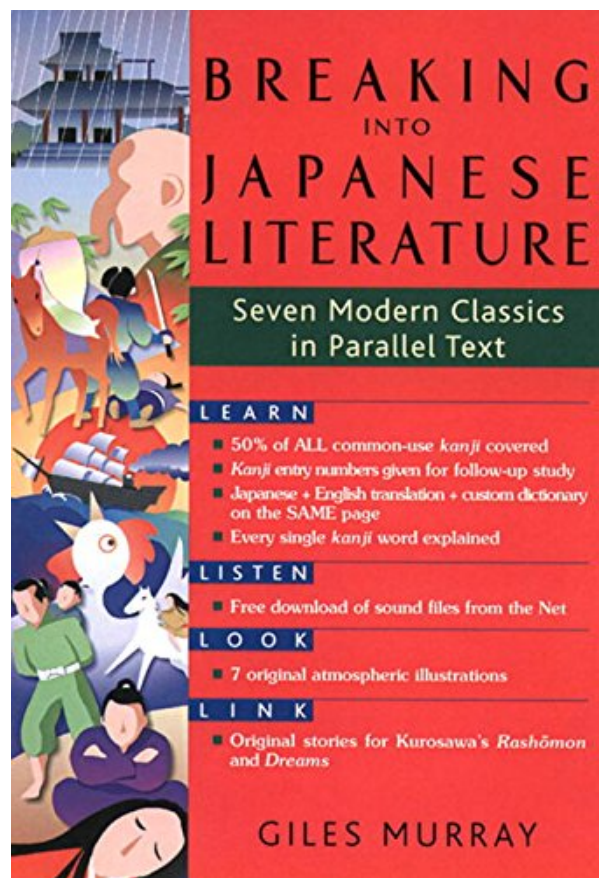
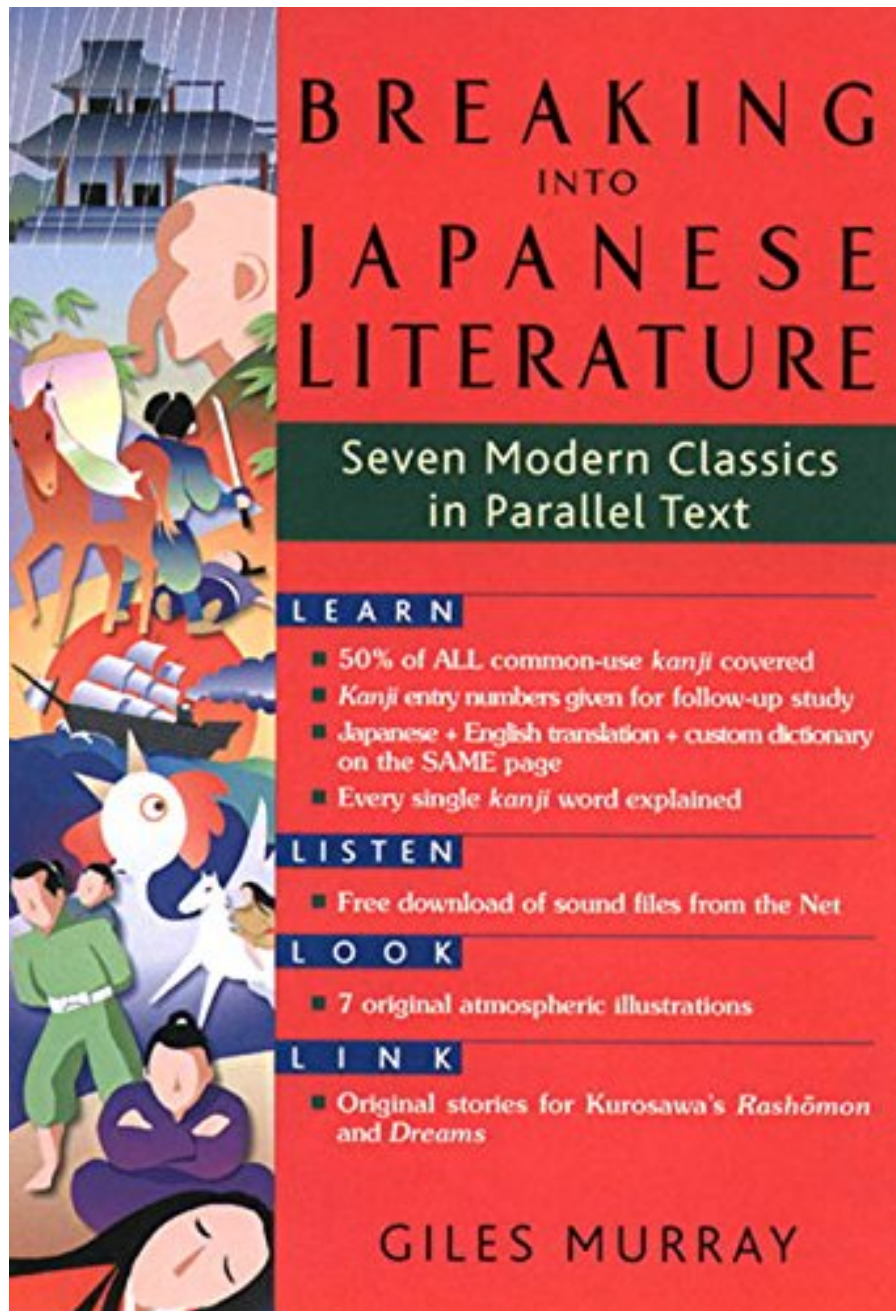


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## About the Author

GILES MURRAY lives in Tokyo where he works as a writer, translator, editor, and copywriter. He is the author of Kodansha International's best-selling "anti-textbook," 13 Secrets for Speaking Fluent Japanese, and appears as Jeremy Hilditch in the Japanese for Busy People: The Video series. Among his translations are Master Modeler: Creating the Tamiya Style (the autobiography of Shunsaku Tamiya, president of Tamiya Inc.) and Love Hina, a manga series about a bespectacled youth who becomes the janitor of a girls' dormitory.

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Good for Practice

By Sara Idzerda

Interesting stories, even if they are a little dark. It makes me want to read it, even though it takes me a lot longer than with an English story. If you are learning Japanese and are having a hard time finding ways to practice, this would be a good choice. The dual languages (Jap on one page and Eng on the other) with the vocab at the bottom was nice to use.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting stories in an easy to read format.

By C. Tucker

The only bad thing that can be said about this book is that the translations on the right hand page make it almost too easy to cheat and just read things in English. However, if you have a little self discipline, you'll find that there's a lot here to love. The translations are not literal, and aim to maintain the feeling of the sentences in English. I found it fun to compare my translation to that of the author, and enjoyed those "aha!" moments when I realized "But that's not really what it's saying!".

After reading this book it has become clearer than ever that a lot of things get lost/mutated in translation as a means to tailor things to English speaking audiences.

As far as the definitions at the bottom go, it is interesting to note that same word is often defined in different ways based on usage. This is a nice touch as it shows the versatility of those words, that would be hard to grasp if we did not see them used multiple ways.

And to close, I'll say that the story selections were interesting. The repetition of words and phrases in them made them an intelligent choice by Mr. Murray. Because you will see some of the same words often in the same story, you will naturally pick up on them just so you can avoid the annoyance of looking up their definition everytime you come across them.

In summary, this book is a great introduction to Japanese fiction and I've enjoyed my time with it. If you're looking to make the jump into non-educational material, this is a great starting place.

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76 of 77 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant! Best thing I've bought for Japanese learning!

By M. Sutton

This is absolutely brilliant. The stories are interesting and captivating, and never too long to overtly intimidate or tire the reader. You start with really short stories, and as your confidence with reading literary Japanese increases, the stories get longer and more complicated. I have learned and cemented more from reading this novel than by any other method but emersion experiences in Japan. I have a huge collection of modern Japanese literature and, though it was inaccessible before, this novel has made reading, guessing, and understanding Japanese fiction a blast. Note: it won't stop being difficult, even after this. But the satisfaction of reading and comprehending a story in it's original language, and being able to find fault in translations and such, is a really remarkable experience.

Highly recommended, and I hope to see a volume 2! I would buy it in a heartbeat!

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