The following list is a sampling of the books we have on this subject. Children’s, teen, and adult books are included here. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

**Somewhere Among**  
by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu  
*Eleven-year-old Emma’s life in Tokyo changes for the worse when she and her American mother, who is pregnant, must move in with her Japanese grandmother the summer before 9/11 changes the world. 441 pages*

**The Japanese Tsunami, 2011**  
by Lauren Tarshis  
*Ben and his family visit Japan after the death of their father and are swept away and pulled apart when a terrible tsunami hits their uncle’s coastal village. 83 pages*

**Moribito**  
by Nahoko Uehashi  
*The wandering warrior Balsa is hired to protect Prince Chagum from both a mysterious monster and the prince’s father, the Mikado. 248 pages*

**The Friends**  
by Kazumi Yumoto  
*Curious about death, three sixth-grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends. 169 pages*

**The Cat Who Went to Heaven**  
by Elizabeth Coatsworth  
*In ancient Japan a struggling artist is angered when his housekeeper brings home a tiny white cat he can barely afford to feed. 88 pages*

**Shipwrecked!: the True Adventures of a Japanese Boy**  
by Rhoda Blumberg  
*In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, 14-year-old Manjiro learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States. 80 pages*

**Sachiko: a Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story**  
by Caren B Stelson  
*Tells the story of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki through the eyes of Sachiko Yasui, who was six when the devastation was wrought, describing her experiences in the aftermath of the attack as well as her long journey to find peace. 144 pages*
YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Flame in the Mist
by Renee Ahdieh
The daughter of a prominent samurai, Mariko has long known her place. She may be an accomplished alchemist, whose cunning rivals that of her twin brother Kenshin, but because she is not a boy, her future has always been out of her hands. 392 pages

The Girl from the Well
by Rin Chupeco
Okiku has wandered the world for centuries, freeing the innocent ghosts of the murdered-dead and taking the lives of killers with the vengeance they are due, but when she meets Tark she knows the moody teen with the series of intricate tattoos is not a monster and needs to be freed from the demonic malevolence that clings to him. 267 pages

A Mortal Song
by Megan Crewe
Sora yearns to finally take on the sacred kami duties but as she confronts her parents to make this plea, a ghostly army invades the mountain. Barely escaping, Sora follows her mother's instructions and learns she is a human changeling while her parents' true daughter remained safe but unaware in modern-day Tokyo. Now, with ghosts plotting an even more deadly assault, it falls on her to train the unprepared kami princess. 380 pages

My Almost Flawless Tokyo Dream Life
by Rachel Cohn
On her 16th birthday, Elle Zoellner leaves the foster care system to live with the father she never knew in Tokyo, Japan. Soon, Elle is attending a prestigious international school and living in a 49th-floor penthouse apartment of her own. She’s taken in by one of the most popular girls in the school, who introduces her to the magic of the city. 346 pages

Heart of a Samurai
by Margi Preus
In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, 14-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States. 301 pages

The Monster on the Road is Me
by J.P. Romney
In Japan, a teenage boy with narcolepsy is able to steal the thoughts of supernatural beings in his sleep, and uses this ability to defeat a mountain demon that’s causing a string of suicides at his school. 325 pages

Ink
by Amanda Sun
After a family tragedy in Deep River, Canada, Katie Greene is sent to live with her aunt in Shizuoka, Japan. There she feels lost and alone until she meets the mysterious Tomohiro and strange things begin to happen whenever they are together. 369 pages

The Language Inside
by Holly Thompson
Raised in Japan, American born 10th grader Emma is disconcerted by a move to Massachusetts for her mother’s cancer treatment, because half of Emma’s heart remains with her friends recovering from a tsunami. 521 pages

Seven Days of You
by Cecilia Vinesse
Seventeen-year-old Sophia has seven days left in Tokyo before she moves back to the United States, and she unexpectedly finds herself drawn to Jamie, a boy with whom she shares a heartbreaking history. Can their one short week of Tokyo adventures end in anything but good-bye? 325 pages
GRAPHIC NOVELS

**Sumo**  
by Thien Pham  
YA COMICS PHAM  
A washed-up American football player finds a new life in sumo wrestling. 96 pages

**Ichiro**  
by Ryan Inzana  
GRAPHIC NOVELS INZANA  
Raised by a Japanese mother in New York City, his American father killed in a war, Ichiro finds it difficult to figure out where he fits in. A trip to Japan leaves the boy with his grandfather, in a country he does not know. And one night Ichiro gets dragged down a hole by a monster. When he awakens he isn’t in Japan nor the mortal world. He has entered into the domain of the gods. Will Ichiro ever find a place to call home? 275 pages

**Showa: A History of Japan**  
by Shigeru Mizuki  
GRAPHIC NOVELS 952.033 MIZ  
This is a meticulously researched historical portrait of 20th century Japan. Mizuki’s photo-realist style effortlessly brings Japan to life, making history compelling for young audiences as well as mature readers. 533 pages

ADULT FICTION

**The China Lover**  
by Ian Buruma  
F BURUMA  
In Buruma's reimagining of the life of Yamaguchi Yoshiko, a Japanese torn among patriotism for her parents, a homeland, worldly ambition, and sympathy for the Chinese, she would reflect almost exactly the twists and turns in the history of modern Japan. 392 pages

**The Bamboo Sword and Other Samurai Tales**  
by Shuhei Fujisawa  
F FUJISAWA  
A collection of short stories that evoke 17th century Japan. Stories include: The Bamboo Sword; A Passing Shower; All for a Melon; Kozuru; Shinza, the Samurai; Out of Luck; The Runaway Stallion; and Dancing Hands. 253 pages

**Big in Japan**  
by Jennifer Stewart Griffith  
F GRIFFITH  
Buck Cooper is Texan, obese, and invisible to his colleagues. His entire life is about fitting in, a feat he’s been struggling to achieve but has never succeeded. Then, serendipity lands him in Japan right in the middle of a sumo match. As his life takes a new turn in a country where being big can mean fame and fortune, Buck will find the ultimate meaning of love and acceptance. 318 pages

**The Strangeness of Beauty**  
by Lydia Minatoya  
F MINATOYA  
Shortly before World War II, Etsuko returns to Japan with her infant nephew to dwell in the foreboding samurai home of her estranged mother, where she struggles to find inner peace as the world descends into war. 384 pages

**South of the Border, West of the Sun**  
by Haruki Murakami  
F MURAKAMI  
Years after their separation, two Japanese childhood sweethearts are reunited. Hajime finds himself prepared to risk everything for the chance to be with his now mysterious first love. 213 pages

**Shadow Child**  
by Rahna R Rizzuto  
F RIZZUTO  
A haunting and suspenseful literary tale set in 1970s New York City and World War II-era Japan, about three strong women, the dangerous ties of family and identity, and the long shadow our histories can cast. 341 pages

**The Pearl Diver**  
by Jeff Talarigo  
F TALARIGO  
Expecting to live out her life as a Japanese pearl diver, a 19-year-old girl’s dreams are shattered when she is rejected by her family and exiled to the leprosy island of Nagashima. 240 pages
The Street of a Thousand Blossoms
by Gail Tsukiyama
Raised by loving and traditionally minded grandparents, Japanese youths Hiroshi and Kenji are forced to put their dreams on hold in the wake of World War II and find their destinies intertwining with those of a famous sumo master's daughters. 422 pages

Blue Light Yokohama
by Nicolas Obregon
Newly reinstated Tokyo Homicide Division Police Inspector Iwata works with reluctant colleagues to investigate the brutal murder of an entire family and other deaths that are identified as the work of the same killer. 408 pages

Stormdancer
by Jay Kristoff
In this dystopian steampunk fantasy set against a backdrop of feudal Japan, warrior Yukiko captures a supposedly extinct (but crippled) griffin for the Shogun, then learns of the horrifying extent of the Shogun's crimes, both against her country and her family. Returning to the city, Yukiko is determined to make the Shogun pay but what can one girl and a flightless griffin do against the might of an empire? 324 pages

NONFICTION

Exploring the Life, Myth, and Art of Japan
by Tony Allan
With information on Japanese myths and culture, as well as a discussion of the legacy of these myths, readers will gain a greater understanding and respect for the ancient culture and mythology of Japan. 146 pages

Japan
by Ann Heinrichs
Describes the history, geography, plants and animals, economy, language, people and culture of the island nation of Japan. 144 pages

Japan
by Rex Shelley
Part of the Cultures of the World series, this book provides a wealth of information on Japan, including environment, politics, culture, and history. With an abundance of vibrant photographs, this book will stimulate the imaginations of young readers as they learn about Japan. 144 pages

Japanese Culture
by Paul Varley
Provides an overview of Japanese culture, including the political, social, and religious forces that shape the nation. 388 pages

Samurai: The Last Warrior
by John Man
The complete and authentic history of the most elite class of warriors profiles one of the most infamous samurai of all time – Saigo Takamori – from his birth to his glorious death by ritual suicide that brought about the end of hundreds of years of Samurai tradition. 321 pages

Bending Adversity
by David Pilling
The author argues that the Japanese may use the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and consequent terrifying meltdown at the nuclear complex at Fukushima, to stimulate their economy and turn it into a mature economy, comfortable in itself, with satisfactory growth and a senior and respected seat in the global parliament. 382 pages
Samurai Rising
by Pamela Turner
Documents the true story of the legendary samurai who was raised in the household of the enemies who killed his father before being sent to live in a monastery where, against the odds, he learned and perfected his fighting skills. 236 pages

No One's Perfect
by Hirotada Ototake
A moving biography in which the author describes how, despite being born without arms or legs, he set out to have a fulfilling life. 226 pages