



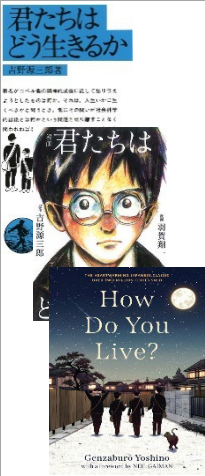



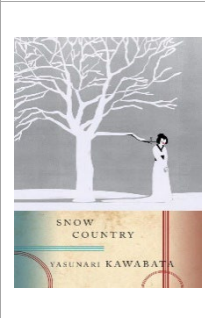
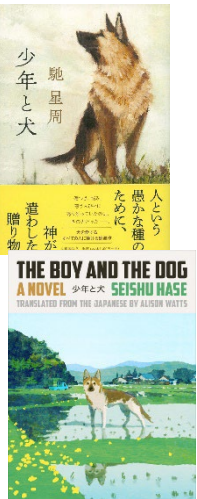
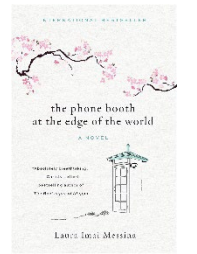
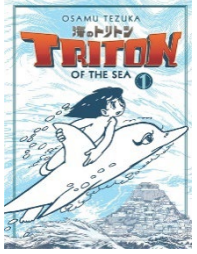
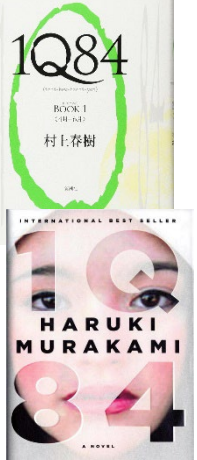


Books selected by the participants of
JFT Book Club (Hybrid) – With Silent Reading Time –
Holiday Reading Recommendations
November 16, 2023

	Title	Author	Genre
	<p>Before the Coffee Gets Cold</p>	<p>KAWAGUCHI Toshikazu</p>	<p>Literary Fiction, Magical Realism</p> <p>If you could go back in time, who would you want to meet? In a small back alley of Tokyo, there is a café that has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. Local legend says that this shop offers something else besides coffee - the chance to travel back in time. Over the course of one summer, four customers visit the café in the hopes of making that journey. But time travel isn't so simple, and there are rules that must be followed. Most important, the trip can last only as long as it takes for the coffee to get cold. Heartwarming, wistful, mysterious and delightfully quirky, Toshikazu Kawaguchi's internationally bestselling novel explores the age-old question: What would you change if you could travel back in time? <i>*Physical book[EN] and ebook[EN] & audiobook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>
	<p>Blank Canvas : My So-Called Artist's Journey かくかくしかじか</p>	<p>HIGASHIMURA Akiko</p>	<p>Manga, Autobiography</p> <p>High schooler Akiko has big plans to become a popular mangaka before she even graduates, but she needs to get much better at drawing if she ever wants to reach her goal. Looking for an easy fix, she signs up for an art class, thinking all her problems will soon be solved. She's in for a surprise: her new instructor is a bamboo sword-wielding taskmaster who doesn't care about manga one bit. But maybe this unconventional art teacher is just what she needs to realize her dreams! <i>*Physical book[JP] and ebook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>
	<p>Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman</p>	<p>MURAKAMI Haruki</p>	<p>Literary Fiction, Short Stories, Magical Realism</p> <p>Here are animated crows, a criminal monkey, and an ice man, as well as the dreams that shape us and the things we might wish for. From the surreal to the mundane, these stories exhibit Murakami's ability to transform the full range of human experience in ways that are instructive, surprising, and entertaining. <i>*Physical book[EN] and ebook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>
	<p>Golden Kamuy ゴールデンカムイ</p>	<p>NODA Satoru</p>	<p>Manga, Historical Fiction, Action & Adventure</p> <p>In the early twentieth century, Russo-Japanese War veteran Saichi "Immortal" Sugimoto scratches out a meager existence during the postwar gold rush on the wild frontier of Hokkaido. When he stumbles across a map to a fortune in hidden Ainu gold, he sets off on a treacherous quest to find it. But Sugimoto is not the only interested party, and everyone who knows about the gold will kill to possess it! Faced with the harsh conditions of the northern wilderness, ruthless criminals and rogue Japanese soldiers, Sugimoto will need all his skills and luck—and the help of an Ainu girl named Asirpa—to survive. <i>*Physical book [JP] and ebook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>

	Title	Author	Genre
	How Do You Live? 君たちはどう生きるか	YOSHINO Genzaburo	Young Adult Literature, Coming of Age
<p>The streets of Tokyo swarm below fifteen-year-old Copper as he gazes out into the city of his childhood. Struck by the thought of the infinite people whose lives play out alongside his own, he begins to wonder, <i>how do you live?</i> Considering life's biggest questions for the first time after the death of his father, Copper turns to his dear uncle for heart-warming wisdom. As the old man guides the boy on a journey of philosophical discovery, a timeless tale unfolds, offering a poignant reflection on what it means to be human. But when Copper betrays one of his new friends, how will he ask for forgiveness — and how can he forgive himself? <i>How Do You Live?</i> is the inspiring, transformative story of a young man who, like his namesake Copernicus, looks to the stars and uses his discoveries to answer the question of what kind of person he will grow up to be.</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN & JP], manga [JP] and ebook [EN] & audiobook [EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>			
	Kowloon Generic Romance 九龍ジェネリックロマンス	MAYUZUKI Jun	Manga, Romance, Sci-Fi
<p>Welcome to Kowloon Walled City: a dystopian townscape where the people are brimming with nostalgia, and where the past, present, and future converge. Amid the hidden emotions and extraordinary daily lives of the men and women working in its confines, a tale of romance begins to unfold for real estate agent Reiko Kujirai—one that feels as familiar as Kowloon itself...</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN & JP] available at JFT Library.</i></p>			
	Norwegian Wood ノルウェイの森	MURAKAMI Haruki	Literary Fiction, Romance
<p>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, <i>Norwegian Wood</i> first propelled Haruki Murakami into the forefront of the literary scene.</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN & JP] and ebook [EN] & audiobook [EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>			
	Rurouni Kenshin	WATSUKI Nobuhiro	Manga, Historical Fiction, Action & Adventure
<p>One hundred and forty years ago in Kyoto, with the coming of the American "Black Ships," there arose a warrior who, felling men with his bloodstained blade, gained the name Hitokiri, manslayer! His killer blade helped close the turbulent Bakumatsu era and slashed open the progressive age known as Meiji. Then he vanished, and with the flow of years, became legend.</p> <p><i>*Not in JFT Library Collection. Live-action movies DVDs available at JFT Library.</i></p>			
	Snow Country	KAWABATA Yasunari	Literary Fiction, Romance
<p>At an isolated mountain hot spring, with snow blanketing every surface, Shimamura, a wealthy dilettante meets Komako, a lowly geisha. She gives herself to him fully and without remorse, despite knowing that their passion cannot last and that the affair can have only one outcome. In chronicling the course of this doomed romance, Kawabata has created a story for the ages—a stunning novel dense in implication and exalting in its sadness.</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN] and ebook [EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>			

	Title	Author	Genre
	The Boy and the Dog 少年と犬	HASE Seishū	Literary Fiction, Animal
	<p>One dog changes the life of everyone who takes him in on his journey to reunite with his first owner in this inspiring novel about the bond between humans and dogs and the life-affirming power of connection. Following a devastating earthquake and tsunami, a young man in Japan finds a stray dog outside a convenience store. The dog's tag says "Tamon," a name evocative of the guardian deity of the north. The man decides to keep Tamon, becoming the first in a series of owners on the dog's five-year journey to find his beloved first owner, Hikaru, a boy who has not spoken since the tsunami. An agent of fate, Tamon is a gift to everyone who welcomes him into their life.</p> <p>At once heartrending and heartwarming, intimate and panoramic, suspenseful and luminous—and deepened in its emotion by the author's mastery of the gritty details and hardscrabble circumstances that define the lives of the various people who take Tamon in on his journey—this bestselling, award-winning novel weaves a feel-good tale of survival, resilience, and love beyond measure.</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN & JP] and ebook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>		
	The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World	Laura Imai Messina	Literary Fiction, Cultural Heritage
	<p>When Yui loses both her mother and her daughter in the tsunami, she begins to mark the passage of time from that date onward: Everything is relative to March 11, 2011, the day the tsunami tore Japan apart, and when grief took hold of her life. Yui struggles to continue on, alone with her pain. Then one day she hears about a man who has an old disused telephone booth in his garden. There, those who have lost loved ones find the strength to speak to them and begin to come to terms with their grief. As news of the phone booth spreads, people travel to it from miles around. Soon Yui makes her own pilgrimage to the phone booth, too. But once there she cannot bring herself to speak into the receiver. Instead she finds Takeshi, a bereaved husband whose own daughter has stopped talking in the wake of her mother's death.</p> <p>Simultaneously heartbreaking and heartwarming, The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World is the signpost pointing to the healing that can come after.</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>		
	Triton Of The Sea	TEZUKA Osamu	Manga, Fantasy
	<p>The ocean holds many tales. Tales of mermaids, of underwater kingdoms, and of fantastical beasts lurking in the deep. Spurred by these tales, Kazuya sets out to find the truth, but what he finds is a baby?! Not just any baby, the baby Kazuya finds is Triton! The last of a once mighty and proud race of people from the sea. Triton seems human, but unusual and terrible events begin to happen with all those around him. Who is Triton, and why does he bring misfortune to everyone around him?</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN] and ebook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>		
	1Q84	MURAKAMI Haruki	Literary Fiction, Magical Realism, Romance, Fantasy, Mystery
	<p>The year is 1984. Aomame is riding in a taxi on the expressway, in a hurry to carry out an assignment. Her work is not the kind that can be discussed in public. When they get tied up in traffic, the taxi driver suggests a bizarre 'proposal' to her. Having no other choice she agrees, but as a result of her actions she starts to feel as though she is gradually becoming detached from the real world. She has been on a top secret mission, and her next job leads her to encounter the superhuman founder of a religious cult. Meanwhile, Tengo is leading a nondescript life but wishes to become a writer. He inadvertently becomes involved in a strange disturbance that develops over a literary prize. While Aomame and Tengo impact on each other in various ways, at times by accident and at times intentionally, they come closer and closer to meeting. Eventually the two of them notice that they are indispensable to each other. Is it possible for them to ever meet in the real world?</p> <p><i>*Physical book [EN & JP] and ebook[EN] available at JFT Library.</i></p>		

**Book descriptions from Libby and/or Amazon.ca*