The Tale Of Genji: A Reader's Guide

Murasaki Shikibu

The Tale of Genji is a seminal work in Japanese literature and has been translated into many languages. This reader's guide offers an introduction to the novel, its historical context, and its cultural significance.

The Tale of Genji was written by Murasaki Shikibu, a woman from a declining aristocratic family in Heian Japan. The novel follows Prince Genji, the heir to the throne, and his love affairs, intrigues, and political maneuverings. The story is set in the Heian_period (794-1185), a time of cultural flowering and political stability.

The novel is a masterpiece of prose, with its intricate plot, beautifully crafted characters, and poetic language. It is considered one of the world's earliest novels and has had a significant impact on Japanese and world literature.

This reader's guide provides an overview of the novel's structure, key characters, and themes. It also includes a section on the novel's reception and influence, as well as a comprehensive bibliography for further reading.

Murasaki Shikibu's The Tale of Genji
James M. Mulligan 2019 Murasaki Shikibu's The Tale of Genji is variously read as a work of feminist protest, the world's first psychological novel, and even as a modernist masterpiece. Commonly seen as Japan's greatest literary work, its literary, cultural, and historical significance has been thoroughly acknowledged. As a work focused on the complexities of Japanese court life in the Heian period, however, The Tale of Genji has never before been the subject of philosophical investigation. In this essay, Murasaki's work has been addressed from a new perspective, arguing that the work contains much that lends itself to philosophical analysis. The authors of this volume demonstrate that The Tale of Genji confronts universal themes such as the nature and exercise of political power, freedom, individual autonomy and agency, renunciation, gender, and self-expression; it raises deep concerns about aesthetics and the role of art, causality, the relation of man to nature, memory, and death itself. Although Murasaki Shikibu may not have been aware of the Western notion of psychological realism, she may have shared certain philosophical questions about human nature and the way it is related to the world around us. This volume offers a series of essays that explore these themes, written by some of the leading experts in the field, covering a wide range of topics from philosophy, psychology, and literary studies. Each essay in this collection reveals a part of this framework, situating ideas within larger philosophical and historical contexts. In doing so, the essays both challenge prevailing views of the novel and each other, offering a range of philosophical interpretations of the text and emphasizing the The Tale of Genji's place as a masterwork of literature with broad philosophical significance.

Reading the Tale of Genji
Richard Stanley-Baker 2009-10-01 Six essays by international scholars addressing the Tale of Genji research and the Tale of Genji in the context of new critical theory relating to cultural studies, narrative painting, comparative literature and a global vision of medieval romance. It links new critical theory with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary interests.

Appraising Genji
Patrick W. Caddeus 2012-02-01 Murasaki Shikibu's eleventh-century The Tale of Genji is one of the most revered works in Japan. This book explores Genji's reception over the past thousand years in Japan and China.

Unreal Houses
Edith Sarra 2021-01-11 “The Tale of Genji (ca. 1008), by noblewoman Murasaki Shikibu, is known for its sophisticated renderings of fictional characters' minds and its critical perspectives on the lives of aristocratic women. Unreal Houses radically rethinks the Genji by focusing on the figure of the house. Edith Sarra examines the narrative's fictionalized images of aristocratic mansions and its representation of the people who inhabit them, how exploring key characters in the Genji think about houses in both the architectural and psychological sense of the word. Through close readings of the Genji and other Heian narratives, Unreal Houses elucidates the literary fiction of social space, architectural, and affective spaces and shows how the figure of the house distributes the structure of narrative sequences and the expression of relational action among characters. Combining literary fiction with the history of gender, marriage, and property, Sarra opens up the narrative to new readings of the Genji and the female middles that paired some of what she called the world’s first novel.”

The Tale of Murasaki
Lily Diamond 2002-08-13 The Tale of Murasaki is an elegant and brilliantly authentic historical novel by the author of Goethe and the Westerner ever to have become a geisha. In the eleventh century Murasaki Shikibu wrote the world’s first novel, The Tale of Genji, the most popular work in the history of Japanese literature. In The Tale of Murasaki, Lily Diamond has created a breathtaking fictionalized narrative of the life of this timeless post-a-lonely girl who becomes such a compelling storyteller that she is invited to regale the empress with her tales. The Tale of Murasaki is the story of an enchanting time and an exotic place. Whether writing about mystical fields in the rainy mountains or the politics and intrigues of the royal court, Diamond breathes authenticity into life Japan.

The Tale of Genji
Shikibu Murasaki 2015-07-27 “A fluid, elegant rendition.” —Washington Post Murasaki Shikibu, born into the middle ranks of the aristocracy during the Heian period (794-1185 CE), wrote The Tale of Genji—widely considered the world’s first novel—during the early years of the eleventh century. Expansive, sophisticated, and insightful, Murasaki’s novel presents readers with the most comprehensive and nuanced portrait of aristocratic life and women’s experiences in all of Japan’s literature. The Tale of Genji is presented here in a flowing new translation for contemporary readers, who will discover in the masterpiece’s depiction of the culture of the imperial court the rich complexity of human experience that simultaneously resonates with and challenges their own. Washburn sets off interior monologues with italics for fluid reading, embeds apparent contradictions with accessibility and clarity, and renders the poets into triptychs to populate the text with meaningful annotation of the original.

A String of Flowers, United ...
Murasaki Shikibu 2001-12-01 Experiences of passion and heartbreak, written by Murasaki from 1001 to 1003, constitute the first chapter of The Tale of Genji. It is the relationship between the novel’s characters and the poetry that creates the beauty and sustained erotic tone of Lady Murasaki’s story. For the first time, these 400+ poems are presented in the increasingly popular format of tanka (5-7-5-7-7), along with extended notes that reveal the hidden details and depth of meaning in Murasaki’s eastern and Western worlds.

The Female as Subject
Edith Sarra 2021-01-11 “Murasaki Shikibu’s, the Tale of Genji, is variously read as a work of feminist protest, the world’s first psychological novel, and even as a modernist masterpiece. Commonly seen as Japan’s greatest literary work, its literary, cultural, and historical significance has been thoroughly acknowledged. As a work focused on the complexities of Japanese court life in the Heian period, however, The Tale of Genji has never before been the subject of philosophical investigation. In this essay, Murasaki’s work has been addressed from a new perspective, arguing that the work contains much that lends itself to philosophical analysis. The authors of this volume demonstrate that The Tale of Genji confronts universal themes such as the nature and exercise of political power, freedom, individual autonomy and agency, renunciation, gender, and self-expression; it raises deep concerns about aesthetics and the role of art, causality, the relation of man to nature, memory, and death itself. Although Murasaki Shikibu may not have been aware of the Western notion of psychological realism, she may have shared certain philosophical questions about human nature and the way it is related to the world around us. This volume offers a series of essays that explore these themes, written by some of the leading experts in the field, covering a wide range of topics from philosophy, psychology, and literary studies. Each essay in this collection reveals a part of this framework, situating ideas within larger philosophical and historical contexts. In doing so, the essays both challenge prevailing views of the novel and each other, offering a range of philosophical interpretations of the text and emphasizing the The Tale of Genji’s place as a masterwork of literature with broad philosophical significance.”

Figures of Resistance
Richard H. Okada 1991-10-31 In this revisionist study of texts from the mid-Heian period in Japan, H. Richard Okada...
**The Novel: An Alternative History, 1600-1800** 2009
Steven Moore
This is the period of the samurai class who fought for the helm of power in 16th century Japan. A period of brilliant cultural efflorescence. This new translation focuses on important events in the life of its main character, Genji. It traces the full length of Genji’s relationship with Murasaki, the deepest and most enduring of his emotional attachments, and contains all or parts of 10 of the 41 chapters in which Genji figures, including the “Broom Tree” chapter, which provides a reprise of the themes of the book. In romanticist but essentially truthful fashion, The Tale of the Heike describes the late twelfth-century political intrigues and battlefield clashes that led to the eclipse of the Kyoto court and the establishment of a military government by the rival Minamoto (Genji) clan. Its underlying theme, the evanescence of worldly things, echoes some of the concerns of the Genji, but its language preserves many traces of oral composition, and its vigor and expansiveness contrast sharply with the precise, elegant tone of the Genji. The selections of the Heike, about 40 percent of the work, come from the translator’s complete edition, The Tale of Genji: An Epic of the Heart and Soul. These seven essays by the most recent English translator of The Tale of Genji examine three major interpretive issues. What is the place of the hero (Hikaru Genji) in the text? What story gives the narrative underlying continuity and form? And how does the closing section of the tale (especially the ten ‘Uji’ chapters) relate to what precedes it? Written over a period of nine years, the essays suggest fresh, thought-provoking perspectives on Japan’s greatest literary classic.

**Worlding Sei Shônagon**
Norma Field
First published in 1928, this path-breaking work is still of importance and interest to Japanese scholars and linguists.

**The Tale of Genji and its Chinese Precursors**
Jindai Ni
First published in 1928, this path-breaking work is still of importance and interest to Japanese scholars and linguists.

**Spanish Picaresques, French Heroic Romances, Massive Chinese Novels, Japanese Graphic Novels, and Eccentric Literary Forms**
Norma Field
When the Emperor Hirohito died in 1989, Japanese newspapers had to use a special, exalted word to refer to him and to his death, because to die naturally was considered a disgrace in Japan’s imperial culture. Other texts...
Eventually, you will utterly discover a supplementary experience and completion by spending more cash. still when? reach you take that you require to get those every needs subsequently having significantly cash? Why dont you attempt to get something basic in the beginning? Thats something that will lead you to understand even more in the region of the globe, experience, some places, in the same way as history, amusement, and a lot more?

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