

## 📖 Topic Page: [Shikibu, Murasaki \(c. 978–c. 1015\)](#)

Definition: **Murasaki, Shikibu** from *Philip's Encyclopedia*

Japanese diarist and novelist. Murasaki is best known for her novel, *The Tale of Genji*. Dating from c.1000, it is one of the first works of fiction written in Japanese. See *also* Japanese literature



Image from: [JAPAN in World and Its Peoples: Eastern and Southern Asia](#)

Summary Article: **Murasaki Shikibu**  
From *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia*

(born c. 978, Kyōto, Japan) Japanese writer. Her real name is unknown, and the primary source of knowledge about her life is a diary she kept (1007–10). Her *Tale of Genji* (completed c. 1010) is a long and complex tale, concerned mostly with the loves of Prince Genji and the women in his life. Supremely sensitive to human emotions and the beauties of nature, it provides delightful glimpses of life at the court of the empress Jōtō mon'in, whom Murasaki served. It is generally considered the greatest work of Japanese literature and perhaps the world's first novel.

**Birth Place:** Kyōto, Japan

**Death Place:** Kyōto, Japan

**Name:** Murasaki Shikibu or Murasaki Shikibu

**Gender:** female

**Nationality:** Japanese

**Activity:** Japanese courtier and author

**Keywords:** Japanese, translation, "Tale of Genji, The", novel, Japanese literature, Kyōto, diary, Murasaki Shikibu, Japan, "Diaries of Court Ladies of Old Japan"

**APA**

Chicago

Harvard

**MLA**

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Murasaki Shikibu. (2017). In Encyclopaedia Britannica, *Britannica concise encyclopedia*. Chicago, IL: Britannica Digital Learning. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu\\_murasaki](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu_murasaki)

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## APA

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## Chicago

"Murasaki Shikibu." In *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia*, by Encyclopaedia Britannica. Britannica Digital Learning, 2017. [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu\\_murasaki](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu_murasaki)

## Harvard

Murasaki Shikibu. (2017). In Encyclopaedia Britannica, *Britannica concise encyclopedia*. [Online]. Chicago: Britannica Digital Learning. Available from: [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu\\_murasaki](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu_murasaki) [Accessed 22 October 2019].

## MLA

"Murasaki Shikibu." *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Britannica Digital Learning, 2017. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu\\_murasaki](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/shikibu_murasaki). Accessed 22 Oct. 2019.