

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
WTMA Summer Japanese Reading Club

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required text:

- Free printable graded readers from Tadoku.org (see schedule below for links to each week's specific reading assignments)

Elective texts:

Students may source their weekly elective reading material from Tadoku.org (above), from the following sources, and/or from any other at-level source. No materials purchases are necessary for this club, although students and parents may opt for in-app or hardcopy purchases.

- Free printable graded readers from Nihongo Tokuhon (any/all [Level 0](#) and [Level 1](#))
- Free printable graded readers from [KC Yomuyomu](#) (any/all Level A1)
- Graded readers from [White Rabbit Press](#) (any/all Level 0 and Level 1) *Android/iOS app free to download; \$1.99 per in-app download of Level 0 readers; \$2.99 per in-app download of Level 1 readers)*

Description

The WTMA Summer Japanese Reading Club is designed to keep Japanese language students practicing their language skills and engaged in reading and discussion over the summer break. Students will come together with their instructor once a week to talk about that week's reading and learn more about the Japanese language, culture, and history.

This club is appropriate for students who have completed Japanese I or II with the Well-Trained Mind Academy. All text options above are appropriate for students at this level. Students who have studied Japanese at a different institution may also register for the club, provided they can read *hiragana* symbols competently.

When reading, students are asked to follow the rules of *tadoku*, Japanese-style reading practice: (1) Begin with material below your level; (2) Never use a dictionary; (3) Skip over individual words you don't understand; and (4) If you get stuck, try a different text.

For this reading club, there is an additional rule: (5) No competing with fellow club members. Students should aim to improve upon their own previous achievements, not anyone else's.

Assignments

This course is meant to foster a student's love of Japanese culture and language, and to demystify the process of reading in Japanese. There are no formal written assignments. To prepare for each session, students should read the weekly required text(s), and at least one additional text per week. Students who have completed Japanese I are assigned one required text per week, while students who have completed Japanese II are assigned two required texts per week. Students who have participated in the club in previous years will notice that some of the

required texts are repeated; this is intentional, and students are expected to reread those texts. Students are also encouraged to reread older material, such as the graded readers assigned in Japanese I and II, as part of their elective reading.

Participation credit is earned by (1) attending the live class or watching the recording of a class, (2) keeping a reading log to be submitted at the end of the summer term, and (3) leading the class discussion during one session (see below). Delayed students will submit a final reflection essay (in English) as a substitute for requirement 3. Students who participate in all 8 sessions will receive a WTMA Japanese Summer Reading Club t-shirt.

Discussion leader signups will occur during the Week 1 session. Discussion leaders should bring to class at least one excerpt (just be ready to point your classmates to a page number) that they want the class to look at in more detail, a question about that excerpt (the question may be culture- or language-related), and any other questions or comments that they think could prompt interesting discussion.

Example schedule:

Please note--Each reading assignment needs to be completed by the beginning of the discussion session in which it's due to be covered. Students are responsible for reading the required texts at their level for each week, as well as at least one additional elective text per week. The reading assignments below are available for free; the additional elective reading may also come entirely from free sources, as noted above. Many of the texts come with audio recordings, which students are welcome to make use of.

Week #	All students must read:	Students who have completed Japanese II must also read:
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		