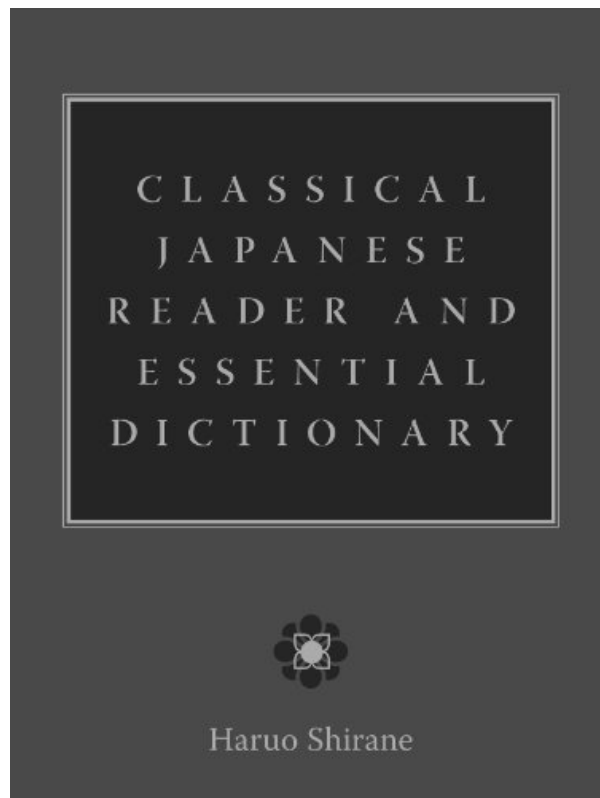
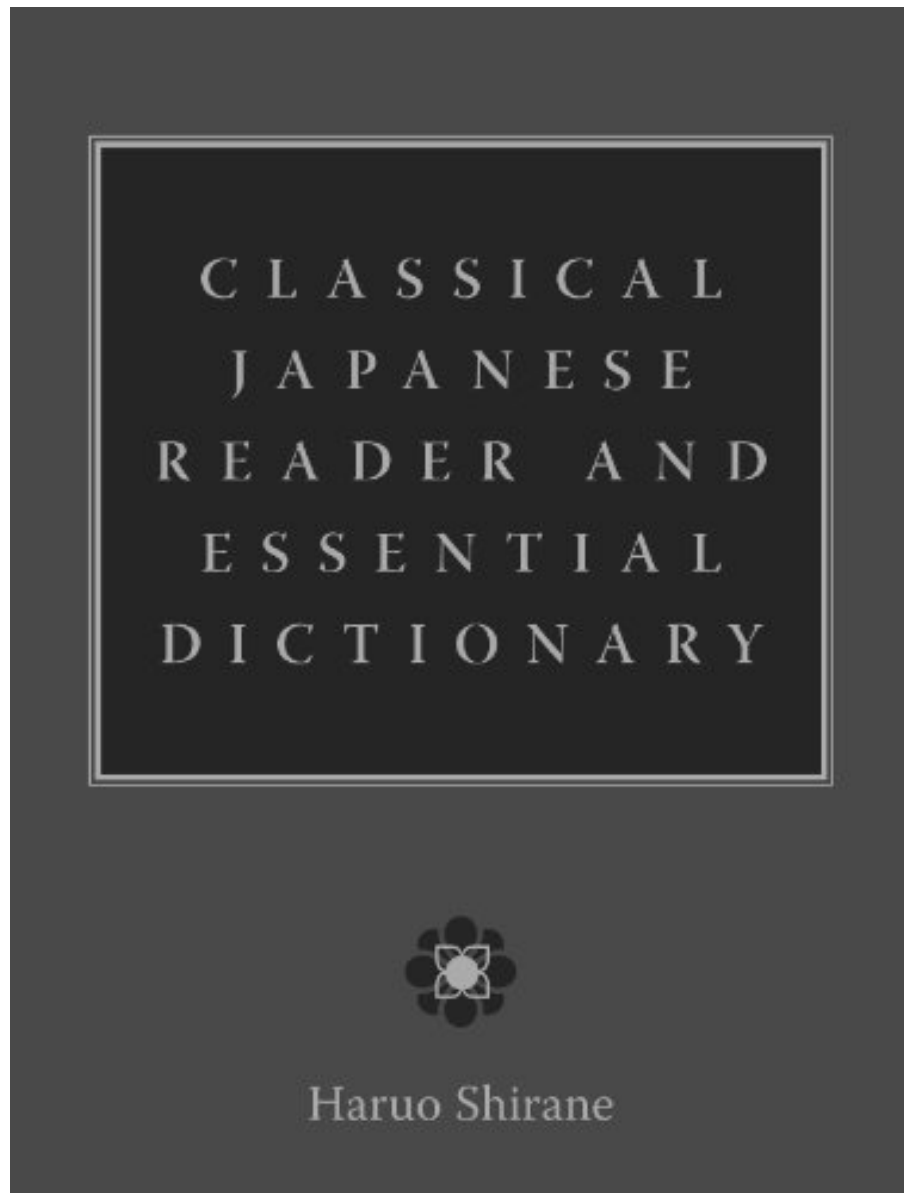


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About the Author

Haruo Shirane is Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature and Culture at Columbia University. His many books include Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology, 1600-1900; Traces of Dreams: Landscape, Cultural Memory, and the Poetry of Basho; and The Bridge of Dreams: A Poetics of The Tale of Genji.

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In 2005, the celebrated scholar of Japanese literature Haruo Shirane published *Classical Japanese: A Grammar*. Now, with *Classical Japanese Reader and Essential Dictionary*, he completes his two-volume textbook for learning classical, or literary, Japanese—the primary written language in Japan from the seventh to the mid-twentieth century. The text contains carefully selected readings that address a wide array of grammatical concerns and that steadily progress from easy to difficult. The selections encompass a wide range of historical periods and styles, including essays, fiction, and poetry from such noted works as *The Tale of Genji*, *The Tales of Ise*, *The Pillow Book*, *The Tales of the Heike*, and *Essays in Idleness*, and such authors as Ihara Saikaku, Matsuo Basho, Ueda Akinari, Motoori Norinaga, and Fukuzawa Yukichi. Each reading is accompanied by a short English introduction, a vocabulary list, and extensive grammatical notes, and ends with a comprehensive grammatical annotation.

The classical Japanese-English dictionary composes the last third of the book and features approximately 2,500 key words, highlighting those used most frequently. The first of its kind, this volume is a vital tool for students, scholars, and translators of classical Japanese.

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2. Then it gives a grammar and vocabulary breakdown of individual sections of the text.

This is a very good and detailed way of looking at the passages. The grammar sections do use Japanese terminology, but by the time you use this text you should know the terms from the grammar.

The dictionary is not huge, but it is still a great start to picking up some Classical Japanese vocabulary. It has all the words in the grammar and reader, as well as some additional words.

Overall I highly recommend this text with the other two companion volumes it goes with, the grammar and answer key.

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