

Need help choosing a novel to read

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Since teaching myself Japanese, I've been trying to read some serious literature, but there's one big problem—I've got no idea what novels are harder than others. So, although I realize this is a subjective thing, I was hoping that if I post the list of novels I've read, along with my success, someone could point me to others that could build up my reading chops a bit, to the point where I could read, say, "Yuki Guni".

"Yuki Guni" (Kawabata)—almost completely incomprehensible to me.

"Kinkakuji"—I thought I was getting it, but when I looked at the translation I realized I had missed important stuff—the zen, for instance, went right over my head.

"Bottchan" (Soseki)—Hard to say—I think I mostly understood it, didn't think it was funny; does that mean I missed the point?

Various short stories of Akutagawa—no real difficulty, and I really enjoyed these.

"Hako Otoko" (Kobo Abe) --- no real difficulties, except for one tricky section (also enjoyed this)

"Sasame Yuki" (Tanizaki)—Tricky at first, especially the dialect, but then I got into the flow and didn't have major problems.

A few books by Haruki Murakami—easy.

A few pop-culture novels (Miyuki Miyabe, that sort of thing)—very easy

I'm looking for some recommendations that will push my Japanese boundaries a bit, in addition to being good (that is, I enjoy Murakami, for example (and plan to read more), but reading his novels isn't going to push my Japanese up to a higher level).

Thanks for any help,

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