

Momotaro (Peach Boy)

A long time ago, there was an old man and an old woman. They were very kind, but they had no children. One day, the old woman went to the river to wash clothes.

Suddenly, she saw a big peach floating in the river. She picked up the peach and took it home. She said to the old man, "Let's eat this big peach!"

When they cut open the peach, they found a baby boy inside! The baby was smiling and healthy. The old couple was very happy and named him "Momotaro," which means "Peach Boy."

Momotaro grew up strong and brave. One day, he heard about some evil ogres (called *oni*) who were stealing things from people. Momotaro decided to fight the *oni* and bring peace to his village.

The old woman made some delicious rice dumplings (*kibi dango*) for him to take on his journey. He said goodbye to the old man and the old woman, and started his adventure.

As he walked, he met a dog, a monkey, and a pheasant (a kind of bird). Momotaro gave each of them a rice dumpling, and they agreed to help him fight the *oni*.

Together, Momotaro and his friends traveled to the *oni*'s island. They fought bravely against the *oni* and finally defeated them. The *oni* were very sorry and promised to be good.

Momotaro and his friends brought back the treasures the *oni* had stolen. When they returned to the village, everyone was very happy and grateful.

The old man and the old woman were very proud of Momotaro. They all lived happily ever after.