



# **Momotaro, Peach Boy**

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Today you are going to hear a folktale that involves a hero. Folktales are a kind of fiction. What does the word fiction mean? Guide towards...fiction referring to stories that are created from someone's imagination.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*The story you will hear today comes from the country of Japan. Japan is a country that is part of Asia.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*The Japanese folktale that you will hear today is called "Momotaro, Peach Boy." The main character in the story, Momotaro, is very brave. Listen carefully to find out how Momotaro helps his village.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*Once upon a time, in a small village in the country of Japan, there lived a kind old man and his good, honest wife.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*One fine morning, the old man went to the hills to cut firewood, while his wife went down to the river to wash clothes. The old woman was scrub, scrub, scrubbing, the clothes on a stone, when something strange came floating down the river.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*She picked it up--  
oof!--and carried it home  
with her, thinking that she  
and her husband could eat it  
when he returned.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*The old man soon came down from the hills, and the old woman set the peach before him. The peach began to shake and wobble the table. As the old man and woman looked on in amazement, the peach split apart, and out came a baby boy.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*The old man and woman took care of the baby. They were kind to him and raised him as their own son. They called him Momotaro, a fine name, as it means "Peach Boy."*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Momotaro grew up to be strong and brave--which was a good thing for a village, because for many years the villagers had been bothered by the oni, who were greedy monsters who stole things from villagers. Remember, monsters are made up and are not real. This story is just pretend. Everyone in the village wished that the oni would stop bothering the village.



# Momotaro, Peach Boy

One day, when Momotaro had grown to be a young man, he said to his parents, "I am going to the **island** of the oni who steal from our village."

An island is a piece of land completely surrounded by water.





# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*I will bring back what they have stolen, and stop them from harming us ever again. Please make some millet cakes for me to take along on my journey.*

*Millet cakes are cakes made from a type of seed called millet.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy

The old man and woman were worried, but they made the millet cakes for Momotaro. And so he started on his way.

He had not gone far when he met a dog. "Where are you going, Momotaro?" asked the dog.

"I am going to the island of the oni to bring back what they have stolen from my village," said Momotaro.

"And what are you carrying in that sack?" asked the dog.

"I'm carrying the best millet cakes in all of Japan," said Momotaro.

"Would you like one?"

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*“Mmm, yes!” said the dog.  
“And I will come with you to the  
island of the oni. I will help you.”  
The dog ate the millet cake,  
then he and Momotaro walked on.  
They soon met a monkey.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*"Where are you going, Momotaro?" asked the monkey.*

*"I am going to the island of the oni to bring back what they have stolen from my village," said Momotaro.*

*"I will come with you," said the monkey. And Momotaro thanked him and gave him a millet cake.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Now the three of them walked along, when soon they heard a call: "Momotaro, Momotaro! Where are you going?"

Momotaro looked around to see who was calling. A big pheasant flew out of a field and landed at his feet.



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*A pheasant is a bird with a long, colorful tail.*





# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Momotaro told him that he and his new friends were going to the island of the oni. "Then I will come with you and help you," said the pheasant. Momotaro thanked him and gave him a millet cake.

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*So Momotaro went on his way, with the dog, the monkey, and the pheasant following close behind.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



*They soon came to the island of oni. The oni lived in a big stone castle. The pheasant flew over the high castle walls. He swooped down and flew back and forth so fast that it scared the oni. The oni shouted and screamed and ran about in confusion.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Just then Momotaro, with the help of the dog and monkey, broke through the gate of the castle. Oh, what a scene! The dog and monkey ran about the legs of the oni, which tripped them up so much they had trouble standing. Momotaro ran left and right, waving his staff, or walking stick. Many of the oni ran away, and soon it was just Momotaro and the oni king.

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

Momotaro ordered the oni king to collect all the treasure the oni had stolen. Momotaro and his friends gazed in amazement at the beautiful gowns and jewels and gold and silver that had been stolen from the village over the years.

And so Momotaro took all the riches back to the village. The village was never again bothered by the oni. And Momotaro and the old man and the old woman lived in peace and plenty for the rest of their lives.

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*Who are the characters in this story?*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Inferential**

*Who are the oni, and what do they do to bother the townspeople? Are the oni real or make-believe?*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*What does Momotaro set out to do on his journey? Who helps him?*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

*What does Momotaro give to each of these animal characters in return for their help?*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

***Inferential***

*How do the pheasant, the dog, and the monkey act like humans? How does the pheasant act like a real bird?*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Inferential**

*How does Momotaro help the people in his village?*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Evaluative**

*Do you think Momotaro would have been able to defeat the oni without the animals' help? Why or why not?*



# Think. Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

# Think. Pair. Share.



**Evaluative:**

*A hero is someone who does something brave or generous for others. Heroes may include firefighters, doctors, teachers, or family members. How is Momotaro a hero for his village? Who is your hero?*

# **Word Work**



# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*You heard, "The pheasant **swooped** down and flew back and forth so fast that it scared the oni."*

*Say the word **swooped** with me.*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy

**Swooped** means something moved downward quickly in a curving movement.



# Momotaro, Peach Boy

*Have you ever seen something that swooped? Try to use the word swooped when you tell about it.*

*“A \_\_\_\_\_ swooped down to get a ...”*



# **Momotaro, Peach Boy**

*What's the word we have been talking  
about?*

# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Thumbs Up = Describes swooped

Thumbs Down = Not swooped



*The bird dove to get a worm.*





# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Thumbs Up = Describes swooped

Thumbs Down = Not swooped



*The student ran through the door into  
the classroom.*



# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Thumbs Up = Describes swooped

Thumbs Down = Not swooped



*The plane flew down and then back up.*





# Momotaro, Peach Boy



Thumbs Up = Describes swooped

Thumbs Down = Not swooped



*The butterfly fluttered slowly through  
the field.*

