Momotaro

*(Peach Boy)*



a play in three acts

adapted from the Japanese traditional story

for primary school children learning Japanese

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Momotaro

*(all join in parts in red)*

**ACT ONE**

Narrator: Once upon a time *(mukashi, mukashi)*, there lived an old man (*oji-san)* and an old woman *(oba-san)*. They had no children of their own, so were often a little lonely. However, they kept themselves busy as the old man *(oji-san)* would gather firewood in the mountain and the old woman *(oba-san)* would wash clothes in a nearby stream.

One day when the old woman *(oba-san)* was doing her washing, she noticed an enormous peach travelling downstream.

All: Donburakokko, donburako. Donburakokko, donburako. *(Drifting noise)*

Oba-san: Waa! Tottemo o-kii momo! *(Wow, what a very large peach!).* Oji-san to ie de tabemasho-! *(I’ll take it home to eat with the old man!)*

Narrator: She managed to grab the giant peach…

Oba-san: Yokkorasho!

Narrator: …and carried it home very carefully. It was ever so heavy though!

Oba-san: Omotai, Omotai ! *(Gosh, it’s heavy, it’s heavy!)*

Narrator: As soon as the old man *(oji-san)* came back from the mountains, the old woman *(oba-san*) brought out the tasty treat for the two of them to try. However, as the old man went to cut the peach in two, it suddenly split open *(paka!)* and with a loud crying noise, out jumped a small boy!

Momotaro: Ogya-, ogya-! *(Baby crying noise)*

Narrator: They were ever so shocked, but equally delighted. They decided to keep the boy and named him Momotaro (Peach boy).

Oji-san & Oba-san: Maa, kawaii akachan! *(Oh, my, what a cute baby!)*

**ACT TWO**

Narrator: Momotaro grew up in a loving home and grew into a strong, powerful and kind young boy. Everyone in the village respected him.One day, Momotaro heard a rumour about a group of ogres *(oni)* who lived on Ogre Island *(Oni ga Shima).* These ogres terrified all the people in nearby towns.

*(Back ground: Oni attacks villagers and take some treasures.)*

Villagers: Kya-! Tasukete-! *(scream – help!)*

Narrator: Momotaro decided there and then that he had to go to Onigashima and scare the ogres *(oni)* away once and for all.

The old man *(oji-san)* prepared armour and a sword and the old woman *(oba-san)* made some millet dumplings *(kibidango)* for him to take on his way and waved him off.

Oji-san & oba-san: Kio-tsukete-ne! Itterasshai! *(Be careful, come back soon!)*

Momotaro: Ittekimasu! *(I’ll be back!)*

Narrator: As he left the village, a dog *(inu)* approached Momotaro and said…

Dog: *Wan- wan!* *Momotaro san, doko ni ikuno? (Woof, woof! Momotaro, where are you going?)*

Momotaro: Watashi wa onigashima ni ikimasu. *(I am going to Ogre island.)*

*(Song from Ready, Steady Nihongo resources):*

*Momotaro-san, Momotaro-san,*

*Okoshini tsuketa kibidango*

*Hitotsu watashini kudasaina.*

*Agemasho, agemasho,*

*Kore kara oni no seibatsu ni*

*Tsuite kuru nara agemasho.*

Momotaro: Watashi to Onigashima ni ikimasuka? *(Will you go to Ogre island with me?)*

Dog: Hai ! Ikimasu, ikimasu ! *(Yes, I will go, I will!)*

Narrator: The dog was ever so hungry, so he agreed to Momotaro’s request.

Momotaro: Hai, do-zo. *(Here you are.)*

Dog: Mogu Mogu… *(munching noise)* Aa! Oishi-! *(Oh, delicious!)*

Narrator: As the pair of them walked along, they came across a pheasant *(kiji).*

Pheasant: Momotaro san, doko ni ikuno? *(Where are you going?)*

Narrator: Once again Momotaro explained the situation.

Momotaro: Watashi wa onigashima ni ikimasu. *(I am going to Ogre island.)*

*(Song from Ready, Steady Nihongo resources):*

*Momotaro-san, Momotaro-san,*

*Okoshini tsuketa kibidango*

*Hitotsu watashini kudasaina.*

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*Tsuite kuru nara agemasho.*

Momotaro: Watashi to Onigashima ni ikimasuka? *(Will you go to Ogre island with me?)*

Pheasant: Hai ! Ikimasu, ikimasu ! *(Yes, I will go, I will!)*

Momotaro: Hai, do-zo. *(Here you are.)*

Pheasant: Mogu Mogu… *(munching noise)* Aa ! Oishi-! *(Oh, delicious!)*

Narrator: As the three of them made their way to Ogre island *(onigashima)*, a monkey *(saru)* appeared on the path in front of them.

Monkey: Momotaro san, doko ni ikuno? *(Where are you going?)*

Narrator: Once again Momotaro explained the situation.

Momotaro: Watashi wa onigashima ni ikimasu. *(I am going to Ogre island.)*

*(Song from Ready, Steady Nihongo resources):*

*Momotaro-san, Momotaro-san,*

*Okoshini tsuketa kibidango*

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*Tsuite kuru nara agemasho.*

Momotaro: Watashi to Onigashima ni ikimasuka? *(Will you go to Ogre island with me?)*

Monkey: Hai ! Ikimasu, ikimasu ! *(Yes, I will go, I will!)*

Momotaro: Hai, do-zo. *(Here you are.)*

Monkey: Mogu Mogu… *(munching noise)* Aa! Oishi-! *(Oh, delicious!)*

Narrator: So they set off on their journey, crossing land and sea.

**ACT THREE**

Narrator: Finally, after several days, the group *(Momotaro, inu, kiji, saru)* approached the island. The ogres *(oni)* were inside the castle, admiring their piles of treasure

Ogres: Wa-ha ha! Wa-ha ha! Takaramono ga ippai da! *(Ha, ha, ha! So much treasure!)*

Narrator: The ogres soon spotted the boat and shouted down to them…

Ogres: Dare da-? *(Who is it?)*

Narrator: The ogres threatened that if they entered their castle they would eat Momotaro and his followers. However, Momotaro wasn’t scared and within minutes of landing, the pheasant *(kiji)* had unlocked the large iron gate *(gi-gi-gi-gi-gi!)* and they burst their way into their den.

Momotaro: Kora! Warui onitachi ! Takaramono o kaese ! *(Bad oni! Return the treasure!)*

Inu, saru, kiji… Ikuzo-! *(Dog, monkey, pheasant, attack!)*

Narrator: The pheasant started pecking the ogres…

*(Ke-n, Ke-n, tsun, tsun, tsun!).*

The monkey scratched the ogres…

*(Ukiki-! Ukiki-! Gari, gari, gari!)*

The dog bit the ogres…

*(Wan, Wan, Wan! Gaburi, gaburi!)*

The ogres were beaten and started to cry…

Ogres: Gomen-nasai ! Gomen-nasai ! Tasukete- ! *(Sorry, sorry! Help!)*

Narrator: Momotaro spared their lives and, in return for doing so, the ogres promised that they would never again bother the villagers. To prove they were serious, the ogres returned all the treasures to Momotaro.

Momotaro and friends: *(stamp feet and clench fists)* Yatta- !

(Everyone): *Nippon Ichi !*

Narrator: Momotaro and his friends returned to the village with the treasure.

Villagers, Oji-san, Oba-san: Okaeri-nasai !

Momotaro and friends: Tadaima- !

Narrator: And they all lived happily ever after… *(Medetashi, medetashi…)*

*Momotaro – list of parts*

**Act One:**

Oji-san group:

Oba-san group:

Momotaro:

Narrator 1:

Narrator 2:

**Act Two:**

Oni group:

Villagers group:

Inu:

Kiji:

Saru:

Narrator 3:

Narrator 4:

Narrator 5:

Narrator 6:

**Act Three:**

Oni group:

Inu group (noises and actions):

Kiji group (noises and actions):

Saru group (noises and actions):

Narrator 7:

Narrator 8:

**Props:**

A giant card peach to break in two; Momotaro headbands; masks for *oni;* masks for dog, pheasant, monkey; *happi* for narrators