

Kamishibai Set: Momotaro



How to Read Kamishibai

Kamishibai stories are read from the back of illustrated cards. However, you can also tell the story from memory or even improvise a little to add to the story.

Move the front card to the back after you finish one part of the story. The text now showing will be the story for the card that is at the front.

The text for the title image (card 1) goes on the back of the last card, so when showing the title image to the audience, you can read the corresponding text without turning the card around.

When you finish the story for card 1, move it to the back of the pack. The story for card 2 which is on the back of card 1 will now be at the back for you to read. Once you have told that part of the story, you move this card to the back and again the story for the card 3 will now be at the back for you. You continue this for each part of the story until the end.

Remember, the text on the back of a card does not correspond to the illustration on its front!









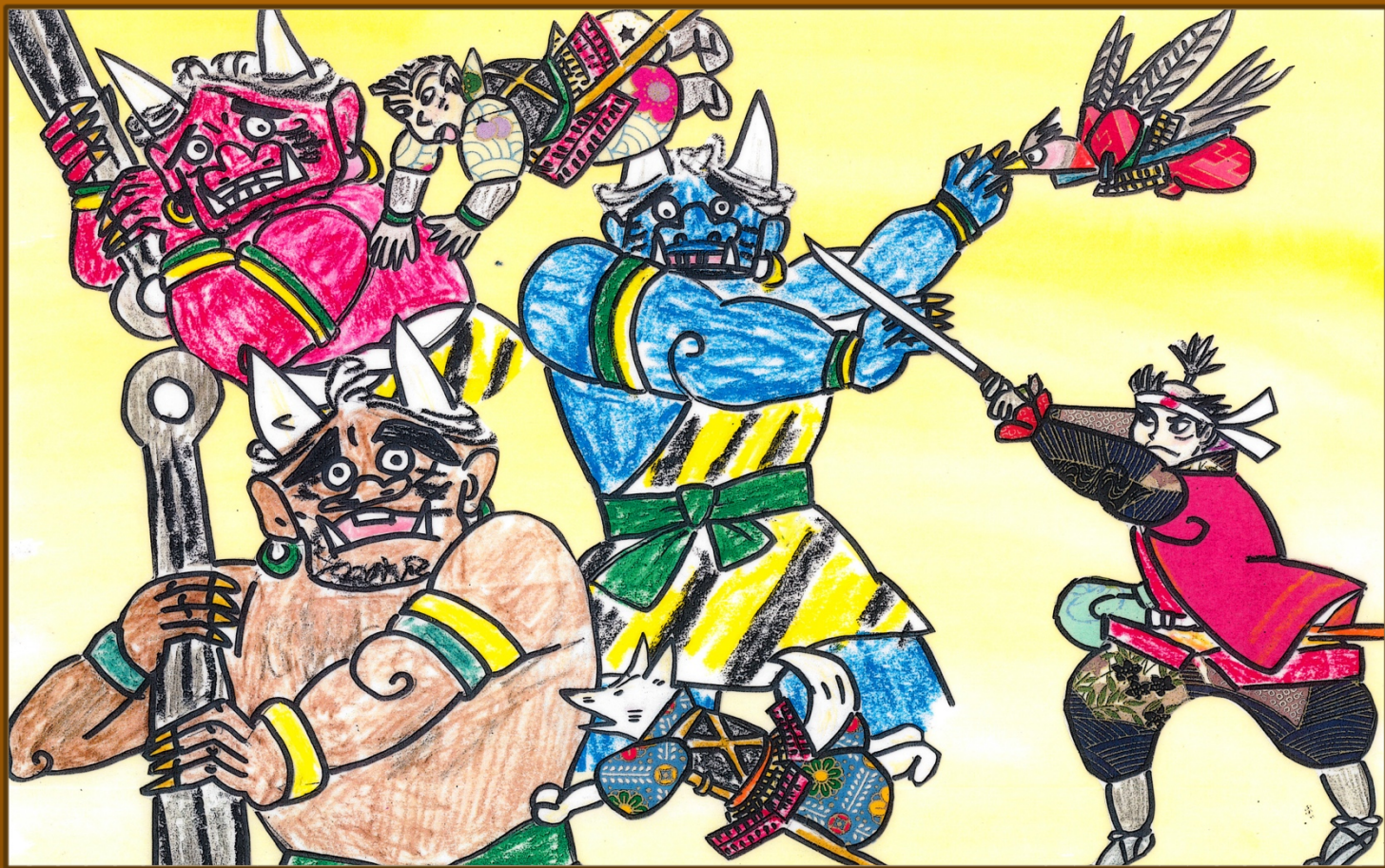














Introduction

This is a story from Japan from long ago called Momotaro.

“Momo” means Peach, “Taro” was a popular boy’s name in Japan.

So Momotaro means **Peach Boy**.

1.

Mukashi mukashi * [Japanese]

Once upon a time, there lived an old man and his wife.

Every day, the man went to the mountain to gather firewood, and his wife went to the stream to wash their clothes.

One day, when the old woman was doing her washing, she heard a strange noise.

She looked up and saw a huge peach floating down the stream towards her.

So she picked the peach up - it was so big and heavy – and took it home.

**Mukashi Mukashi means "Once upon a time" in Japanese.*

2.

When she arrived home, she showed the peach to her husband.

“Look at this! I found it in the stream today!”
“Shall we cut and eat it?”

Just as she was about to cut the peach, it suddenly split in two.

And a baby boy jumped out!

They were so surprised but also very happy because they had no children of their own.

They named this boy, Momotaro. Can you remember what Momotaro means?

PEACH BOY!!!

3.

Very soon, Momotaro grew up and became strong and kind.

One day, a stranger came and knocked on the door.

He said, "Listen, friend, you must run away, run away as quickly as you can, for monsters called oni are coming.
They come from the terrible Oni Island."

Momotaro had heard about the oni. They often came to the village, scaring the people and stealing their treasures.

4.

So, Momotaro, who was kind and brave, said to his parents,

“Father, Mother, I must go to Oni Island to fight the oni and bring back the treasures to our village.”

His parents were deeply worried, but they knew Momotaro had made up his mind.

So his father gave him a sword, and his mother made special rice cakes, called *kibi-dango* (dragon balls) for him to eat.

These contain the power of the dragon and would make him strong.

Momotaro set off on a long journey to Oni Island.

5.

After travelling for some time, Momotaro heard a sound; it was a dog.
The dog ran up to him and could smell the delicious *kibi-dango*.
And so he asked Momotaro:

♪ "Momotaro-san, Momotaro-san, would you give me a tasty dragon ball.
For just one bite I'd do anything at all."

And Momotaro replied:
♪ "Well, I will give you one, I will give you one, but you must help me in return.
We're off to fight the monsters, the journey has begun."

He gave a dragon ball to the dog, who ate it. Then, the dog felt the
power of the dragon.

CHING CHING SHAA-KING!*

And together, Momotaro and the dog set off on their journey.

**"Ching Ching Shaa-King" has no particular meaning in Japanese and is like an onomatopoeia in this case, lively words used to create sounds*

6.

They hadn't gone far when Momotaro heard another sound.
It was a monkey swinging in a tree. The monkey could smell the delicious
kibi-dango, and climbed down from the tree and said:

♪ "Momotaro-san, Momotaro-san, would you give me a tasty dragon ball.
For just one bite I'd do anything at all."

Momotaro replied:

♪ "Well, I will give you one, I will give you one,
but you must help me in return.
We're off to fight the monsters, the journey has begun."

He gave a dragon ball to the monkey, who ate it. Then, the monkey felt the
power of the dragon.

CHING CHING SHAA-KING!

And off went the three friends down the road.

7.

They hadn't gone far when they came across a pine tree where there was a beautiful bird; it was a pheasant. The bird could smell the delicious *kibi-dango*, and down she flew. She landed in front of Momotaro and asked:

♪ "Momotaro-san, Momotaro-san, *o koshi ni tsuketa kibi dango, hitotsu watashi ni kudasai na.*" [Japanese version of the song]

Momotaro replied:

♪ "Well, I will give you one, I will give you one,
but you must help me in return.

We're off to fight the monsters, the journey has begun."

He gave a dragon ball to the pheasant, who ate it. Then, the pheasant felt the power of the dragon.

CHING CHING SHAA-KING!

And together Momotaro and the dog and the monkey and the pheasant set off on their journey.

8.

Finally, Momotaro and his friends arrived at Oni Island.

Pheasant said “Momotaro, Momotaro, I’m going to fly around the castle.”

She came back and said to Momotaro, “The oni are having a party,
this could be good timing.”

Then Monkey said “I’m going to climb over the gate and unlock it.”
But the gate was too heavy to open.

So, they each ate a dragon ball and got very strong.

CHING CHING SHAA-KING!

They pushed open the gate...

9.

Momotaro and his friends went inside and found many oni.

Momotaro swung his sword high and the oni jumped up!

The dog bit the oni with his big teeth.

The monkey scratched the oni with his sharp nails.

And the pheasant pecked the oni with his beak.

After a long time, the oni were finally defeated.

10.

Then, Momotaro put all the stolen treasures on a cart.

And Momotaro, Dog, Monkey, and Pheasant all went home safely.

The villagers and Momotaro's parents were waiting for them to return.

They were so happy to see Momotaro return home safely and everybody got their treasures back.

They were proud of Momotaro's big adventure.

From that time on they all lived peacefully, happily ever after.