



Level 1

# Peach Boy



OXFORD





# Peach Boy

*Retold by Sue Arengo*  
*Illustrated by Tsugumi Yoshizawa*



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It is summer in a village  
in Japan. An old man and  
woman eat dumplings.

Yum! Nice little dumplings.





Then the old man goes to cut wood.  
And the old woman goes to the river.




Suddenly the old woman  
sees something. It's a peach.  
A very big peach!

‘What a very big peach!’ she  
says. ‘Why is it in the river?’



The very big peach smells nice.  
It smells of summer in Japan.  
The woman catches it.



This peach smells wonderful.

‘Mmm,’ she says. ‘This peach smells wonderful. I’m taking it home with me.’



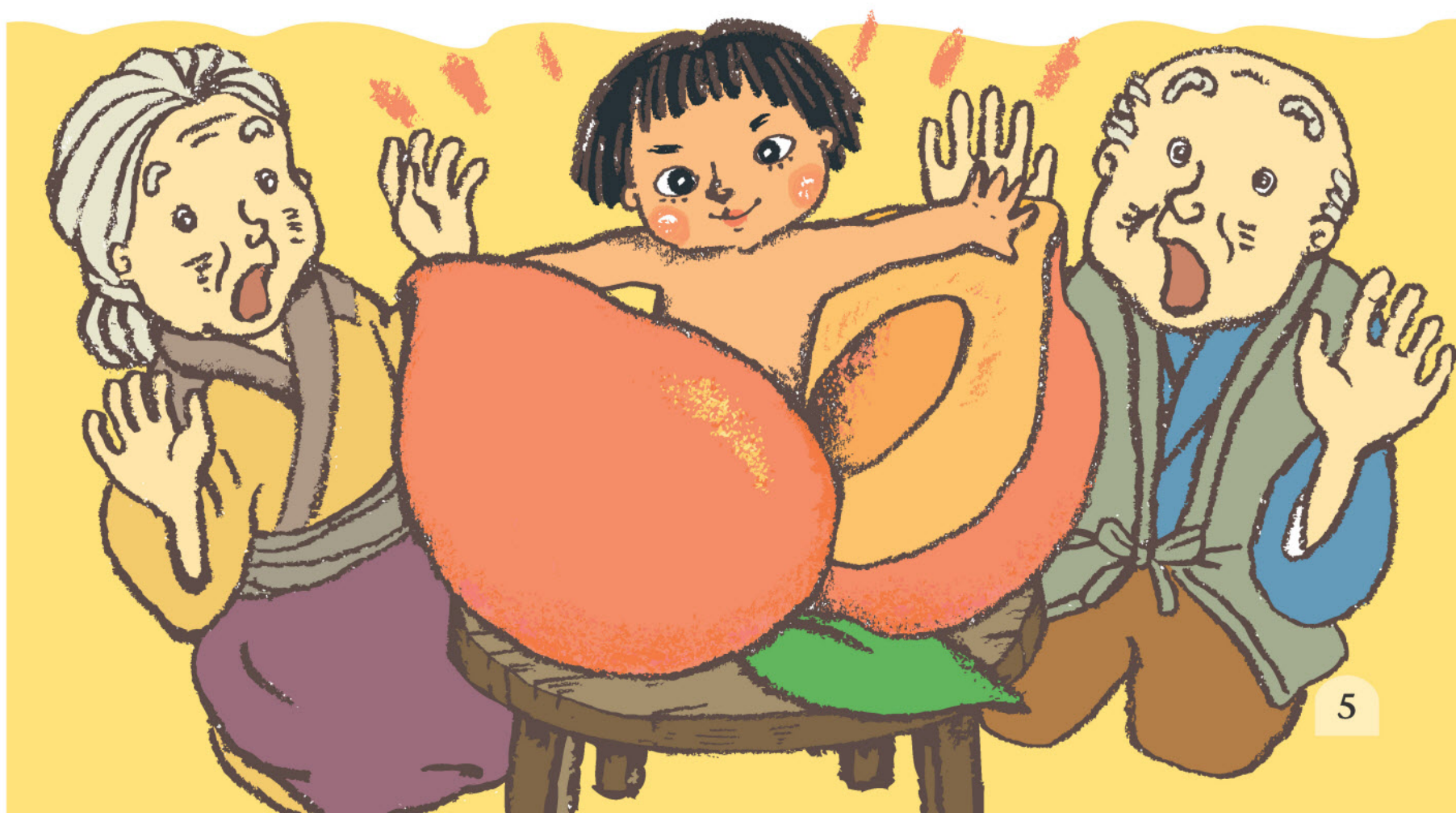


‘What a big peach!’ says the old man. ‘Let’s eat it right now!’

But then they hear something. It’s a baby!

‘Stop!’ says the baby. ‘Don’t cut me!’

There’s a baby in the peach! A baby boy – a peach boy!





He is a wonderful baby, and he is happy. The old man and woman call him Momotaro – Peach Boy.



They give him nice little dumplings.  
So he grows big and strong.



The old man and woman are good to Momotaro. So Momotaro is good too.



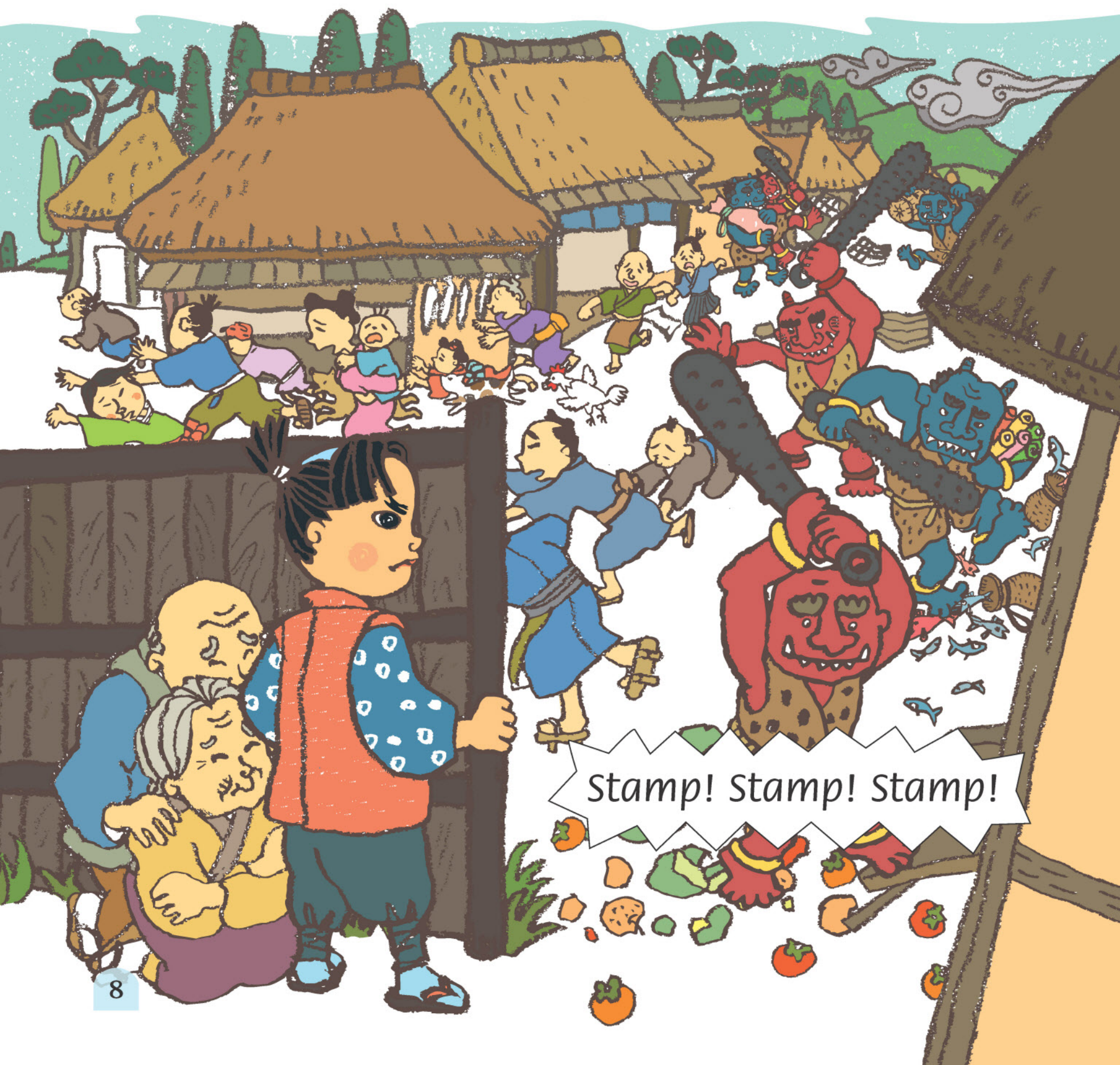
Momotaro helps his mother and father. He is a good boy. And he is strong. He is very strong!



Then one day ogres come. Ogres  
come to the village.

Stamp! Stamp! Stamp!

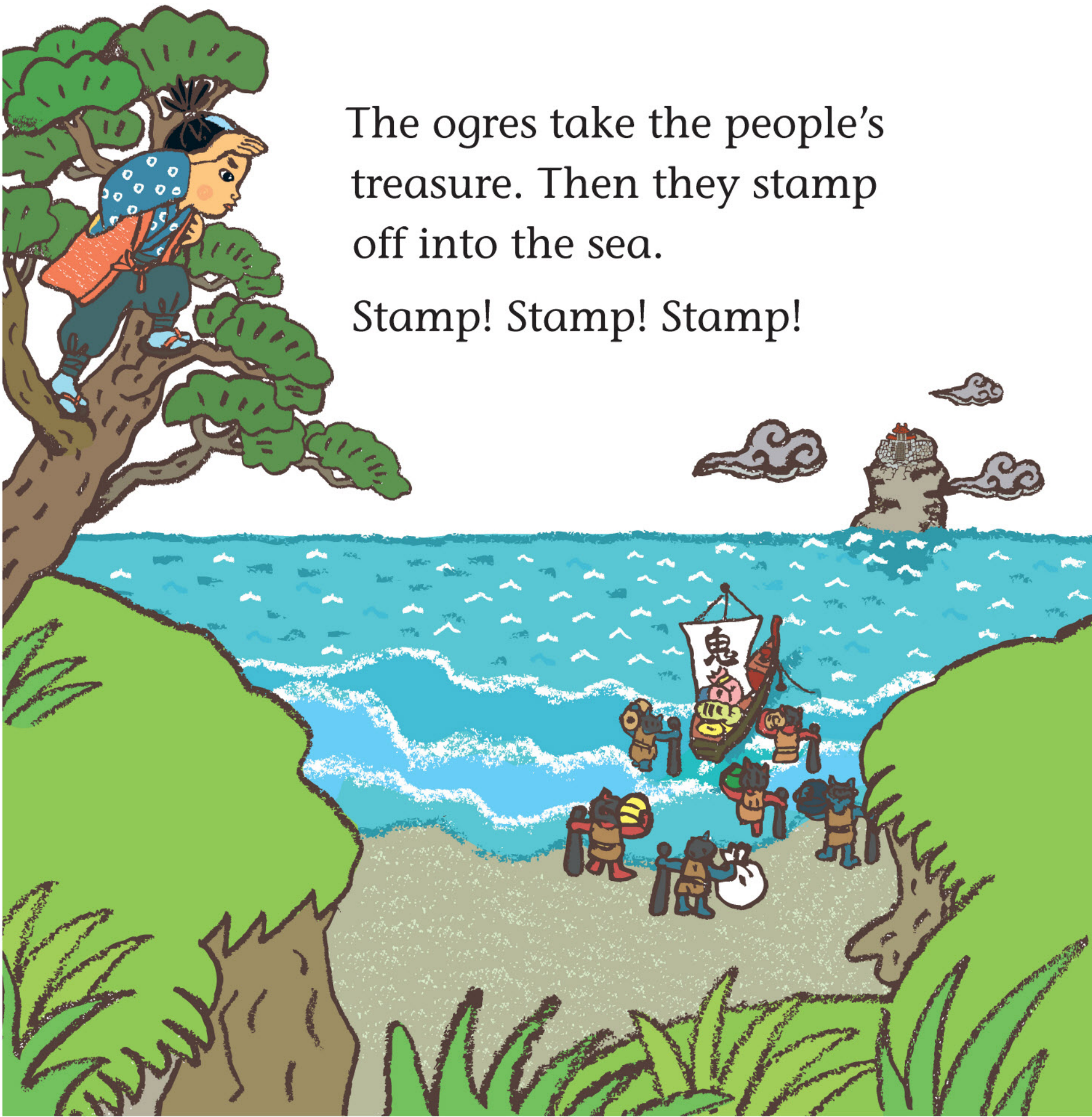
They break things. They take things.





The ogres take the people's  
treasure. Then they stamp  
off into the sea.

Stamp! Stamp! Stamp!



Momotaro can see the ogres. They  
are going home. They are going  
home to Ogre Island.



‘Mother, Father,’ says Peach Boy.  
‘I want to fight the ogres. Give me  
some dumplings, please. And a  
big stick.’

So his mother gives him  
some dumplings. His father  
gives him a big stick.

‘Goodbye,’ they say. ‘And  
good luck.’





Momotaro walks along. Then he  
sees a big dog.



‘Hi, dog!’ says Momotaro. ‘I want to  
fight the ogres. Have a dumpling  
and come with me!’

So the dog eats the dumpling.  
Then it goes with him.



They walk along. Then they see  
a pheasant.

‘Hi, pheasant!’ says Momotaro.

‘We want to fight the ogres. Have  
a dumpling and come with us!’



So the pheasant eats the dumpling.  
Then it goes with them.



They walk along. Then  
they see a monkey.



‘Hi, monkey!’ says Momotaro.  
‘We want to fight the ogres. Have  
a dumpling and come with us!’  
So the monkey eats the dumpling.  
Then it goes with them.



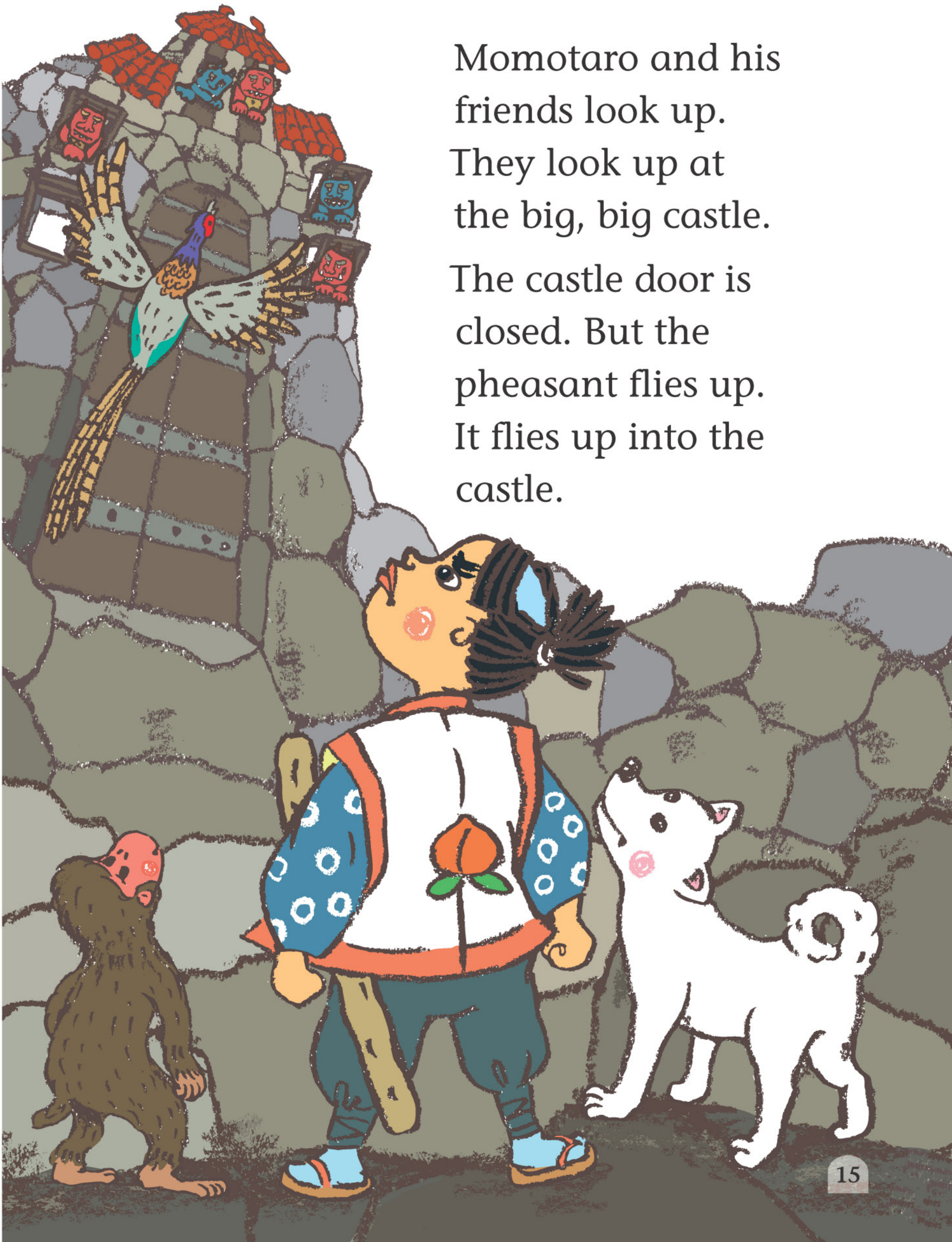
‘My friends,’ says Momotaro, the Peach Boy. ‘Let’s go to Ogre Island. Let’s fight the ogres.’



‘There it is!’ says Momotaro.  
‘There’s Ogre Island! Look at the big castle!’



Momotaro and his  
friends look up.  
They look up at  
the big, big castle.  
The castle door is  
closed. But the  
pheasant flies up.  
It flies up into the  
castle.







The pheasant fights the ogres. The ogres are afraid.

‘Help!’ they cry. ‘Help!’  
Then the monkey goes up. It goes up into the castle. It opens the door.



Momotaro and the dog run into  
the castle.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Momotaro  
fights the ogres with his stick.

The dog, the pheasant, and the  
monkey all fight. They all fight  
the ogres.





The ogres are afraid.

‘We are sorry,’ they say. ‘Please go.  
Take your treasure and go.’



Momotaro takes the treasure.

‘Hurray!’ he says. ‘Good work,  
my friends!’





Momotaro and his friends go home.  
They go home with the treasure.  
All the people shout, 'Hurray! Hurray!'  
And the ogres never come back.





# Exercises

## 1 Write the words.



It's an island.



It's a \_\_\_\_\_.



It's a \_\_\_\_\_.



It's a \_\_\_\_\_.



It's an \_\_\_\_\_.



It's a \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 Write the words.

smells takes want sees ~~eat~~ goes

- 1 The old man and the old woman eat dumplings.
- 2 The old woman \_\_\_\_\_ to the river.
- 3 She \_\_\_\_\_ something in the river. It's a peach.
- 4 The peach \_\_\_\_\_ of summer in Japan.
- 5 The woman \_\_\_\_\_ the peach home with her.
- 6 The old man and the old woman \_\_\_\_\_ to eat the peach.



### 3 Answer the questions.

1 Is it an apple?

No, it isn't.

2 Is it a peach?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Is it in the river?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Is it small?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Is there a monkey in it?

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Is there a baby in it?

\_\_\_\_\_



### 4 Number the sentences 1–7. Then write sentence 8.

☐ The monkey opens the castle door.

☐ Momotaro goes to Ogre Island with a dog, a pheasant, and a monkey.

☒ 1 The ogres come to Momotaro's village and take the people's treasure.

☐ The pheasant flies up into the castle.

☐ The ogres go home to Ogre Island.

☐ Momotaro and his friends fight the ogres.

☐ Momotaro's mother and father give him some dumplings and a big stick.

☐ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

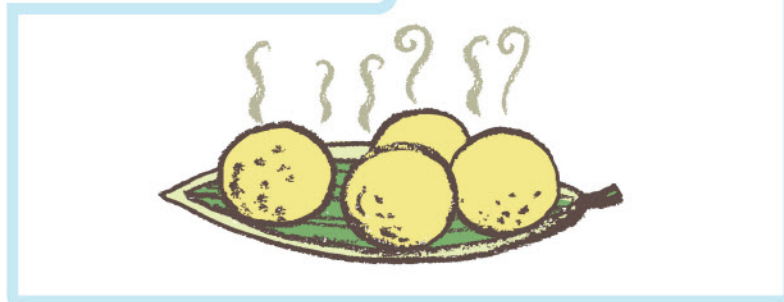


# Picture Dictionary

afraid *The ogre is afraid.*



dumplings



break



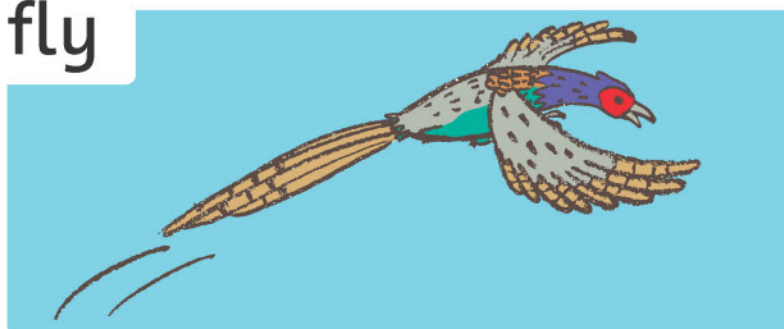
fight



castle



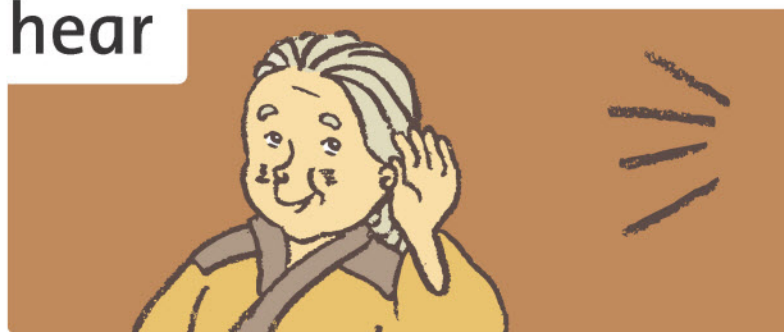
fly



catch



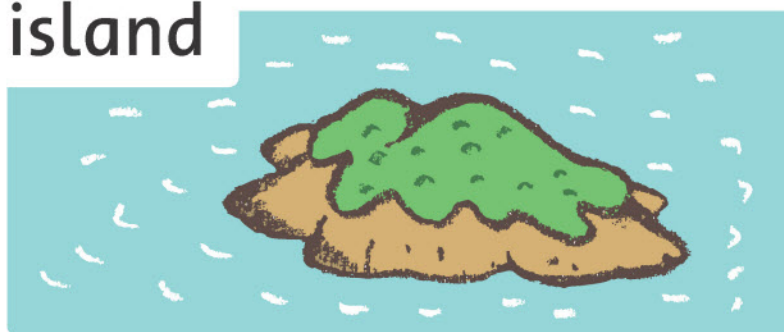
hear



cut

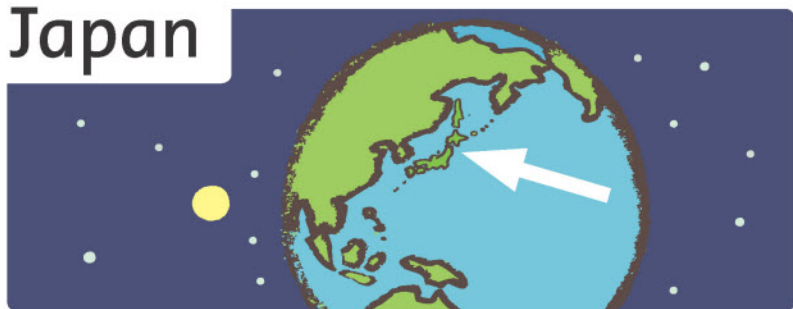


island

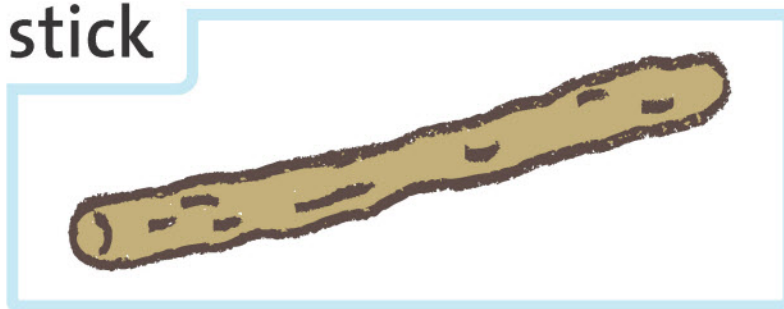




Japan



stick



ogre



strong *He is strong.*



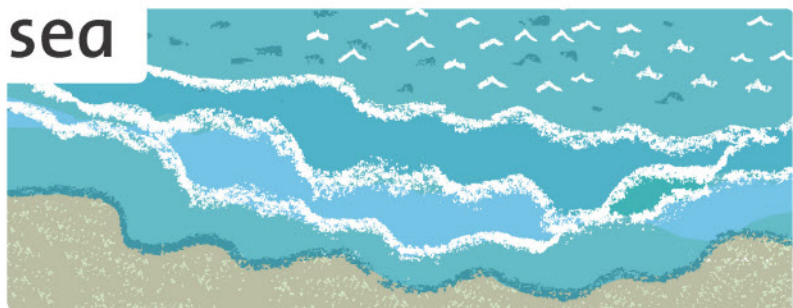
river



summer *It is summer.*



sea



treasure



smell



stamp



village





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- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

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2015 2014 2013

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ISBN: 978 0 19 423858 8

This *Classic Tale* title is available as an e-Book with Audio Pack

ISBN: 978 0 19 423861 8

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ISBN: 978 0 19 423859 5

Printed in China

This book is printed on paper from certified and well-managed sources.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Illustrated by: Tsugumi Yoshizawa/ARTas1.com





Level 1

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Enjoy the famous Japanese tale of  
Momotaro – Peach Boy – and his friends.  
Can they fight the ogres?

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Sue Arengo  
Illustrated by Tsugumi Yoshizawa

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ISBN 978-0-19-423858-8

