

“Peach Boy”

A Tale from Japan

Notes made in bold italics are stage directions from Patch Clark’s spring 2013 Youth Theatre Class’s performances. First draft by Tim Sherwood. Revised and adapted by Regina Epps.

Characters:

- Momotaro (Peach Boy)
- Old Man
- Old Woman
- Dog
- Monkey
- Pheasant
- Ogres
- Narrator

NARRATOR

Once upon a time in Japan there lived a kind old man and his wife. They were sad and lonely because they had no children. One day the old woman went to the river to wash clothes, when all of a sudden she saw across something strange. There, in front of her, was a peach floating down the river. It was the biggest peach she’d ever seen! She reached into the river, caught the peach and took it home to share with her husband that night.

OLD WOMAN

Look what a wonderful peach I’ve found!

OLD MAN

What a beautiful peach indeed! I say we divide it and eat it right away.

NARRATOR

The old man and woman were about to cut the peach in half, when a small voice called out from inside the peach.

VOICE

Wait, wait, don’t cut me!

NARRATOR

Suddenly the peach broke open and a beautiful baby boy jumped out!

MOMOTARO

Don't be afraid. The God of Heaven saw how lonely you were without any children, so he sent me to be your son.

NARRATOR

The old man and woman were very happy, and they took the baby to be their son. Since he was born from a peach, they named him Momotaro, which means...

Man and Woman

Peach Jon!

Though the couple was very happy that they had a son, the rest of the land was very, very sad. All of the town's treasures were missing. It was the ogres of Ogre Island who were stealing everyone's treasures. No one in the land wanted to stand up to these Ogres. Momotaro did not like everyone being sad so he decided to do something about it.

MOMOTARO

I am now 15 years old and very strong. I want to go to Ogre Island to bring back the treasures they took. Father, Mother, I beg you to let me help our land.

NARRATOR

The old man and woman were very proud of their child for wanting to help the people of their land. So the old man gave him a sword and some armor, and the old woman fixed him a good lunch of millet dumpling. Then Momotaro began his journey.

As he went along, he met a brown dog (***Dog barks***). The dog growled at Momotaro (***Dog growls***) and he was about to bite him, but then Momotaro gave him one of his dumplings (***Dog catches and eats dumpling***) and the dog didn't want to bite him anymore.

MOMOTARO

Little brown dog, you have great courage. I am going to Ogre Island to take back the treasures they took. Will you help?

BROWN DOG

I would love to help. Count me in!

NARRATOR

So Momotaro and the brown dog (**dog barks**) carried on. They then met a monkey. (**Monkey makes a screech like ooo ooo ahh ahh**) The dog and the monkey began to fight. (**Monkey begins to chase the dog**) Momotaro gave the monkey a dumpling (**Monkey catches and eats dumpling**) and they stopped fighting.

MOMOTARO

Monkey, you have great courage. I am going to Ogre Island to take back the treasures they took. Will you help?

MONKEY

Sounds like fun. Count me in!

NARRATOR

So Momotaro, the brown dog (**bark**) and the monkey (**monkey screech**) carried on. They then met a pheasant. (**Pheasant's noise is peep peep**) The dog, the monkey, and the pheasant began to fight. (**Dog, monkey, and pheasant begin to chase each other while making sounds**) So Momotaro gave the pheasant a dumpling (**pheasant catches and eats dumpling**) and they stopped fighting.

MOMOTARO

Dear pheasant, you have great courage. I am going to Ogre Island to take back the treasures they took. Will you help?

PHEASANT

You bet. Count me in! Peep Peep!

NARRATOR

So Momotaro, the brown dog (**bark**), the monkey (**screech**), and the pheasant (**peep peep**) carried on.

With Momotaro as their general, the animals, who usually did not get along, became good and faithful friends. (**Animals look to each other and smile and interact**) They walked a long, long way, and finally reached the sea. They built a boat and sailed and sailed across the sea to Ogre Island.

When they came within sight, they could see the ogres dancing around the stolen treasures.

Momotaro and the animals went to battle with the Ogres. (**All characters move around in a circle as if battling together**) The battle for lasted hours, but finally the ogres were defeated. (**Ogres fall down in defeat, get up disgruntled.**) Then they brought Momotaro all the treasures they had stolen (**Ogres give back treasures**). They travelled throughout the land, returning the treasures to the people. Momotaro returned home and his parents were proud of the kind and caring man he had become.

And that was...THE END.

