

The Little Peach Boy



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Chapter One

Long ago there lived an old couple who were very happy together. They had everything they wanted except for a child of their own.

One day the woman was sitting by the river when she saw something floating along in the current.

“Whatever could it be?” she said, squinting into the sun.

As the strange object drew closer, the woman saw that it was a giant peach. She pulled it from the water and huffed and puffed as she carried it home.

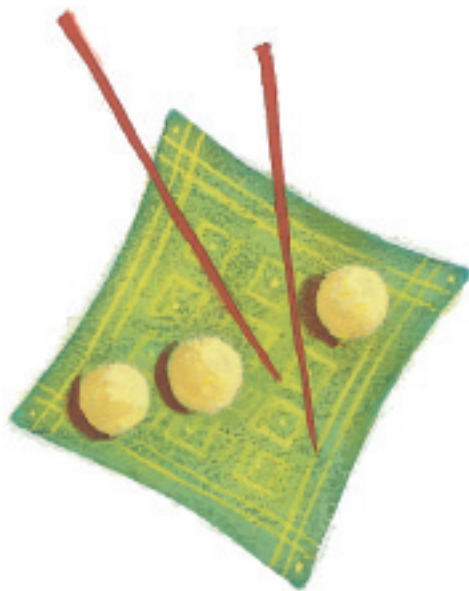
“What a feast we will have tonight,”
said the woman to her husband.

But when the old woman cut the peach open, she jumped back in surprise. A tiny boy sat inside the peach. He had dark hair and eyes as brown as the river.



“We will call you Momotaro,” said the old woman softly. “You are our little peach boy.”

The old woman was a very good cook and people said she made the best millet dumplings in all of Japan. They were fluffy and golden brown and very tasty. Each morning, the old woman gave Momotaro three millet dumplings for his breakfast and soon he grew big and strong.



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Chapter Two

One day, Momotaro heard a terrible noise coming from the village. People were weeping and sighing. He climbed onto the roof and saw a band of ogres clumping along the street. They carried giant clubs and looked very fierce. Momotaro watched the ogres march from house to house stealing gold and silver and precious jewels. Soon there were no treasures left in the town.

