TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 254

Short Stories with Peter: Momotaro

English learning resource · EN

Full episode script · English

91 lines

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

Welcome to Short Stories with Peter.

Today's story is a traditional tale from Japan.

It is called Momotaro, The Boy Who Came from a Peach.

Long ago, in a small village, there lived an old man and an old woman.

They were kind people, but they had no children.

Every morning, the old man went to the hills to cut grass for nearby farmers.

And every morning, the old woman went to the river to wash clothes.

One day, the old woman saw something large and round floating down the river.

It was a giant peach.

Oh, what a wonderful peach!

She pulled it out of the water, carried it home, and waited for her husband.

That is the biggest peach I have ever seen!

Let's cut it open and eat it together.

But just then, the peach opened by itself.

Inside, there was a little boy.

A child!

The sky has sent us a child!

They were so happy.

They named the boy Momotaro, which means Peach Boy.

The years passed, and Momotaro grew strong and brave.

One day, he came to his parents with a serious face.

Father, Mother, I must go to Ogre Island.

The oni there hurt the people of our country, and they take their treasure.

I want to stop them.

His parents were afraid, but they knew he was brave.

His parents prepared rice cakes for his journey.

Take these, my son.

They will give you strength.

On the road, Momotaro met a dog.

Woof!

Momotaro, where are you going?

And what is that smell?

I am going to Ogre Island, and these are my rice cakes.

If you come with me, I will give you one.

Of course I will come!

Later, they met a monkey in a tree.

Hello, hello!

Where are you two going?

I would love a rice cake too!

So the monkey joined them.

Then, in a field, they met a pheasant.

I can fly high, and I can see far.

Let me join your team!

Momotaro smiled.

Now he had three friends.

They crossed the sea, and soon they saw a big, dark castle on Ogre Island.

The pheasant flew over the walls, and the monkey opened the gate from the inside.

The dog and Momotaro rushed in.

Who dares to come here?

I am Momotaro.

Give back the treasure, and stop hurting people.

The chief of the oni looked at the four friends.

Each friend had played a part in reaching the castle.

After a fierce struggle, the chief could see that his side was defeated.

You are too strong for us.

Please, take the treasure.

We will not trouble the people again.

Momotaro and his friends carried the treasure home.

The old man and the old woman were waiting at the door, and they cried with joy.

After that, they all lived happily, and the village was safe.

End of the story.

Now, let’s dive into the language and break down some of the key vocabulary from the story.

First, float.

To float means to stay on the surface of water or another liquid.

In the story, the peach floated down the river.

Second, brave.

A brave person is not stopped by fear.

Momotaro was brave because he went to Ogre Island.

Third, journey.

A journey is the act of travelling from one place to another.

His journey was long, with a road, a field, and the sea.

Fourth, treasure.

Treasure is a group of valuable things, like gold or jewels.

Fifth, team.

A team is a group of people, or in this story animals and a person, working towards the same goal.

The four friends were a good team.

Now a short practice.

I will say a sentence, and you choose the word: float, brave, journey, treasure, or team.

Number one: "The boat can ... on the water for hours."

The answer is float.

Number two: "The firefighter was very ..., and he helped everyone."

The answer is brave.

Number three: "We are a good ..., so we finish the project together."

The answer is team.

Number four: "After a long ..., they arrived at the sea."

The answer is journey.

Number five: "The pirates hid the ... under the sand."

The answer is treasure.

Great work.

You can read the vocabulary from this story in the vocabulary section of our website, and the link is in the description.

Thank you for listening, and see you next time.