



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!

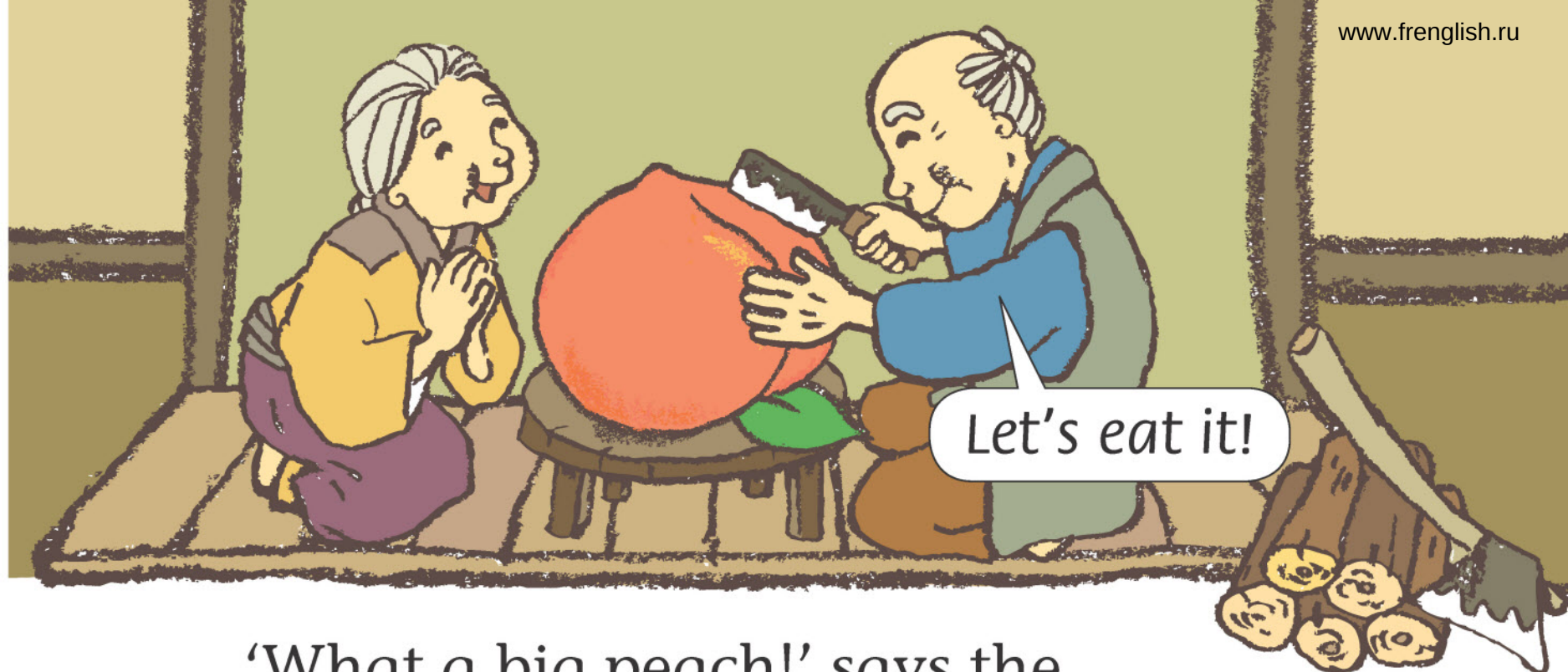
‘What a very big peach!’ she
says. ‘Why is it in the river?’

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

A colorful illustration of an elderly woman with grey hair, wearing a yellow kimono and a purple obi, kneeling on a grassy bank. She is holding a very large, ripe orange-red peach. A speech bubble from her says, "This peach smells wonderful." To her left is a woven basket filled with various fruits. In the background, there are green hills, a tree, and some rocks. The scene is set outdoors, possibly near a body of water as suggested by the blue lines at the bottom.

This peach smells wonderful.

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

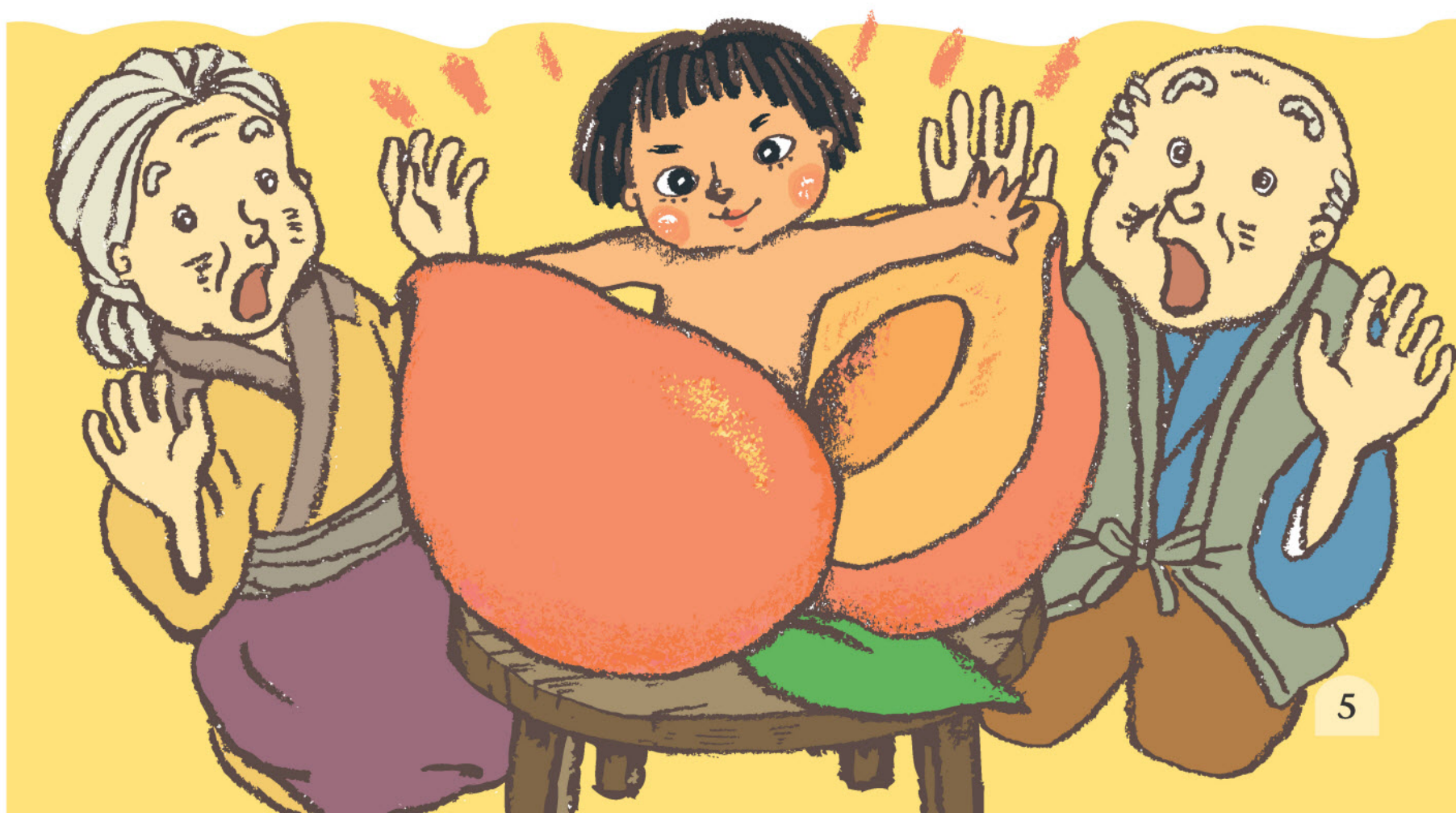


‘What a big peach!’ says the old man. ‘Let’s eat it right now!’

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.

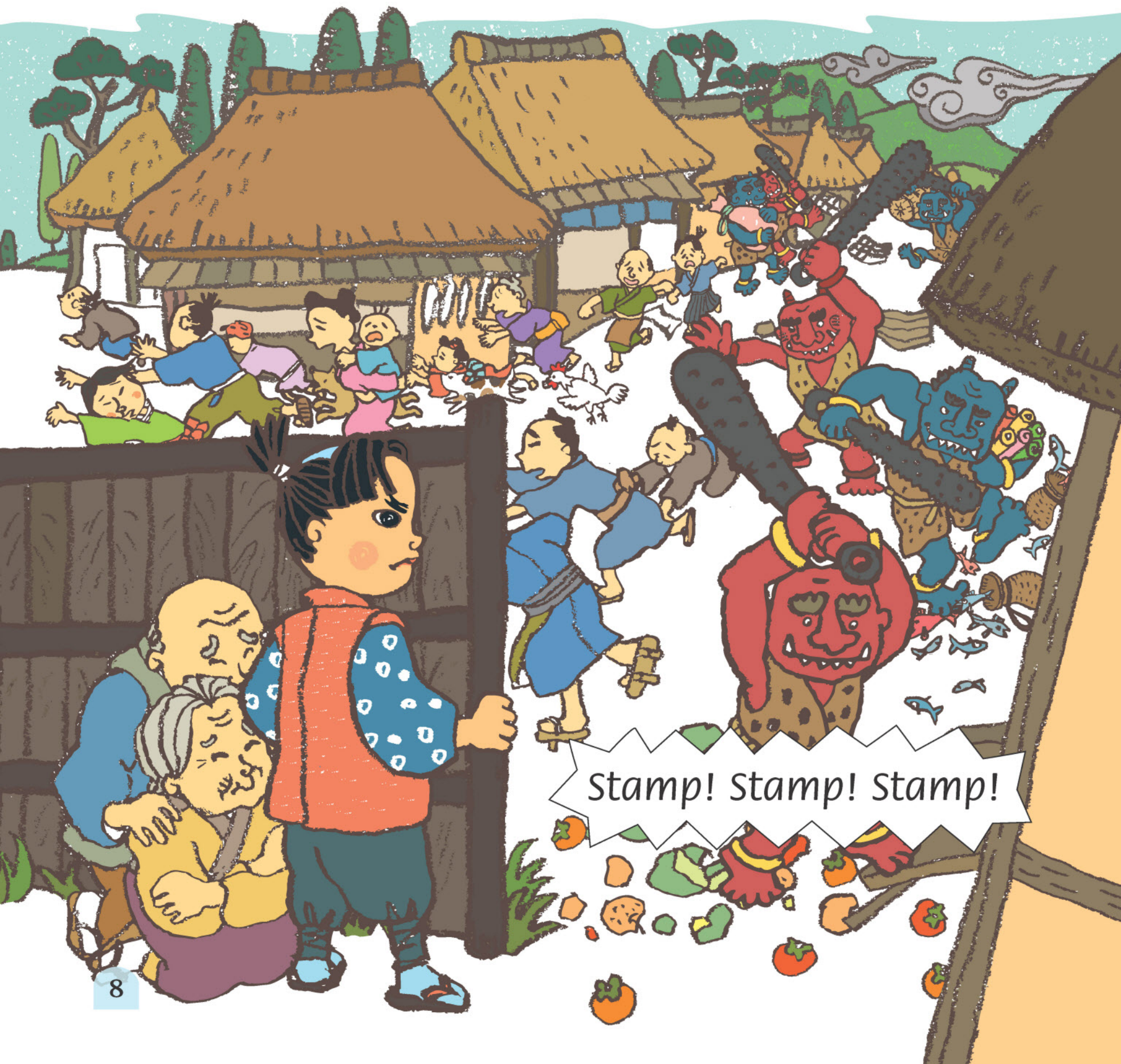


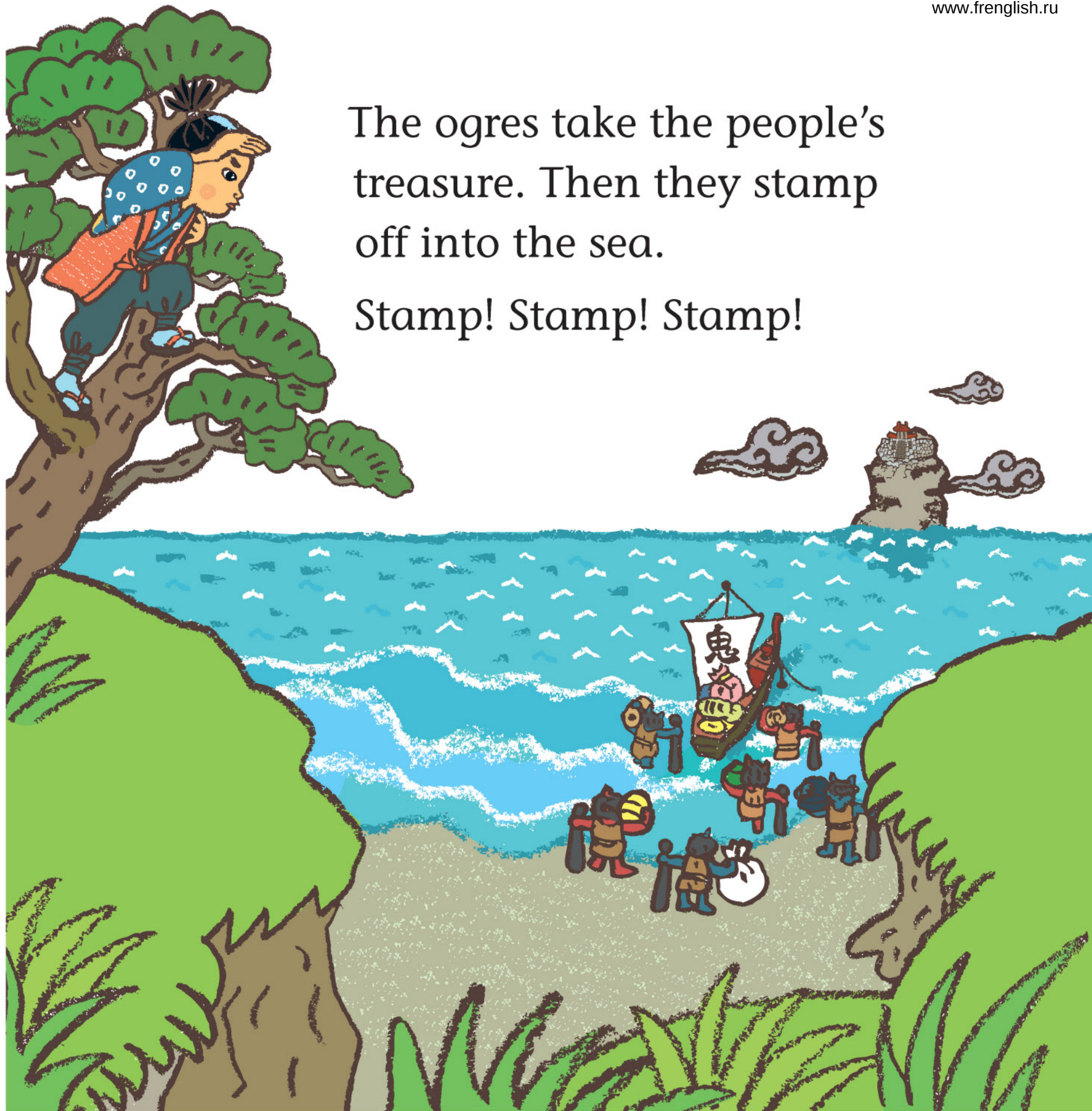
Momotaro helps his mother and father. He is a good boy. And he is strong. He is very strong!

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.



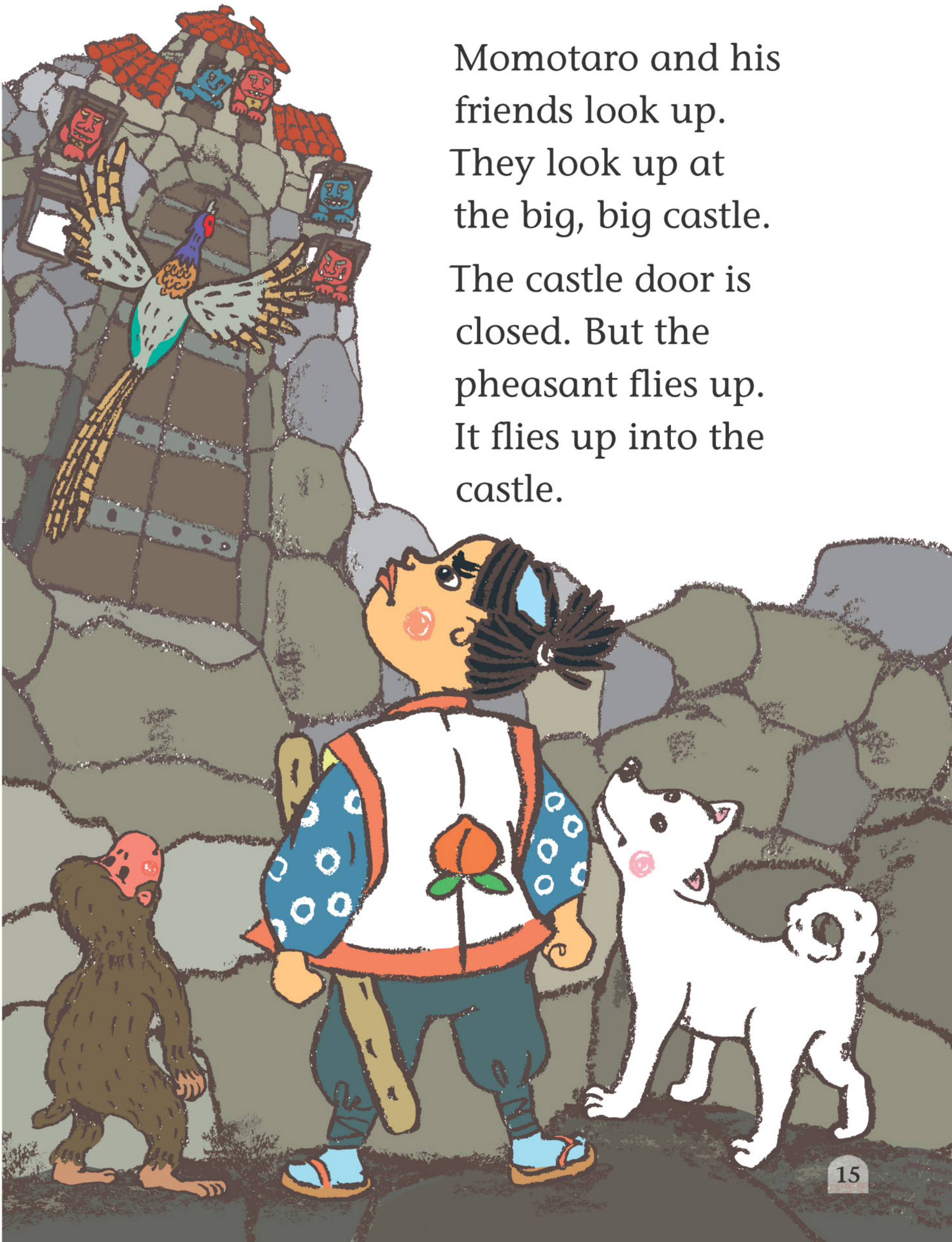
‘Hi, monkey!’ says Momotaro.
‘We want to fight the ogres. Have
a dumpling and come with us!’
So the monkey eats the dumpling.
Then it goes with them.

‘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.

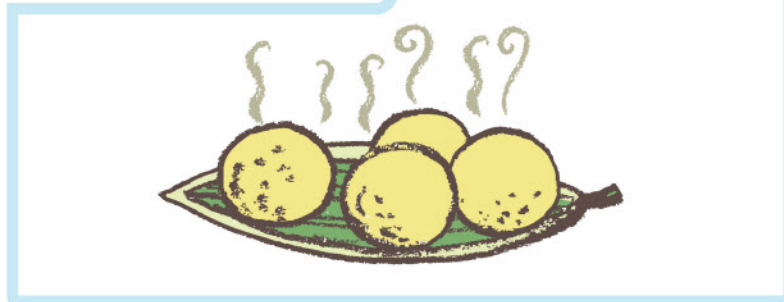
☒ 8 _____

Picture Dictionary

afraid *The ogre is afraid.*



dumplings



break



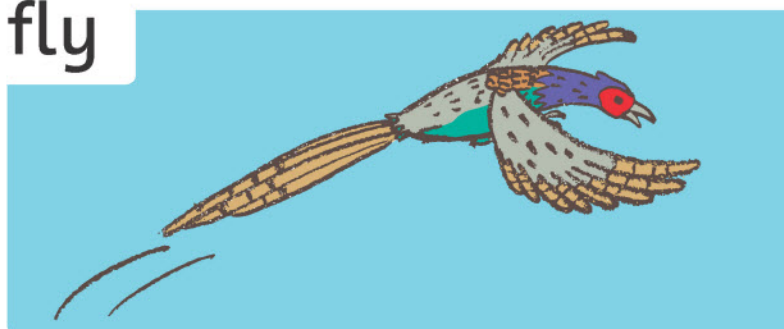
fight



castle



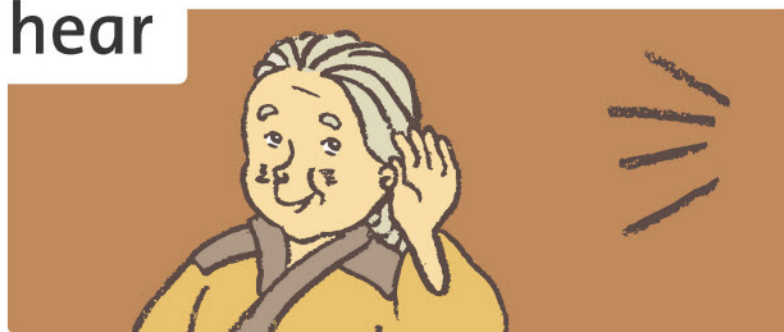
fly



catch



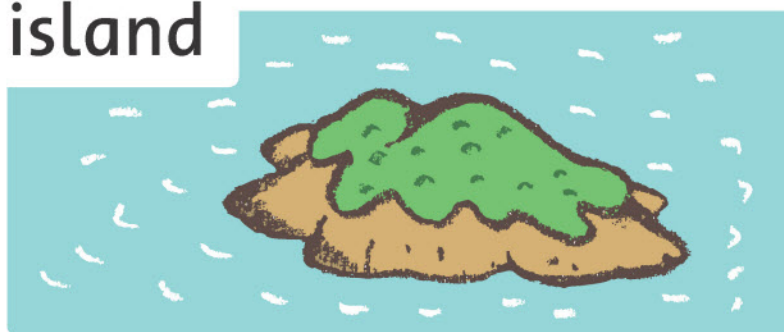
hear



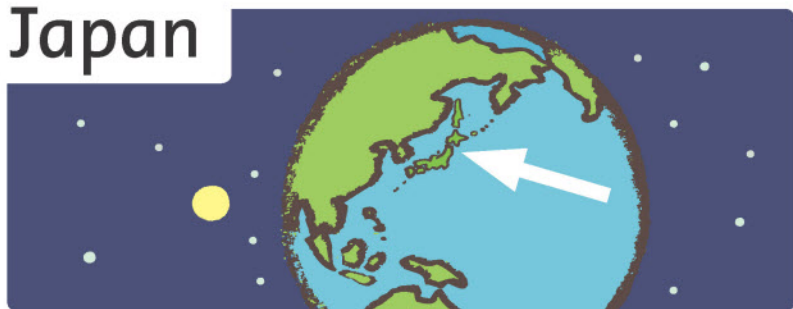
cut



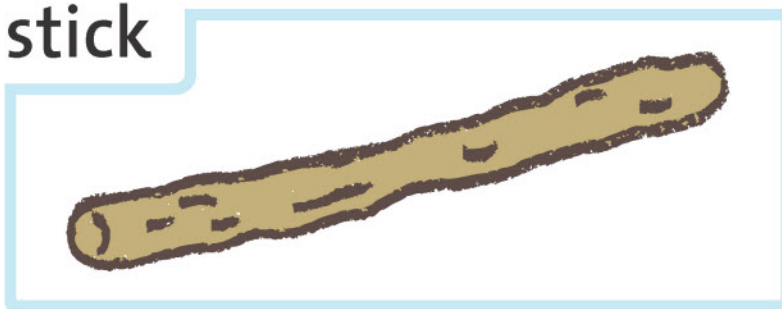
island



Japan



stick



ogre



strong *He is strong.*



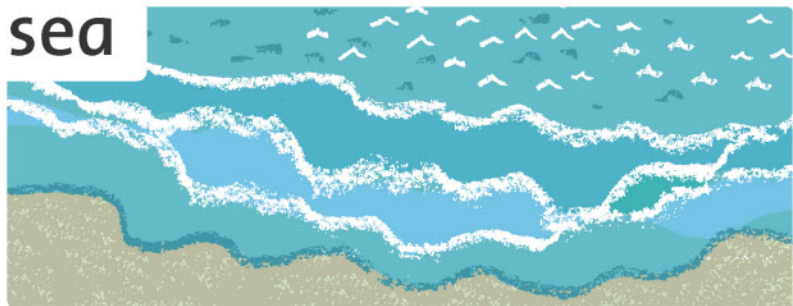
river



summer *It is summer.*



sea



treasure



smell



village



stamp



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- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

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- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

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- The Heron and the Hummingbird
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood
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Level 1

Peach Boy

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

**Classic Tales – bringing the magic of traditional
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 **Level 1: 100 headwords**

 **Level 2: 150 headwords**

 **Level 3: 200 headwords**

 **Level 4: 300 headwords**

 **Level 5: 400 headwords**

Word count for this story: 564

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