

Thinking about stories and active reading

Read the story “Momotaro: Son of a Peach”. Then answer the following questions with short paragraphs (100 words minimum).

1. Summarize what happens in the story. Be sure to introduce what story you are talking about.

“Momotaro” is a story about an old woman who went to a river and washed her clothes. She saw a huge peach floating on the river, so she grabbed it and took it home. The old woman and her husband found out that there was a child in the peach, and understood the child was sent by the gods because they’ve always wanted a child. They named the child Momotaro. When Momotaro became a 15 year old boy, he decided to go on the journey to fight a band of demons who killed many villagers. On the journey, he met a dog, monkey, and a bird. Together they went to the island the demons lived on and killed all demons and brought Momotaro’s village peace.

2. Describe Momotaro. What is he like? Why is he the way he is?

Momotaro is a boy who is brave and just. He is also smart and strong, and he cares about his family. He will do anything for his family because he loves them very much. He likes to make friends because in the story he makes friends with a dog, monkey, and bird. He is the way he is because he was born smart and strong, but he has not experienced the world outside his village. This makes Momotaro curious and want to go on an adventure. Another reason he is the way he is is because his parents took very good care of him and always support him.

3. Make a prediction: What should Momotaro do next? What should he do with his life?

After taking the island of demons and making the village a lot safer, Momotaro should first keep helping out his friends and family. Not just the people inside the village, he should help out the dog, monkey and the bird. Because he is smart and strong, when he grows up he should become the chief of the village, and expand the village's size. After doing all of these important things, he can go back home and have a shop called Momo Rice Cakes and sell the rice cakes his mom gave him while he was going to defeat the demons.

4. Are there characters from any other media you can think of that are like Momotaro? Who are they? How is that character similar to Momotaro?

Minli from *Where The Mountain Meets The Moon* is similar to Momotaro. Minli is a little girl who is brave because she doesn't get scared easily by the monsters she meets in her adventure, and she is smart because she can always come up with some good plans that can allow her and the dragon to become safe. She cares about her family because her whole adventure is about saving her family. Her story is very similar to Momotaro because both of them are very smart, brave, and both care about their families.