ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Celebrate Read for the Record on November 7, 2019
with Thank You, Omu!

READING

Reading aloud with your child builds key language and literacy skills. This shared experience provides an opportunity to connect, fuel your child’s imagination, and instill a love of learning and reading that will benefit them in kindergarten and beyond. Here are some tips for making the most of story time:

• Hold the book so that your child can easily see the cover and illustrations.
• Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
• Show excitement and read the story expressively.
• Listen for your child’s comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
• Provide information to extend your child’s understanding of the story.
• Have fun!

VOCABULARY

Providing a simple explanation for words that your child may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. Your explanations can be verbal, you can point to and describe an illustration, or you can use a specific tone of voice to convey the word’s meaning. Here are some words to talk about while you read Thank You, Omu!:

Stew: a mixture of meat and other food cooked slowly
Scrumptious: tasty
Wafted: to move lightly through the air
Vendor: a person who sells things, especially on the street
Blue: sad or unhappy
Wondered: to be curious about something

ART

Author-illustrator Oge Mora uses a colorful cut-paper design method to create the wonderful images seen in the book. Let your child become an illustrator and artist by giving them the opportunity to create their own pieces of art. First, gather materials you already have available such as construction paper, tissue, wrapping paper, newspapers, and/or magazines. Junk mail, maps, and brochures will also work well. The more diverse the materials, the more exciting the process might be. Next, let children cut out designs for their artwork and then glue the designs onto a blank sheet of paper. Your child can create abstract designs, scenes from the story, or any illustration they might find interesting. When they are done, bring their story to life by asking them about the scene they have created and writing those words at the bottom of the paper. For younger children, adults can precut paper and let them make a collage design.
WRITING

*Thank You, Omu!* is about generosity and gratitude. At the end of the story, the little boy shows his gratitude to Omu by writing a thank-you note. Talk to your child about who they are thankful for and why. Let your child write a thank-you note or help them write and decorate a note to someone—a family member, a community member, or a friend.

COOK TOGETHER

Let your child become Omu and cook up something tasty. Work together to prepare a dish—anything from a cherished family recipe to a simple boxed brownie mix. You can start by making a grocery list and having your child help you shop. Talk about all the steps that go into preparing the dish. Let your child take the lead on as much of the recipe as possible. Messes are okay! Use questions that prompt children to consider the different senses used when cooking: How does it smell? What does it look like? How do you think it will taste? When the dish is complete, consider sharing it with someone in your community or family as a way to express gratitude.

GRATITUDE JAR

In the story, the neighbors come back to Omu’s apartment to show their gratitude, or to say thank you. Using a jar (or any container you have available), create a gratitude jar. Your child can decorate the jar with you. Then, using small slips of paper, have your child write (or assist them in writing) the name of something or someone they are grateful for. Keep the jar available for your child, or the whole family, to add to over time. When the jar is full, reread some of the notes and find a way to celebrate all of the special people and things in your life.

KEEP READING

Love reading together? Visit your local library with your child to find more books to read together:


- To spark more conversation around generosity and gratitude, read *The One Day House* by Julia Durango, *Little Red Hen (Makes a Pizza)* by Philemon Sturges, *Rabbit’s Gift* by George Shannon, or *Gracias/Thanks* by Pat Mora.

- Other books about food and love include *Bee-bim Bop!* by Linda Sue Park and *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin.