ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR EVENTS
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 children 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!:

STEWEW: 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 children become illustrators and artists 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 on to a blank sheet of paper. Children can create abstract designs, scenes from the story, or any illustration they might find interesting. Another option is to put up mural paper and encourage children to work together to create the story scene.

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MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Incorporate some music and movement into your event with these ideas:

**STIR, STIR, STIR THE STEW**
*(To tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)*

Stir, stir, stir the stew  
Stir it all day long.  
Add some (insert food name here),  
Take a taste (slurrrp!)  
Stew will make us strong. (flex arm)

**IF YOU’RE THANKFUL AND YOU KNOW IT**
*(To the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)*

If you’re thankful and you know it, clap your hands  
If you’re thankful and you know it, stamp your feet  
If you’re thankful and you know it then your face will surely show it

If you’re thankful and you know it, clap your hands  
If you’re thankful and you know it, stamp your feet  
If you’re thankful and you know it then your face will surely show it

If you’re thankful and you know it, shout, Thank You  
If you’re thankful and you know it then your face will surely show it

If you’re thankful and you know it, do all three  
If you’re thankful and you know it then your face will surely show it

If you’re thankful and you know it, do all three
Gratitude Map

Create a large neighborhood map using butcher paper to mark some key landmarks that children would be familiar with (e.g., schools, library, market). Let children (or assist them to) write notes of gratitude on slips of paper. The notes can be to a specific person (“I am grateful for my teacher because she brings in cool science experiments”) or for a place (“I am thankful that the library has so many special books for me to borrow”). Tape them onto the map in the corresponding location. At the end of the event, consider ways you can share these notes of gratitude with the community.

Play-Doh

Children can use Play-Doh and safe cooking supplies to create a dish they would bring to Omu’s apartment to thank her. Use supplies such as rolling pins, dishes, flat pans, or spatulas. Encourage children to talk about what they are making and why Omu might like it. Use questions that prompt children to consider the different senses you use when cooking: How might this dish smell? What does it look like? How do you think it would taste? You can even make or buy scented Play-Doh to enhance the conversation.

Additional Ideas

Keep the celebration going by trying some of these additional ideas!
- Make a giant stew collage by creating a “pot” on a large piece of paper and allowing children to contribute by gluing various art materials (e.g., tissue paper, pipe cleaners) to the pot.
- Have a community potluck and invite families or others in the community to bring dishes to share with one another.
- Help children write thank you notes to someone they are grateful for.
- Set up a dramatic play area that includes safe cooking materials (e.g., pots, pans, whisks), aprons, and/or play food. Let children work together to create something new to share!
- Create a reading corner for children who might need a quiet space. Integrate theme related books, such as, The Little Red Hen (Makes a Pizza) by Philemon Sturges, The One Day House by Julia Durango, and Gracias/Thanks by Pat Mora.
- In Thank You, Omu!, we see a police officer, a hot dog vendor, and many other community members. Invite similar community members to join in on your fun.