

JAPANESE FOLKTALE---Bette Rice

**MOMOTARO---Primary Grades K-2**

This is a story about a boy named Momotaro who came to Earth inside a giant peach. He was found floating down a river by an elderly woman who didn't have any children. She was washing clothes at the river and found the giant peach and took it home to her husband.

When the woman and her husband opened the peach to eat it, they found a boy inside the giant peach. The boy told them that he had been sent to be their son. The couple was very happy to have him for their son and they named him Momotaro, from *momo* which means peach and *taro* which means oldest son.

Years later, Momotaro left his parents to fight a band of demons on a distant island. On his way there he met a talking dog, a monkey and a pheasant who all agreed to help him. They were able to get into the fort of the demons and then fought them until they surrendered.

Momotaro and his new friends returned home with the demons' stolen treasures and the demon chief as a captive. Momotaro and his family were able to live happily ever after from then on.

ART PIECES

Peaches in bowls on the last panel of *Scholar's Accouterments* in the Korean Gallery.

Demons in *Reduced Size Illustrations* by Tan' Yu in the Korean Gallery.

Several monkeys as Netsukes in the Japanese Gallery.