

ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR CLASSROOMS

Celebrate Read for the Record on November 7, 2019

with **THANK YOU, Omu!**



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 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

WAFTE: 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.

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 children about who they are thankful for and why. Then let children write a thank-you note or help them write and decorate a note to someone—a family member, a community member, or a friend. Help children distribute the cards to the appropriate person.

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.



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CIRCLE TIME

Try incorporating these songs into your Circle Time for some music and movement activities!

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, clap your hands
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, 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, stamp your feet

If you're thankful and you know it shout, Thank You
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 shout, Thank You

If you're thankful and you know it, do all three
If you're thankful and you know it, do all three



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ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Keep the celebration going! Here are a few additional ideas for your classroom:

- 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 tasty to share!
- If your classroom is able to facilitate cooking or food projects, consider preparing a dish together to share with people in the community as a way to express gratitude.
- 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 school potluck and invite families or others in the community to bring dishes to share with one another.
- If children speak multiple languages in your classroom, have them share how to say “thank you” in each language.



READ ON

Keep exploring the themes of *Thank You, OmU!*, by reading more books! Some ideas are:

- For more themes of friendship and community, try *Pie Is for Sharing* by Stephanie Parsley Ledyard, *What Can You Do with a Paleta?* by Carmen Tafolla, *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins, or *A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker.
- 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 or *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin.

