

Thank You, Omu!

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Before Reading: Get Ready

Review the book synopsis with the student to confirm interest in reading the book. Share the title, author, and illustrator. Talk about the cover.

Activate comprehension and set a purpose for reading. In this book, Omu (which means “queen” in the Nigerian language, and is the name that the author called her grandmother) cooks a delicious pot of stew. When people in her neighborhood smell the stew cooking, they all come by to eat some! What do you think will happen if so many people in her neighborhood come by to eat her stew? Let’s read to see...and imagine how this stew would look, smell, and taste!

Introduce important vocabulary and ask your student to listen for these words during reading.

- **stew:** A stew is a meal that usually includes meat and vegetables and is eaten from a bowl. People usually have to cook or simmer stew for a very long time! Have you ever eaten stew?
- **scrumptious:** When something smells scrumptious, it smells delicious and makes you want to eat it! What is something you like to eat that smells scrumptious?
- **vendor:** A vendor is a person or place that sells something, in our book, a hot dog vendor wants to eat Omu’s delicious stew.
- **sorry and blue:** When someone feels sorry and blue, they feel sad. They are not actually the color blue! When do you think Omu might feel sorry and blue in our book?

During Reading: Read Together

Sit side-by-side to share the book. Follow the conversation prompts and invite your student to ask questions or comments connected to the text to ensure their comprehension.

- **After reading p. 2:** What do you think Omu’s stew looks like and smells like? Tell me about it!
 - Help your student create an image of the stew in their mind using some of the text clues, such as that the stew was thick and red)

- **After reading p. 18:** What picture in your mind do you have in your mind now about how the stew looks?
 - Point out that there is not much stew left, and that the stew pot is probably almost empty).
- **After reading the story:** What is the picture in your mind of how the meal at the end of the book looked and smelled? Tell me about it!
- **Read the author’s note at the end of the book.**

NOTE: This book does not have page numbers. These conversation prompts will be marked in the book for your use.

After Reading: Discuss and Extend

After reading, briefly discuss the text and revisit vocabulary words to ensure your student understands the text. Extend the conversation with writing to give your student multiple opportunities to show understanding.

- **How did making pictures in our mind help us understand and connect to this book?**
 - Feel free to look back in the book if your student wants to do so. Help your student to understand that visualizing or making images as we read “brings the story to life” and helps us “see” and experience what is happening in the story as readers.
- **Let’s write to respond to this story.** (Choose a prompt for student response and copy the selected frame into your student’s notebook.)
 - I would describe Omu’s stew as being _____.
 - If I were Omu, I would have _____.
 - My favorite meal is _____. I would describe it as being _____.
 - I think Omu gave her stew to her neighbors because _____.