



Thank You, Omu!

Oge Mora

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When the aroma of Omu's homemade stew fills the air, her neighbors arrive, one by one, for a taste until all is gone except for her generous spirit.

Thank You, Omu! Details

Date : Published October 2nd 2018 by Little, Brown and Company

ISBN : 9780316431248

Author : Oge Mora

Format : Hardcover 34 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Food and Drink, Food

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From Reader Review Thank You, Omu! for online ebook

Emily says

Omu, queen in Igbo, feeds her neighborhood and in return is fed. Very sweet, beautiful collaged illustrations.

Laura Harrison says

Beautiful, kind and original. One of the nicest picture books of 2018.

Chance Lee says

During this past summer, I had the pleasure of listening to Oge Mora read the book and discuss her art. She was such a delight, and so is this story. It's a beautiful book and her lovingly made collages give much depth to her sweet characters.

Brenda Kahn says

This exuberant debut is sure to be a favorite read aloud. It's sort of a reverse Stone Soup in that Omu gives and gives until she has no dinner for herself. The crisp collages help propel the story of a generous soul.

Amanda says

I've been reading all the 2018 picture books I can, including nominations for best picture book here on Goodreads. *Thank You, Omu!* was not nominated, but it's my favorite of all I've read so far. I thought it worthy of taking a moment to mention.

What I love about it:

Debut author Oge Mora is also the illustrator, I love her collage art. I enjoy looking closer at the layers that make the pictures, and it reminds me of a project I did with my youngest when he was in 3rd grade.

It's not too long and not too short, the text is "just right" for a read aloud picture book.

It begins with a note to the reader: "*Omu*" (pronounced AH-moo) is the Igbo term for "queen."

There is something awkward and humbling about not knowing how to pronounce the words when reading a children's book aloud! ? I love the opening note to the reader.

The sense of community and neighborhood.

There's a "who are the people in your neighborhood" feel to it.

The sharing and thanks.

Maybe my heart strings were tweaked a little extra because it's Thanksgiving tomorrow. But this is sweet, simple story of giving and gratitude.

I love that it's also is a tribute to neighborhood grandmas (and the author's own grandmother.) I was lucky to have an amazing neighbor grandma when I was growing up. Every child, and neighborhood, should be so lucky.

Linda says

I had to wait a while for this one, many holds at the library! It is worth the wait! In the Igbo language, 'Omu' means "queen", but Oge Mora explains in her author's note that to her it means 'Grandma'. In memory of her own grandmother's welcome to anyone who is ready for a meal, Oge tells this tale of an Omu so generous that she gives away all her delicious stew. It all turns out happily and you'll need to read it to discover how. The mixed-media illustrations are as delicious as the story! I loved every page.

Robin says

A beautifully illustrated tale of sharing and nurturing community.

Mrs. Krajewski says

Everyone needs a book like this sometimes. ❤️?

Cecelia says

Thanksgiving may now be past in the United States, but there's no end date on sharing, giving thanks, and giving back. Author-illustrator Oge Mora's debut picture book Thank You, Omu! is a gorgeous soon-to-be classic. It is perfect for year-round reading, and holiday gifting.

The thick red stew that Omu is making will surely be the best dinner that she has ever eaten. It smells wonderful and the taste test promises great things. However, when she sits down to read while she waits, the scent of her stew draws others to her door – first a little boy, then a police officer, then a hot dog vendor, and so on! After a day spent sharing a bowl with everyone who asks, Omu is left without any stew for her own dinner. Soon a knock on her door reveals everyone with whom she shared her meal, there this time to give, and not take.

Mora's story is full of good cheer – generosity, hospitality, sharing food, and sharing company. It's a simple story, but an evocative one, and it serves as a sort of modern parable. Omu's unselfish giving prompts others not only to enjoy what they take, but also to give back themselves. It portrays an ideal, but one that is always worth sharing in hard times.

Other themes/things to love about the story: giving thanks when you can't contribute things, making

community, kindness to strangers, and a new plan or situation being even better than the old one because of a gratitude, and a full heart.

And the art! The art is *kisses fingers* fantastic. Truly classic picture book material, reminiscent of Ezra Jack Keats' work, including perennial favorite *The Snowy Day*. Mora's cut paper artwork utilizes painted and patterned paper, some clipped from books or maps. She also uses markers, acrylics, and more. It's a mixed media wonderland. The endpapers are the city street grid rendered in blocky cut paper squares. The wafting scent of the stew is illustrated by rising steam that reaches farther and farther in the city. A mix of cut paper lettering and type make for evocative text setting – readers will know when to emphasize certain words to make the story sing. I can't praise the art and design enough – they are truly special.

In all, *Thank You, Omu!* is an artful, food- and community-themed picture book with a diverse cast of characters and gorgeous and vibrant cut paper art. It belongs in every picture book collection.

Recommended for: any and every reader ages 3 and up, and especially for Thanksgiving and Christmas storytimes, though the messages of sharing and caring are necessary and important all the year long.

Autumn says

Hoo boy, do I love this book. I love cut paper illustrations, and these are top-notch gorgeous ones. I love picture books starring elderly people, like *Omu*. I love a good debut. I love Maira Kalman style 'people in the neighborhood' books. I love for kids to learn about sharing and giving back as a community. I love how the author didn't provide a recipe for *Omu's* stew, and instead left it abstract and thus, universal. Shoot. What a home run. LOVE IT.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

Omu (AH-moo, Igbo for queen, or sometimes grandma, see Author's Note for more information) has made a thick red stew for her evening meal. *Omu's* stew is so good that the smell wafts over the neighborhood. Just as she sits down to read a book before supper, there is a knock on her door, a little boy asking what smells so delicious. *Omu* gives him a bowl full of stew and he goes on his way. All through the afternoon, neighborhood people knock on *Omu's* door asking what smells so good, and each is given a bowl of her thick red stew. But by evening, there's nothing left for *Omu* to eat. There is another knock on the door, and everyone she had shared her stew with has returned, each one bringing a dish to share with *Omu* and each other, and so they ate, danced, and celebrated, as a way of saying Thank You, *Omu*.

This has become one of my very favorite books and one I love to share with kids. There is so much to talk about in this simple story of kindness, generosity, and thankfulness. The neighborhood is wonderfully diverse, and shared food is the means of gathering them together. Mora's collage illustrations are done with a variety mediums, including clippings from old books, and her color palette is soft earthy tones of blues, yellows, greens, and browns resulting in images that are as warm as this charming story of *Omu*.

Abigail says

Omu cooks her delicious red stew all day in this delightful debut picture-book from author/illustrator Oge

Mora, generously offering a portion to everyone who follows their nose and knocks on her door. When she finally reaches her own dinnertime however, she discovers that there is nothing left in her big pot. What will she do? Fortunately, her generosity finds its response in the people with whom she has shared, people who want to say: "Thank You, Omu!"

Omu, which apparently means "queen" in Igbo, the language of Oge Mora's parents, is a wonderful exemplar of generosity and kindness, qualities which are amply repaid in this story. The narrative is simple and repetitive, structured in a way that reminds me of various folktales I have read over the years, and which would make for an excellent read-aloud, I believe. The artwork, done with cut paper and collage, is charming, capturing the reader's eye with its bright colors, and keeping her attention with the many little details. I appreciated the story here, and the fact that everyone in the community, from vendors to police officers, is welcome. Recommended to anyone looking for new picture-books about generosity and gratitude.

David Schaafsma says

Omu means "queen," in Igbo, which is the tradition from which Mora writes. It has the shape of a folk tale, somewhat like Stone Soup in that food makes community. Omu is a grandmother who makes a rich Igbo stew and everyone that passes by and smells it cooking and knocks on her door gets a helping. . . until it is gone, alas. Though they all come back in the end to share their food with her, too. It's about gratitude, helping others, sharing.

Great collage art, colorful. I read this because Amanda said it was her favorite picture book of the year, and I liked it a lot, too.

Lynn says

I fell in love with this debut author's picture book about generosity and community. Told with a lovely folk tale rhythm, this has the feel of a classic tale and will make a perfect read aloud.

The collage illustrations are absolutely terrific and a joy to experience along with the story. Done in warm mellow tones with many fascinating perspectives, they really match the feel of the story.

Jessica says

Omu is the Nigerian word for "queen", but in the author's family it was used as her grandmother's name. In this story Omu cooks a big pot of delicious, fragrant red stew. As neighbors and workers in the neighborhood smell it they all come knocking, and she gives each of them a bowl. By the end of the day when her meal time comes around her stew pot is empty, but suddenly all of those who've received knock upon her door and bring their own foods to feast upon. It's a lovely story with beautiful collage work for the illustrations. I can't wait to use it in storytime - it's got great repetition to the story. I feel certain we'll be seeing it on awards lists. Definite win.
