



Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando

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Magic Ramen is the true story of Momofuku Ando, who was inspired by the hungry people in post-war Japan to create convenient, fast food to nourish them. Learn the origins of instant ramen and the way one man made a difference.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder why is he holding that bowl over his head?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- Ramen - very thin, long noodles used in Asian cooking
- Rationing - limiting food or supplies
- Seasonings- substances (such as salt, pepper, spices or herbs) that are used to add flavor to food
- convenient - allows you to do something easily or without much effort
- tempura - a Japanese dish that is made of seafood or vegetables that are covered in batter and fried
- invented - created or produced (something useful) for the first time

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What inspired Ando to create ramen?
- What did Ando want for families?
- When did Ando think the world would be peaceful?
- What were the ingredients he used to make his ramen?
- How did his wife Masako inspire Ando’s recipe for ramen?
- Who helped Ando sell his ramen?
- How did Magic Ramen get its name?
- How old was Ando when he invented Space Ram?
- Where was Space Ram eaten in zero gravity?



DO

Watch!

Watch how to make ramen and be inspired to make your own:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/recipes/make-three-kid-friendly-noodle-soup-dishes-ramen-from-japan>

Learn more about Momofuku Ando and his passion for creating ramen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQS3jipb5P4>



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