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- READER 1:** Once upon a time, long long ago in Japan,
- READER 2:** a kind old man and woman lived next door to a greedy old man and woman.
- READER 3:** The kind old man and woman were very poor.
- READER 4:** Even though they both worked hard in the rice fields,
- READER 5:** there was often very little to eat in their small hut.
- READER 1:** Early one morning, as the kind old man and woman prepared to go to work,
- READER 2:** they found only six small rice balls to pack for lunch.
- READER 3:** So, the kind old man wrapped three rice balls in a furoshiki cloth.
- READER 4:** The kind old woman did the same,
- READER 5:** and off they went to the fields.
- READER 1:** Around lunch time, the kind old man found a shady spot in which to eat his meager lunch, all by himself.
- READER 2:** He sat down under a momiji tree and began to unwrap the three rice balls.

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READER 3: Suddenly and without warning,

READER 4: one rice ball hopped right out of the furoshiki cloth...

READER 5: and began to roll along the ground!

ALL: KORO! KORO! KORO!

READER 1: Now the kind old man was hungry! He did not want to lose a rice ball, so he cried out,

2/KIND MAN: "Stop Roly Rice Ball!
Don't you see?
You can't roll away.
You belong to me!

Stop Roly Rice Ball!
Don't you know?
You're my lunch.
Please don't go!"

READER 3: But the roly rice ball continued to roll along the ground...

ALL: KORO! KORO! KORO!

READER 4: until,

ALL: PLOP!