

**Page 1/ Teacher Script/ THE ROLY RICE BALLS**

(READER 1 ENTERS, STANDS IN FRONT OF STOOL, OPENS FOLDER, AND READS):

**READER 1:** Once upon a time, long long ago in Japan,

(READERS 2 ENTERS, SITS ON STOOL, OPENS FOLDER, AND SAYS):

**READER 2:** a kind old man and woman lived next door to a greedy old man and woman.

(ADD THIS LINE AND ACTION, IF DESIRED: READER 2 LOOKS UP AT AUDIENCE, SMILES AND SAYS, "I'LL PLAY THE KIND MAN TODAY SINCE THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY I AM!").

(AS READER 3 ENTERS HE MIGHT ALSO SAY, "I'LL PLAY THE MEAN MAN WHEN HE COMES ALONG. THAT PART IS PERFECT FOR MY PERSONALITY!" READER 3 SITS, OPENS FOLDER, AND CONTINUES THE STORY).

**READER 3:** The kind old man and woman were very poor.

(READERS 4 AND 5 ENTER. THEY STAND IN FRONT OF STOOLS, OPEN FOLDERS IN UNISON, AND READ):

**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.

**Page 2/ Teacher Script/ THE ROLY RICE BALLS**

(ALL READERS LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND AD LIB PHRASES LIKE "OH DEAR," "THAT'S TOO BAD," "THIS IS A SAD STORY!" READERS 1,4,5 SIT).

**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 STANDS).

**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 READS FOLLOWING LINE, PLACES FOLDER ON KNEES AND MIMES UNWRAPPING THE RICE BALLS).

**READER 2:** He sat down under a momiji tree and began to unwrap the three rice balls.

(READER 3 READS LINE, POINTS AT IMAGINARY RICE BALLS, AND FREEZES WITH FINGER POINTED).

**Page 3/ Teacher Script/ THE ROLY RICE BALLS**

**READER 3:** Suddenly and without warning,

(READER 4 DOES THE SAME).

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

(READER 5 DOES THE SAME).

**READER 5:** and began to roll along the ground!

(READERS 3,4,5 BREAK FREEZE AND MOVE FINGERS IN A CIRCULAR DIRECTION THREE TIMES TO CORRESPOND WITH THE READING OF "KORO! KORO! KORO!" THE CIRCULAR MOTIONS ARE MEANT TO INDICATE ROLLING. ALL FINGERS DOWN AFTER THE LAST "KORO!").

**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/MAN JUMPS UP AND CALLS OUT TO THE IMAGINARY RICE BALLS WHICH ARE ROLLING INTO THE AUDIENCE).

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

**Page 4/ Teacher Script/ THE ROLY RICE BALLS**

**2/KIND MAN:** 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 READEDRS EXTEND POINTED FINGERS TOWARD AUDIENCE AND MOVE FINGERS IN CIRCULAR DIRECTION THREE TIMES AS FOLLOWING IS CHANTED):

**ALL:** KORO! KORO! KORO!

**READER 4:** until,

**ALL:** PLOP!

(ALL FINGERS DOWN ON "PLOP").

**READER 5:** it rolled right into a hole under the momiji tree.

(2/MAN SITS AND LOOKS AT FLOOR AS THOUGH HE WERE LOOKING DOWN THE HOLE).

**READER 1:** The kind old man bent over the hole and, to his great surprise, heard tiny voices calling from deep inside:

**Page 5/ Teacher Script/ THE ROLY RICE BALLS**

(READER 4 PUNCHES AIR WITH RAISED FIST IN BEAT TIME TO THE FOLLOWING CHANT. READER 4 DOES THIS LIKE A CHEERLEADER MIGHT LEAD A CHEER).

**READER 4:** "Roll Roly Rice Ball

**1,2,3,4:** DOWN THE HOLE!

**READER 4:** Roll Roly Rice Ball

**1,2,3,4:** ROLL, ROLL, ROLL!"

(FIST DOWN. READER 3 POINTS AT IMAGINARY RICE BALLS AGAIN AND MOVMENTS ARE REPEATED AS BEFORE).

**READER 3:** Suddenly, and without warning,

(READER 4 DOES THE SAME).

**READER 4:** a second rice ball hopped out of the furoshiki cloth...

(READER 5 DOES THE SAME).

**READER 5:** and began to roll along the ground.

(READERS 3,4,5 CIRCLE WITH FINGERS, AS BEFORE).

**ALL:** KORO! KORO! KORO!

**Page 6/ Teacher Script/ THE ROLY RICE BALLS**

**READER 1:** The kind old man did not want to lose a second rice ball, so he cried out,

(2/MAN JUMPS TO FEET AS BEFORE).

**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 READERS POINT AND CIRCLE FINGERS AS BEFORE).

**ALL:** KORO! KORO! KORO!

**READER 4:** until,

(ALL FINGERS DOWN).

**ALL:** PLOP!

**READER 5:** it rolled right into that hole under the momiji tree.