Once Upon a Time: A Brave Girl and a Dragon

Japanese · preintermediate · kids telling stories · children · 6 min

Lyricate
LEARN IT IN MUSIC

01 VOCABULARY

Preintermediate Japanese learning song about kids telling stories. The voice drills each chunk with its meaning so the words attach to the sound - listen, then answer in the gaps.

	CHUNK	MEANING	IN CONTEXT
1	むかしむかし、ゆうかんな おんなのこが いました。 Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.	Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.	a storybook opening with a picture of a girl holding a little lantern
2	とつぜん、ドラゴンが あらわれました。 Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.	Suddenly, a dragon appeared.	a big friendly dragon peeking over a hill, with a surprised gasp
3	それから、ともだちと あそびます。 Sorekara, tomodachi to asobimasu.	And then, she plays with friends.	twirling in a circle with friends in a sunny field
4	さいごに、みんな しあわせでした。 Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.	In the end, everyone was happy.	a group of friends waving goodbye as the story closes
5	ゆうかんな こ。 Yuukan na ko.	A brave child.	standing tall with a small wooden sword and a proud smile

NEW WORDS (13)

mukashi むかし
long ago

yuukan ゆうかん
brave

onna おんな
girl

ko こ
child

imashita いました
was there

totsuzen とつぜん
suddenly

doragon ドラゴン
dragon

arawaremashita あらわれました
appeared

sorekara それから
and then

saigo さいご
the end

minna みんな
everyone

shiawase しあわせ
happy

deshita でした
was

Practice tip · First listen without reading and just tap the pulse; on the second pass, say each chunk out loud in the pause after the echo.

[SOUND DRILL]

mu

ka

shi

to

tsu

zen

do

[REVIEW]

Watashi no iken de wa, kono hon wa sugoi.

In my opinion, this book is amazing.

Kono geemu no ruuru o oshiete.

Tell me the rules of this game.

Ichigo o chiisaku kitte ne.

Cut the strawberries small, okay?

Konban eigakan ni ikimasu.

Tonight I go to the cinema.

Ii to omoimasu.

I think it is good.

Oshougatsu ni otoshidama o moraimasu.

At New Year I receive money gifts.

[CHORUS]

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

[VERSE 1]

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

mukashi

long ago

yuukan

brave

onna

girl

ko

child

imashita

was there

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Yuukan na ko.

A brave child.

Yuukan na ko.

A brave child.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

totsuzen

suddenly

doragon

dragon

arawaremashita

appeared

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

[CHORUS]

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.
Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.
Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.
Suddenly, a dragon appeared.
Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.
Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

[VERSE 2]

Sorekara, tomodachi to asobimasu.
And then, she plays with friends.
sorekara
and then
Sorekara, tomodachi to asobimasu.
And then, she plays with friends.
Sorekara, minna de odorimasu.
And then, everyone dances.
Sorekara, minna de odorimasu.
And then, everyone dances.
Minna ga utau.
Everyone sings.
minna
everyone
Minna ga utau.
Everyone sings.
Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.
In the end, everyone was happy.
saigo
the end
shiawase
happy
deshita
was
Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.
In the end, everyone was happy.
Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

[CHORUS]

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.
Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.
Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.
Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.
Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.
Suddenly, a dragon appeared.
Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.
Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

[VERSE 3]

Mite, ookii doragon!
Look, a big dragon!
Tomodachi to issho ni asobimasu.
I play together with my friend.
Tomodachi to issho ni asobimasu.
I play together with my friend.
Ii ohanashi desu ne.
It is a good story, right?
Kimi wa yuukan desu ka?
Are you brave?
Kimi ga yuukan desu.
You are brave.
Kimi ga yuukan desu.
You are brave.
Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.
In the end, everyone was happy.
Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.
In the end, everyone was happy.
Oyasumi. Ii yume o.
Good night. Sweet dreams.
Oyasumi. Ii yume o.
Good night. Sweet dreams.

[CHORUS]

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Once upon a time, there was a brave girl.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Suddenly, a dragon appeared.

[RECAP]

Mukashi mukashi, yuukan na onna no ko ga imashita.

Totsuzen, doragon ga arawaremashita.

Sorekara, minna de odorimasu.

Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.

Grey lines are a reading aid for the script; the singer performs the language itself.

HOW TO USE THIS SONG

1. Listen to the whole song once without reading — just follow the pulse.
2. Listen again while reading the lyrics; let the echo lines carry the meaning.
3. On the third pass, say each chunk out loud in the pause after it is sung.
4. Use one phrase from this sheet today, in a real conversation or out loud.

DRILL MAP

SAY THIS	IT MEANS	WHEN / HOOK
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それから、ともだちと あそびます。 Sorekara, tomodachi to asobimasu.	And then, she plays with friends.	twirling in a circle with friends in a sunny field
さいごに、みんな しあわせでした。 Saigo ni, minna shiawase deshita.	In the end, everyone was happy.	a group of friends waving goodbye as the story closes
ゆうかんな こ。 Yuukan na ko.	A brave child.	standing tall with a small wooden sword and a proud smile