



A Campaign of the
Oakland Literacy Coalition

Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Thank you, Omu!* by Oge Mora

Best for: K - 2

Summary: This book is about Omu cooking a pot of delicious stew for herself which smells so good that everyone wants to eat some. One by one, neighbors come and knock on Omu's door for a bowl. But Omu gives all her stew away before she can eat dinner. All the neighbors who ate a bowl of stew bring over food and they all eat dinner together.

Omu is pronounced AH-moo and is the Igbo term for "queen"

Why we chose this book: This book captures a warming story of sharing and community, especially as food from communities of color often times is teased or labeled as different. Omu's stew is served with love and generosity which celebrates the rewards of sharing and culture rather than anticipating a return.

Central themes: sharing, generosity, community of colors, reward

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about Omu (pronounced AH-moo) making a yummy pot of stew for herself. Does anyone have a favorite food?"

"Where can you get that food and what makes it so yummy?"

"Do you have a favorite food that reminds you of home?"

After Reading: Debrief with students

"Why do you think Omu gave away all her stew?"

"If you had to give all your dinner to someone who asked, would you?"

"Who in your life is most like Omu?"