



# Kintaro the Golden Boy

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Strength, Friendship, Adventure

**Book Brief:** A Japanese story about a strong little boy and the adventures he has with his animal friends.

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Ivan Barrera

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "What do you know about folktales or stories from other countries? What makes a hero in a story?" Explain to students that folktales are traditional stories that have been passed down through generations to teach lessons or share cultural values.

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, think about the central message or lesson of this story. What does Kintaro's story teach us about strength and friendship?"



**Think Aloud:** "Kintaro has incredible strength, but he uses it to help his animal friends and protect others. The central message seems to be that true strength isn't just about being physically powerful: it's about using your abilities to help those around you."

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What makes Kintaro special or different?
- Who are Kintaro's friends?
- Why do you think the animals trust and follow Kintaro?
- How does Kintaro use his strength to help others?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** "What is the central message or lesson of this story? What did we learn about how Kintaro uses his strength?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, "What kinds of strength do people have besides physical strength? How can you use your own strengths to help others?" Encourage students to create a poster where they identify one or two strengths they have (which could be physical, emotional, mental, or creative) and draw or write about a specific way they can use that strength to help someone else. Students can share their posters and celebrate the different strengths in the classroom.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
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