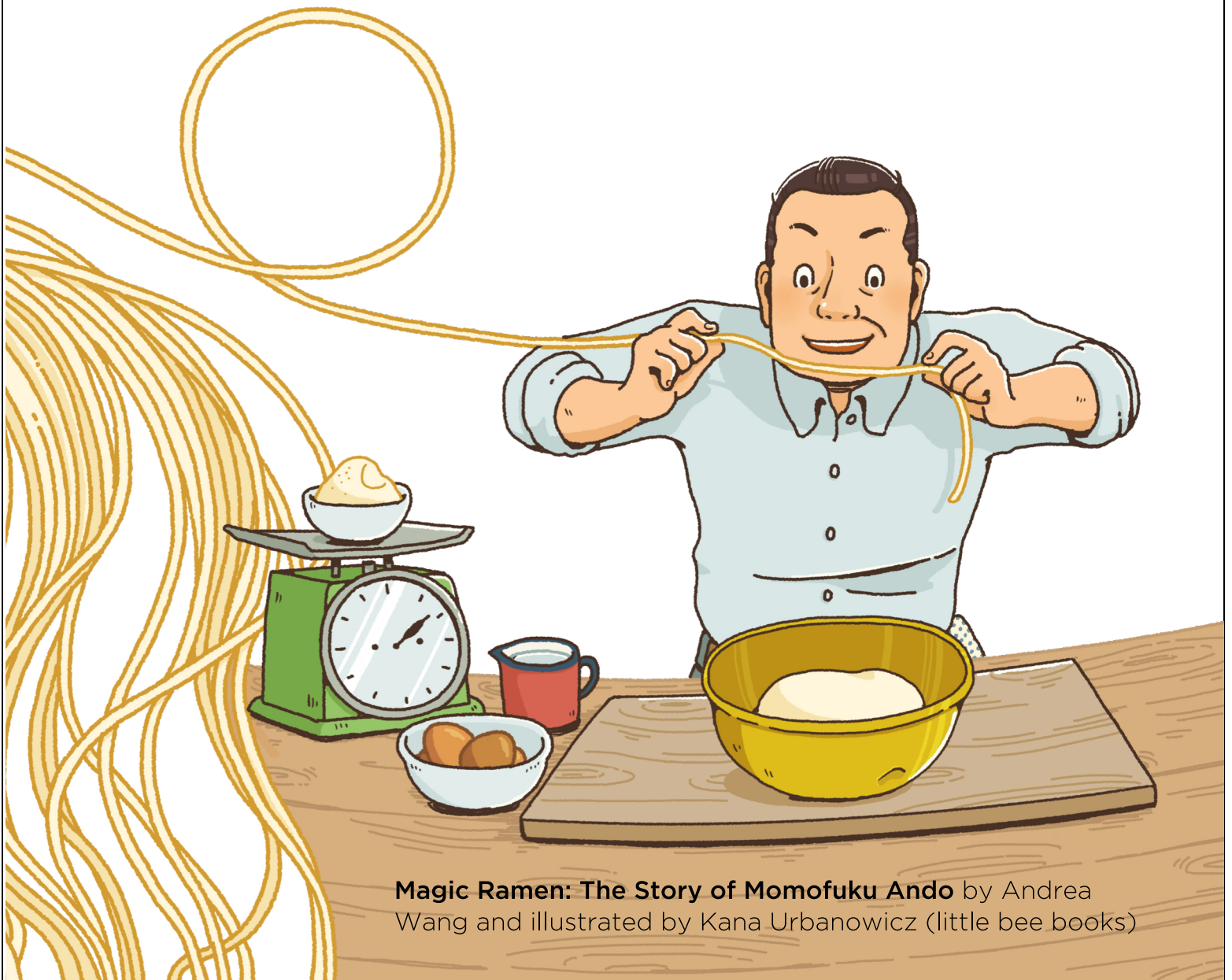


MAGIC RAMEN

NOODLING AROUND WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE & STEM



Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz (little bee books)

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

ABOUT THE KIT

This acclaimed picture book biography of Momofuku Ando highlights both his mission to feed the hungry and his tireless use of STEM experimentation to create a “magic” ramen that would result in “no more empty stomachs” and “no more high prices” for food. This kit for librarians, STEM and classroom educators, and community groups contains:

- Marketing: Event poster and suggested calendar copy
- Activity: Craft Cupboard Ramen
- Activity: Ramen Relay Race
- Community Service: Information on Food Insecurity
- Community Service: Food Bank Announcement
- Community Service & STEM: Labels for Giveaway Ramen Packages: “Ando Invented This!”
- STEM: Opportunities in the Text

ABOUT THE BOOK

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando

By Andrea Wang

Illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz

Published by little bee books

ISBN-13: 9781499807035

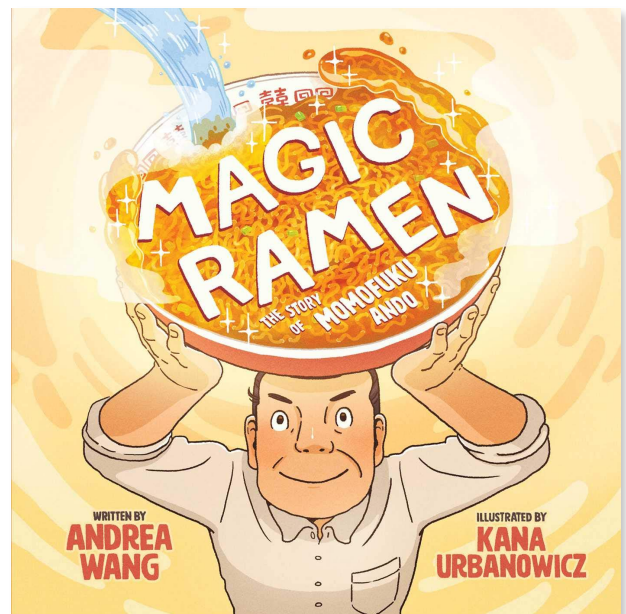
Age Range: 4 - 8 Years

Inspiration struck when Momofuku Ando spotted the long lines for a simple bowl of ramen following World War II. Magic Ramen tells the true story behind the creation of one of the world’s most popular foods.

Every day, Momofuku Ando would retire to his lab—a little shed in his backyard. For years, he’d dreamed about making a new kind of ramen noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty for the hungry people he’d seen in line for a bowl on the black market following World War II. Peace follows from a full stomach, he believed.

Day after day, Ando experimented. Night after night, he failed. But Ando kept experimenting.

With persistence, creativity, and a little inspiration, Ando succeeded. This is the true story behind one of the world’s most popular foods.



MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

A Junior Library Guild Selection

"The author's tribute to one of history's most important inventors is complemented by digital illustrations, which separate well-paced text and add strong visual appeal to this exceptional biography picture book. An afterword is provided, giving readers additional insight into Ando's life and legacy and its connection to food history and popular culture, especially the creation of the widely recognizable Cup Noodles. VERDICT An inspiring story of persistence and an ideal purchase for any collection."

—*School Library Journal*, **Starred Review**

"With an aesthetic that's straight out of a Hayao Miyazaki animated film, Urbanowicz's illustrations pair deliciously with Wang's concise, conversational text. Clever use of lighting, white space, and comic-book compositions moderate pacing in all the right places. The illustrator earns brownie points for accurate cultural details: geta (wooden sandals), cascading cherry blossoms, kanji characters, etc. Eaters of all ages will enjoy learning about the history of this popular food gone global."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Wang (The Nian Monster) outlines Ando's methodical search, including his failures...Vivid artwork by debut artist Urbanowicz uses a clear line style to combine documentary seriousness with humor...Persistence is at the heart of this success story as Ando presses on despite numerous setbacks. And, starry-eyed as it may sound, the goal of peace through food seems important—and possible—by the story's end."

—*Publishers Weekly*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Andrea Wang loves noodles, food, and noodling about food. A former environmental scientist, she appreciates Ando's scientific spirit, persistence in the face of failure, and passion for making the world a better place. Andrea lives in Colorado with her family and their dog, Mochi. Sometimes they have instant ramen for breakfast. You can find out more about Andrea at andreyawang.com.

Kana Urbanowicz works mainly as an illustrator and likes to draw people eating delicious food. Apart from illustration, she also creates animations, comics, and even clay figurines. She lives in Kanagawa, Japan, with her artist husband. By a lucky coincidence, there is a Momofuku Ando museum nearby, so she went there for some inspiration and noodle fun. After reading Ando's biography, Kana is happy that she could take part in making this book happen! Read more about her works at tekumushi.com.

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

PREPARING FOR THE ACTIVITIES

You will, of course, create your own grand event or classroom activity! Following are simply suggested ways to prepare for an event or classroom experience.

___ Locate a copy of the picture book **Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando** by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz (little bee books).

SHARING THE EVENT

___ If you list your events in print or online, here is some text that may assist you:

After seeing people in his community go hungry in post-war Japan, Momofuku Ando spent a lifetime dedicated to "no more empty stomachs" and "no more high prices" for food. His solution after years of experimentation? The invention of instant ramen. Together we will read **Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando** by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz (little bee books)

and explore food insecurity in our community and how each of us can help.

-or-

make our own noodle inventions.

___ If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 11), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster in your design software, you can find a JPEG of the poster design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for "ramen" at CuriousCityDPW.com and navigate to the Activity Kit listing. The fonts on the poster are Gotham (Light and Medium) and HWT Artz.



MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR ANDO ADMIRERS

With spread after spread of Momofuku Ando experimenting with ingredients, readers may want to get into the kitchen or to the art table. Here are some projects for Ando admirers to create in libraries, classrooms, and kitchens.

Craft Cupboard Ramen

With a "Play-Doh Noodle Makin Mania Set" (under \$15), readers can pump out noodles from yellow Play-Doh and make vegetables and other ramen ingredients by hand or with the set's molds. When these ingredients are layered into a clear drinking cup (saved from the recycling bin or donated by your coffee shop), a reader can watch their ramen become magical.

Or, you can use shredded paper or cream-colored yarn for ramen. Having a combination of colored papers and scissors available allows kids to cut out the ingredients for their own instant soup invention.



___ Look for the **Magic Ramen Maker Labels** in this kit (page 12). Readers can add the labels to their creations to make a text-to-project connection.

Ramen Relay Race

It takes a skilled hand to keep ramen on a set of chopsticks. Pre-cook a package of ramen for each reader and toss with a dash of oil to keep the noodles from clumping. Don't make the soup! On one end of the table, place a clear container of ramen and on the other end, an empty clear container. Using only chopsticks, the reader has to move as much ramen as they can from the full container to the empty one. Set a timer and put music on. We recommend the Japanese band **Quinka, With a Yawn** as a backdrop.

Printmaking with Ramen

Partnering with your art educator, you will find that dry and wet ramen make amazing patterns in paint. Feature ramen art in an exhibit for families and auction it off for your local food bank. See the Food Bank Announcement (page 13) in this kit.

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

Ramen in the Kitchen

If you are lucky enough to cook with readers, look for the ramen recipes at PBS Kids: <http://bit.ly/MagicRamen>

NO MORE EMPTY STOMACHS:

HONORING ANDO'S MISSION TO FEED HIS COMMUNITY

After seeing people in his community go hungry in post-war Japan, Momofuku Ando spent a lifetime dedicated to "no more empty stomachs" and "no more high prices" for food. His solution after years of experimentation? The invention of instant ramen. Can the book inspire your readers to look at their own community and to do what they can for "no more empty stomachs"?

What does food insecurity look like in your community?

Agencies are no longer using the word "hunger," but instead use the term "food insecurity" to describe not having access to enough food for a healthy life. Explore more:

<https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/understand-food-insecurity/>

Your local food bank should have all the latest figures on food insecurity in your community. If you are in a school, the superintendent's office should have figures for your school system.

When talking about local food insecurity, remember to make your language inclusive. For example, avoid using "some families" or "some kids" when describing who is affected. Use "we" as much as possible. For example, "As a community, we suffer from food insecurity."



What is the best way to help?

Every community's needs are different. Again, your local food bank(s) can help you determine the best way your readers can help the broader community. Within a school, the social worker and school nurse are in touch with student needs. Avoid collecting food until you know what your community needs most.

Instant ramen, for example, is often not needed at food banks because many families in need already stock it at home. This is reflective of Momofuku Ando's legacy.

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

Do you want to hold a food drive?

Consider using **Magic Ramen** as the inspiration for your annual food drive or to start a food drive tradition.

___ Look for the **Food Drive Announcement** in this kit (page 13). It connects the story of Momofuku Ando with community food insecurity and offers a template for you to use. If you prefer to adapt the announcement in your design software, you can find a JPEG of the design on CuriousCityDPW.com. Simply search for “ramen” at CuriousCityDPW.com and navigate to the Activity Kit listing. The fonts on the poster are Gotham (Light and Medium) and HWT Artz.

___ If your food bank does accept instant ramen, consider affixing the “Ando invented this!” labels to Nissin* ramen packages. Look for the **Magic Ramen Label for Giveaway Ramen Packages** in this kit (page 14).

Do you want to celebrate Ando’s invention and give away food to help home food insecurity?

Could there be a better connection or giveaway than Ando’s actual invention?

___ If everyone in your classroom or event goes home with instant ramen packages honoring Ando, no one is singled out as needing food. Look for the **Magic Ramen Label for Giveaway Ramen Packages** in this kit (page 14). These labels fit perfectly on top of Nissin* Cup Noodles boxes and on the Nissin Top Ramen packages. The labels say, “Ando invented this!”

___ Consider making it a classroom project to stock the school’s food cupboard with instant ramen with these labels. Don’t have a free food cupboard for kids? Consider working with your principal and social worker to start one.

*While there are many brands of instant ramen, Nissin is the company that Momofuku Ando founded. We are not endorsing a company, of course, just honoring Ando and his story.

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

ANDO KEPT EXPERIMENTING: HONORING ANDO'S STEM PROCESS

Momofuku Ando sought to combat hunger and high food prices by inventing a new food — instant ramen. He used science, technology, engineering, and math (also known as STEM) to achieve success.

Award-winning STEM librarian and former classroom teacher Suzanne Costner offers these spread-by-spread opportunities for STEM discussions or deeper exploration.



Spread 2

“Bad harvests, rationing, and war had made food scarce.”

Explore: Current day reasons for worldwide food insecurity:
<https://www.worldhunger.org/>

Discuss: Ways communities in the U.S. combat food insecurity (soup kitchens, community food pantries, canned food drives at holidays, etc.).

Question: Why is it easier to collect and distribute packaged food rather than fresh food?

Spread 3

“He started a business making salt.”

Explore: Process used to make salt.

“In a shed in his backyard, Ando mixed flour, salt, and water together.”

Explore: The gluten in noodles needs to bind to make a product that holds together. Salt helps gluten bind.

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

Spread 4

“He added powdered milk.”

Explore: Milk, eggs, and spinach all add protein and other nutrients to the noodles. Why is protein important to our diet? What innovations did Ando add over the years to make instant ramen more nutritious?

“Or too lumpy.”

Demonstrate: Consider simulating the trial and error by making batches of homemade play-dough. See the Making Craft Cupboard Ramen activity on page 5.

Spread 5

“One day, he cranked the handle of his noodle-making machine.”

Explore: This is an example of a compound machine or two or more simple machines working together (wheels and axles, levers).

“Ando realized, The key to the preparation of food is balance.”

Explore: Balance, or the ratio of solids to liquids, and the way the various ingredients react to/with each other.

Spread 6

“But what was ramen without soup? Ando remembered the cold and hungry people. Chicken soup warmed up cold bodies but took hours to make.”

Explore: Before families had microwaves, food wasn't as "instant" as we have today. New technology continues to make food preparation easier and faster, just as Ando was trying to do.

Spread 7

“Or too soggy.”

Compare: Think of other foods we put in liquids (cereal or cookies in milk, crackers or dumplings in soup). How do they react to being wet?

Spread 8

“One day, he sprinkled noodles with soup from a watering can.”

Demonstrate and Observe: Gather various types of fresh noodles and sprinkle them with water. Leave some of each type in a clump and toss and separate others to test how they dry differently.

MAGIC RAMEN: ACTIVITY KIT

Spread 10

“The water in the batter evaporated and left tiny holes in the now-crunchy coating.”

Demonstrate: Use a sponge to demonstrate how holes can hold water when wet, but stay hard when dry.

Afterword

“Ando continued to find new ways to make instant ramen more nutritious.”

Explore: The cyclical nature of the design and experimentation process. Can all products be improved?

“Ando invented Space Ram, instant noodles that could be eaten in zero gravity.”

Explore: What was Ando’s process to create ramen that worked in a vacuum?

<https://abcnews.go.com/Business/instant-ramen-inventor-momofuku-ando-floats-space-google/story?id=29420734>

<http://www.spacedaily.com/news/food-05j.html>

OTHER RESOURCES

Enjoyed using this kit? Visit CuriousCityDPW.com for other story hour kits, event kits, treasure hunts, book club guides, book giveaways, and more ways to engage in children’s literature with play, conversation, and social action.

MAGIC RAMEN

COME NOODLE AROUND WITH A STEM PICTURE BOOK,
FOOD INVENTIONS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND MORE!

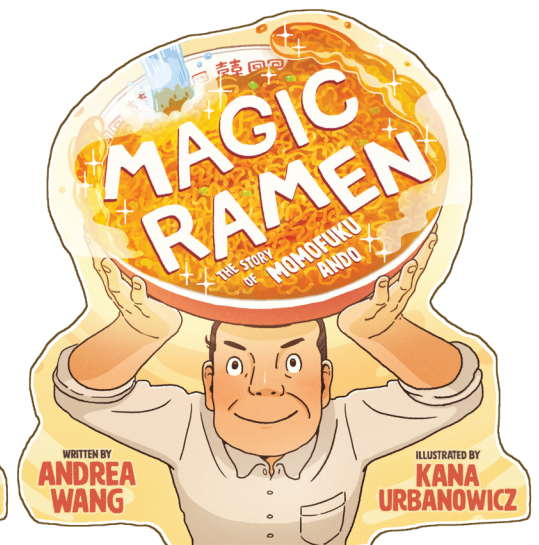
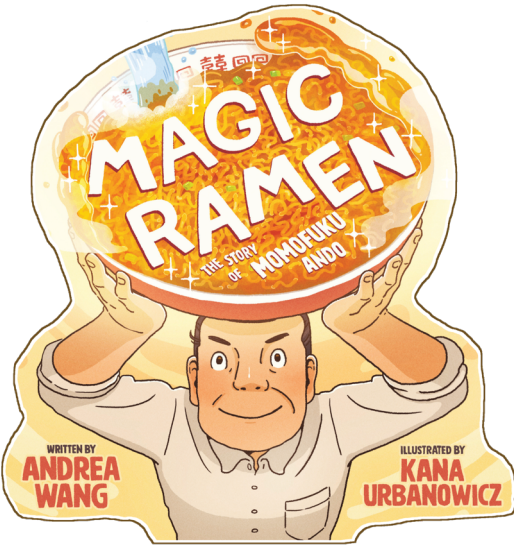
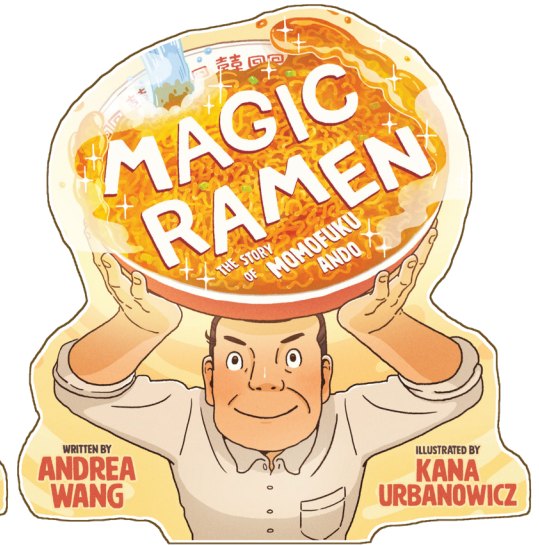
**Magic Ramen: The
Story of Momofuku
Ando** by Andrea
Wang and illustrated
by Kana Urbanowicz
(little bee books)



Image © Kana Urbanowicz

MAGIC RAMEN

MAKER LABELS FOR READER CREATIONS



"The world is peaceful only when everyone has enough to eat." —Momofuku Ando

After seeing people in his community go hungry in post-war Japan, inventor Momofuku Ando spent a lifetime dedicated to "no more empty stomachs" and "no more high prices" for food.

His solution after years of experimentation? The invention of instant ramen.

We have been inspired by the picture book **Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando** by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz (little bee books), to look at our own community and to do what we can for "no more empty stomachs."

Will you help us collect food to combat food insecurity?

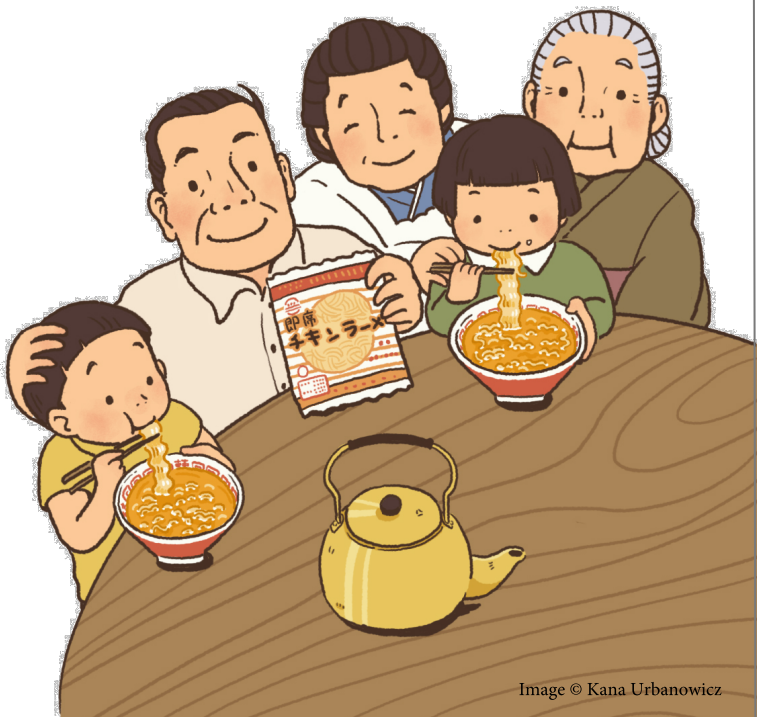


Image © Kana Urbanowicz

FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your generosity!
We are collecting donations for:

We are collecting:

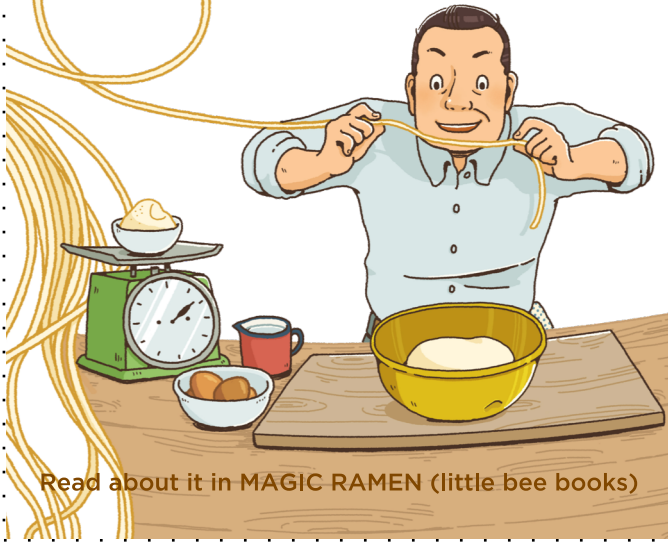
Please do not include:

Drop-off location(s):

If you would like to make a cash donation instead, please visit:

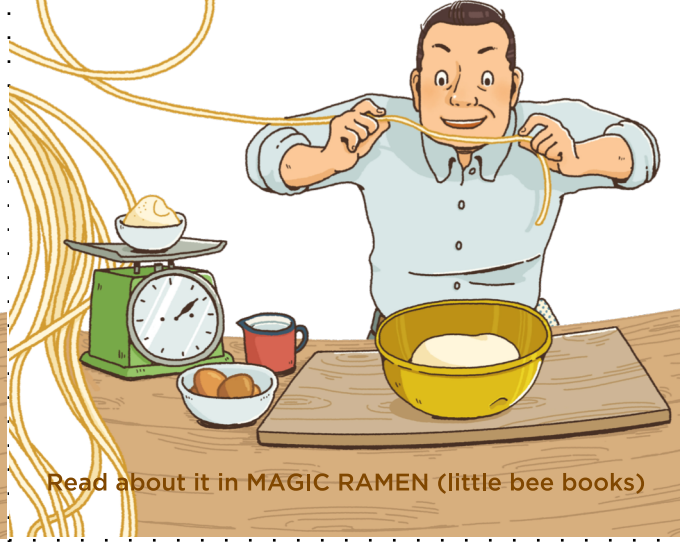
For more information:

ANDO INVENTED THIS!



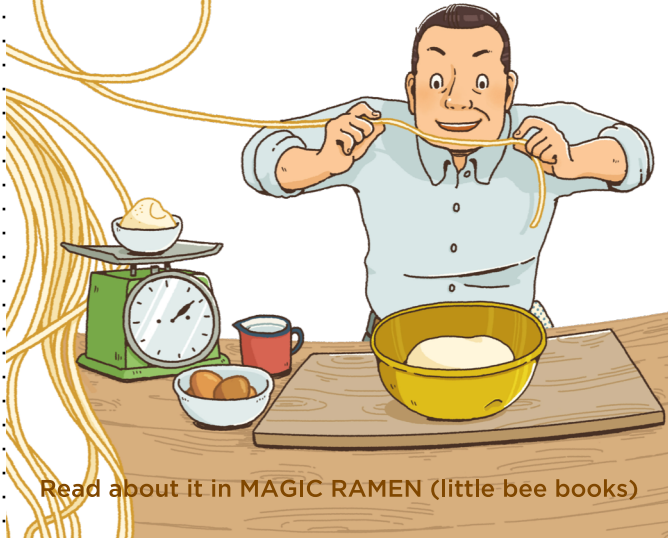
Read about it in **MAGIC RAMEN** (little bee books)

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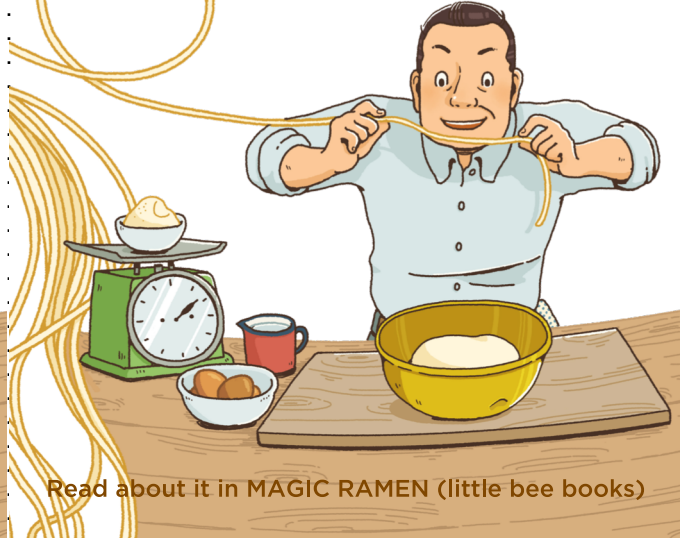
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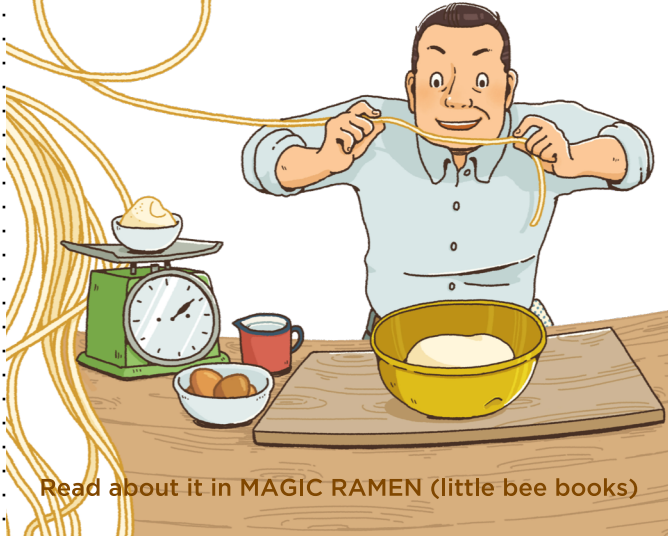
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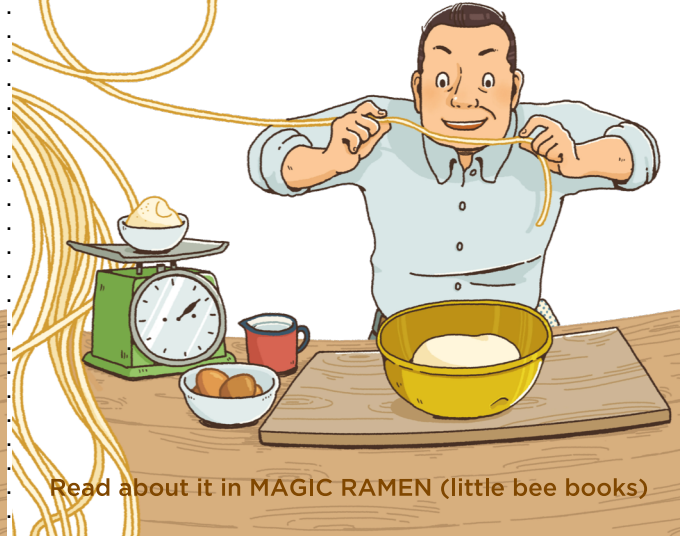
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MAGIC RAMEN
LABELS FOR GIVEAWAY RAMEN PACKAGES

From the book by Andrea Wang, Image © Kana Urbanowicz