



Family Activities

Title: **Tar Beach**

Author: **Faith Ringgold**

Illustrator: **Faith Ringgold**

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Everyone needs a special place where they can think and daydream. LeVar takes viewers up on the roof to a “tar beach,” an urban oasis in the sky. A pigeon keeper and a rooftop gardener are interviewed and explain why they have chosen their respective hobbies. LeVar talks about the George Washington Bridge, which was completed in 1928. Viewers are taken to new heights as present-day bridge workers explain their jobs.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.

Tissue Dreams

You will need:

- colored tissue paper
- scissors
- string or yarn
- clothespins or paper clips

Directions:

1. Using brightly colored tissue paper, show your child how to cut one large sheet into smaller squares and then to fold each square three or four times.
2. Using scissors, cut out designs along each of the folded edges. When the paper is unfolded, the designs will appear in interesting patterns.
3. Give your child a length of string or yarn to tie across a corner of the bedroom. Your child can hang each tissue dream on the string using a clothespin or paperclip. Add several pieces of varying colors until the string is full.

A Perfect Hideaway

It’s always fun for children to have their very own special place during quiet moments when they want to be alone or to share a place with a special friend when company is needed.

You will need:

- large cardboard boxes
- blankets
- chairs or a small stepladder



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- a rope

Help your child cut doors and windows in large boxes to make “rooms” for the hideaway. Tie a rope from the bed to a chair or from one chair to another and drape a blanket over it to form a tent. A stepladder can also be used for draping. Now your child is ready to fill the hideaway with special belongings, some books, and maybe a pillow or two.

Visit Your Community Library

Here is a book you can check out on your next trip to the library:

Abuela by Arthur Dorros