



# Family Activities

Title: **The Paper Crane**

Author: **Molly Bang**

Illustrator: **Molly Bang**

A mysterious man enters a restaurant and pays for his dinner with a paper crane that magically comes alive and dances. Surrounded by the lush gardens of Gasho of Japan in Central Valley, New York, LeVar dons a kimono and steps into the enchanting world of Japan, exploring the artistry of a Japanese vegetable carver and the art of origami. He takes a side trip to see how paper can be made from old blue jeans, then joins Soh Daiko, an energetic and colorful group of Japanese drummers and dancers, as they perform the celebratory “festival of the drums.”

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

## Paper Dolls

You will need:

- copy paper
- scissors
- pencil
- markers
- catalogs
- glue

Directions:

1. Fold a sheet of paper lengthwise in fourths. Use the pencil to draw the shape of a figure on the top fold of paper.
2. Use scissors to cut out the figure, keeping folded edges intact in several places on the drawing.
3. Open the paper for a row of dolls. 4. Cut pictures from catalogs to add faces and clothing to each paper doll.

## Paper Capers

Your child can make many things from cutting and folding paper. Here are a couple of ideas to try.

### *Things That Stand*

1. Fold a piece of paper in half.
2. Draw a design against the folded edge.



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3. Cut through both layers of the paper, but DO NOT cut off all of the folded edges.
4. Decorate both sides.

### *Things That Fly*

1. Cut a strip of thin paper that is 11 inches long and 1½ inches wide.
2. Cut a slit on each side that is about two inches from the edge and halfway through the width.
3. Fold the strip in half and crease.
4. Decorate each side of your strip to look like a fish.
5. Now slide one slot into the other.
6. Toss your fish in the air and see it twirl as it flies downward.

### **Visit Your Community Library**

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

*How My Parents Learned to Eat* by Ina R. Friedman