

Origami: an interdisciplinary approach using Storigami

Shrikant Iyer^{1,2} and Rachel Katz¹

¹OrigamiUSA, ²Stonybrook University

The numerous benefits of origami in the development years of a child include creativity, geometric concepts, language, perception, visualization, motor skills, visual and auditory attention, sequencing skills, social skills, memory improvement and self esteem.

Now imagine adding a simple story during the teaching of origami. A common complaint about origami has been, "I can never remember how to fold that model again." Now if there were only a simple story which reminds one of the steps to follow. However, the main advantage of Storigami is the audio-visual learning experience that a student experiences, words corresponding to folds and shapes; providing a truly rich learning experience.

Stories can be paired with various subjects to illustrate historical events (The Egyptian woman king Hatsheput, pronounced Hat-cheap-suit, can be illustrated with the two dollar pant-suit); scientific principles of air pressure can be integrated with the Chinese water bomb. The story of origami itself lends into the social studies curriculum and is of cultural value of how it started with the invention of paper in China and made its way to Japan and then to the west. Rainforest stories using frogs and snakes fit well into nature studies.

The simple story using Kasahara's nodding bird can be used to illustrate themes of saving our environment and concepts of conservation and recycling. The story talks about the difficulty in trying to spot the nodding bird because of the rapid extinction of species and moves to the spotting of the bird and the affirmation that responsible living will bring a better world for all, especially the vast numbers of animals driven to extinction.

The possibilities of teaching and learning origami are boundless. Stories provide for a totally enhanced learning experience, while aiding the primary or secondary goals of the curriculum.