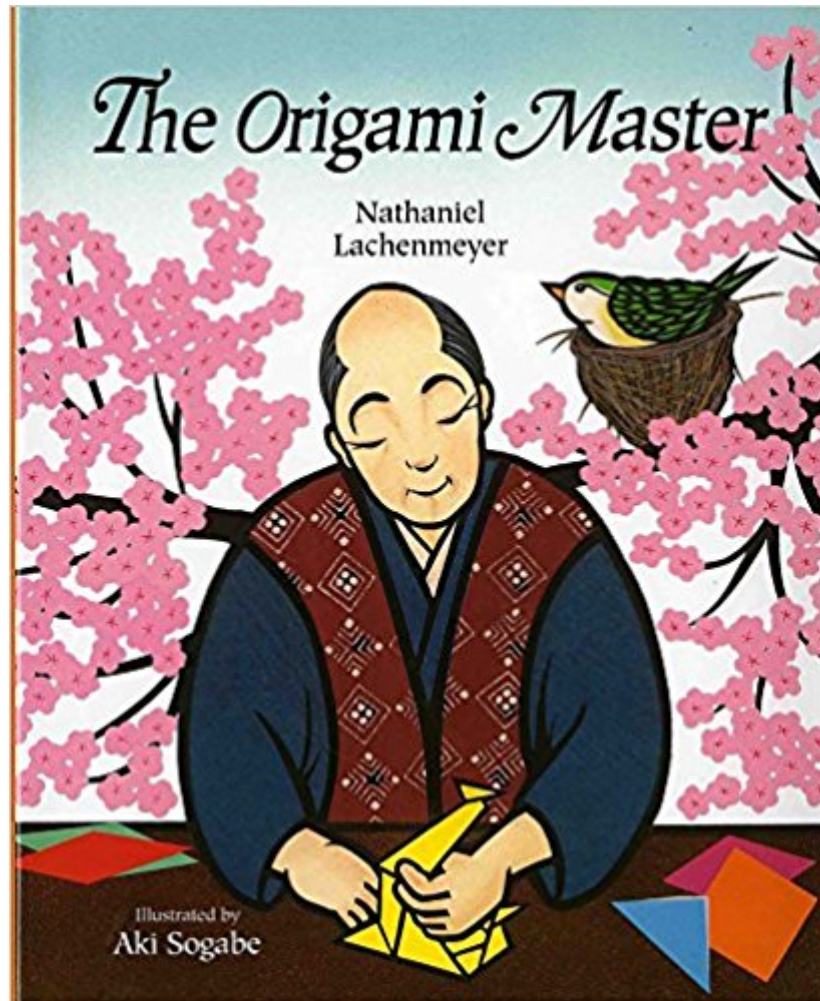




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The Origami Master



Synopsis

Shima the Origami Master lives on a mountain in Japan. He isn't lonely, for his beautiful origami animals keep him company. One morning Shima finds a marvelous new paper elephant on his desk. Where could it have come from?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 2 - 3

Customer Reviews

Grade 1
Shima is an origami master who lives in the mountains of Japan with only his folded-paper creations for company. A warbler is building its nest in a tree in his yard and watches him at his work. For three nights, while the master is asleep, the little bird flies to his desk and folds a figure in the manner he has observed—each figure amazing the man with its simplicity and beauty. When a hiding Shima discovers the warbler at his desk, he decides to capture it in order to watch its skills firsthand, but the bird has another kind of lesson to teach him.

Lachenmeyer's spare text and Sogabe's colorful cut paper and watercolor illustrations are the perfect vehicles for this short moralistic tale. Man, bird, house, and origami creations—the main elements of the story—are outlined in black. Square and rectangular patterns are repeated in the simple Japanese house and in its slatted outdoor walkway; in its screens, windows, and furniture; and in the bird's cage and the table on which it sits. While most pages hold full- or

double-page illustrations, three images that show Shima catching and caging the bird and the final picture indicating his offering of friendship are enclosed in red-bordered boxes. A solid choice for discussing the importance of respecting each living creature's own space. — Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

As origami master Shima folds a paper elephant, a warbler watches. That evening, the bird folds a more impressive paper elephant, leaving it for the old man. The same thing occurs the second night, this time with a paper spider. The third night, Shima waits, captures, and cages the warbler. The imprisoned bird performs no origami for the old man until one morning it is gone, an origami key beside the unlocked cage. Fortunately, Shima sees the error of his ways, leaving room for a hopeful ending. The colorful shapes and bold, black lines of the cut paper and watercolor illustrations has the feel of woodcuts and carry well for group presentations, but lap sitters will like looking, too. Following the familiar pattern of a folktale, the restrained original story will enrich multicultural studies, encourage origami activities, and make children think. Instructions for folding an origami bird are appended. Preschool-Grade 2. --Linda Perkins

The art of origami illustrates the inherent power of simplicity, and author Nathaniel Lachenmeyer and artist Aki Sogabe have captured that power in the elegant words and pictures of *The Origami Master*. As origami itself, the ancient art of folding paper into shapes most often representing birds and animals, can be a solitary art, so this master of origami lives alone, content in the knowledge that his origami is the best. The best, that is, until nature itself, in the form of a simple warbler, shows him the power of nature, and friendship. *The Origami Master* is a treasure to be read, and re-read, by children of all ages.

Very cute book. I loved the story and the illustrations were really beautiful.

This book contains a sweet story that I share with my grandchildren. It also has instructions on how to fold a bird. We study origami when we can.

Love this book for my Japanese language classes. It's a great introduction into origami and its place in Japanese culture. The gentle story weaves its charm with the children who look at origami in a new light and are more willing to take time and effort on their creations. Delightful

This book will make a great addition to any child's library. It is captivating and carries a great message about importance of freedom in any friendship. Once your child is done reading the book he or she can enjoy practicing making their own origami bird. Now I will make sure to check out all the other books written by this author which are as I heard also very good.

Great book for children and adults that love origami! There is a good lesson for everyone in this book. We loved it!

This is a delightful story about origami and freedom. I bought it to read to my young art students, but will treasure the book forever.

Beautifully illustrated book with an equally beautiful message about how jealousy can destroy relationships. Sogabe's illustrations are simple and sharp, reminiscent of the origami itself. And yet, you can almost feel the cool, crisp air high in the mountains, smell the cherry blossoms, and hearing the melodious voice of the warbler. Makes you feel poetic!! The illustrations perfect this powerful tale. At the end the book includes directions for making an origami bird. I am sure we could find these same directions on the internet but my 7-year-old daughter was very excited to turn to the last page and find the directions here. This book along with some origami paper would make a great gift I think.

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