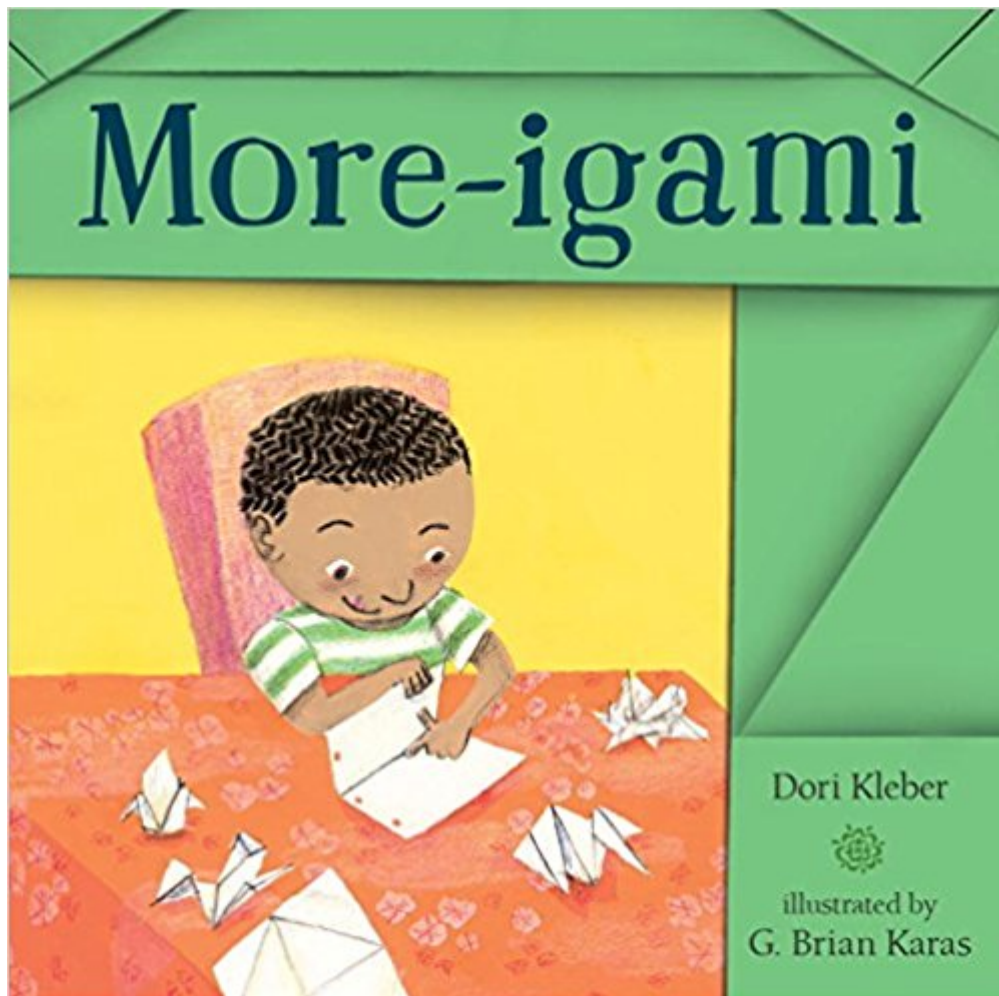




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More-igami



Synopsis

A creative young boy with a passion for practicing origami finds a surprising source of encouragement on his diverse city block. Joey loves things that fold: maps, beds, accordions, you name it. When a visiting mother of a classmate turns a plain piece of paper into a beautiful origami crane, his eyes pop. Maybe he can learn origami, too. It's going to take practice • on his homework, the newspaper, the thirty-eight dollars in his mother's purse . . . Enough! No more folding! But how can Joey become an origami master if he's not allowed to practice? Is there anywhere that he can hone the skill that makes him happy • and maybe even make a new friend while he's at it?

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 • Joey loves anything that folds (road maps, accordions, foldaway beds). When Sarah Takimoto's mother gives his class an origami demonstration, he finds his passion. ("Joey's eyes popped. His jaw dropped. Mrs. Takimoto called it origami.") Origami does not come easily for Joey, but he heeds the counsel of Mrs. Takimoto: "If you want to be an origami master, you'll need practice and patience." Heartfelt and amusing illustrations done in gouache and pencil on paper show Joey's many efforts to make a crane from homework, sheet music, newspapers, and even

paper money littered throughout the house, until his mother can take no more. Fortunately, at the Mexican restaurant next door, he finds solace in the fajitas, encouragement from Mr. Lopez, and an enormous supply of napkins on which to practice his folds. He manages the elusive paper crane just in time to impress a girl walking in, and he begins to teach her the finer points of practice and patience. Backgrounds use color and geometric lines to mimic paper folds that cleverly break up sequences of spot art and bring out the idea of origami throughout. For readers with Joey's enthusiasm for folding, the story ends with easy-to-follow instructions for making an origami ladybug. VERDICT Warm characters, gentle humor, and sweet illustrations convey the challenges of learning new skills without making them feel insurmountable. A title for all collections. — Julie Roach, Cambridge Public Library, MA

Kleber uses simple language but gives young readers great credit for understanding multiple concepts conveyed at once, and the story is all the better for it. Karas' soulful illustrations depict Joey with brown skin and cropped, textured hair, with other characters drawn to show other ethnicities. His art shows his hand, the textured pencil, and pastel strokes evident on the page, which gives the book a gentle, handmade feel. It's an excellent companion to Kleber's story, which encourages patience, practice, and sharing creativity, and finishes with a simple origami lesson for readers to try. A gem. — Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Smart design decisions — including a square trim size, origami-patterned end pages, and subtle fold marks that divide Karas' (A Poem in Your Pocket) images into vignettes — create a graceful visual underpinning to the theme, and an origami project is included for readers. It's a quiet but effective reminder of the value of practice. — Publishers Weekly Warm characters, gentle humor, and sweet illustrations convey the challenges of learning new skills without making them feel insurmountable. A title for all collections. — School Library Journal Karas' gouache-and-pencil illustrations clearly convey Joey's fascination with folding, and the frustration he feels at not being able to practice. The cast is wonderfully multicultural: African American Joey learns about origami from a Japanese American parent, and is given a place to practice by a Mexican American restaurant owner. With engaging text, charming illustrations, and bonus instructions for an origami ladybug, this is a winner. — Booklist Online Karas' gouache and pencil illustrations show a cheery multicultural neighborhood and an entertaining array of origami attempts made out of many types of paper. Young readers can also share in Joey's hobby if they try out the clear instructions at the end for making an origami ladybug. — The Horn Book More-igami is Dori Kleber's picture-book debut, and she

tells her story with both gentleness and wit, and plenty of playful repetition for storytime. G. Brian Karas (Muncha, Muncha, Muncha!; Tap Tap Boom Boom) reflects her clean style with winsome, expressive gouche and pencil paintings. In a brilliant design coup, some of the pages have faint fold marks. Children who catch origami fever can fold their own ladybug using the step-by-step instructions in the back, and more and "more-igami" is sure to follow. Masterful. — Shelf Awareness for Readers

More-igami by Dori Kleber and illustrated by G. Brian Karas celebrates origami, the art of traditional Japanese folding. In a fresh spin on the topic, the main character, Joey, is African-American. After a classmate's mother, Mrs. Takimoto visits his class to demonstrate how to fold paper cranes, he becomes obsessed with origami. Joey embraces her instruction: "If you want to become an origami master, you'll need practice and patience." He practices folding shapes from his homework, the newspaper, gift wrap, recipes cards until his exasperated mother insists that Joey stop. Eventually Joey solves his problem by folding napkins into origami shapes for the local Mexican restaurant. In this simple, charming story, readers find several cultures interacting respectfully and finding delight in the richness of diversity. More-igami is not an issues book, nonetheless it does an excellent job of depicting people of many races and ethnicities working together and enjoying snippets of each other's cultures. This story models cultural harmony and also shows individuals valuing their heritages proudly. Like *Red Is A Dragon: A Book of Colors* this book quietly lobbies for diversity. It's not a placard-carrying stand, not an "issue" book and not a primer on any culture. It is a story well told with an important message brilliantly integral to the story without being the story --Gayle H. Swift, "ABC, Adoption & Me: A Multicultural Picture Book

Joey's passion for origami is a wonderfully original subject for a picture book and certainly one that many readers will identify with. The text is simple but also playful and fun to read aloud. The illustrations bring the characters to life very expressively. I especially like how subtly the virtue of practicing to learn a new skill sneaks in without disturbing our enjoyment of Joey's story.

I love the story but the only instructions it has is for the lady bug. It was worth it for the story though.

What a fantastic book! I really enjoyed this book from beginning to end. I appreciated the cultural

diversity of the characters, and the lesson of practice and patience without the use of sports, which opens up the lesson to more children. It's a very sweet, beautifully illustrated picture book that both kids and parents will love. Now I want to learn origami!

Cute story- wish there was more to it

Cute story, but not exactly the inspiration for doing origami that i was hoping for.

Summary: Joey loves things that fold—tacos, road maps, his foldaway bed—so when Sarah Takimoto's mother comes to his school one day to demonstrate origami, Joey is captivated. He asks Mrs. Takimoto to teach him, to which she wisely replies, "I can show you the folds. But if you want to be an origami master, you'll need practice and patience." So Joey goes home and folds everything in sight. After going through his homework, his sister's sheet music, Aunt Vivian's recipe, and the \$38 in his mother's purse, his family has had enough. Discouraged, Joey wanders into the neighboring Mexican restaurant, where the sympathetic owner gives him a job folding napkins. He starts simply, but doesn't give up, and after months of practice, he is finally able to create a masterpiece. Includes instructions for an origami ladybug. 40 pages; ages 4-8. Pros: A charming story about the importance of persistence when learning a new skill. Joey, who appears to be African-American, is taught by a Japanese American woman and helped by his Mexican American neighbor in a friendly diverse neighborhood. Cons: Apparently I lack the "grit" necessary to master origami, because even the ladybug looks a bit challenging to me.

We enjoyed this little book. The text is easy for an early reader to successfully read independently. Sometimes these early readers are boring for the adult and feel almost pointless, or perhaps worse, cliché. This was great in that the plot, although simple, was interesting with a good message. The idea that practice and patience are required to be an origami master is really a generalizable concept. My daughter and I discussed how patience and practice are really required for all skills we want to master. I also really appreciate the seamless diversity in this book. It made the book richer and more meaningful in a broader sense. Overall, I felt like this had a lot to offer especially given the simplicity of the text itself.

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