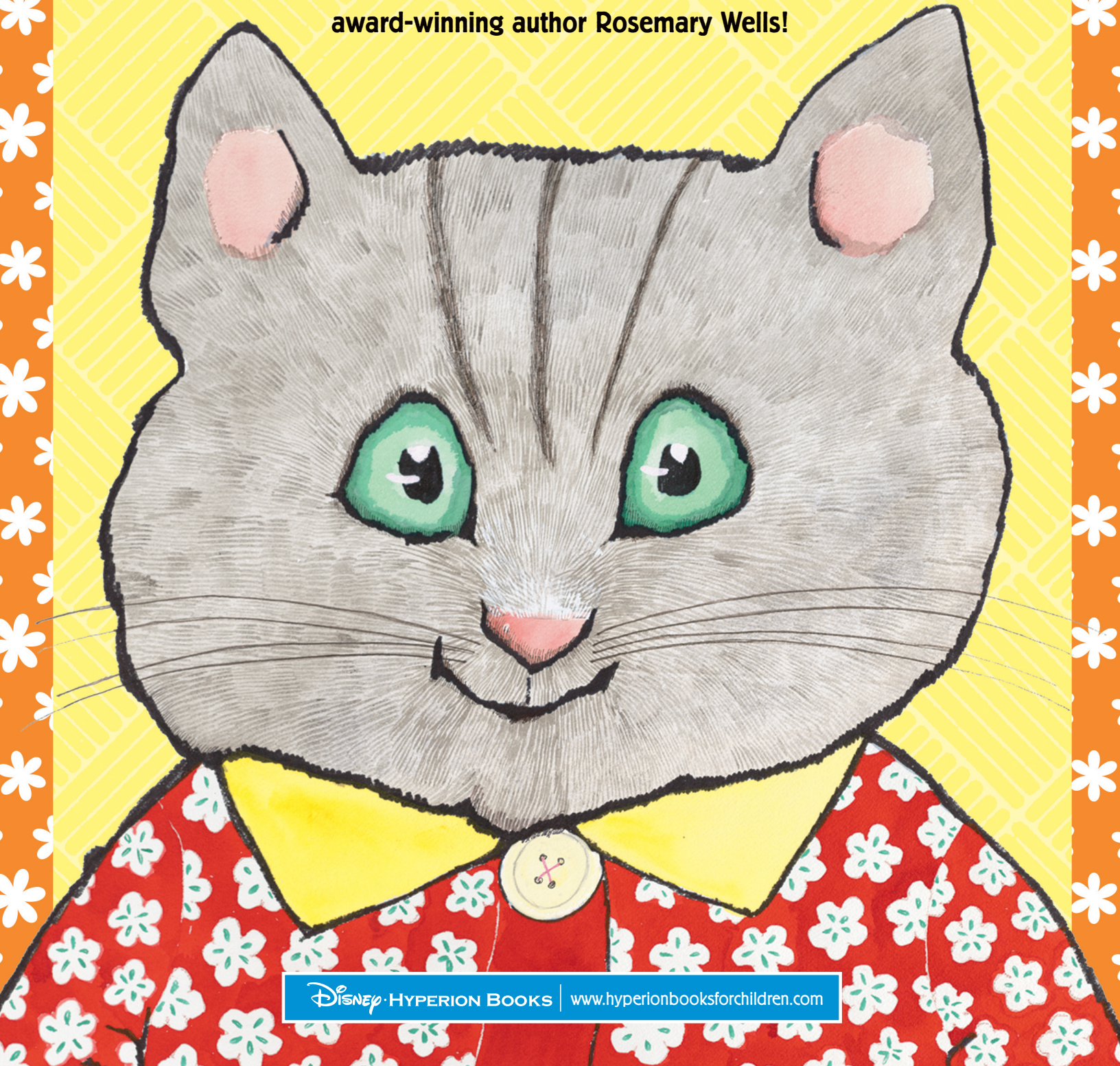


# YOKO STORY TIME

## Event and Activity Kit

An Event Kit for the Yoko Series from  
award-winning author Rosemary Wells!





## Irasshaimasse! Welcome!

Beloved children’s book author Rosemary Wells returns with a new star to accompany her list of lovable characters—Yoko! In beautifully crafted picture books about the Japanese-American kitten, the author delivers gentle lessons about teasing and tolerance to help kids understand the world around them.

In this Yoko Story Time Event and Activity Kit, we’ve provided ideas to help you introduce children to Yoko, along with reproducible activities for kids to complete in class or at home. Everything included here is aimed at sparking children’s interest and making your story times extra engaging—and we know it will.

Please don’t hesitate to let us know how your event or story time went—we’d love to hear! Please e-mail us at [childrens.marketing@disney.com](mailto:childrens.marketing@disney.com).

Enjoy!  
Disney•Hyperion Marketing Team

## Contents of This Kit:

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# \* YOKO STORY TIME READING IDEAS

## Before You Begin Reading

### Thinking About Different People

Introduce Yoko by discussing people who are different from ourselves in the way they live their everyday lives. Do the children know their own cultures? What languages do they and their family speak? Talk about people who live in faraway places, and discuss what “far away” means to them: Around the world? In another city? Down the block? What makes people different, and what makes us all the same? You might even learn a few phrases in different languages to begin.

### Themes for the Classroom or Library

Host a “People Day,” “International Week,” or “Faraway Places Day.” Decorate with written phrases from other languages or images of people from other cultures, such as Asian, Middle Eastern, African, and European. If Asian-themed, put up Asian lanterns or origami cranes if available.

### My Favorite Things

In *Yoko*, the little kitten’s favorite food is sushi. What are your students’ favorite foods, and why? How about their favorite colors, TV shows, and books? Ask them to think about this in preparation for the Circle Time activity “How Do You Do, Neighbor?”

## During the Reading

### Commenting on the Story

As you read, stop and ask the children what they would say if somebody made fun of them or another person. How would they react? Ask them to discuss their emotions: sad, angry, even surprised. What would they say to reconcile? Ask them to show their emotions when they make up with someone after a conflict: happy, relieved.

### Talking About the Pictures

Discuss the book’s artwork before you read, or during the story. Point out the Japanese symbols and words at the top of each page in *Yoko Writes Her Name*. Discuss the intricate artwork in *Yoko’s Paper Cranes*, including the endpapers and the patterns that go with each illustration. Why did the author choose pine trees for Canada and flowers for Japan? Ask the children to notice the colors and the way the author incorporates them into each spread.

## After You’ve Finished Reading

### Working Things Out

Talk about the conflicts in the stories, the way each of the books ends, and the way Yoko may have felt at the end of each book. How did the children feel at the end of each book? Discuss how we all have conflicts with each other sometimes and why it’s better to work things out rather than fight.

### Family and Friends

Discuss Yoko’s loving relationship with her mother and grandparents. How does Yoko know that her family loves her? Talk about how you can still love someone and communicate with them, even if they’re far away. Do the children love someone who isn’t close?

### Nicknames

Ask your class to describe what a nickname is. By what nicknames does Yoko’s mom call her in the three books? Do the children have nicknames? If not and they could choose their own nicknames, what would the names be?

# \* ACTIVITIES FOR CIRCLE TIME

## How Do You Do, Neighbor?

Sit in a circle and ask the children to shake hands with the people seated at their left and right. Ask them to say their names and how old they are and to state their favorite colors and foods. Make sure they say, “How do you do?” and “Nice to meet you!”

## Speaking Japanese

After reading *Yoko Writes Her Name*, write the Japanese numbers from one to ten on the board, and teach the children to say the words in Japanese. Here’s a quick-reference guide:

- one *ichi*
- two *ni*
- three *san*
- four *shi*
- five *go*
- six *roku*
- seven *nana*
- eight *hachi*
- nine *kyu*
- ten *jyu*

Note that there is a great music video for learning Japanese numbers on [genkijapan.net](http://genkijapan.net).

## Music from Other Cultures











Think about playing Asian music in class, if available. What music do the children like? How is the music played in class different from their favorite music—is it faster, slower, happier, or sadder? Does it make them want to dance or sing?

## The Torn Heart

One popular curricular activity concerning tolerance is called the Torn Heart. Before you begin, think of a story about the day in the life of a child the same age as your students, making sure to include several put-downs directed at the child from other people. Then create a large heart that you wear or hold up. As you tell the story during circle time, tear a piece of the heart each time you get to the put-downs. After the story is done, ask the children to look at the tears in the heart. Have they ever felt like their heart has been torn by someone? Have they ever torn someone’s heart without knowing it?

## Match Up the Numbers

Here is a list of numbers. Draw a line between the Arabic number and the corresponding number in Japanese.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Reproducible Activity Sheet



# Write Your Name

How well can you write your name?  
Practice writing your name on the lines shown.

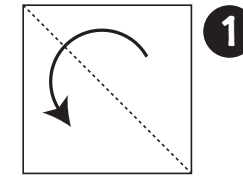


Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for writing practice.

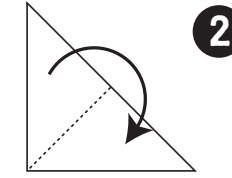
Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Make an Origami Crane

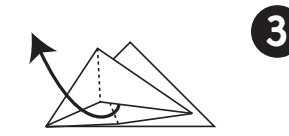
Create your own paper crane—it's easy with practice!



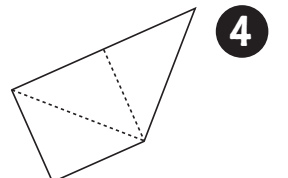
1 Start with a square piece of paper. Fold it in half diagonally.



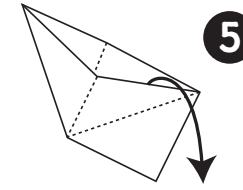
2 Fold it in half diagonally again.



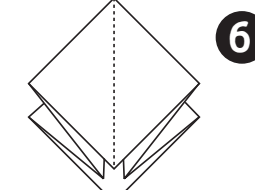
3 Open to the left to form a pocket. Flatten and crease.



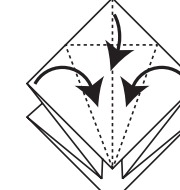
4 The paper should look like this.



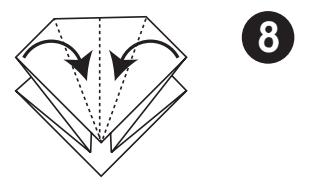
5 Flip over and repeat.



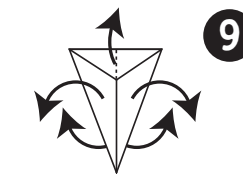
6 The paper should look like this.



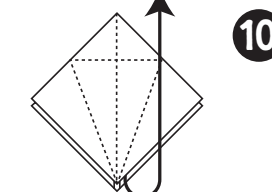
7 Fold each pair of side flaps in toward the middle. Fold top down and crease.



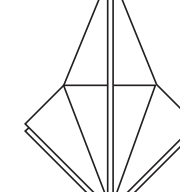
8 Turn over and repeat step 7.



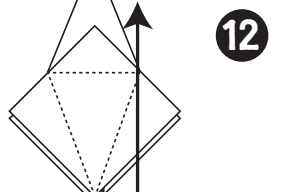
9 Open up the paper.



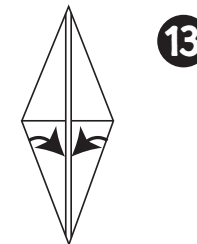
10 The paper should look like this. Now, fold the bottom point upward.



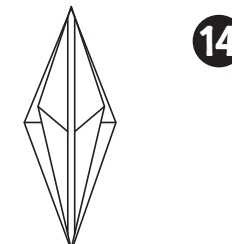
11 The paper should look like this.



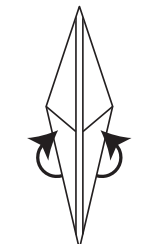
12 Turn paper over and repeat step 10.



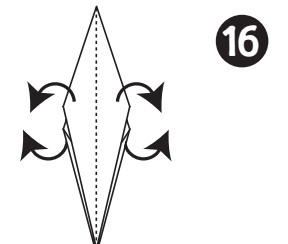
13 The paper should look like this. Now, fold the bottom left and right edges in toward the center seams.



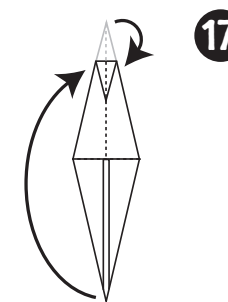
14 The paper should look like this.



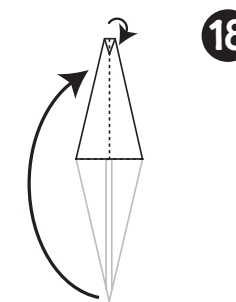
15 Flip the paper over and repeat step 13.



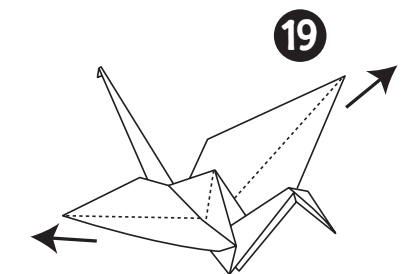
16 Bring corners together so that folds are on the inside.



17 Fold bottom point upward. Then, fold top point down to form head.



18 Flip paper over and repeat step 17, but fold down a smaller piece of the top point for the tail.



19 Gently pull wings apart to form crane. Your paper crane is complete!

Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Write a Letter

Here is a letter that you can send. Fill in the blanks and be sure to think of a special person to send it to! Draw a picture of your favorite food in the space below.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

How are you? I am feeling \_\_\_\_\_.

Today the weather is \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite thing at school is \_\_\_\_\_.

Write back soon!

Love,

\_\_\_\_\_

# Yoko Coloring Pages

**You will need:** crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Yoko is writing her name in Japanese. Color Yoko in with your crayons. What colors are your favorites?



Reproducible Activity Sheet

Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Yoko Coloring Pages

**You will need:** crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Mrs. Jenkins is having International Day at school.

What colors will you use for the students and their favorite foods?



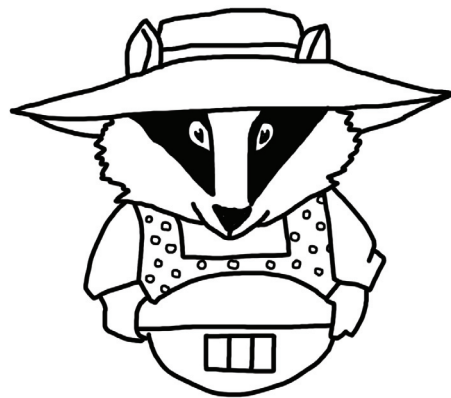
Doris brought  
Irish stew.



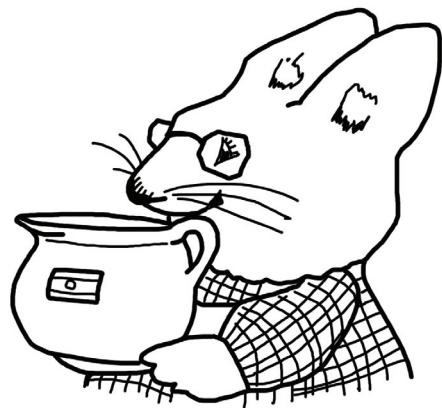
Fritz brought  
spaghetti.



Harry brought  
Brazil nuts.



Hazel brought  
Nigerian nut soup.



Monica brought  
a pitcher of mango  
smoothies.



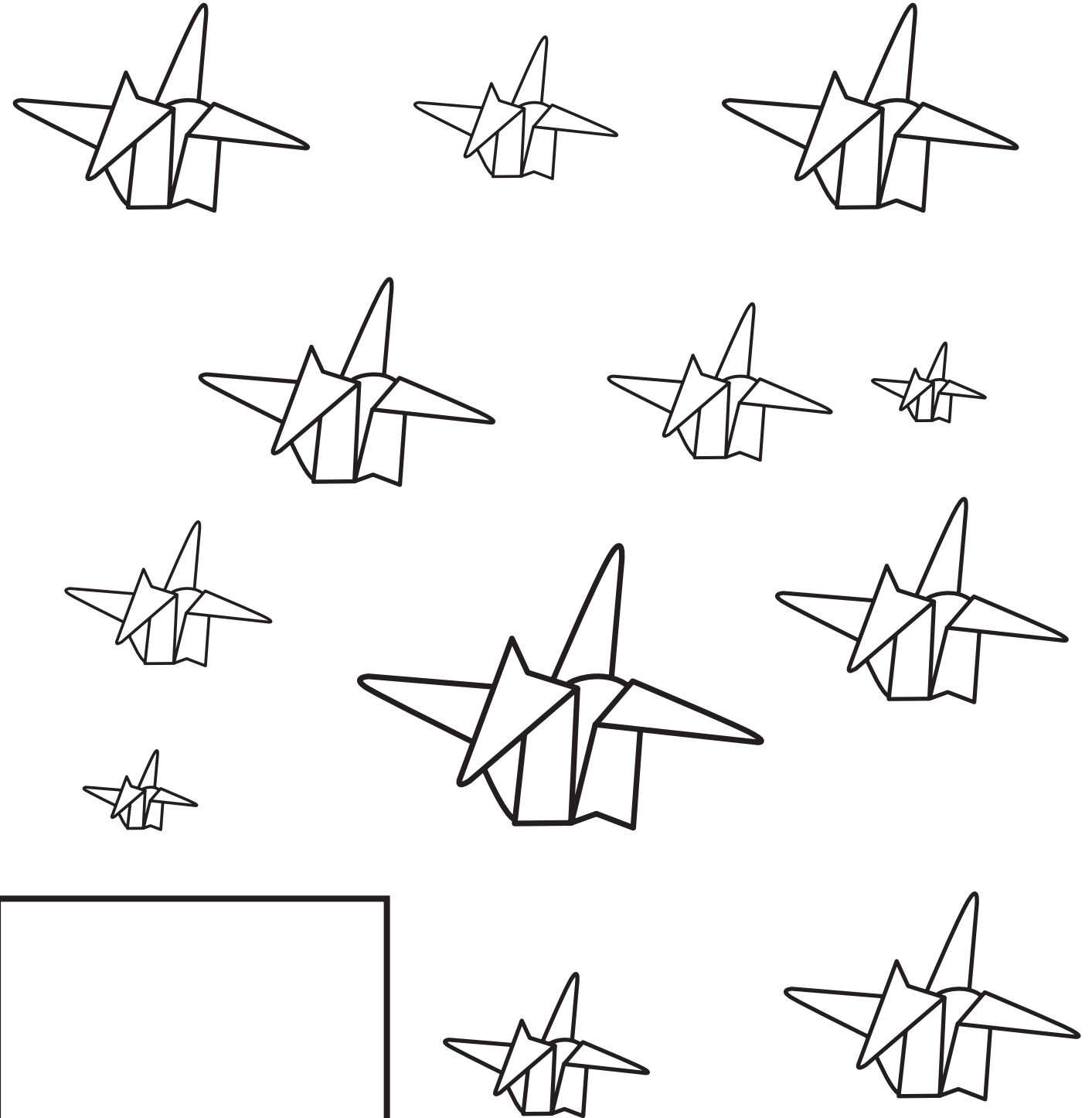
Tulip brought  
potato knishes.

Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Count the Paper Cranes

Yoko sees lots of paper cranes. How many do you see?

Count them and write the number in the box below. Then color them.

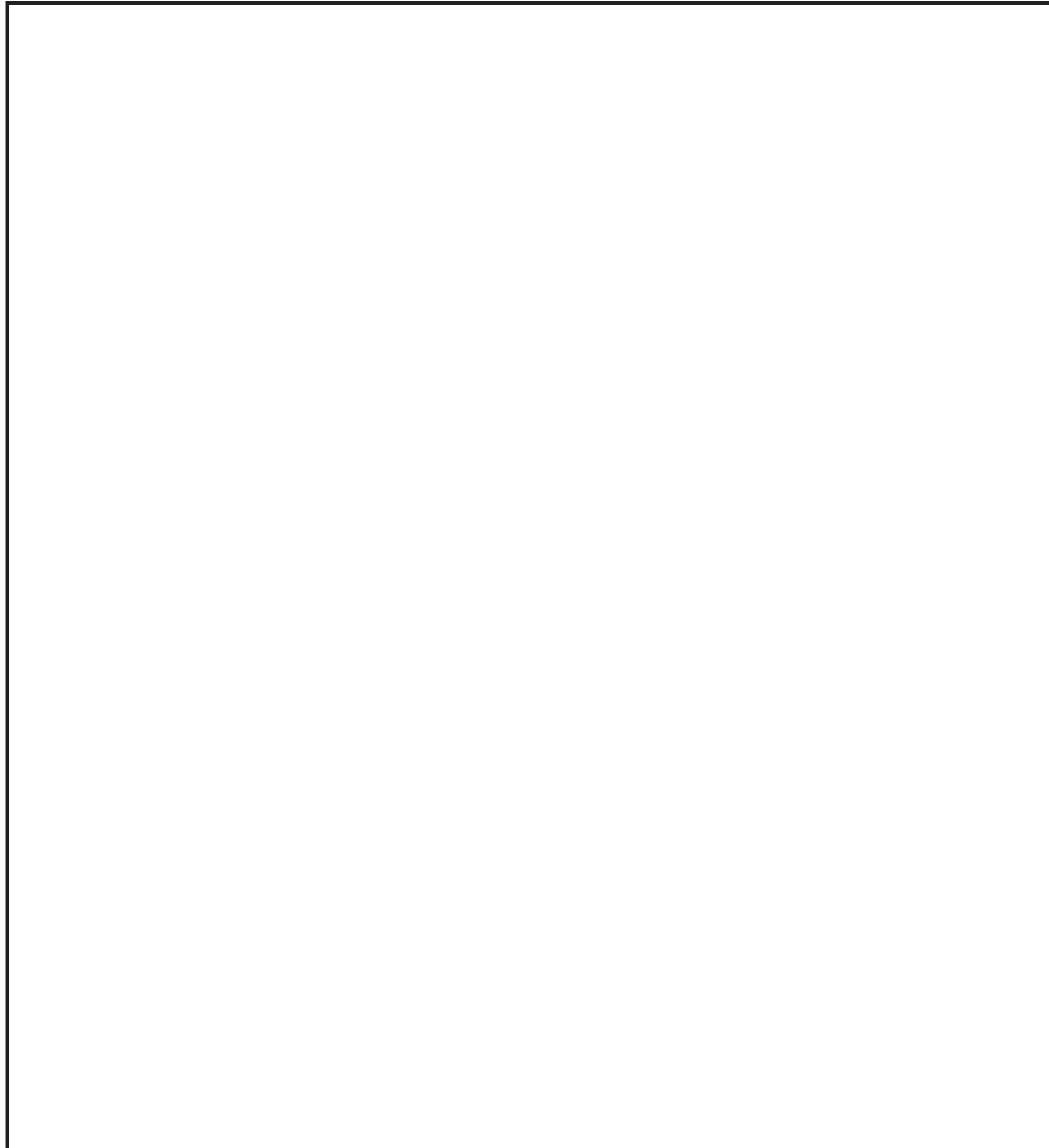


Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Drawing Family or Friends

**You will need:** Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Who are your family members? Who is your favorite friend? Draw them in the space below.



Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Peanut-Butter-Banana Sushi\*

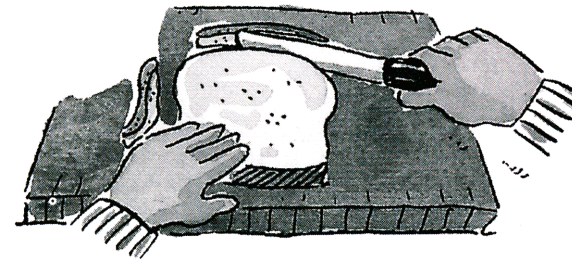
Here's a great recipe to share with your friends!

## INGREDIENTS:

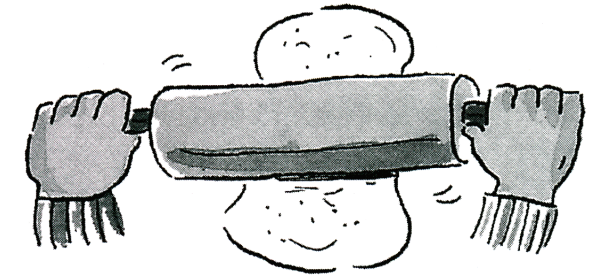
1 slice of fresh bread • 2 tablespoons of peanut butter • 1/2 ripe banana

## UTENSILS:

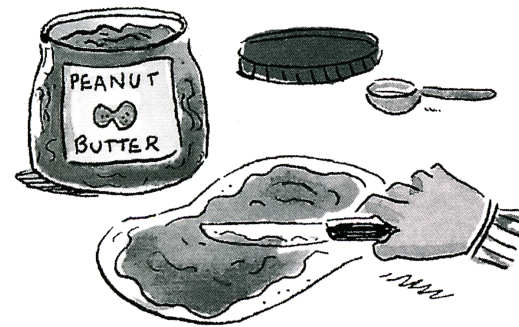
Measuring spoons • table knife • breadboard • rolling pin • toothpicks



**1** Using the table knife and a breadboard, carefully remove the crusts from the slice of bread.



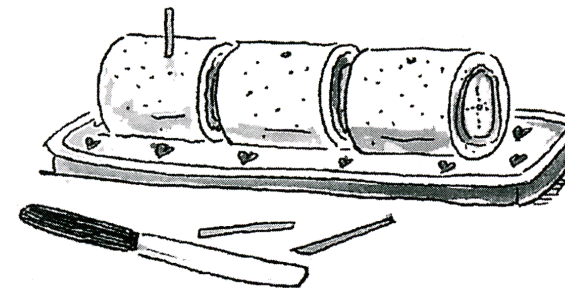
**2** Flatten the bread with a rolling pin.



**3** Spread the peanut butter on the bread with the table knife.



**4** Place the banana at one end of the slice of bread. Roll up and secure with toothpicks.



**5** Cut with the bread knife into 1-inch pieces or serve as a long log. Be sure to remove toothpicks before eating.

**\*For this sushi recipe we have substituted sliced bread for seaweed.**

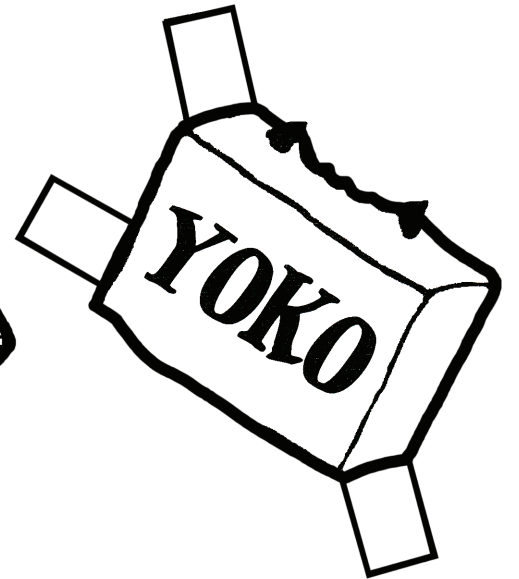
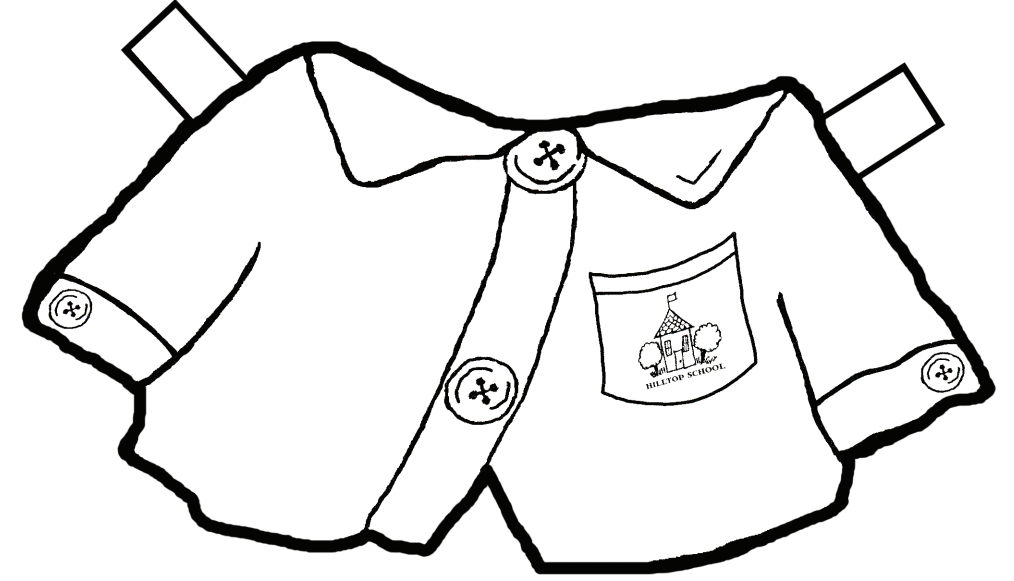
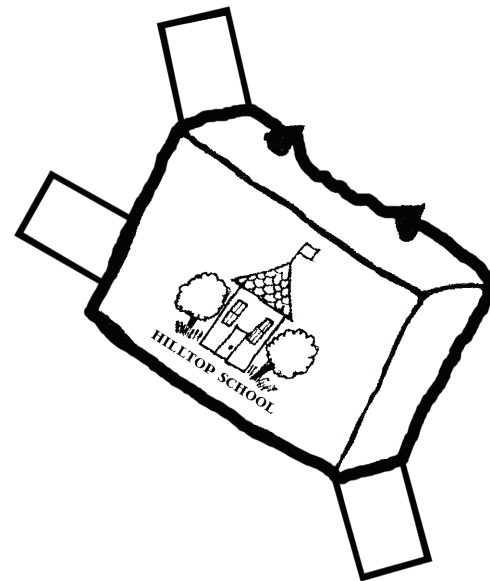
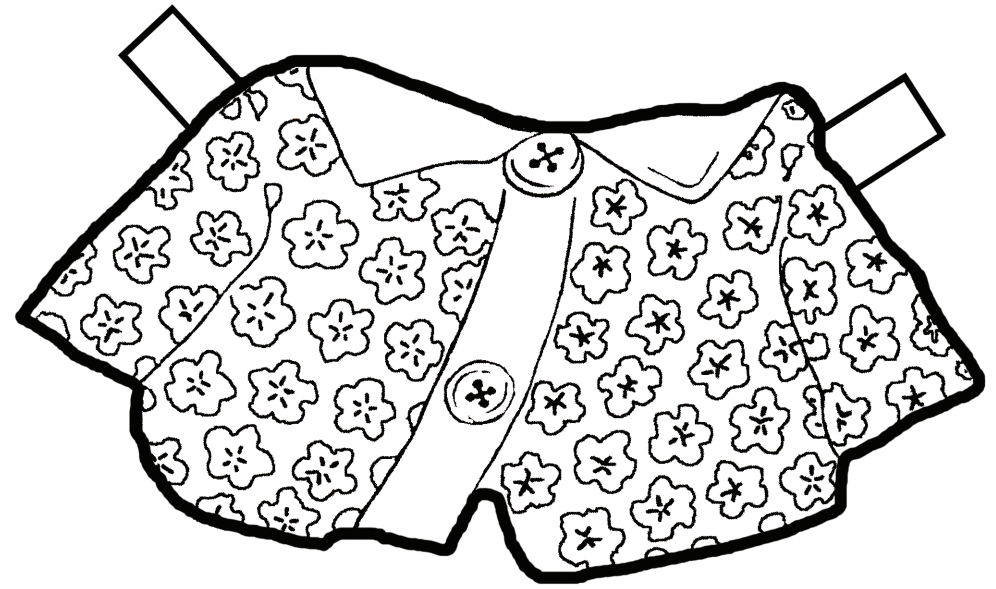
From The Peanut Butter Cookbook for Kids by Judy Ralph and Ray Gompf, illustrated by Craig Terison © 1995 Hyperion Books for Children

Reproducible Activity Sheet

# Yoko Paper Doll

Please color and then cut out Yoko and her new school outfits.

What  
should I  
wear to  
school  
today?





# \* TIPS FOR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS

## Teaching Tolerance

As children attempt to find their places in the world, they often form prejudices. Kids can fit one another into categories based on skin or hair color, gender, or weight; then they assign a perceived intelligence or worth. Here are some ideas for teaching tolerance in your classroom:

- Discuss the topic of accepting yourself and appreciating those who are different. What makes you unique? Talk about looking at visual cues to see how people might be different from yourself, while understanding that people aren't bad or dumb if they are different. As in Yoko's class during International Day, children will find that enjoying different things can be wonderfully eye-opening!
- Make sure that children from different backgrounds interact with each other during circle times or on the playground. Ask them to work together on school projects, partner them up during fire drills, and put them in the same groups for field trips, recreational activities, or playtime.
- Set an example. Children can't learn about tolerance if the adults around them don't practice it as well. Be aware of your own possible prejudices, and don't hesitate to offer an apology and explanation if you make a false assumption.

## Dealing with Bullies and Teasing

Putting a stop to bullying and teasing is essential to making sure it doesn't become a bigger problem as children grow older. Whether they are being called names or shut out of the group, kids can have trouble sorting out their feelings about why the teasing is happening to them. Think about the following points to help nip childhood bullying in the bud:

- As conflicts arise, talk about why it's not nice to make fun of others. Why do words hurt? What are the feelings that arise from bullying or teasing? Discuss with children the best ways to work out the conflict—the solution should include an apology and should be fair, but not leave either child feeling wrong or isolated.
- Lay out rules for the classroom or library about put-downs. Think about creating a Yoko-themed Put-Down Poster on which you write phrases or attitudes that you hear during the school day or that kids tell you about. Next to the poster, create a Put-Up Poster of alternative, positive things children could say instead.
- Create Learning Partners: pair young children with kids in upper grades to help with studying and homework. This will also give younger kids a feeling of protection and understanding.
- Be aware of different kinds of bullying. Outright bullying includes verbal insults and physical interaction. Less apparent forms include secrets, exclusive clubs, the silent treatment, rumors, and social manipulation.
- Stay involved. Researchers have found that most bullying and teasing occurs at school when there is little adult supervision and when adults' main response is not to intervene. Be sure that children feel noticed and supported.

## Connecting with Family

In all of the Yoko books, being with the family is an important, safe place for the little kitten. Discuss the concept of home and family life with children using these suggestions:

- Talk about what home means to them. Who are the people who are there, and what are kids favorite places at home (bedroom, kitchen, etc.)? Be sure to consider the fact that a child may not come from a nuclear family and that home is different for everyone.
- How do people communicate with each other? Teach kids about verbal and nonverbal communication. What are some ways to connect with people who are far away? Don't forget that "far away" can also mean *passed* away or refer to invisible figures like Santa Claus.
- Reinforce the differences and similarities between home and school. How do Yoko's home and school lives differ, and how do we know she's growing up? Discuss the things that are constant in both places, such as finding caring adults and being responsible, and the things that change, including people and the physical environment.

Get ready for a fabulous event starring

# YOKO

The lovable kitten from award-winning author Rosemary Wells



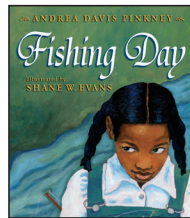
**Date:**

**Time:**

**Place:**

# \* RECOMMENDED READING

## Teaching Tolerance:



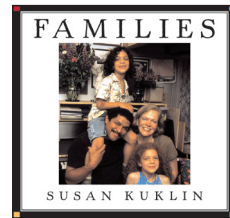
**Fishing Day**  
Andrea Davis Pinkney  
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans  
EAN: 9780786807666  
Hyperion Books for Children



**Grace for President**  
Kelly DiPucchio  
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
EAN: 9780786839193  
Hyperion Books for Children



**Martin's Big Words**  
Sue Clarke  
EAN: 9780786800353  
Hyperion Books for Children

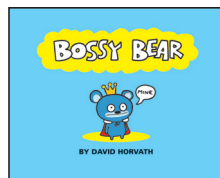


**Families**  
Susan Kuklin  
EAN: 9780786808229  
Hyperion Books for Children

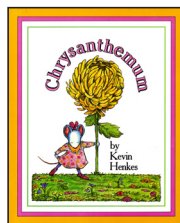


**It's Okay to Be Different**  
Todd Parr  
EAN: 9780316666039  
Little, Brown Children's Books

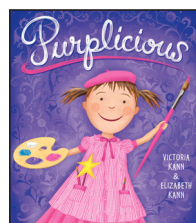
## Bullies and Teasing:



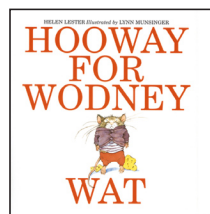
**Bossy Bear**  
David Horvath  
EAN: 9781423103363  
Hyperion Books for Children



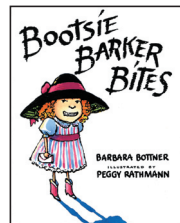
**Chrysanthemum**  
Kevin Henkes  
EAN: 9780688096991  
HarperCollins Children's Books



**Purplicious**  
Victoria Kann &  
Elizabeth Kann  
EAN: 9780061244056  
HarperCollins Children's Books

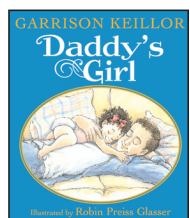


**Hooway for Wodney Wat**  
Helen Lester  
EAN: 9780395923924  
Walter Lorraine Books

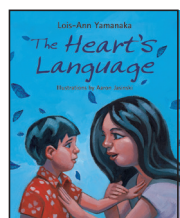


**Bootsie Barker Bites**  
Barbara Bottner  
EAN: 9780399221255  
Penguin Young Readers Group

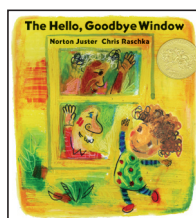
## Connecting with Family:



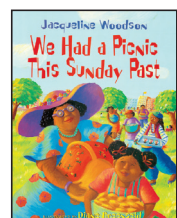
**Daddy's Girl**  
Garrison Keillor  
Illustrated by  
Robin Preiss Glasser  
EAN: 9781423105145  
Hyperion Books for Children



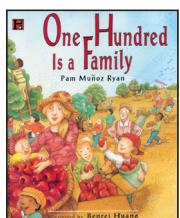
**The Heart's Language**  
Lois-Ann Yamanaka  
EAN: 9780786818488  
Hyperion Books for Children



**The Hello, Goodbye Window**  
Norman Juster  
Illustrated by  
Chris Raschka  
EAN: 9780786809141  
Hyperion Books for Children

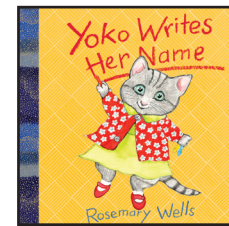


**We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past**  
Jacqueline Woodson  
Illustrated by Diane Greenseid  
EAN: 9781423106814  
Hyperion Books for Children



**One Hundred Is a Family**  
Pam Muñoz Ryan  
Illustrated by Benrei Huang  
EAN: 9780786811205  
Hyperion Books for Children

# \* YOKO BACKLIST

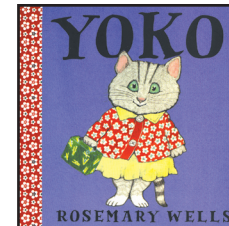


### Yoko Writes Her Name

Trade edition: 978-0-7868-0371-2 \$15.99 July 2008

★“Meaningful and delightful in equal measure.” —*Booklist*, starred review.

“As always, believable characters, familiar struggles and warmth fill Wells’s work, which teaches a subtle lesson on acceptance and maturity with great clarity” —*Kirkus*

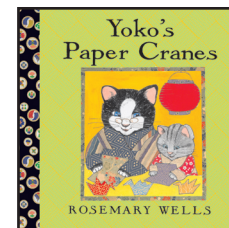


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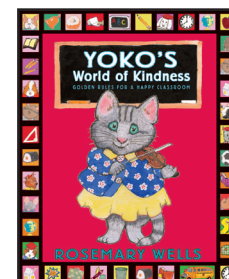


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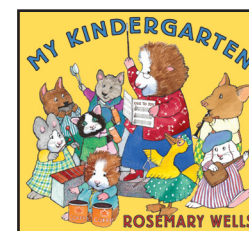
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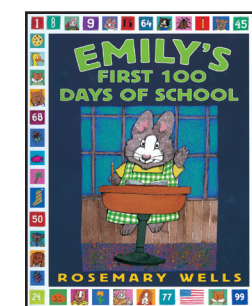


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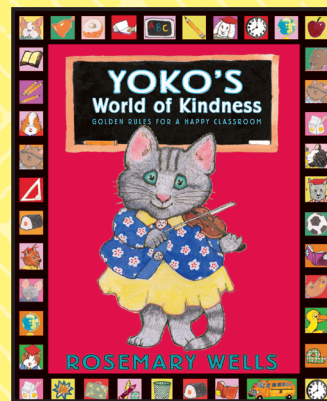
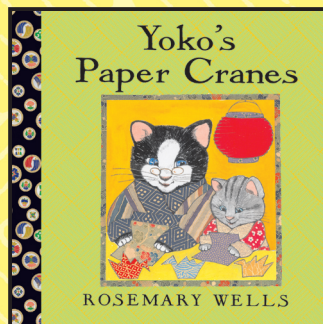
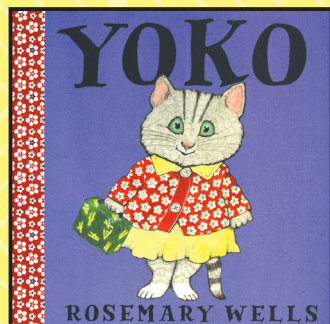
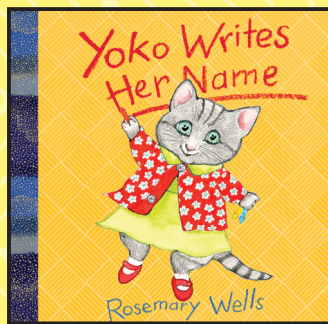
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## Activity Pages Answers:

Page 5 • Match the Numbers: 1: F, 2: J, 3: I, 4: B, 5: A, 6: D, 7: G, 8: E, 9: H, 10: C

Page 11 • Count the Paper Cranes: 12 paper cranes



**Rosemary Wells** is the award-winning author and illustrator of numerous books for children, including *New York Times* best sellers *Carry Me!* and *Emily's First 100 Days of School*; *My Kindergarten*; and picture books featuring the beloved character Yoko. She is also the author of the popular McDuff series, illustrated by Susan Jeffers. Ms. Wells was the inaugural recipient of the Carle Honor-Artist award for her innovative contribution to the art of picture books.

