

What kind of stories do you tell?

I specialize in a storytelling technique called Storigami. Stories + Origami = Storigami. I use origami, the ancient art of Japanese paperfolding, to illustrate traditional folk tales or fables, popular children's literature, and the forty original tales published in my own books. Some examples of stories I combine with origami are *The Paper Crane*, *The Fox and the Crane*, Margery Flack's *Go Ask Mr. Bear*, and Jan Brett's *The Mitten Story*. Depending on age, I usually perform four to seven short stories at each assembly program. I also answer questions and provide age-appropriate information about origami and creative writing.

Does the audience fold paper, too?

Yes, I finish almost every program with a technique called *experiential illustration*. I provide all necessary paperfolding supplies at no extra charge. If the group is too large (more than 200), too young (all Pre-K), or unwilling (this has never happened), then I ask the staff to fold along as I tell a story so that they can teach the origami to their groups later in a more appropriate setting.

What if we have a special theme or restrictions on certain story subjects?

Just let me know when you book me. I've been presenting professionally in schools since 1991 and I've memorized nearly fifty stories, so it's not difficult to select ones to fit themes. Regarding story taboos, I aim to spread joy, not controversy. Please tell me if you have concerns or questions about any story subjects.

We are a small school. Can you accommodate all of our different grades together in one group?

Yes, I often present to groups composed of mixed ages at schools, libraries, and other public forums. Generally the stories I select for these programs have strong visual impact to attract the youngest listeners and multi-dimensional content to satisfy the older ones. For fold-along stories, I like to seat the oldest and youngest students together so they can help each other, if necessary. Of course, an ideal situation occurs with close grade groupings, such as K-2, 3-4, or 5-6. Some small schools invite students from neighboring systems to share in the presentations *and* the costs.

How do we book you?

The best initial contact is through e-mail at foldalong@att.net. I check that address every day. You can also telephone me at 440-838-4881 and if you don't catch me there, simply leave a message and I'll call you right back. Sometimes I book appearances a year or more in advance. Other times, I'm available at the last minute. When we've agreed on a firm date and the number and type of presentations you want, I'll send you a contract listing the exact details and fees. The booking is confirmed when you sign the contract and return a copy to me with a \$100 deposit, which is non-refundable if you cancel without rescheduling. I accept full payment, less the \$100 deposit, on the day that I appear at your school.

What if we have to reschedule because of bad weather or some other problem?

Your deposit will be fully refunded if bad weather, airline strikes, or some other unavoidable problem prevents me from reaching your school. Sometimes program organizers have to reschedule due to unexpected conflicts. If you change the date of my appearance at least six weeks in advance and I'm able to accommodate your new date, you will not lose your deposit.

How do we manage your travel expenses?

After the booking is confirmed, I will decide if I can drive to your school or if I need to fly. If I can drive, the travel fee is set as follows: 1-100 round trip miles is \$35.00, 101- 200 round trip miles is \$70.00, 201 - 300 round trip miles is \$105.00, etc. This travel fee covers all expenses, including time, meals, and lodging. If I decide to fly, I will make the travel arrangements and include the cost on our initial contract. If someone from your school cannot transport me to and from the airport, the cost of a rental car will be added. Obviously, airfare is less expensive if we can take advantage of advanced booking bargains. It's also a good idea to arrange a visit or two at neighboring schools or libraries so that all of you can split the total travel expenses. I do not charge you for any living expenses beyond transportation, regardless of how long I stay in your district.

Do you autograph? Can we sell your books and DVD's as a fundraiser?

Yes to both questions. I prefer to travel with copies of my books and DVD's, so you won't have to fuss with pre-ordering, shipping, or returning. Generally I'm able to offer 10%-40% discounts to students, parents, and teachers, but if you'd rather sell the books and DVD's at full price, then you'd have the discounted portion as a profit for your own fundraising. I always send ordering information along with the booking contract. Autographing is completely optional, but if you decide not to take advantage of the discounts, please tell me so that I can pack appropriately. If you want preview copies, simply let me know what we want and I'll make sure they arrive well before the date of my visit. Preview copies are invoiced separately from the other autographing opportunity.