

Activities for Tree of Cranes, by Allen Say

Making Connections:

Traditions:

- Generate a list of traditions. Then categorize them into groups such as food, holidays, clothing, art, etc.
- Discuss or write about a special tradition that you do.
- Compare and contrast your tradition with someone else's or with the book.
- The boy describes the "sick" tradition. How does that compare with yours?
- Interview a parent or another adult about one of their childhood traditions.

Author bio and interview (video): <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/say>

Do an author study with several of Allen Say's books.

Writing – (for older students). Use the book as a mentor text for writing a memoir piece.

Sequence events:

Create sentence strips to sequence in a pocket chart.

1. One winter day the boy played in the neighbor's pond.
2. When the boy came home and called his mother, she didn't answer.
3. Mama was folding origami paper.
4. Mama made him take a hot bath.
5. The boy ate and then went to bed.
6. He heard his mother digging up his tree.
7. Mama hung paper cranes on the little tree as she told her son about Christmas.
8. She put candles on the tree and lit them.
9. The boy promised that he would never go to the pond again.
10. The boy woke up and found a kite under his tree.

Social Studies:

Incorporate the story in a study of Japan or holidays.

Art:

Depending on the age of the child, explore origami. There is a simple origami crane (flapping bird) as well as a more complex one. There are a number of sites with printable instructions as well as videos. Here are two. This is an excellent activity to practice following instructions and also math vocabulary for shapes.

<http://www.origami-fun.com/origami-crane.html>

<http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-flapping-bird.html> (easier)

A gift:

Create a certificate or card with a promise to give to someone special.