



**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

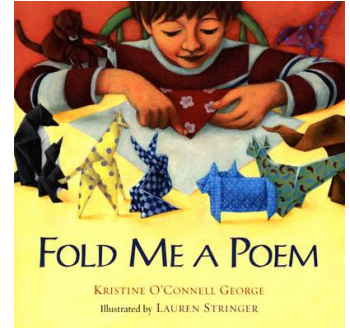
Title: *Fold Me a Poem*

Author: Kristine O'Connell George

Illustrator: Lauren Stringer

**Publisher and
Copyright Date:** Harcourt, 2005

**Connection to
Minnesota:** Minnesota illustrator



Summary: This is a book of short poems that portray a child's imagination as he creates a world filled with origami creatures. A clever perspective on a boy's creative play, this Minnesota Book Award winner invites both reading and activity. Kristine George's and Lauren Stringer's websites contain background information and a helpful, downloadable teaching guide. Some of the ideas in this reading guide are taken from that guide, which offers many additional activities. <http://kristinegeorge.com/foldmepoem.html>
[http://www.laurenstringer.com/Lauren_Stringer/Books\(FMAP\).html](http://www.laurenstringer.com/Lauren_Stringer/Books(FMAP).html)

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- When feasible, read each of the poems in the book, from start to finish. Older children will especially appreciate watching the world of origami animals transform throughout the boy's day, from sun-up to bedtime.
- Take time to look carefully at the illustrations. You may wish to take note of the plight of the ostrich, a "story within the story."
- Show the children a few sample origami pieces.

**Questions
before reading:**

- Have you ever heard of something called origami? What do you know about it?
- What do you think the title means? How can you fold a poem?

**To Introduce
this story say:**

This is a book of poems about a boy who folds paper to make origami animals and play with them. Let's read it.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Why do you think the boy created all the animals? What will he do with them?
- Which ones were your favorites?
- What animal would you like to fold that the boy didn't?
- How do the animals in the story show their personalities?
- What is your favorite poem? Why?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- Make origami figures, using a variety of colors, patterns, and types of paper, such as gift wrap, magazine pages, and paper bags. Some patterns are found on the illustrator's website at [http://www.laurenstringer.com/Lauren_Stringer/Books\(FMAP\).html](http://www.laurenstringer.com/Lauren_Stringer/Books(FMAP).html); others are found in Related Books below.
- Culture:**
- Research the history of origami in Japan and other countries and cultures that have paper-folding traditions.
- Dramatization:**
- Pretend to be one of the origami figures and act out the poem.
- Math:**
- Identify geometric shapes during the different stages of origami folding.
- Science:**
- Research and create a model habitat for various origami animals.
- Writing:**
- Write your own poem about an origami figure. (On page 4 of the teachers' guide on the author's website, approaches and voices for writing this poetry are discussed.)
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary.
 - Discuss and demonstrate any paper-folding type arts or crafts that may be part of the child's background.
- Related Books:**
- ***Pink Paper Swans*** by Virginia L. Kroll, illustrated by Nancy L. Clouse (Eerdmans, 1994)
 - ***Yoko's Paper Cranes*** by Rosemary Wells (Hyperion, 2001)
 - ***Classic Origami*** by P.D. Tuyen (Sterling, 2005)
 - ***Origami Zoo: An Amazing Collection of Folded Paper Animals*** by Robert J. Lang, illustrated by Stephen Weiss (St. Martin's, 1990)
 - ***Paper-Folding Fun! 50 Awesome Crafts to Weave, Twist & Curl*** by Ginger Johnson, illustrated by Betsy Day (Williamson, 2002)
 - ***Paper Capers: A First Book of Paper-Folding Fun*** by Steve and Megumi Biddle (Barrons, 2001)
 - ***Sadako*** by Eleanor Coerr, illustrated by Ed Young (Putnam, 1993)

