



# The Paper Crane

*Molly Bang*

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## The Paper Crane Molly Bang

A beautifully illustrated retelling of an ancient Japanese folktale by Molly Bang, the celebrated creator of numerous picture books including the Caldecott Honor Books *Ten, Nine, Eight*; *The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher*; and *When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry . . .*

Business returns to a once-prosperous restaurant when a mysterious stranger pays for his meal with a magical paper crane that comes alive and dances. *The Paper Crane* is illustrated with cut-paper collages and paintings. It is a wonderful book to use with children learning about patterns in storytelling. "A delight to the eye and imagination."—*The Horn Book*. "An enchanting book."—*School Library Journal*

Supports the Common Core State Standards

## The Paper Crane Details

Date : Published July 15th 1987 by Greenwillow Books (first published October 1st 1985)

ISBN : 9780688073336

Author : Molly Bang

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review The Paper Crane for online ebook

### Sheila says

A nice children's story about a mysterious man who visits a road side diner, and the oragami paper crane he leaves behind.

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### Manybooks says

Now while I have indeed and very much enjoyed the sweetly descriptive, often delightfully esoteric marriage of text and images of Molly Bang's The Paper Crane (that real and palpable but also glowingly imaginative sense of magic and that being of a kind and generous spirit will or rather can engender and give many types of wonderful and unexpected rewards), I do have to admit that I did and still do kind of feel as though I am for one only getting part of the story with The Paper Crane and that for two and yes for me much more importantly from a folkloric and academic point of view, that the complete and total lack of an author's note with regard to cultural background, with regard to which folktale or folktales Molly Bang has made use of (or might have made use of) to compose The Paper Crane really does bother and rather massively annoy me. For I am certainly very much left wondering as to from which specific (and likely Asian) traditions The Paper Crane hails, whether it is as I from the title and especially the origami illustrations suspect a Japanese inspired story (whether it might even be a combination of different cultures and traditions, or perhaps that Molly Bang's tale is actually a totally original offering, albeit one inspired by origami and such). And thus, only three stars for The Paper Crane (but yes indeed, with an adequate author's note, my rating would have very quickly and easily been four and perhaps even five stars).

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### Sean says

Genre: Picture Book

Age Level: Grades 2-3

World View: Lower Class, ethnic (Asian specific)

A man and his son run a restaraunt, but due to the construction of the new highway, it becomes a lonesome place. A tall tale unravels though when a mysterious man comes in with no money, and saves the restaraunt with his dancing paper crane. This book is simple, turns a bad situation into a story of hope, and has good morals that are fun to read about.

Genre:

Age Level:

World View:

Theme:

Literary Elements:

In the Classroom:

Illustrations:

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### Asho says

The kids each got a copy of this book at the National Book Festival this year and listened to it read aloud at

one of the booths. Apparently this is a well-known Japanese folktale, although I don't recall ever having heard it before. It's a nice story, but better to read in an intimate setting because the illustrations are textured and interesting.

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### **Jennifer says**

Bang's version of this Japanese folktale captures multiculturalism in the best way. The three main characters are clearly Japanese, as is the origami crane at the center of the story. The other characters are a diverse bunch and- my favorite detail of all - the restaurant owned by the main character serves Western food like garden salad and layer cake, with nary a chopstick in sight. It's a subtle lesson, reminding us that minorities can simultaneously embrace some aspects of their heritage without being ghettoized into a needless representation of \*all\* mainstream expectations.

Bang's artistic choices also stand out here, as she uses dimensional paper collage to illustrate a story about the power of a piece of paper art. The crane itself begins as the well-known origami figure, before becoming something more within the story ... but remaining a paper crane from the perspective of the reader, a nice, visual example of what the word "irony" technically means.

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### **Paul says**

Gang's wonderful version of the classic tale. This story has some amazing collages that pop! This is about a man who owns a restaurant but one day had luck comes to him. But the solution is a paper crane!

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### **Andria Davis says**

This book is about a man that owned a restaurant that stopped being busy when a highway was being built going past it until one day, an older gentlemen came in and ordered food while having no money. To pay, he folded a napkin into a paper crane. He told the owner that all he had to do was clap and the bird would come to life. The owner tried it and it came to life like the man said. The bird helped bring life back to the restaurant as people started visiting the restaurant again to see the bird.

I enjoyed this book a lot. I thought it was a very heart warming story and the pictures were nice too.

(Traditional Lit)

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### **Beverly says**

I really liked this magical little story and I loved the collage and cut paper illustrations. Even though there is no explanation as to why the old man would help out the restaurant owner, I still appreciated how he helped with the magical origami crane.

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### **Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says**

Multicultural book, but not written by someone from the culture and in the copy I read, no source notes for the original material. When retelling a folktale, I prefer my books include some credit to the original tale even if it has been heavily modified.

Story is simple enough- a man owns a restaurant and loses business because the new highways means people don't pass his restaurant. He feeds a poor stranger who gives him a paper crane which comes to life and dances and brings people back to his restaurant.

Illustration style is kind of cool, like the layered paper. It's a nice enough story with nice illustrations, but, lack of credit to the original folk tale is sort of a bummer for me.

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### **Kathryn says**

I loved The Paper Crane. As I opened it, I immediately remembered it from my childhood. I couldn't have said exactly what happened, but it filled me with a happy little ache sense of magic and mystery and that is exactly how I felt after I read the book and became reacquainted with the story. I think it's lovely. It shows how important it is to give with kindness and generosity of spirit, expecting nothing in return. It shows the surprise rewards that can come of having an open heart. I also love that the reward wasn't for some exaggerated wealth or status, it was just to restore what was loved and lost.

It's a book from the mid-80s and I think it would benefit from an author's note explaining a little background or setting perhaps. But, it still gets five stars from me.

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### **Rachael Fluke says**

This is an older book, that requires the reader to have a good imagination. I would not recommend it to a reader who is looking to read for enjoyment unless they were interested in paper cranes. There is a good overall moral, that money is not always the answer, and also that kind gestures go along way. The pictures seemed dull and lacking color/life.

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### **Dolly says**

This is a fascinating folktale about kindness and generosity being rewarded. In return for a free meal, an old man presents a failing restaurant owner with a paper crane.

The origami crane is magical and comes to life, creating a sensation in the town and saving the restaurant owner's business. Our girls enjoyed watching the story on the Tumblebooks website. (<http://www.tumblebooks.com>)

This book was selected as one of the books for the May 2018 - Boston Globe-Horn Book Picture Book Award Winners 1983-1990 discussion at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books Group here at Goodreads.

### **J.K. Grice says**

THE PAPER CRANE is one of my favorite story books of all time. I share it with my 2nd grade art students before working on one of our origami projects. The artwork is just beautiful and the pages are actually collages made out of small/tiny pieces of cut paper. I also love the powerful message that Molly Bang shares with young readers. Highly recommended.

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### **Margaret says**

Japanese folktale retold. Sweet and quiet. Illustrations are paper art (makes sense).

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### **Suzanne says**

Molly Bang is from Massachusetts and I took my children to an exhibit of her work in Duxbury in the 90's. This particular book was illustrated using paper cutouts. I saw the actual illustrations which were 3 dimensional and spectacular.

The Paper Crane is a reworked version of an old Chinese folktail. In this story a father's restaurant is losing business because of a new road. A customer arrives and cannot pay for his meal so gives the father this paper crane which will turn into a real bird and ultimately does....attracting new business for the failing restaurant. The themes are timeless...the illustrations unique in their use of paper cutouts and collage.

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