

Online Book Club

The Mystery at Mount Fuji

Bring It To Life!

1. Using the Katakana Alphabet in the back of the book, write your name in Katakana. First, find similar sounds in Katakana that closely match the sounds in your name. Then find the Katakana character that goes with the sound. Write the characters down. You can draw these on card stock, color them, cut them out, and string them on black cord to wear around your neck.
2. Make origami paper toys. Just about any kind of paper of any size can be used as long as it is easy to fold. Origami paper can often be purchased toy or craft stores. Search the Internet to find websites with instructions on how to fold the paper and make some cool items!
3. Make a koinobori banner from either paper or cloth. Take a long rectangular piece of plain paper or cloth and fold it lengthwise. Sew, glue, or tape the side. Paint a big round eye and some scales on the koinobori like in the image at the upper right. Add some fun streamers. It can be hung from a pole in front of the house on May 5th or any day you want to have some fun!
4. Try making your own Japanese clothes. Get a bathrobe—the bigger the better—and then get a long wide scarf and wrap it around you. You may need a friend to help you. Make sure the bathrobe and belt fit closely to the body. Hold a fan. Put on some flip-flops and try walking around holding the fan. How do you feel? (Very comfortable, probably!)
5. Try using chopsticks. Follow the instructions that Taro gives Grant in the book. If you don't have a pair of chopsticks, you can practice by using two pencils or sticks, but don't put them in your mouth. The next time you go to a Chinese or Japanese restaurant, ask for a pair of chopsticks and test your new skill!

