

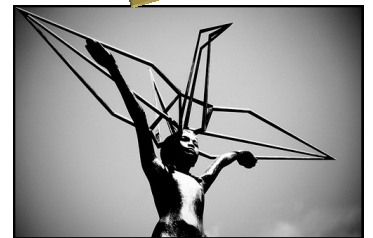
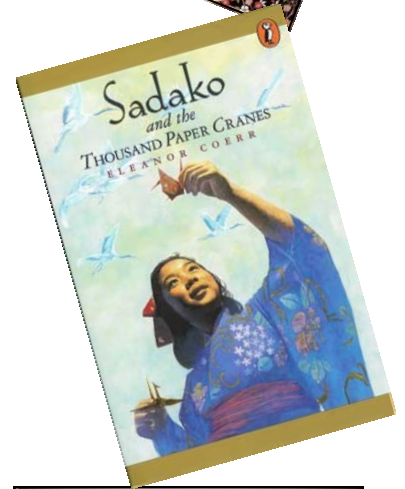
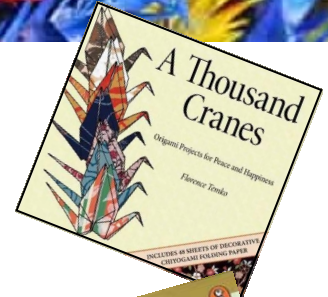


The history of paper cranes as symbols of peace

The senbazuru legend Thousand origami cranes (千羽鶴 *Senbazuru*) is a group of one thousand origami paper cranes (鶴 *tsuru*) held together by strings. An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by a crane. Some stories believe you are granted eternal good luck, instead of just one wish, such as long life or recovery from illness or injury.

Legend has it that if you fold a thousand origami cranes a wish will be granted. Sadako Sasaki, a young Japanese girl lived in Hiroshima during World War II. As a result of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Sadako developed leukemia. In the hospital she folded paper cranes because she wished to live. Her family and friends added to the 644 cranes she had folded before her death, and buried 1000 cranes with her.

There is a statue of Sadako in the Hiroshima Peace Park where millions of paper cranes are left each year. The statue which honors her and all war victims bears a plaque which reads:



This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace on Earth.

