

First Day School in a Box

Created by Judith Bledsoe, Missoula Friends Meeting

Inside each box:

1. A "plan" and a photocopy of the storybook's cover on the lid.
2. "Who We Are, What We Believe" photocopied from Opening Doors to Quaker Religious Education.
3. A storybook
4. Materials for possible response activities listed in the plan. Include at least one activity for very young children, preschoolers and elementary school kids.

Any box can work. Clear plastic boxes from a scrapbook section are nice. The individual boxes are stacked in a larger paper box. A separate box of "First Day School Supplies" includes crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, tape, scissors, etc.



The **"First Day in a Bag"** above includes a small clipboard, coloring book, crayons/washable markers, Thinking Putty and a few books.

Examples of First Day School in a Box

The Paper Crane by Molly Bang.

Possible Response Activities (youngest to oldest): Use your body to create a graceful crane dance. Color a dancing crane page. Make a brown bag crane or character puppet. Act out the story: use people or puppets. Follow the origami instructions to make a paper crane. Follow your heart and create art!

Needed: **brown bag puppets** (brown paper bags, construction paper, heavy paper template for crane feathers and beak, googly eyes), instructions for folding **origami birds** and origami paper, and a few different **crane coloring pages** (crane images enlarged in Word and printed).

The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

Possible Response Activities (youngest to oldest): “Sew” and enjoy cardboard animals. Make a paper quilt by attaching origami squares to a piece of construction paper with a glue stick. Paint a “Keeping Quilt” for our meeting to hang. The white fabric “quilt” is folded into squares. The acrylic paint is water-based but remember to protect surfaces and clothing. Look at the creases and choose a “quilt” square or two to paint and sign. Ask others in the meeting to help. Follow your heart and create art!

Needed: **sewing animals** (colored cardboard animals with punched holes and string), materials to make a **paper quilt** (origami paper and construction paper), and materials to make a **fabric "keeping quilt"** to hang downstairs in the meeting house (heavy white fabric folded into squares, acrylic paint, paintbrushes).

Thy Friend, Obadiah by Brinton Turkle

Possible Response Activities (youngest to oldest): Make a new friend at Meeting today. Cut out a paper seagull, add googly eyes and decorate with feathers and tissue paper. Draw your own animal friend. Tie friendship bracelets. Follow your heart and create art!

Needed: materials to make a **paper seagull with flapping wings** (seagull template copied onto heavy paper, construction paper, googly eyes, feathers) and materials to make **friendship bracelets** (instructions for making bracelets at a few levels of difficulty, yarn, beads, embroidery string, safety pins).

Giving by Shirley Hughes

Possible Response Activities (youngest to oldest): Give away hugs, smiles and high fives. Make a special card for someone you love. Act out ideas for giving. Create a wooden doll family. Use wooden folks to act out scenes from the story. Decorate brown bags to make background scenes. Follow your heart and create art!

Needed: materials to make **greeting cards** (construction paper, stickers, stamps) and a set of simple **wooden dolls** (Seedlings set). The set comes with materials to create the dolls that can be used to act out scenes from the story. We'll keep the set of dolls and use them in another box later. Also, there are materials to make **brown bag backgrounds** (brown bags, construction paper) to help act out scenes with the dolls.

-----For The Paper Crane, there are materials to make **brown bag puppets** (brown paper bags, construction paper, heavy paper template for crane feathers and beak, googly eyes, white craft feathers), instructions for folding **origami birds** and origami paper, and a few different **crane coloring pages** (crane images found online, enlarged in Word and printed).

-----For The Keeping Quilt, there are **sewing animals** (colored cardboard animals with punched holes and lacing string), materials to make a **paper quilt** (origami paper and construction paper), and materials to make a **fabric "keeping quilt"** to hang downstairs in the meeting house (heavy white fabric folded into squares, acrylic paint, paintbrushes).

-----For Thy Friend, Obadiah there are materials to make a **paper seagull with flapping wings** (seagull template I found online copied onto heavy paper, construction paper, googly eyes, feathers) and materials to make **friendship bracelets**(instructions for making bracelets at a few levels of difficulty, yarn, embroidery string, safety pins).

-----For Giving there are materials to make **greeting cards** (construction paper, stickers, stamps) and a set of simple **wooden dolls** from a company called Seedlings. The set comes with materials to create the dolls that can be used to act out scenes from the story. We'll keep the set of dolls and use them in another box later. Also, there are materials to make **brown bag backgrounds** (brown bags, construction paper) to help act out scenes with the dolls.