

Tofu Ling and the Carp Banner Art Activities

Borderline Creativity

The Koi at the bottom of the pages of *Tofu Ling and the Carp Banner* carry us on Tofu's journey to Tango No Sekku. They are symbols of all of the virtues that he is striving to achieve. They swim and swim from page to page and even up the sides of the pages! They tell a story. We will create a story about you that will be carried along with pictures at the bottom of your page.

- Think of a special event in your life. Describe what made it special.
- Name one thing that might be a symbol for that event. Imagine how you would draw it.
- With your pencil, draw a line inside the edge of your paper. Leave plenty of space to be creative on the outside of the frame you have created. (suggested width 2- 3 inches).
- Inside the frame, draw with markers, paints or crayons your memory of the picture you want to create. Outline your border with crayon or marker.
- Draw the symbol you have decided to use outside the border. Get creative with this symbol by drawing it again, or adding more to it. Make it move across the bottom of your paper. Make it curl around the outside of the border. Make it change or grow. Make it tell a story, just like the fish tell a story of their own.
- You can turn your artwork into a book, by adding more pages and more symbols at the bottom of the pages. You can use the same symbol, or create different ones.
- This same process can also be used to illustrate poetry, haiku, or journals.
- Have fun and remember to ***find a special place in your heart to share!***

