



# Sadako

*and the*  
**THOUSAND PAPER CRANES**  
ELEANOR COERR



## GOOD LUCK SIGNS

Sadako was born to be a runner. Her mother always said that Sadako had learned to run before she could walk.

One morning in August 1954 Sadako ran outside into the street as soon as she was dressed. The morning sun of Japan touched brown high-



lights in her dark hair. There was not a speck of cloud in the blue sky. It was a good sign. Sadako was always on the lookout for good luck signs.

Back in the house her sister and two brothers were still sleeping on their bed quilts. She poked her big brother, Masahiro.

"Get up, lazybones!" she said. "It's Peace Day!"

Masahiro groaned and yawned. He wanted to sleep as long as possible, but like most fourteen-year-old boys, he also loved to eat. When he sniffed the good smell of bean soup, Masahiro got up. Soon Mitsue and Eiji were awake, too.

Sadako helped Eiji get dressed. He was six, but he sometimes lost a sock or shirt. Afterward, Sadako folded the bed quilts. Her sister, Mitsue, who was nine, helped put them away in the closet.

Rushing like a whirlwind into the kitchen, Sadako cried, "Oh, Mother! I can hardly wait to go to the carnival. Can we please hurry with breakfast?"

Her mother was busily slicing pickled radishes to serve with the rice and soup. She

looked sternly at Sadako. "You are eleven years old and should know better," she scolded. "You must not call it a carnival. Every year on August sixth we remember those who died when the atom bomb was dropped on our city. It is a memorial day."

Mr. Sasaki came in from the back porch. "That's right," he said. "Sadako chan, you must show respect. Your own grandmother was killed that awful day."

"But I do respect Oba chan," Sadako said. "I pray for her spirit every morning. It's just that I'm so happy today."

"As a matter of fact, it's time for our prayers now," her father said.

The Sasaki family gathered around the little altar shelf. Oba chan's picture was there in a gold frame. Sadako looked at the ceiling and wondered if her grandmother's spirit was floating somewhere above the altar.

"Sadako chan!" Mr. Sasaki said sharply.

Sadako quickly bowed her head. She fidgeted and wriggled her bare toes while Mr. Sasaki spoke. He prayed that the spirits of their ancestors were





*The hardest race of  
Sadako's life . . .  
the race against time.*

HIROSHIMA-BORN SADAKO IS LIVELY AND ATHLETIC—the star of her school's running team. And then the dizzy spells start. Soon gravely ill with leukemia, an aftereffect of the atom bomb that fell on her city when she was only an infant, Sadako approaches her illness as she did her running—with irrepressible spirit. Recalling a Japanese legend, Sadako sets to work folding paper cranes. For the legend holds that if a sick person folds one thousand cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again.

Based on a true story, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* celebrates the courage that made one young woman a heroine in Japan.

\*\*\*  
“An extraordinary book,  
one no reader will fail to find compelling and  
unforgettable.”  
—*Booklist*

VISIT US AT  
[www.penguinputnam.com](http://www.penguinputnam.com)

Cover illustration copyright  
© Kazuhiko Sano, 1999  
Cover design by  
Stefanie Rosenfeld



A PUFFIN BOOK

U.S.A.	\$5.99
CAN.	\$8.99
0812	

ISBN 0-698-11802-2



9 780698 118027

50599>



EAN

