How to Make a “Special Person” Family Storybook

This “special person” storybook has a pop-up that lets your special person “speak.”

Make the Book: You will need a large sheet of paper,* scissors, adhesive tape, and writing and coloring materials.

1. Fold the sheet of paper in half horizontally. Cut on the fold to make two pieces (A and B).
2. Fold one piece of paper (A) in half.
3. Bring one outside edge back to meet the folded edge. Crease.
4. Flip, and do the same on the other side. Crease.
5. Follow steps two, three, and four with piece B.
6. On piece A, draw a line one inch long starting on the middle fold and going in. Cut on the line, starting at the folded edge.
7. Fold the flap you cut upwards and crease. Unfold. Fold the flap you cut downwards and crease. Unfold.
9. Open the sheet and gently push the folded part in from the outside. The pop-up will look like lips. Close the sheet like a book, flattening the folds inside.
10. Join one edge of B to one edge of A, using tape.

Write the Story: Explore ways to use the panels of your book to tell your story. Draw the face of your special person, using the pop-up as the mouth. Now your special person can speak! Don’t forget to include a page “About the Authors.”

Share Your Story: Post pictures of your completed Special Person book on the Smithsonian Heritage Programming Facebook page.

* We recommend 12” x 17” or a similar size paper.