



# SO NOT GHOUL

Karen Yin illustrated by Bonnie Lui  
Published by Page Street Kids

## ACTIVITY GUIDE

On her first day haunting a new school, all Mimi has to wear are old Chinese gowns from her great-great-great-great-great-ghost-grandmother. She wants to look horrifying and rattle chains with the cool American ghouls at school, but her ghost ancestors insist she dress and behave like a good Chinese ghost. Desperate to fit in and find a middle haunting ground between her cultures, she plans a ghostly new look. But she questions whether her haunt couture is a fabulous fright or a grave mistake when her family finds out, and another ghoul at school appropriates her Chinese fashion.

This ghoulishly playful ghost story offers a boo-tiful reminder that while sometimes school and family can make you feel invisible, bicultural pride never goes out of style.

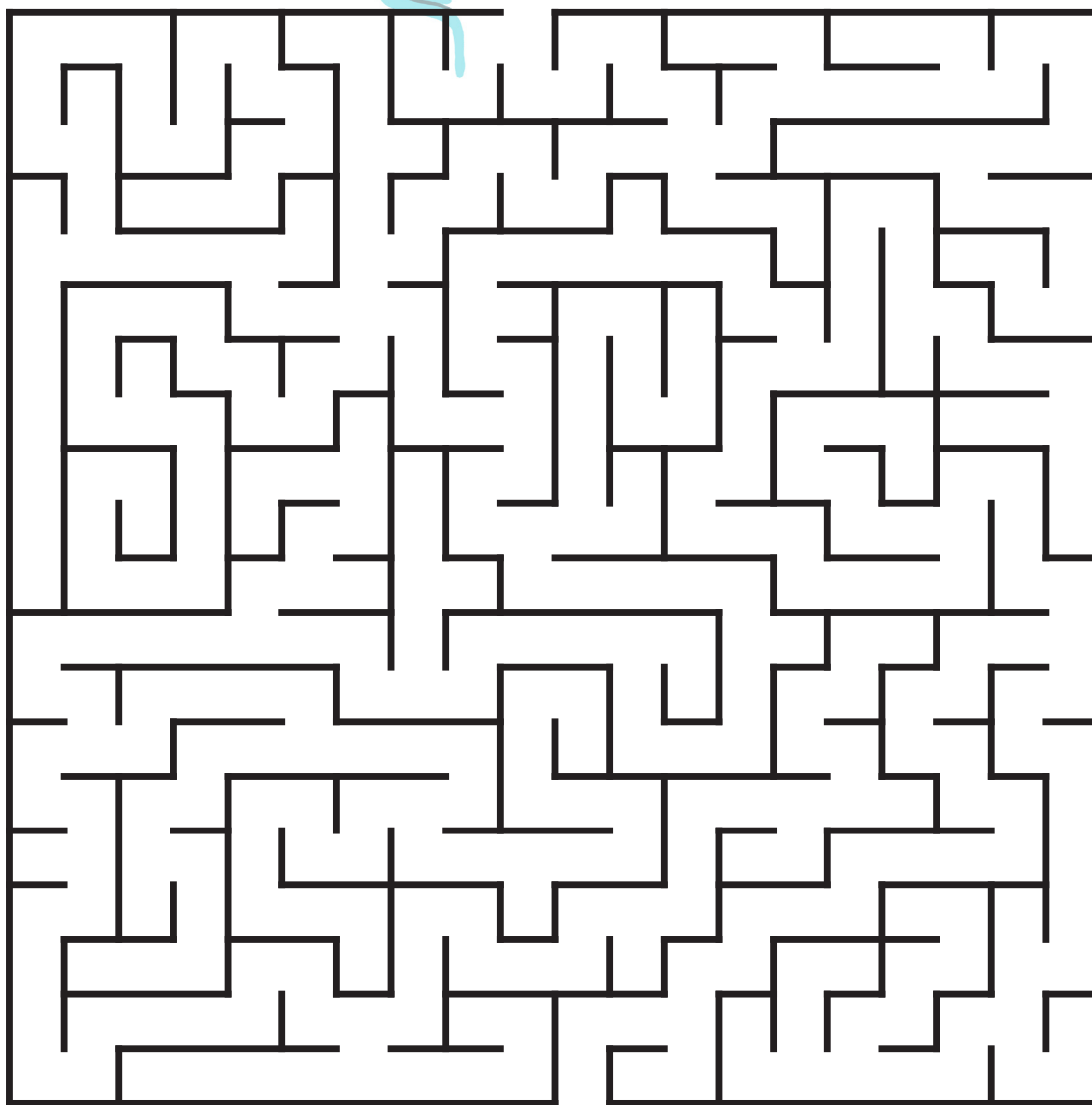
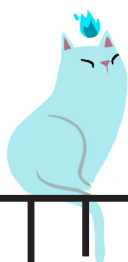


**Karen Yin** is the author of *Whole Whale* (Barefoot Books) and the founder of the Conscious Style Guide and Editors of Color Database. *So Not Ghoul* was inspired by a fondness for ghosts from Chinese lore and by growing up caught between her American and Chinese cultures. Originally from New York, Karen lives in California with her partner and cat friends. Find her at [KarenYin.com](http://KarenYin.com).

**Bonnie Lui** is an illustrator for books, games, and television. She created the book *The ABC of Feelings* (Philomel Books) and illustrated *Different Like Me* (Our Daily Bread Publishing). Working on Mimi's story brought back vivid memories of her childhood in Hong Kong, especially the smells of the offerings surrounding her late grandfather's shrine—cooked chicken, rice wine, incense—the smells that to her always mean family. Bonnie now lives in Pasadena, California, with her cat, Tibbs.

# MAZE

Can you help Baimao get through the maze to Mimi?



# LEARN MANDARIN

Mimi and her family speak Mandarin. Practice saying some of the words and phrases below with a friend!

Hello: 你好 Nǐ hǎo (*nee how*)

Thank you: 谢谢 Xièxiè (*shieh-shieh*)

You're welcome: 不客气 Bù kèqì (*boo kuh-chi*)

Good morning: 早 Zǎo (*zhaw*)

Good night: 晚安 Wǎn ān (*wan an*)

My name is . . . : 我叫 Wǒ jiào . . . (*Wo jeow . . .*)

My friend's name is . . . : 我的朋友叫 Wǒ de péngyǒu jiào . . .  
(*Wo duh pung-yo jeow . . .*)

Ghost: 鬼 Gǔi (*gwey*)





# GHOSTLY WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words below. They will be either horizontal or vertical. How many can you find?

S	T	M	X	K	X	N	Q	A	F	X	S
P	W	P	H	A	N	T	O	M	J	G	P
I	U	M	E	I	G	M	G	G	R	T	E
R	G	H	O	S	T	Y	D	H	G	J	C
I	X	F	H	A	U	N	T	O	U	A	T
T	P	M	S	B	W	J	A	U	I	G	E
E	Z	Q	E	S	J	T	T	L	U	E	R
O	Y	B	U	G	H	S	P	O	O	K	B



GHOUL

SPIRIT

PHANTOM

GHOST

GUI

SPECTER

HAUNT

SPOOK

## MATCH GAME

Match the words on the list with the items in the image below by circling them and drawing a line to the right word.



RICE

TEA

ORANGE

INCENSE

CHOPSTICKS

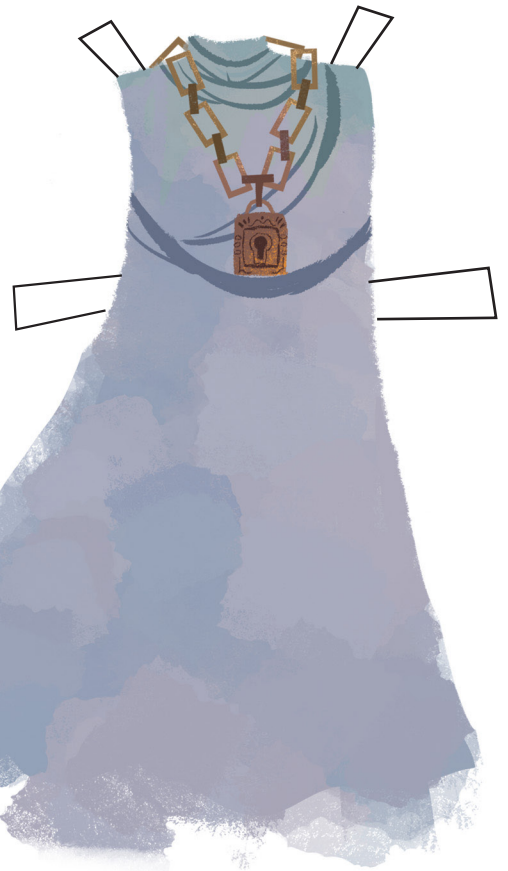
SPIRIT MONEY

DUMPLINGS

## PAPER GHOUL

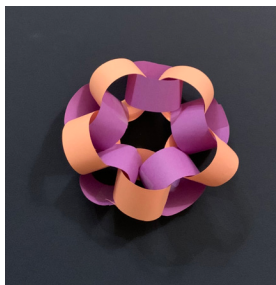
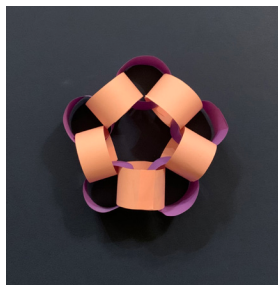
Cut out Mimi and the outfits below that represent her bicultural identity. Be sure you leave the flaps to hold them in place!







## PAPER CHAIN



1. Cut the pages from this activity sheet into strips and color the pieces, or use construction paper or any other paper you can find (with permission!).
2. Tape, glue, or staple the ends of one paper strip together into a ring. Try to match up the sides evenly. If you are using glue, hold the two ends of paper together until the glue dries.
3. Once you have one ring, thread another strip of paper through the center of that loop. Then, join the ends of the second strip together with tape, staples, or glue. The wide, flat edges of the two links should line up, but the loops themselves should sit at a 90 degree angle.
4. Continue in the same pattern until your chain is as long as you want it.
5. Once your chain is long enough, you can link the ends together with a final strip of paper. Wait until you have an odd number of links in the chain, then loop and seal one final strip of paper through both of the end-links.

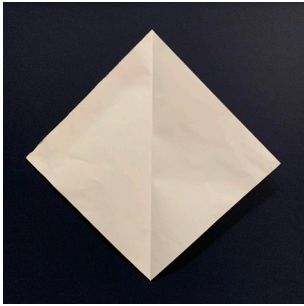




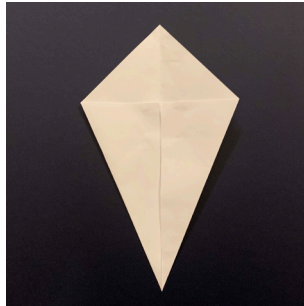
# ORIGAMI FRIENDS

## ORIGAMI GHOST

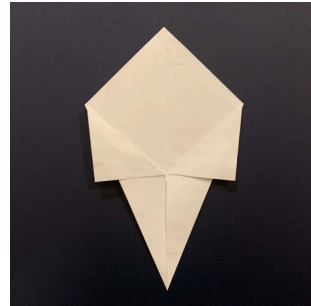
To create this easy origami ghost, you will need a square sheet of paper that is white on both sides.



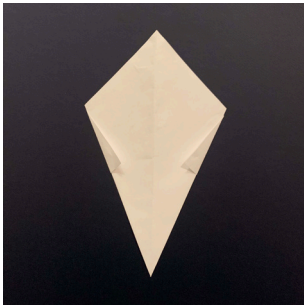
1) Fold your paper in half along one of the diagonals to make a triangle shape. Unfold.



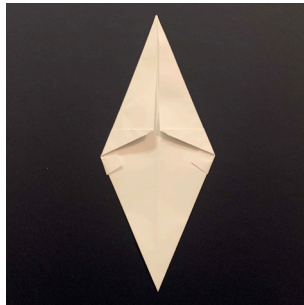
2) Fold the left and right sides of the triangle into the middle line.



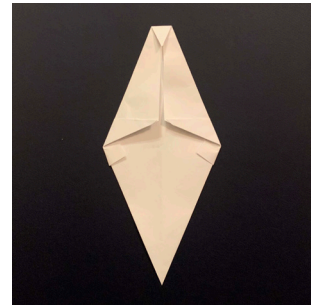
3) Fold the left and right corners back as shown.



4) Flip your paper over. Fold the flaps of the triangles you just made so they lay flat against the sides of your ghost.



5) Fold the left and right corners of the paper into the middle.



6) Fold the top triangle down slightly.



7) Make an accordion fold where the ghost's neck would be.

8) Flip your paper over. Fold the bottom point over as demonstrated in the photo.

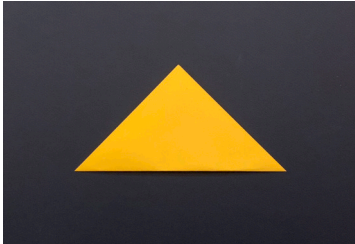
9) Using a black marker, draw eyes and a mouth on your ghost.

Source: The Spruce Crafts (<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/easy-origami-ghost-craft-for-halloween-2540719>)

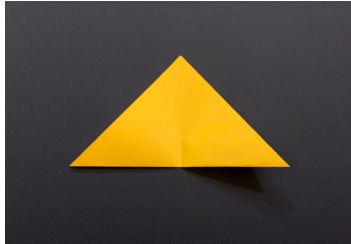
# ORIGAMI FRIENDS

## ORIGAMI CAT

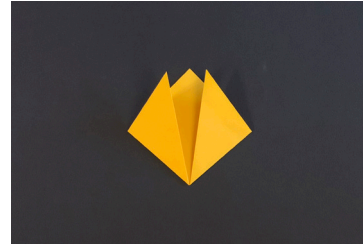
To create this easy origami cat, you will need a square sheet of paper in any color.



1) Fold the bottom corner up to meet the top corner to create a triangle.

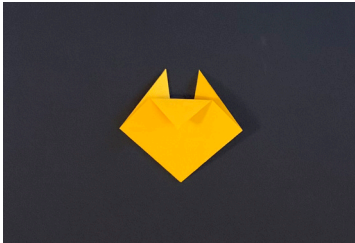


2) Take the right points over the left and make a small crease along the bottom edge to mark the middle. Then unfold.

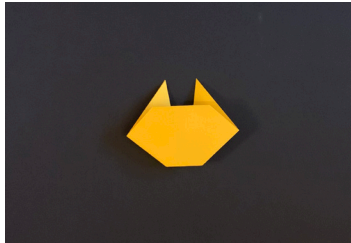


3) Take the right point and bring it up and to the right at an angle away from the top point.

4) Do the same on the left side, trying to match the right.



5) Fold the bottom point up a little to form the cat's chin.



6) Flip the paper to the other side. Fold the top points down to about where the left and right points line up.



7) Flip the paper again. Fold the top points back.

8) Fold in the left and right points a little on each side to create the cat's cheeks.



9) Draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth for your cute face!

Source: Origami Guide (<https://origami.guide/origami-animals/origami-cats/easy-origami-cat-face/1>)

# MEAN GHOULS

The mean ghouls in the story make Mimi feel bad about the way she dresses. Answer the questions below about how bullying makes you feel and how you can help when someone is being bullied.

- How do you feel when someone makes fun of you?
- What are positive ways you can make others feel good?
- What does bullying look or sound like? Explain each of the types of bullying below.
  - Isolation
  - Teasing
  - Rumors
  - Practical Jokes
  - Physical Harm
  - Hate Speech
  - Sarcasm
- What kind of behavior makes you feel bad?
- What kind of behavior makes you feel good?
- What can you do if you see bullying?
- How can you support someone who's been bullied?

Learn more at [www.StopBullying.gov](http://www.StopBullying.gov).



# MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Use the following activities in a group to get to know each other better!

## QUESTION BALL

Write a bunch of icebreaker questions on a medium-sized ball. Toss the ball and whichever question your right thumb lands on, you have to answer that question. You also have to say your name before you answer.

## HUMAN OUTLINE

Two people are randomly paired together. They get one long piece of paper (about 6 ft sheet), lie on their backs, and take turns tracing one side of each other. Person #1 traces Person #2's left side, and Person #2 traces Person #1's right side. When both are done, they list fun facts about each other on their side. They then show it to the rest of the group.

## M&M QUESTIONNAIRE

Distribute fun size bags of M&Ms to everyone in the group. Go around the circle and instruct each person to pull out one M&M from their bag. Each color of M&M represents a question. (Red could be "Name one hobby" and blue could be "Name one of your favorite bands".) When the person answers, they can eat their M&M. Continue until all the M&Ms are gone.

## THREE WORDS

Tell everyone to think of three words to describe themselves. Go around the room and have people introduce themselves and say the three words they chose.

