




# Emily's Idea

Written by **Christine Evans** • Illustrated by **Marta Álvarez Miguéns**

**Story Time Kit**



When a little girl decides to create a paper chain of dolls, her idea catches on. Then it spreads far and wide as children around the world begin to create and share their own. *Emily's Idea* is the story of how that girl's simple creative act spreads a message of love and acceptance around the world.

**Here you'll find the paper doll instructions and stencils from the book alongside activities you can do at home to inspire connection.**

But first, get to know Christine Evans, the author, as she shares the inspiration behind her book and does a Facebook Live Story Time.

On a quiet Christmas Eve my oldest daughter, Emily, was sick and snuggled in bed with me. I couldn't sleep so I opened my notes app on my phone to scribble down an idea.

It was just a few lines...

*Emily's idea started small. Many beautiful ideas do.*

But my small idea, like Emily's idea in the book, grew. What started as a sweet story about a girl making paper dolls became something bigger.

*Her small idea had grown bigger than she was.  
Bigger than she ever imagined.*

It became a story of inclusivity. We all have different families, different traditions, different cultures, different outlooks, different experiences, but we are all connected.

It became a story of a small idea growing to become something bigger. Activist Greta Thunberg started her protest as one child walking out of school to shine attention on climate change. A little more than a year later, her climate strike became a global movement with millions joining.

*Some people didn't understand.  
They ripped. Belittled. Destroyed.*

And it became a story of perseverance. People may stamp on and belittle your ideas but if you keep going, your idea will grow.

Beautiful illustrations from Marta Álvarez Miguéns bring Emily's Idea to life and amaze me every time I read our book.

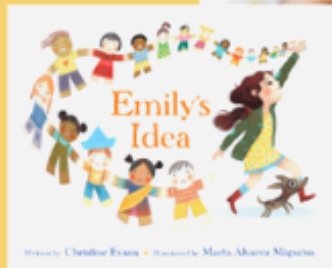
I hope *Emily's Idea* will show kids that we're all connected, like a paper doll chain. And that one child, one idea, can make a difference in their family, school, community, or in the world.

*Christine Evans*



# LIVE STORY TIME

with Christine Evans



JOIN FOR A LIVE READING  
OF EMILY'S IDEA!



To hear Christine's Facebook Live Story Time, go to  
[bit.ly/EmilysIdeaStoryTime](https://bit.ly/EmilysIdeaStoryTime)



# Paper Doll Activities

As Christine shares in her [Story Time](#), the paper doll chain offers a fun, creative craft activity to do with the children in your life—and one that can be a catalyst for something bigger.

On the last two pages of this story kit, you'll find the instructions and stencils to make your own paper chain of dolls from the book *Emily's Idea*.

But first, take a look at the following activities to consider how your paper doll chain can inspire connection and spread a message of love and hope at a time when we need it most.

# Window Artwork



## We're All in This Together

Like sidewalk chalk and rainbow art, *Emily's Idea* can help spread a message of love, hope, and togetherness. Select a window in your house to display your paper doll chain for everyone who walks by to enjoy.



## Thank Your Delivery Drivers

Create a chain of seven dolls and give each doll a cut-out letter to spell: T-H-A-N-K-Y-O-U. Hang it where your delivery drivers leave your packages to let them know how much you appreciate their service.

# Home Learning



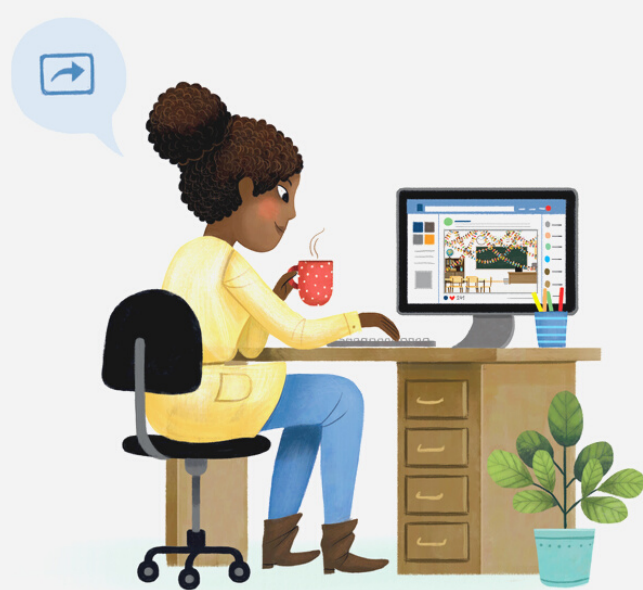
## Geography and Art

Select five countries you'd love to visit someday. Research each country to learn about their customs, traditional dress, and how they are, as Emily says, "different, but the same." Then create a paper doll chain to represent those countries.



## A Puppet Show

Put on a paper doll puppet show! Before you color your dolls, decide what story you want to tell. Maybe it's your favorite book or a movie you just watched. Design your dolls accordingly. Tape them to popsicle sticks, spoons, straws, or whatever you have in your house.



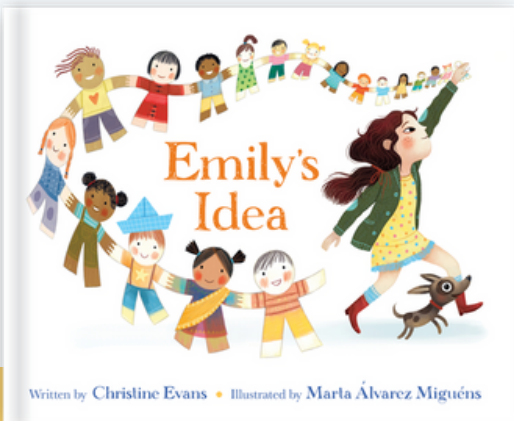
# Help Emily's Idea Grow Bigger

*Emily's idea started small.  
Many beautiful ideas do.  
She folded, doodled, snipped.  
But also, like many ideas,  
Emily's small idea grew.*

**Please share your favorite paper doll activity** on your favorite social media channel using #EmilysIdeaBook.

**To request a virtual author story time** for a school, library, or bookstore, go to [pinwheelsandstories.com/contact](https://pinwheelsandstories.com/contact).

**THANK YOU!**



**EMILY'S IDEA IS AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSELLER.**

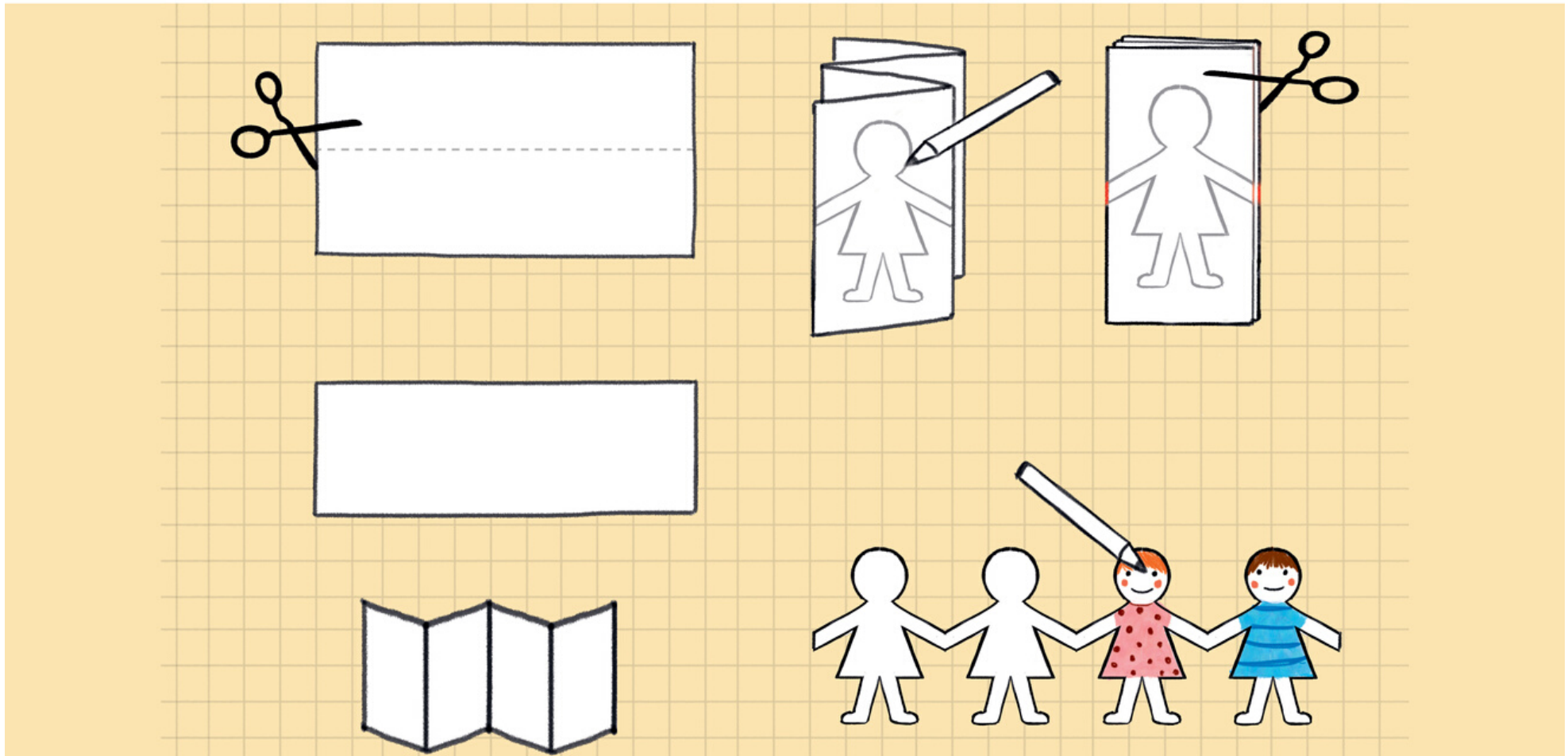


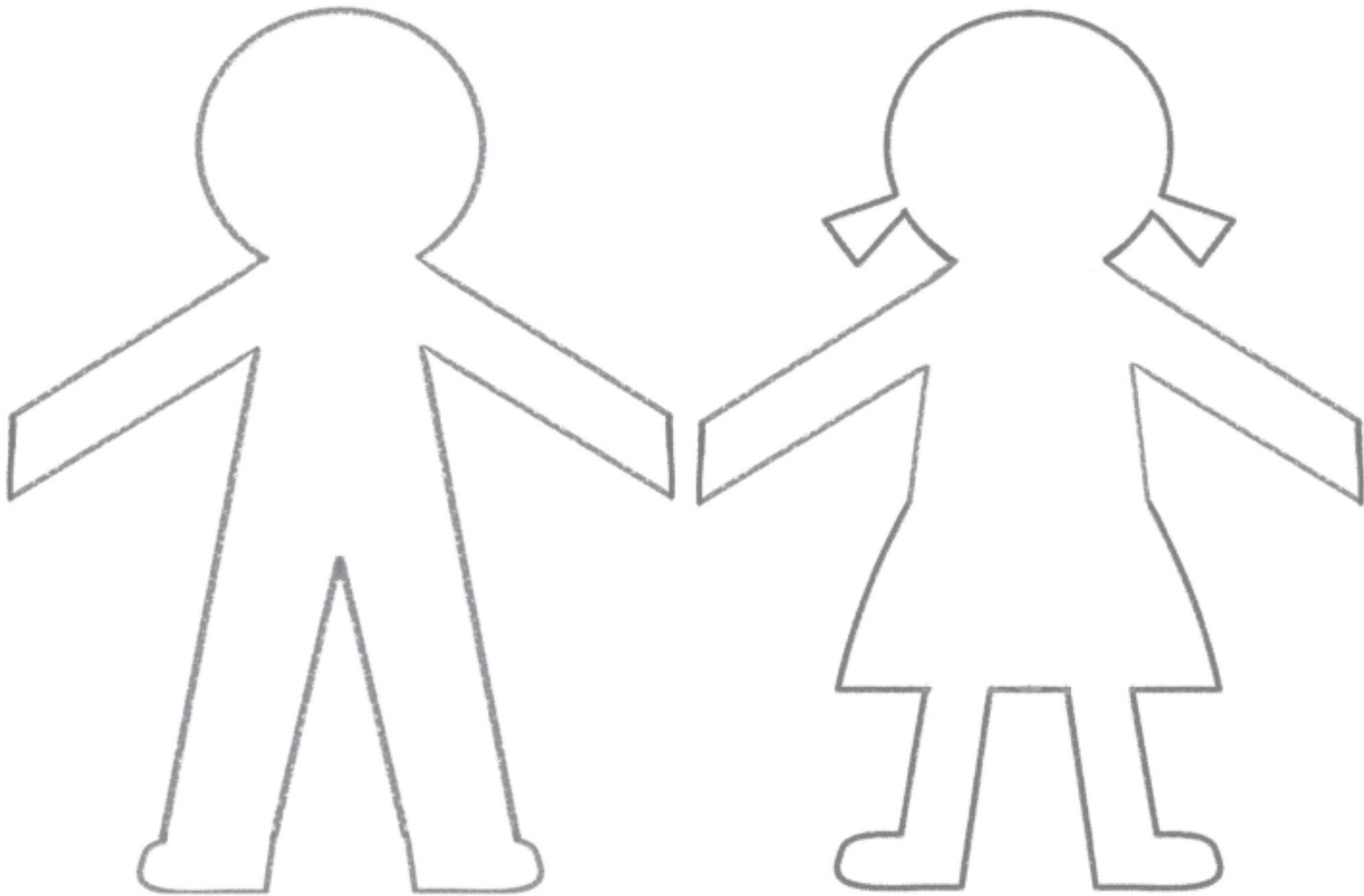
# MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER CHAIN OF DOLLS

You need:

- Paper doll template (see next page)
- Sheets of construction paper (12" x 18") in any color you'd like
- Scissors
- Anything you love to draw with: crayons, pens, pencils, chalk, paint
- Fun things to add details: scraps of patterned paper, old magazines, fabric, envelopes, stamps
- Glue
- Tape

1. Fold one sheet of paper in half lengthwise and cut along the fold. You'll have two strips of paper measuring 6" x 18".
2. Fold one strip of paper in half. Then fold each layer in half again like an accordion.
3. Tear out the doll template page from the back of the book. Cut around the doll shapes.
4. Place a doll template on your folded paper and trace around it on the top layer. Make sure the arms extend past the folds.
5. Use scissors to snip around the template, cutting through all the layers. Make sure you don't cut across the arms so the dolls are holding hands when you unfold the chain.
6. Unfold and let your dolls dance. Now doodle on each doll however you'd like! You can make each doll different, or the same.





**Please Note:** This template from *Emily's Idea* has been modified in size for this story time kit. When you print it, you'll need to adjust your settings so that it prints at 60%.  
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