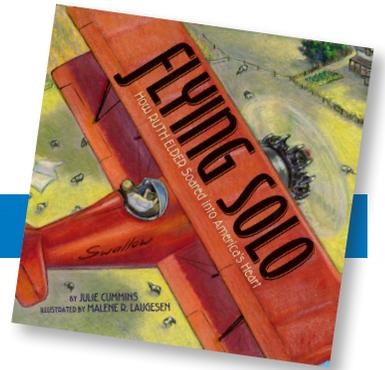


# Flying Solo

## HOW RUTH ELDER SOARED INTO AMERICA'S HEART

### A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS



**Themes:** Aviation, Famous Women, Perseverance

**Book Brief:** This book tells the story of Ruth Elder, one of the first pilots to try to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Even though Ruth's plane landed in the ocean before

making it to Europe, her popularity soared.

**Author:** Julie Cummins

**Illustrator:** Malene R. Laugesen



### TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask children what it means to fly solo. How is the plane on the front cover different from the planes they see today? Explain that this story is about Ruth Elder, who was among one of the first women to fly an airplane.

### RELATED ACTIVITIES

#### AIRPLANE ASSEMBLY (AGES 5-9)

Ingredients: celery, cream cheese, grapes, graham crackers, toothpicks

Give each child a 4" celery stick. Fill celery with cream cheese. Push toothpick crosswise through the celery at one end. Attach a grape to each side of toothpick for the airplane wheels. For wings, place one graham cracker section (small rectangle) on celery stick. Your airplane is ready for take-off!

#### PARACHUTE PLAY (AGES 7-12)

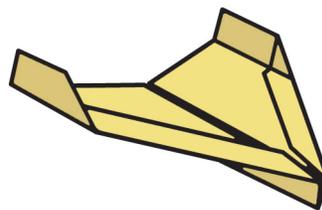
Materials: plastic bags, string, scissors, small action figures

Would you fly in a plane like Ruth's *American Girl* without a parachute? No way! Make a mini-version of a parachute and see how helpful one might have been. Cut a large square from the plastic bag. Trim edges to make an octagon shape. Cut a small hole

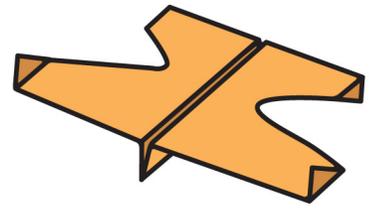
near the edge of each side. Attach string of equal length to each of the holes. Tie the pieces of string to an action figure. From a chair or a high spot, drop your parachute. How well did it work?

#### POWDER PUFF DERBY (AGES 9-12)

Have children create their own paper airplanes for a powder puff derby! Let them have a flight contest to see whose airplane travels the farthest. Need airplane ideas? Log on to [www.funpaperairplanes.com](http://www.funpaperairplanes.com) for 5 free designs.



Condor



Dragonfly

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT WOMEN AVIATORS

*Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*, Pam Muñoz Ryan (1999)  
*Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*, Louise Borden (2004)  
*Nobody Owns the Sky*, Reeve Lindbergh (1998)



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★macy's  
©2013 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is  
Fundamental