“Give your students flight”

by M.C. Baker
grades KG-4
time frame: Two 40 minutes

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Upcycling is the thing to do these days. There are so many ways to use something you have and repurpose it into something completely new and different. This project will take your old books and repurpose them by using your student’s creativity and giving them wings (or at least feathers!).

After The Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)
Author / Illustrator: Dan Santat

Everyone knows that when Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened after?

Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat’s poignant tale follows Humpty Dumpty, an avid bird watcher whose favorite place to be is high up on the city wall—that is, until after his famous fall. Now terrified of heights, Humpty can longer do many of the things he loves most.

Will he summon the courage to face his fear?

After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again) is a masterful picture book that will remind readers of all ages that Life begins when you get back up. (Amazon)
ART ACTIVITIES / PROJECTS
Make an upcycled Feather out of a discarded book!
First, find an old book. It can be in color or not. It can be large or small. Paint the papers with paint (Because of the intense colors, I like to use watered down acrylic paint but anything will work). I tell students to randomly paint patterns or texture. Some students liked to use foam rollers with the texture built in. After the paint completely dries, trace the shape of a feather and cut it out. The next step can be baffling, but will make sense once you try it. Mark the centerline of the feather with a ballpoint pen or pencil. Then use that line to help make the “valley fold” on the paper feather. Flip the paper feather over and draw another line on either side of the crease. You will make a “mountain fold” on the last 2 drawn lines. This will give you the illusion of the shape of the feather. The last step will be to cut parallel lines into the paper.
In one project, I made the paper feathers as part of dream catchers. Another time, I created a mural with them. This would be a great project to do with the entire school and create wings on a bulletin board. You could take pictures of the students with these large “wings” and discuss or write about their hopes and dreams.