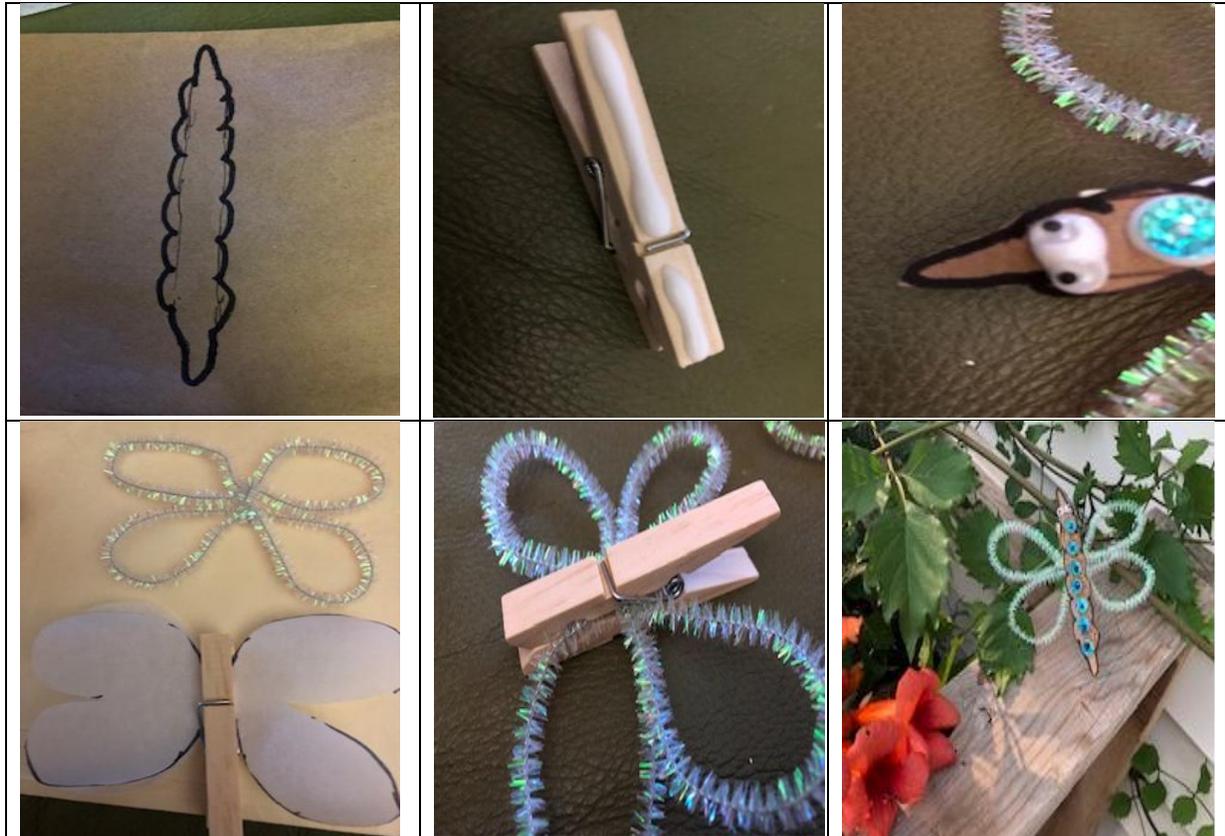


This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. As the summer heats up, you may see a unique and beautiful insect flying around that has translucent wings and very large eyes. The tale of the dragonfly is an interesting and ancient. It is often found near sources of water, spending the majority of their life underwater or close to the surface. Dragonflies are expert flyers and hunters, and their habits and lives are a fascinating look into nature. They breathe through holes in their abdomens and drink by thrusting their bodies down onto the surface of the water. In a type of suspended animation, the dragonfly can live in a larva stage under the ice during winter months. In many cultures, the dragonfly symbol represents change, transformation, and adaptability. Let's get going and transform simple materials into a beautiful work of art to hang in the house or garden.



1-Draw a long dragonfly body on brown or white paper. The dragonfly has many body segments. Cut the body out and glue to a clothes pin, stick, or cardboard. Add large eyes on the head. Remember, the dragonfly has eyes that are very large and cover most of the head.

2-Fold a pipe cleaner in half, bring both ends into the middle and fold the ends over with a twist. You will need two sets of wings for the dragonfly. If you do not have pipe cleaners, draw the wings on white paper, thin wax paper, or parchment paper. Attach both sets of the wings, to the middle of the clothes pin or stick. Decorate the body with colorful sequins, gems, beads, dots with markers, or any other bright materials. Hang the dragonfly in the house or outside, on a tree or plant to symbolize adapting to the warm weather, transforming a plain environment and seeing beauty all-around. Make a few dragonflies to share with family, friends, or neighbors.

Open your eyes to possibility!

Ms. Susan