



## Paper Airplane Challenge

*by Susan Andrews*

I thrust my airplane upward.  
It nose-dived to the ground.  
This was my eighteenth effort.  
I got the plane and frowned.

I bent the wingtips under  
and flew the plane once more.  
It went a little farther,  
then landed on the floor.

Encouraged by this progress,  
I tried out different things –  
I made a few quite pointed  
and gave some folded wings.

The pointed planes flew farther.  
They also travelled straight.  
The others looped and wobbled.  
Their progress wasn't great.

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I'll need more time and effort  
to make my dream come true,  
to beat the current record  
for how long a plane flew.

I know air is important.  
It pushes the plane high.  
It also pulls against it,  
to drop it from the sky.

And how I shape the airplane –  
the body and the wings –  
so air will move it forward  
is the important thing.

I'm going to continue.  
I've only just begun.  
This airplane problem-solving  
is challenging and fun!

*Note: The current Guinness paper airplane  
record for duration of flight is 29.2 seconds.*

