What you need:
1. A pencil that you will turn into a dragonfly pencil
2. Clear packing tape
3. Two heavy cups or coffee mugs from the kitchen
4. Sharpies – they come in lots of metallic shiny colors. I used silver, gold and black. Highlighters and felt tip pens will not work.
5. Scissors
6. Tinfoil
7. Tacky glue

1. Measure the pencil up against the packing tape. Stick the eraser or non-point end out half an inch beyond the edge of the tape. Put a mark a half inch beyond the tape in the direction towards the point. This will be the length of your dragonfly body.

2. Using the black sharpie, color in the body of the dragonfly on all sides of the pencil.
3. Tear a six inch piece of tape off the packing tape roll. Hold it with two hands, one on each end, pulling the ends gently away from each other. This keeps the tape from sticking together! Place the tape, sticky side up, on your work surface.

4. Hold the dragonfly pencil over the tape, perpendicular to the tape and in the middle of the tape length. Set it down onto the tape with a half inch sticking beyond the tape.

5. Cut a piece of tape about 10 inches. Hold it carefully on both ends, sticky side down. Line up the tape you are holding above the tape on the table. Put the middle of the tape down on the pencil. This part is tricky. Use your cups or a helper to hold ends of tape up while you rub the tape down around the pencil.

6. Rub from the pencil to the end of the tape, sticking the two pieces of tape together. Carefully repeat on the other side. Because it is so sticky, tape can be really tricky! Use glasses or mugs from the kitchen to help hold the tape ends.

7. Cut off the sticky tape ends where the tape is only one layer.

8. Draw the dragonfly wings onto the tape with your sharpie. If you want you can draw them on a piece of paper first and put the paper underneath to trace like in this picture. Make sure you draw them so they fit onto the tape.
9. Cut out the wings carefully. It’s hard to turn your scissors all the way around in the middle of cutting. These directions will help you cut the wings out easily by making small cuts that meet each other. For the first cut, cut as if you are cutting on the dotted lines in the picture above. Cut close to the pencil and parallel to the pencil from the edge of tape to the side of the wing.

10. Cut from the end of each wing until you reach the first cut to cut away the tape that is not the wing. You have to cut with the very tip of your scissors as you cut close to the pencil.

11. For the cut between the two wings, cut around the curve of the wing to the point where the two wings meet and stop. Cut from the other direction until the second cut meets the first.

12. For the eyes, use two small pieces of tinfoil. about 2” x 3”. Roll and crinkle them up into two similar-sized eyes. Mine are ¼ inch wide by ½ inch long. Hold one in your fingers and tap the bottom on the table to make it flat. Repeat with the other piece of tinfoil.

13. Dragonflies come in all colors and look like miniature jeweled dragons with wings. Draw dots or other designs on the wings with the colored sharpies. Use only sharpies! Highlighter or other markers stay wet on the surface of the tape for days. If the wings curl, let them dry, turn them over and draw on the other side.

14. Put a glob of tacky glue on the flat side of the eye and stick it to the pencil on one side of the head. Do the same with the other eye.

15. Use your Dragonfly Pencil for writing, as a shadow puppet and as a toy!