

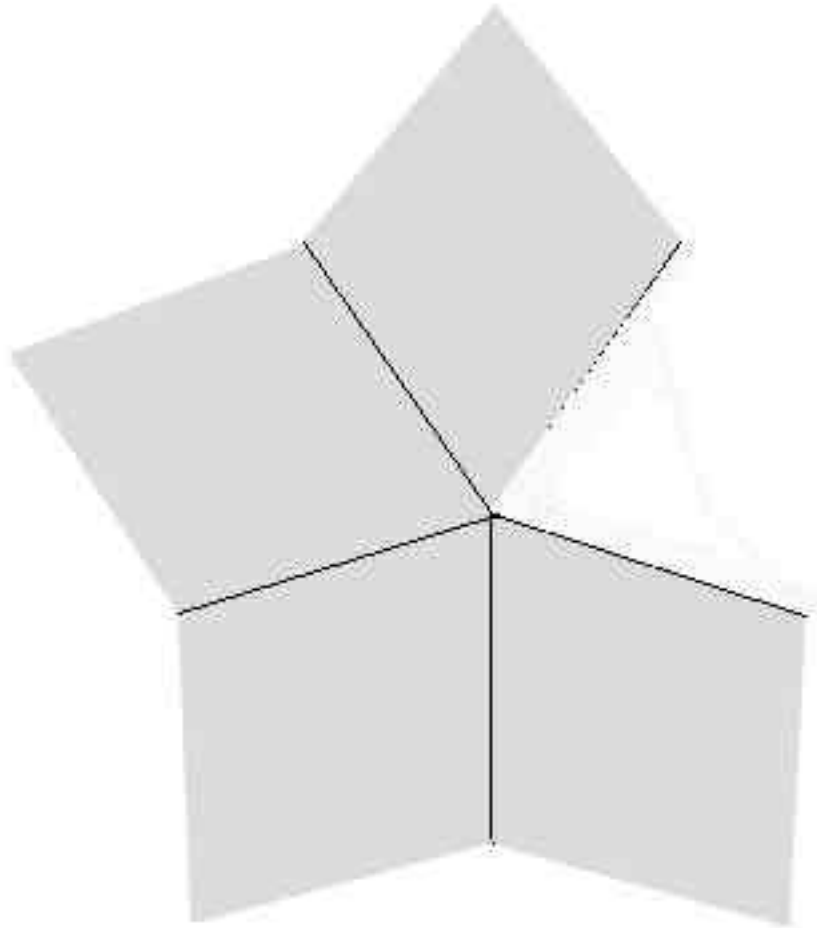
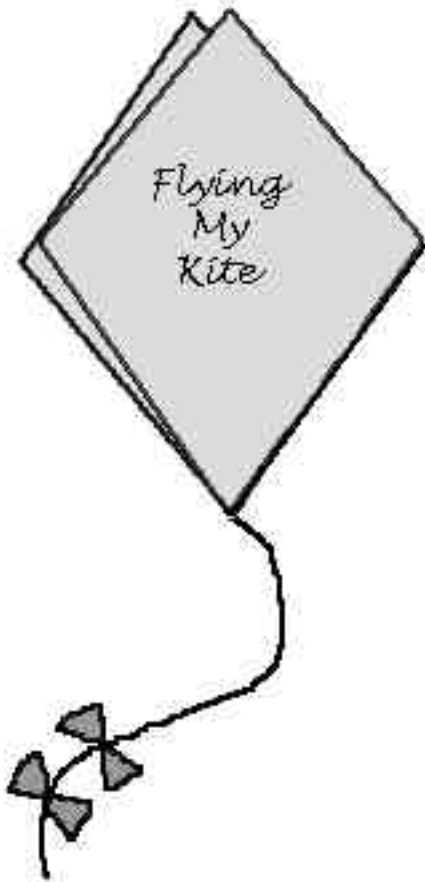
Easy Books

Objectives: Students will demonstrate their ability to follow directions, cut, and fold, as they make simple folded books. Students will use descriptive language to write a short story or poem that relates to the shape of the book.

Kite Book

Materials:

8-1/2 x 11" sheets of construction paper, small pieces of yarn, glue, pens or pencils



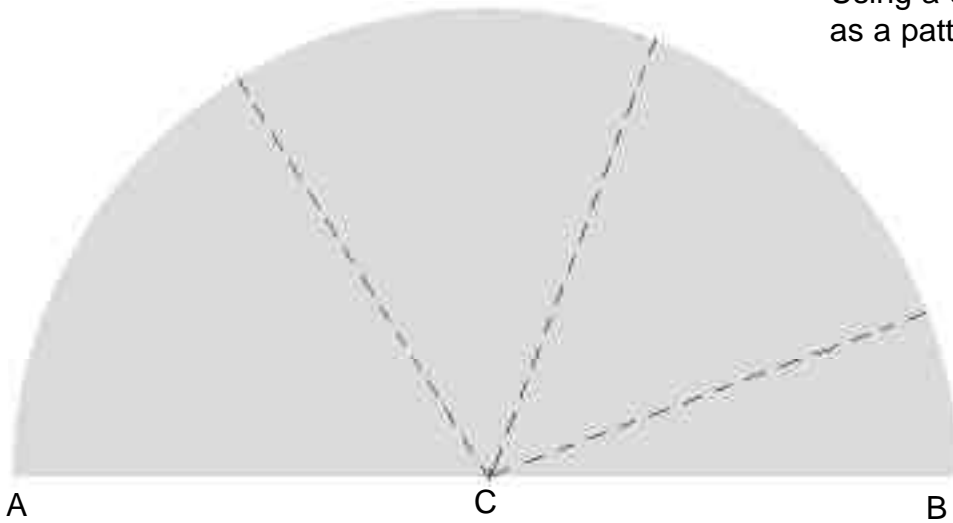
Directions:

Teacher—enlarge the pattern to 8" across. Students will cut out the pattern and trace it onto their construction paper. After the star shape is cut out, students will fold, as indicated by the black lines.

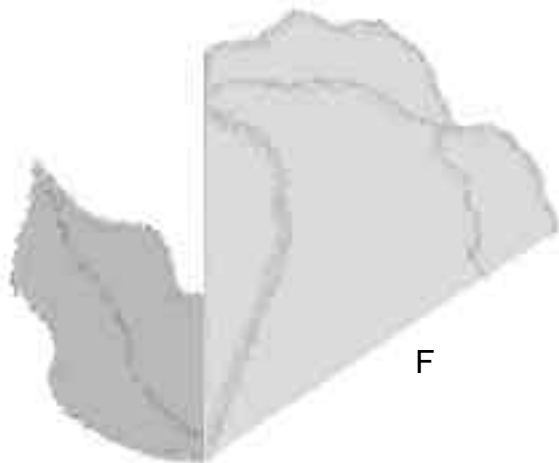
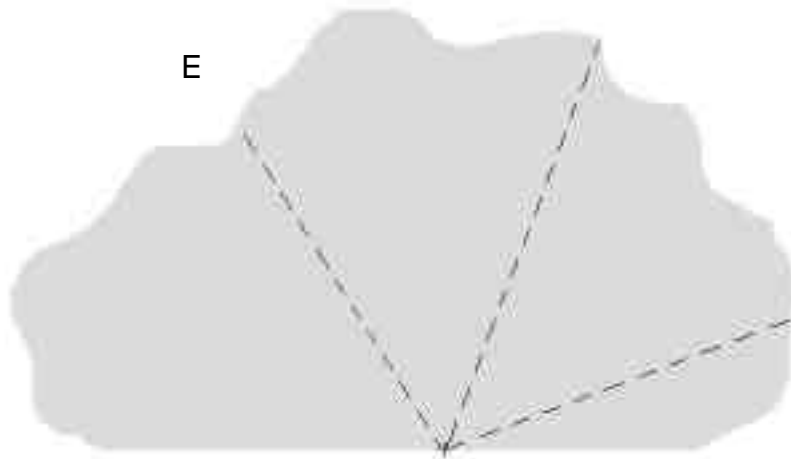
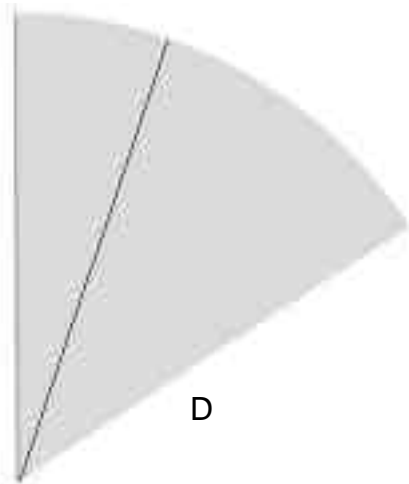
Students should write their poem and plan how it will fit on the pages of the book. Students will then write in their books. When the students are finished writing, they can glue a tail made of yarn to the point of the book. Tie small knots of yarn near the end of the tail.

A Simple Flower Book

Start with a half sheet of paper. Using a compass or a round object as a pattern, cut out a half circle.



Mark the center of the half circle at C by folding A to B and creasing lightly just at C. Make a fold in the half circle and then fold the paper again and again. You should end up with a shape like D.



Unfold the paper and draw a wavy line around the outer edge of the half circle. Cut along the line so your paper looks like E. Then fold the paper back up, and make any adjustments you want to the shape. Cut out a leaf shape and glue to the back of the folded flower, like F. Write a description of how a flower looks, how it smells, or how you feel about flowers on the inside, so a reader opens the flower to find the message. (You can, of course, make the outer edge of the flower pointed instead of curved.)

Bookmaking Lesson

Objective: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the idea of “BOOK” by making and binding a simple book of their own art work.

Materials:

- paper (could be your own handmade paper)
- needle and thread
- glue
- cutting tools
- a small drill or awl
- rulers, straight edge,
- ribbon
- original artwork



Process: The idea of books is ancient and honorable. Books were the first mechanical computers. Information was stored in them.

The information was in code. The code is what we call literacy today. There was usually a main menu, the Table of Contents. Files organized by number (page numbers).

community.tempe.gov/studioartists/gallery/carol-sulina-10.jpg

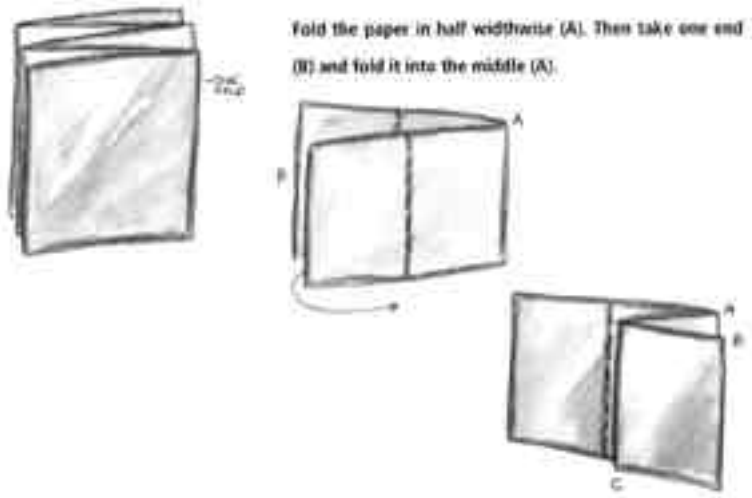
If you knew the code and understood the technology you could find out amazing things that your own daily life would never allow you to experience. Books could even have pictures of other times and places and realities that exist only in someone's imagination. What a world we live in! There was a time when literacy and book reading were considerably more complex, evasive and unattainable than the computer literacy that so many complain of today.

As in all art projects, the first step in book making is to imagine the book, what it looks like, what it is used for, and what the author wants to put in it. This project can be applied to an unlimited number of ideas and subjects.

We are going to look at two generic differences in book making. One has a Western cultural wellspring while the other has its antecedents in Eastern cultures. They are called the “Codex” and the “Accordion” fold. The accordion fold is simple and an extensive form that is incredibly versatile. The codex is a more complex idea in terms of organization and binding but is equally fun to experiment with.

Let us start with the simpler form, the accordion book. This book can be made with your own handmade paper as discussed in a previous lesson or it can be made with regular commercial paper. The first step is to choose the paper for the body of the book. Then the size of each page and number of pages must be decided upon. Now it is time to fold the accordion. The easiest way to fold the perfect zigzag is always to begin folding into the center, not from one end which may seem more obvious. First, decide how wide you want each fold to be and multiply this measurement by how many folds you want. Sticking to an even number of

folds makes it easier to measure. A fold is a division of a length of paper with a crease down the center. For example, if each fold is 4 inches wide and you want four folds, then the total length of your paper should be 16 inches.

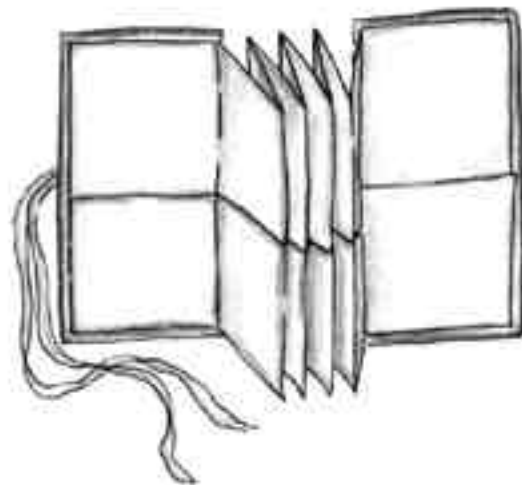


After you have mastered the accordion fold it is time to turn it into a booklet. First we need to make the cover. This is done by cutting a piece of cardboard (matt board, paste board, oak tag or even corrugated card board). It should be 1/8 inch larger than the accordion fold on all four sides. Cut one for the cover and one for the back.

Now cut two pieces of cover paper approximately 3/4 of a inch larger than the cover boards. The cover paper can be from any source like wall paper, scrapbook paper, contact paper, hand printed paper or hand made paper. Put the cover paper on the table face down and place the board on top centering it with equal extra paper on all edges. Glue the board to the cover paper. Be sure to keep the glue even or it will create a texture on the cover. Now fold the cover paper over the edge of the board evenly and secure with glue. The front cover and the back cover should now look like upholstered card board. In fact, you can pad the cover with tissue paper for a more upholstery look.

This style of accordion book will use ties to clasp it closed. To attach the ties you will need to make a slot in the front board using a hammer and a chisel or a strong knife. To do this, you first have to find the halfway point of the board height and mark this point 1 inch in from the board edge. Measure the width of your ribbon and transfer this measurement to the board.

Cut or chisel through the cover board. Cut two lengths of ribbon, one four times the width and one twice the width of the board. Stuff the ends of the ribbon into the slot and glue. Now it is time to glue the accordion folds in between the front and back cover. Protect the rest of the folded paper while applying glue to the outside front of the folded paper. Carefully apply it to the inside of the cover board making sure that you cover the edges of the cover paper which you have folded onto the back side of the front cover. Repeat this process on the back cover. When the project is finished it should look something like this with the ribbons in place to tie it closed.



Accordion folded booklet.

The second kind of book we are going to make is a codex. That means a book with turnable pages. There are a variety of codex constructions available. Wrap around books, pamphlet style, fold with ties, five--seven--and nine hole sewing and multi sectional sewing. We will do the simple sewing techniques here.

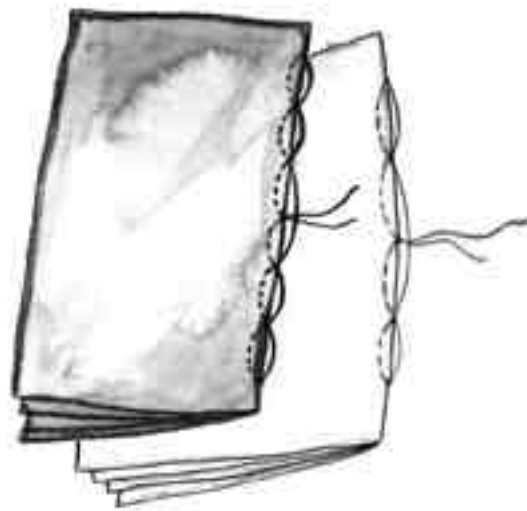
Determine the kind and size of paper for the book. Remember we are going to glue on our prints of winter sports. Determine the number of pages. In this instance it will need to be an even number. If you use too many pages the thickness will distort the edges and they will have to be trimmed to be even. The first one to try is going to be the two hole. This is simply done by punching two symmetrical holes in the fold of the pages with an awl. A heavy needle or even a nail can be used to punch the holes. Using an appropriate string or thread (color, texture, and thickness you desire) or raffia and thread it through the holes with a needle and tie it off.

2 hole sewing.



Other styles of sewing use more holes to make it sturdier and segmented books are only bound together groups of these small sewing projects.

5 and 9 hole stitching.

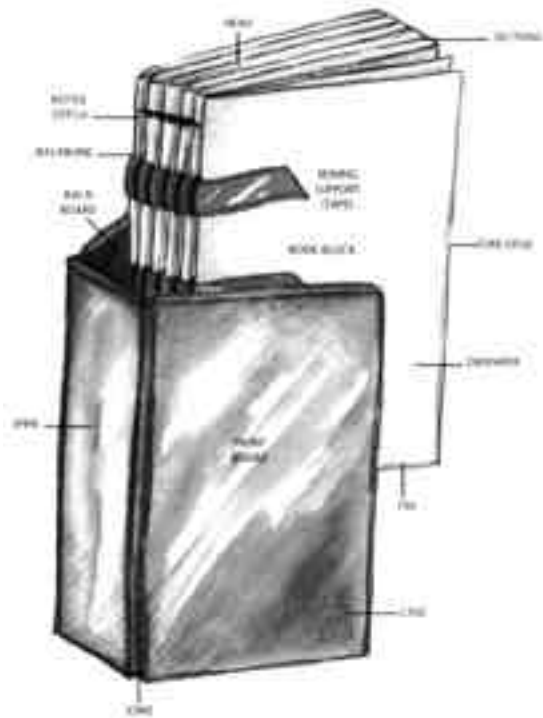


Bookmaking is obviously a very large idea. There are many ways to get the cover attached to the pages but the simplest is to cut a piece of oak tag or matt board or whatever you want to make it form and then cover it in the same manner as the cover to the accordion booklet and simply glue it

onto the top of the front page and the back of the last page.

For small books, the gap on the spine is not a functional problem. If aesthetically you desire to close the gap on the back of the book, bookbinding tape is a clean, colorful and functional option. Bookbinding tape can be ordered from most School District supply warehouses or from most craft stores.

One last thing should be mentioned about mounting the prints or whatever you want in the book. If you print on the hand made paper, then each print can be trimmed and glued onto the page of the booklet. Each student should decide if they want one picture to a page or if they want prints facing each other. Another solution to this is to have each print accompanied by some writing--a poem or a description or even a title and artist card--which can be glued into the booklet on the facing side of the page.



Don't forget to design and create an interesting cover print or something that will function as a good cover--glued to the cover-- with title of the book and authors name.

Evaluation and Exhibition: Since most of the projects described in this lesson are similar, evaluation should be based on a students ability to make choices in narrow venacular. There will be similar relief prints of winter sports and similar construction in the bookmaking process so let us focus on exhibition. These little booklet should be exhibited under glass if possible. Some of the books can be opened to show the prints inside and some show the cover and some show the stitching. Some kind of didactic (written explanation) should accompany the exhibit along with personal name and title tags.

Related Projects: These books can be made to house most any kind of art project. A real winner for Elementary students are books of computer graphics which they trade like trading cards until they get the illustrations they want and they mount them and bind them in book form. Books that have a story on one page and an illustration on the facing page are also popular.

Vocabulary: accordion, codex, book, awl, binding, spine.

Bibliography: Japanese Bookbinding by Kojiro Ikagami. Cover to Cover by Shereen La Plantz. Introducing Bookbinding by Ivor Robinson. The Book: Art and Object by Philip Smith.

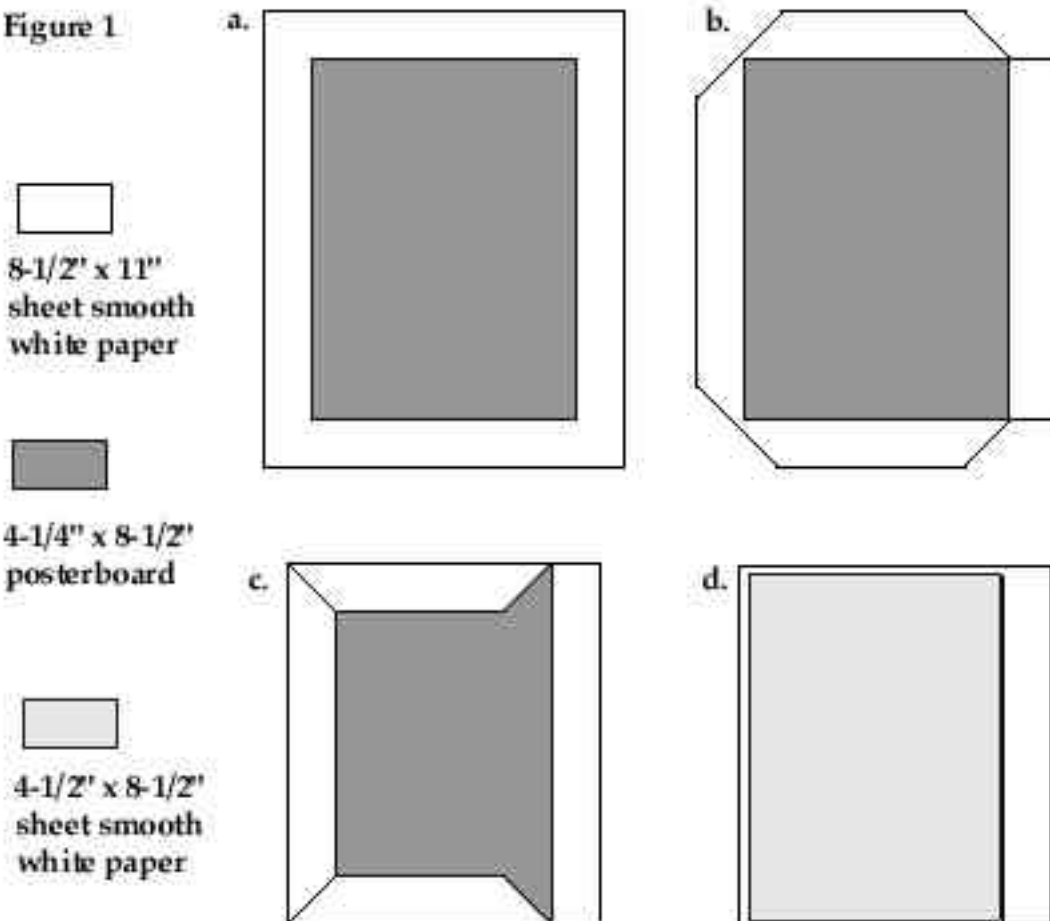
Making a Sketchbook

Materials:

- Posterboard, one 8-1/2" x 11" sheet per student, cut in half (5-1/2" x 8-1/2")
- Medium weight, smooth paper, three 8-1/2" x 11" sheets per student, one cut in half (butcher paper works as does bond copy paper. Must fold without cracking)
- Good quality drawing paper, nine 8/12" x 11" sheets per student
- Big sewing needles
- Crochet cotton, two 1-yard pieces and one 15" piece per student
- Beads or small charms, 3-8 per student (optional)

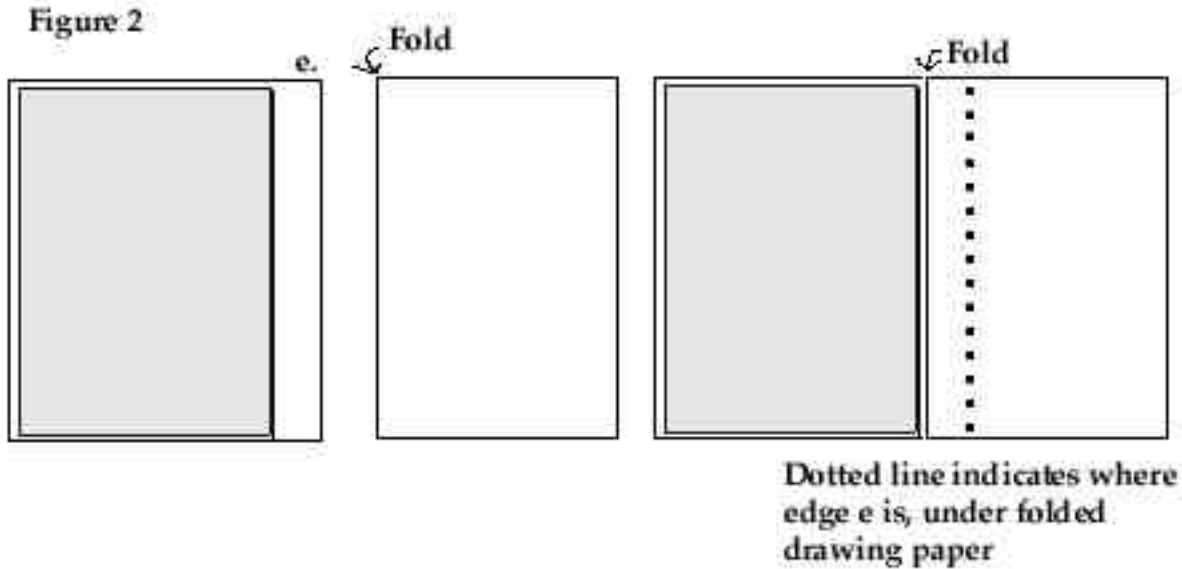
Make the front and back covers by laying one piece of posterboard on a piece of the smooth paper, as shown in figure 1. Glue the posterboard to the paper, a. Then cut the corners of the paper, b. Make sure you leave a small space between the corner of the posterboard and the cut so the paper will cover the edge of the posterboard.

Figure 1



Fold the three angled sides of the paper up over the cardboard, and glue, c. Trim one small piece of smooth paper so it is just smaller than the cardboard, and glue down, d. Make the back cover the same way.

Fold all the drawing paper in half, width wise. Take one folded sheet and glue over the free edge of the cover paper, e. See figure 2, below. Do the same with the back cover and one folded sheet of drawing paper.



Place two sheets of folded paper inside each other and place in the center of the folded sheet that is glued to the cover. Do the same with two sheets for the back cover. Place the last three sheets of folded drawing paper together, inside each other. You should have three groups of three sheets: one attached to the front cover, one attached to the back cover, and one separate. These groups of paper are called signatures. Using a straight edge, mark the center fold of each signature about 1" down from the top, 1" up from the bottom, and at two points equidistant between the two marks. Use the needle to make holes where the marks are, going through all three sheets of paper, figure 3.

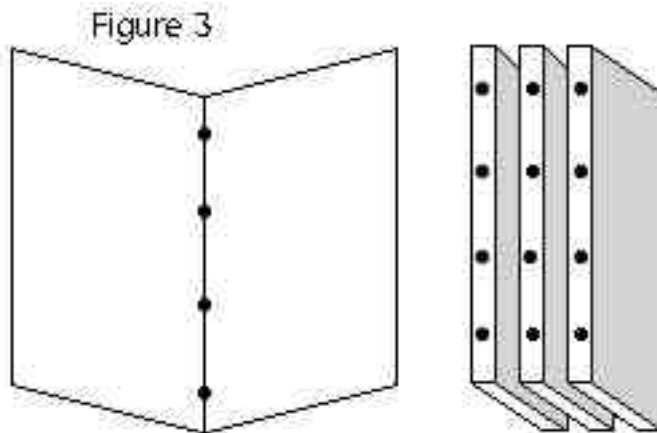
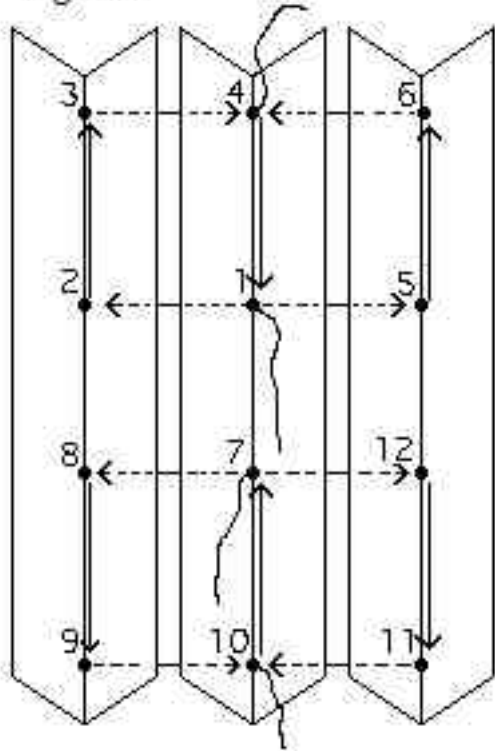


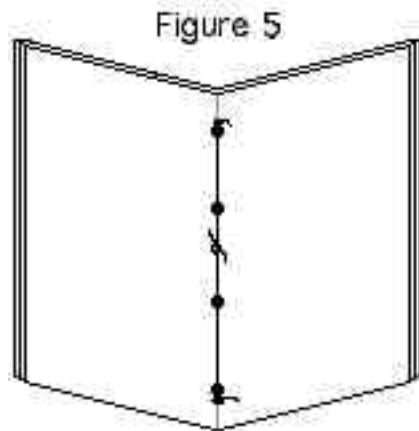
Figure 4



Then arrange all three signatures so the holes are aligned and the front cover is facing out on one side and the back cover on the opposite side.

Thread a needle with one of the 36" pieces of crochet cotton. For purposes of showing the steps in sewing the book together, the inside folds of the signatures are shown with the page width reduced in size, the insides of the signatures facing up. Solid lines show where the thread shows inside the signatures and the dotted lines where the thread goes on the outside.

Start sewing at 1. From inside the middle signature, push the needle through the hole to the outside, leaving a 4" tail of thread. Bring the needle through the hole at 2, going from outside to the inside of the front signature. Next, push the needle in at 3, going from inside the first signature to the outside. Come up at 4 to the inside and then back down and outside at 1. Come up at 5, go down at 6, and come up again at 4. Leave a tail at 4.



Do the same process for the bottom half of the book. Start by going down at 7, leaving a 4" tail. Come up through at 8 and then down at 9. Come up through to the inside at 10, and then down at 7. Bring the thread up through at 12, down at 11, and up through at 10.

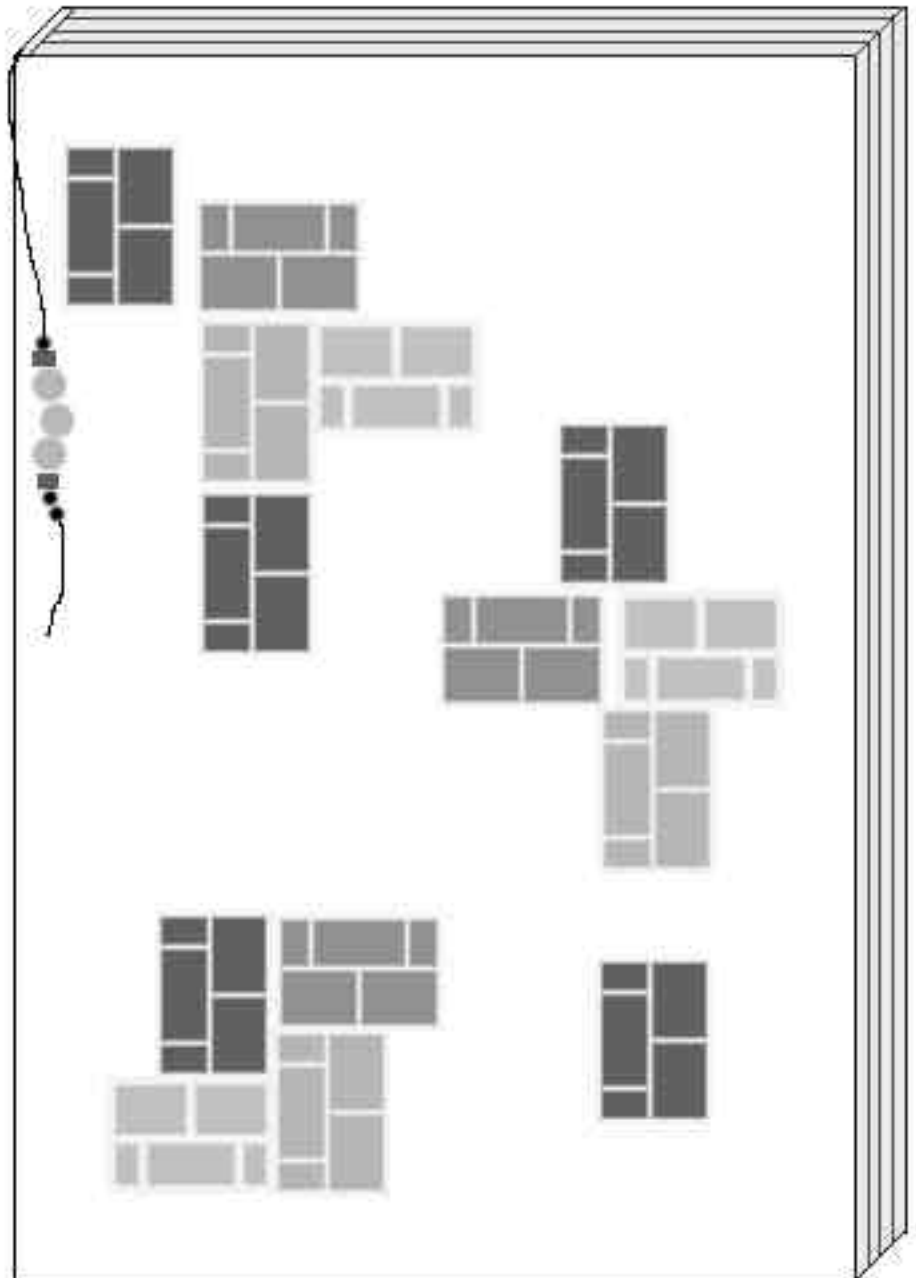
Tighten the threads and tie the tails at 4 and 10 in double half hitches. Retighten if necessary, and tie the tails at 1 and 7 together. Cut ends short, figure 5.

Using the short piece of crochet cotton, string several beads or charms together and tie off both ends, leaving the needle on one end. On the outside of the book, push the needle under one of the top threads, shorten as desired, and tie off.

Give students small pieces of blue styrofoam or of some soft printing medium like Safety Kut (you can find scraps of blue styrofoam insulation at building sites for free or you can buy a sheet of Safety Kut and cut it into small pieces). Using a pen or knife, have the students press a design into their piece of styrofoam.

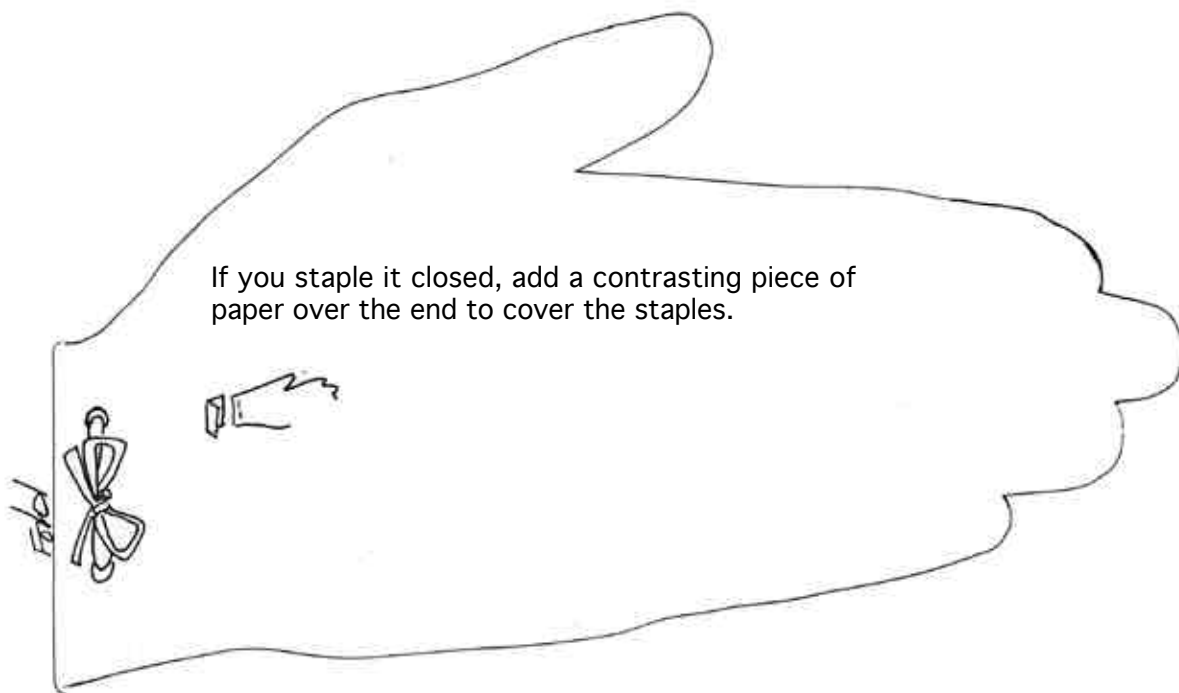
The students may choose to make a personal design, a design with a reference to a poem or an artwork or several students can make designs which they can use together to make a more complicated design. Even very simple designs can make an interesting pattern when the shape is turned and printed in slightly different colors of ink. See an example of a finished book, figure 6. Students may want to add their name to the front.

figure 6



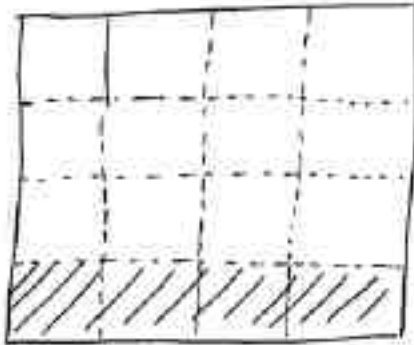
“Using Your Hand” Book

1. This book would be suitable for just about any story or poem, but it is particularly well-suited to something about the child, his life experiences, travels, etc.
2. On construction paper, trace the student’s hand with the fingers close together. You could do this with the fingers spread apart, but there would be more cutting involved and it could get a little tiresome. Fold the paper together (with the fold at the wrist) so that you have two equal sides-- now you can cut the front and back out at the same time.
3. Decide how many pages you’ll have in the book. Using your cover, trace around it onto the paper you’ll be using for the story. Remember when you cut the inside papers to cut them a little smaller than the covers so they’ll fit inside. Then just write away on the hand-shape pages, illustrating as you go.
4. Decorate the cover with a title and illustration, slip the pages inside, then either staple or sew them together. If you use staples, plan to cover them with a small piece contrasting paper. See the example below.



* A fun book with hand activities is Hands on, Thumbs up, by Camilla Gryski.

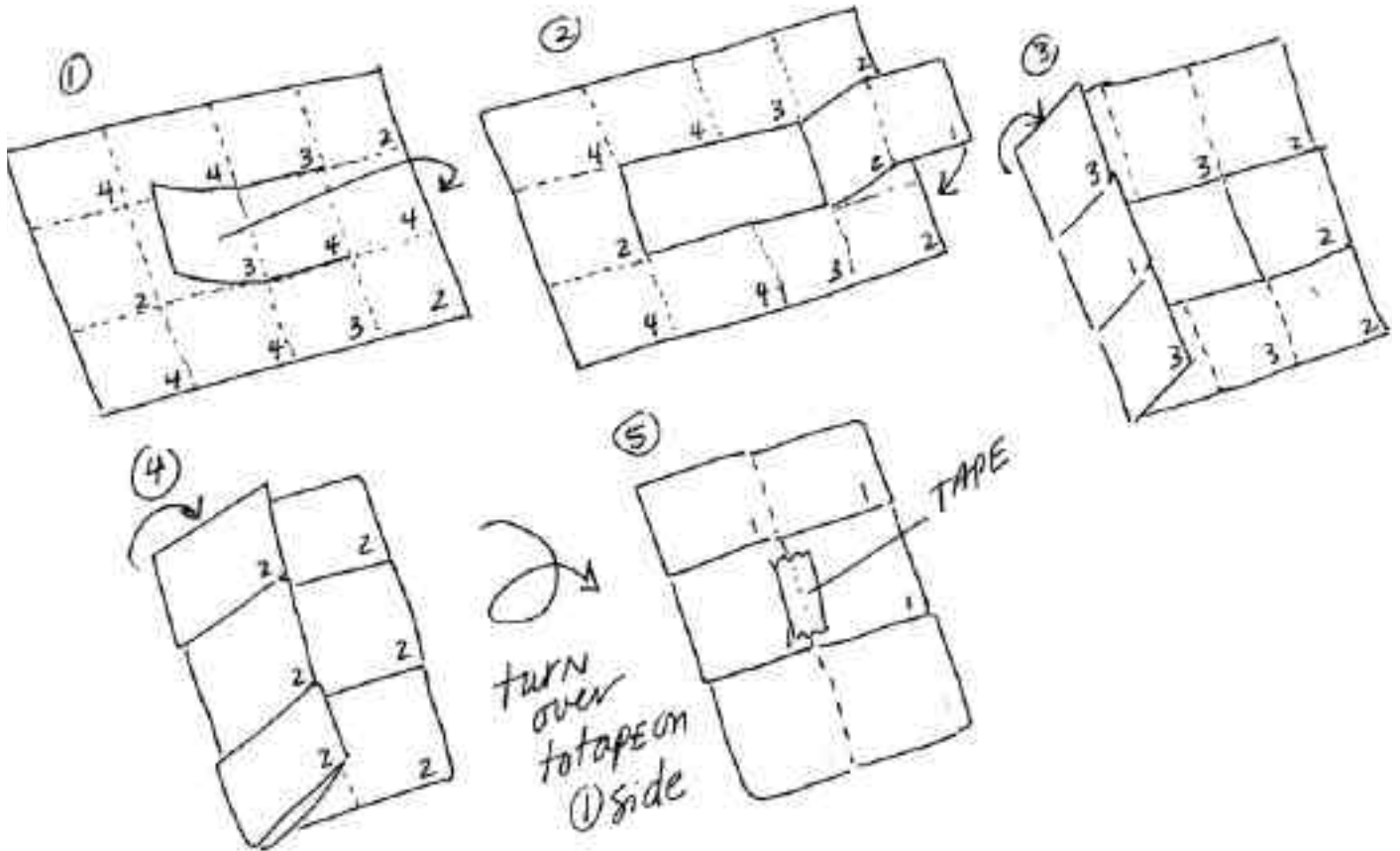
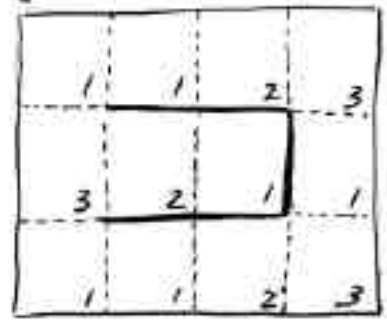
START



FRONT



BACK



(Adapted from *A Book of One's Own*, by Paul Johnson)

CD Book or Book in a CD Case

This is a fun book, but it takes a little work. I suggest it is a good project for older kids or in a classroom where you have a lot of Moms that like to help. I am doing a personal "All About Me" book with my 7th graders. We will design a front cover and a back cover, and then the kids will write one of the letters in their first or last name on consecutive pages. We'll have to double-up on long names. Then the students will draw and/or find pictures to illustrate things about them. We will add one of their personal poems (from their English classes) as a second fold-out at the bottom.

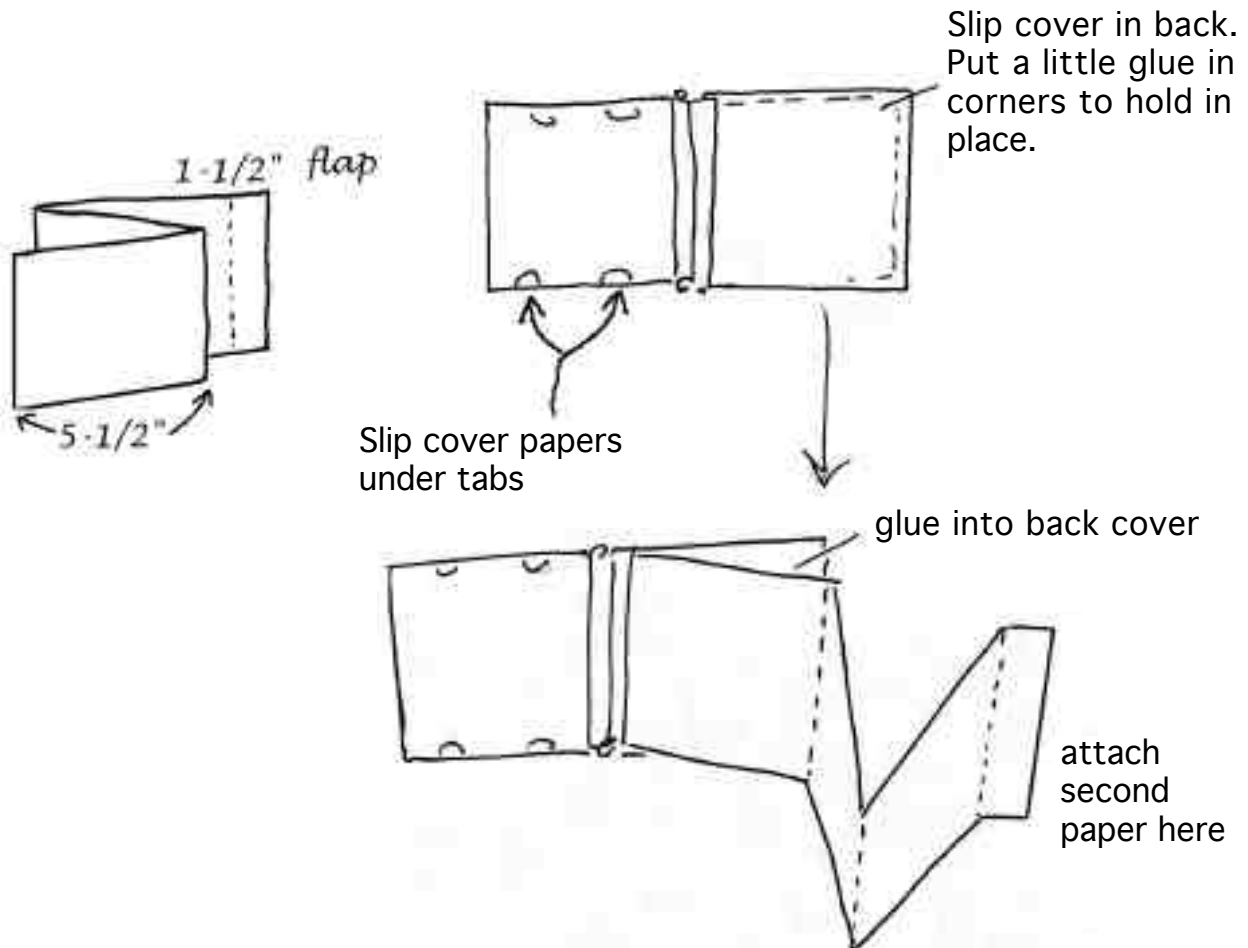
I used regular white drawing paper for the project. Two sheets of 12" x 18" paper for each student will do. We will make collages with their drawings and magazine pictures using glue sticks. Otherwise all we'll use will be pencils and colored pencils for color.

Try to cut paper as accurately as possible. I've made templates from oaktag cardstock so that there is a minimum of measuring for my students to do.

Inside cover: 4-5/8" tall by 9-5/8" wide. Fold this over so that you have a front cover and an inside cover. Don't just use a 4-5/8 square piece of paper, you need the thickness to hold it in the tabs.

Back cover: 4-5/8" tall by a scant 11". Fold this over.

For content pages, make 1 or 2 sheets 4-5/8" by 18". If you add a second sheet, it will add 6 pages. See visual below.



Concertina Book Ideas

In Paul Johnson's book, *Literacy Through the Book Arts*, chapters 4, 5, and 6 concentrate on the Concertina book form. It is very versatile! The book can be 4 pages or longer depending on how you fold it or add to it.

The following are just a few ideas:

1) Basic Fold

Fold paper in half (crease 'hamburger style'), then fold edges back (crease)



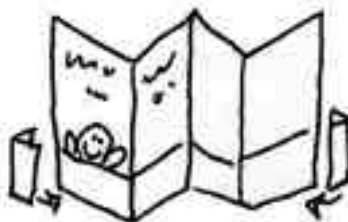
2) Basic Fold with Pockets

Same as Basic Fold, but first fold the bottom edge of the paper up about 2" for the pockets.

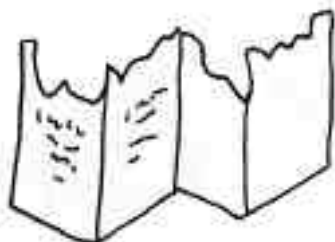
Cut two 1" x 2" pieces of paper to glue pockets in place. You can write the story on the upper part of each page, then put characters or add-ons in pockets.

3) Silhouette Variation

As in the Basic fold version, but now cut the top of the pages in shapes that match the story.



*Johnson's book has a wealth of fun variations of these plus ways to make windows and doors, etc.



Bookmaking for Secondary

In addition to making high-quality sewn books, secondary students can experiment with more complicated shapes such as tunnel books.

They can also try using or incorporating unusual materials in their books. I've included a few samples I found through the google image search.

