



Example for high school/junior high. "Anne Frank Book" open, left and closed, right. Mixed media collage on bristol board pages,



Book of Secrets

(art + literature)

Books have historically been used for purposes other than written communication. Sometimes books have been used as a hiding place — diaries and scrapbooks hold secrets and memories. Examples of books exist with secret compartments cut away for keeping money and other treasures stowed away from sight.

This book-making and collage project uses small matchboxes as drawers to tuck away secrets. Bristol board folds around and glues at the spine for a simple binding; construction card is used for a cover. The book can be used to support a variety of literary and historical studies, such as "The Hiding Place" (Anne Frank) or the Underground Railroad. Pages can be designed with paint, pencils, markers, collage...just about any media. Matchbox drawers may contain secret notes, trinkets, coins and other treasures.

Grade Levels 3-12

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.



Example of book construction without collage embellishment

Materials

Small matchboxes, need four per student

Strathmore® 300 Series Bristol Board, smooth surface, 20-sheet 9" x 12" pad (13307-1013), need one sheet per student

Elmer's® Glue-All 4-oz (23810-1004), need one bottle per student

Blick® 140-lb Cardstock, assorted colors (11408-1029), cut to 4" x 8" pieces for 12 per sheet, need one piece per student

Blick® Matte Acrylic, 8-oz White (00727-1025) or Black (00727-2025), share across classroom

Rectangular 6-Well Tray (03068-1006), share one between two students

Blick® Scholastic Golden Taklon, 1/4" Flat Wash (05859-4014), one per student

Tonic Studios® Plus Scissors (57079-1008), share one between two students

Optional Materials for Collage:

Photocopies, text, images

Graphix® Rub-Onz™ Transfer Paper (12535-1023)

Lightweight decorative paper, recommend:

- Thai Unryu (11234-1020), assorted colors
- Decorative Assortment (12440-1005)

Writing and drawing materials, recommend:

Faber-Castell® PITT® Pens, (20759-2021) assorted sizes, styles and colors
 Blick Studio Artists' Colored Pencils set of 24 (22063-0249) or assorted colors

Book-making materials, recommend:

Lineco® Bone Paper Folder, small (12964-0001)

3M® Scotch® Reclosable Fasteners, 7/8" x 7/8" (57316-2057), 12 sets

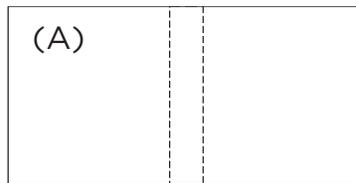
Preparation

1. Cut bristol board into three equal 4" x 8" pieces for pages. Each book will need three for pages. Cut cardstock to the same size for cover; need one per book.
2. With sandpaper, lightly remove "strike" area on the side of each matchbox. Paint the outside edges of the boxes with opaque Blick Matte Acrylic. Paint the front edge and inside of the matchbox drawers.

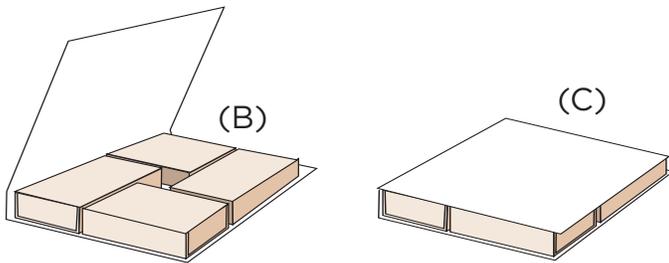
NOTE: Do not paint the sides or the bottom of the matchbox drawers. The paint will cause the drawers to stick, instead of sliding open and shut.

Process

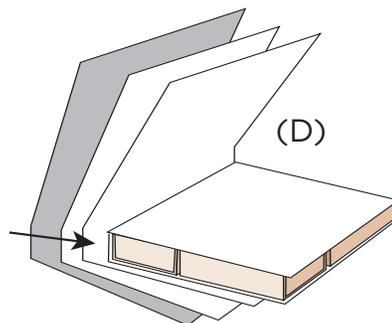
1. Measure to the center of a piece of the bristol board and make a line 1/4" from the center on either side, see (A). Fold along each line, using the ruler to keep it straight. Burnish with a bone folder. This will create a 1/2" spine. Repeat with the other two bristol pieces and the cardstock cover.



NOTE: To compensate for the thickness of the board, make the spine a little wider on each piece. The cardstock cover will need a 5/8" spine.



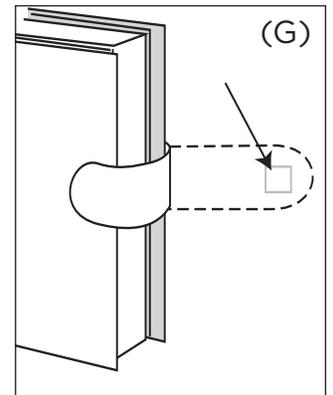
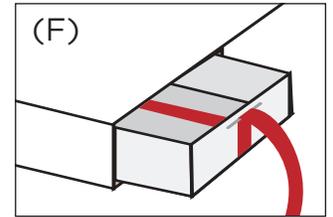
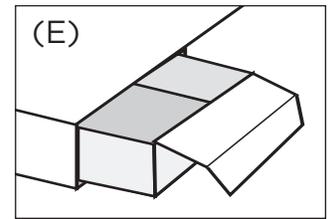
2. Place the matchboxes on one flap of a piece of bristol at 90° angles, see (B). Align against the spine, (there will be excess board on the edges, which can be trimmed away later). Glue the boxes down, then glue the spine. Fold other bristol flap over and glue it to the top of the matchboxes, see (C). Allow glue to dry, then trim away excess from edges with a sharp pair of scissors or a craft knife.
3. Glue the cover to the outside piece, see (D). Glue the cover on. Secure with rubber bands until completely dry.



4. Fill book pages with text and images to accompany a theme. The weight of the board will accept all drawing media, collage, image transfer and light paint applications (do not saturate). Design the cover to match the theme.

Options

- To make drawers easier to pull out, glue or staple a flap, tab or ribbon on the inside of the drawer. Older grade levels may be challenged to design a flap with scrap cardstock that tucks in beneath the drawer to keep it hidden, see (E). Younger ages may simply glue or staple a ribbon inside the drawer and tuck it between the pages when not in use, see (F).
- To make an easy tab closure for the book, cut a strip of cardstock approximately 1" x 4". Glue one end to the back of the book. Cut a piece of hook-and-loop tape (reclosable fasteners, also known as Velcro®) about 1/2" square. Peel hook side to expose adhesive and place it toward the front of the strip, see (G). Peel loop side and wrap the strip to the front of the book. Stick the adhesive in place and press down to secure.



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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

5-8 Students select media, techniques, and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

9-12 Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

K-4 Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning

5-8 Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks

9-12 Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

K-4 Students identify connections between the visual arts and other disciplines in the curriculum

5-8 Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts

9-12 Students compare characteristics of visual arts within a particular historical period or style with ideas, issues, or themes in the humanities or sciences