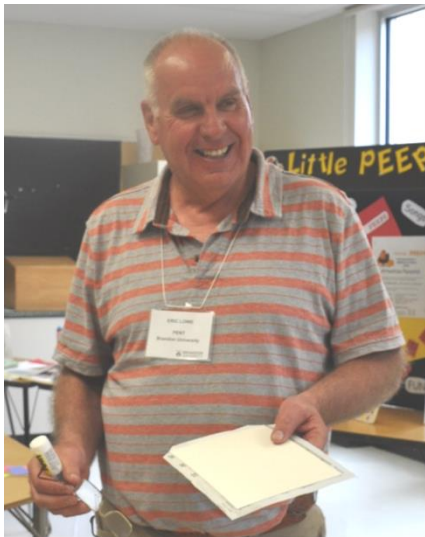


Hands-On Learning with Book-Art Projects

Eric Lowe



Classrooms have a diverse learning population; individual students have their own unique strengths and weaknesses. Some of these learners require hands-on activities, but these are being lessened due to technology whereby information is often gathered in a passive manner. Hands-on activities that engage the participant through a trial and error process, constantly making new decisions and seeing new possibilities, are disappearing. Educators can provide enriching learning opportunities that will integrate hands-on learning activities, individualizing a student's learning curriculum. During hands-on activities, individuals experience real problem solving, critical

thinking, reflection, and observation in an interactive social environment. Creating opportunities for individual students to excel will fulfil their full potential. Hands-on school programs will "improve memory and concentration skills, develop decision-making and critical thinking skills, enhance communication and listening skills, help children to establish spatial-temporal relationships between objects and encourage focus and discipline" (Lake, 2015, p.1). Heightening individuals' observation skills and knowledge of art as a visual language gives them an increased awareness and respectful understanding of their environment. This sensitivity is a vital component of a sense of personal well-being.

Today's classrooms need to stimulate the minds of tomorrow. Teaching students to be creative is an important part of education. We need to value creativity and inspire inventive individuals for the major problems that our world is facing. Therefore, our society needs to provide more creative and challenging hands-on activities that engage individuals in creative and critical inquiry for everyday problem solving. Learning through the arts and art-integrated activities offers a unique hands-on learning experience, wherein individuals learn how to create personalized art-integrated projects. Individuals require basic hands-on working skills and practical knowledge for everyday life. Holistic hands-on projects provide a deep-rooted learning experience, which will better meet the needs of society and help to solve the current problems of our educational system.

The primary focus for this session was hands-on-learning with the integration of book-art into different subject areas at all age and grade levels. Book-making and the roles that books have played in recording history is very important. What we know of our social, political, economic, and geographical human history is whatever has been documented in written form, first on stone, then on scrolls, and finally in book form. Book-art can be linked or added to enrich the curriculum in all courses, engaging students in their own learning experience. Creative book-art projects can inspire students in peer cooperation, personal exploration, imagination, reflection, self-critical thinking, sharing ideas, and an ongoing learning experience that often involves parental participation. This session served as an introduction to demonstrate how students can create their own pop-up, accordion, and flag books. These book ideas can be used for a variety of purposes.

The expectation of this session was to familiarize the participants with book-art and the many ways to incorporate this skill into an engaging learning experience. Hands-on projects motivate students' personal interests, providing them with real problem solving and creative learning experiences. Workshop participants would gain the confidence and ability to demonstrate book-making techniques after attending this session.

Pop-Up Book

“Pop-up” is a general term that includes various forms of movable books: either part or the whole book pops up. Usually, a center section has a pop-up motion created by turning a page, pulling a tab, or turning a wheel.

Some pop-ups rely on cuts made in the center of the page. The pop-up attachment usually has cut-out shapes, often with tabs slipped into the parts that are attached to the center page (the base paper page is where the pop-up is attached). It’s a paper folding trick that children love. It is like a magic trick, and they want to know how it is done. The element of surprise is a unique and fun way to attract their attention.

Materials

- Paper for the pop-up book: 18” x 24”
- Paper for the exploding shapes: 2 of the small pop-up shapes. 90-lb. paper is best.
Optional—if you use a contrasting colour under the pop-up shape, you will need paper for two of the large shapes.
- Two pieces of heavy cardstock or matt board: 6¼” x 9¼”
- Cloth material for covers or paste paper, old calendar pages, photocopies of designs
- Pencils, markers, coloured pencils, &/or gel pens
- Scrap paper (or old phone books) for gluing

Tools

- Glue sticks
- Rulers,
- Scissors, matt knife

Procedure

1. Fold the 18” x 24” sheet parallel to the short edge: in half, then in half again on one side, and then in half again on the other side. You should end up with one mountain peak and two valleys (“W” as a side view).
2. Now fold the paper in half the other way (parallel to the long edge).
3. When you cut along the centre of the middle inside fold, you will have an eight-page pop-up book.

Pop-Up Book Examples



Accordion Fold Book

The accordion book originated in Asia. It was first used to replace scrolls that had become unmanageable, taking up too much space because of their size and length. The pages of an accordion folding book are very similar to the folds of an accordion. In an accordion fold book, both sides are folded together. When the book is opened, the two sides fold out like an accordion.

The accordion book is made of a continuous folded sheet of paper and is often enclosed between two covers. It can either be expanded outward or kept flat. Paper used for the inside sheets can be of the weight of drawing paper, heavy wrapping paper, or coloured construction paper. Heavier materials may also be used, such as matt board or thin Bristol board.

This book format is suitable for a variety of continuous images, because the pages can be pulled out in one seamless extension.

If used as a scrapbook, the accordion book will hold as much mounted material as desired without bulging at the open edge. The inside paper, which is folded into sheets, may be the same size as the card stock cover or slightly smaller.

If the book is to stand, stiff paper the same size of the cover will work best. Accordion books work well for displays because you can stand them up and view both sides, and open them to show all pages.

The finished size of the accordion book will vary, depending on the size of the paper and the number of pages that the student wishes for his or her project.

Materials

- 18" x 24" paper cut in half, to create strips 9" x 24"
Tip: (the length should be greater than the width).
- 6¼" x 9¼" cardstock for covers, two per student
- Cloth material for covers or paste paper, old calendar pages, photocopies of designs
- Have the students select images from magazines, calendars, etc.

Tools

- Bone folder or wooden craft stick
- Scissors, matt knives
- Rulers
- Glue stick

Procedure

1. Fold the paper in half and crease the edge, using a bone folder, or ruler.
2. Fold one end to meet the center fold, creasing the edge of the paper.
3. Now reverse the direction of this fold.
4. Depending on the pages required, a hinge piece may be added to create a continuous accordion.
5. Then attach the covers to either end of the accordion.

Accordion Book Examples



Flag Book

The spine of this book is an accordion. Pieces of paper called flags are glued onto the spine, as are the covers.

The idea behind this book is that an accordion fold has two sides, each going a different direction. If the flag is pasted to one side of the fold, it will go one direction; if pasted to the other side, the flag will lie pointing in the opposite direction.

The flags could have images on one side and words on the other, images and images, words and words, or the two sides may be used to tell two sides of a story.

The finished size of the book is 6¼" x 9¼".

Materials

- 18" x 24" cardstock paper or drawing paper for the accordion spine, one per student
- 6¼" x 9¼" cardstock paper for the covers, two per student
- Cloth material for covers or paste paper, old calendar pages, photocopies of designs
- Writing paper, envelopes, or CD covers for flags (flag size approximately 6" x 9")
- Scrap paper (or old phone books) for gluing

Tools

- Bone folder or wooden craft stick
- Scissors, matt knives
- Rulers
- Glue sticks

Procedure

1. To make the spine, fold the 18" x 24" paper widthwise. (Refer to the folding directions for the accordion fold book.)
2. To attach the covers, apply glue to the underneath side of the last tab, and glue to the inside of the back cover. Repeat for the front cover.
3. When the front cover is attached, apply glue under this last tab. Do the same for the back cover.

Flag Book Examples



About the Presenter

Eric Lowe came to BU as a sessional lecturer in 2007, after 18 years of public school teaching. He has two M.Ed. degrees and is currently completing his third M.Ed.