

by Arizona art teacher **Jamie Watts, Ph.D.**,
with **Mary Erickson, Ph.D.**

Objectives

- Students construct and illustrate a picture book.
- Students use detailed or abstracted images, or a combination, in their picture books.

Supplies

11-inch x 17-inch paper (or other rectangular paper)

Markers

Crayons

Pencils

Scissors

Ruler

Rubber stamps

Optional items for binding

Rubber bands or ribbon/yarn/string

Bamboo skewers for spine support

Preparation

Preview [Making My Own Book PowerPoint](#). Select the size of paper and media appropriate for your students. Decide whether you will ask your students to add covers to their books. Follow the story-construction steps in the “Making My Own Book” PowerPoint or adapt them for your students. The presentation provides step-by-step diagrams and photographs that clearly spell out all the steps in making a book. Student books will have a cover, back and six inside pages if they do not add a separate cover. With the cover, books will have eight pages.

Activities

Use the “Making My Own Book” PowerPoint to show students how to make their own folded paper book. Use the story-construction ideas in the PowerPoint, or other instructions appropriate for your students, to help them write a story for six or eight pages, depending on whether your students will add covers. As they write their stories ask them to think about how they can use pictures on each page to help tell their stories.

Review the difference between realistic, detailed pictures and simplified/abstract pictures. Ask each student to decide whether abstract pictures, realistic pictures or a combination of abstract and realistic pictures will best illustrate his or her story. Keep in mind that realistic pictures will take longer than other media, such as stamping or collage.

Theater/Literature Connections

You may wish to reinforce learning in theatre or literature by emphasizing characters and plot development in students’ story writing.