

Cover to Cover Characters



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Bring an animal character from your story to 3-dimensional life on the cover!

Characters come to life in readers' imaginations through written description and illustrations within the book. But what if the character literally came out of the book? Creative writing, saddle bookbinding, and papier-mâché all come together to create this one-of-a-kind readable sculpture.

Students will begin by imagining an animal protagonist and writing their story. Advanced students can create a story board to plan, and the number of pages in the book can be adjusted to fit the complexity of their story.

As fantastic as the story is, the dimensional cover is what really makes this project come to life. Sculpture wire is poked through a chipboard cover to serve as an armature for the unique character forms. Large dense areas, such as the head of the character, can be filled with inexpensive paper towels. The character's surface is formed in Activa Celluclay Instant Papier Mache. Celluclay is made from recycled paper products and an adhesive. When mixed with water, it creates a malleable, moldable, lightweight paper clay that will not contract or crack, making it perfect for this project.

Note: Instructions and materials are based on a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.



Materials (required)

Activa Celluclay Instant Papier Mache, Original Gray, 24 lbs, (33106-1024); share one bag across class

All-Purpose Chipboard, 14 ply, 28" x 44", (13115-2226); need six to share across class

Advantus GEM Aluminum Push Pins, 3/8", Pkg of 100, (57378-1038); need one pin per student

Blick Sculpture Wire, 14 Gauge, 350 ft, (33400-1435); share one spool across class

Blickrylic Gesso, White, 128 oz, (00711-1059); need one bucket to share across class

Blickrylic Gel Medium, 32 oz, (00711-1007); need one bottle to share across class

Blickrylic Student Acrylic Paint, Asst. Colors and Sizes, (00711-); need at least 6 colors to share across class

Blick Essentials Craft Value Brush Set, Set of 25, (06280-1309); share two packs across class

For the Book Pages and Binding:

Pacon Railroad Board, Asst. Colors, 4 ply, 22" x 28", (13105-); need six sheets

Bee Super Deluxe Sketch Paper, 93 lbs, 18" x 24", Pkg of 100 Sheets, (10289-1009); need one package

Lineco Spine Repair Tape, Black Cloth, 2" x 15 yds, (12754-2040); share at least two rolls across the class

Books By Hand Linen Bookbinding Thread, 3 ply, 50 yds, (12841-1050); share one skein across class

Blunt Tapestry Needle, #18, Pkg of 12, (66903-1009); need one needle per student

Ready to order materials?

Go to www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plan/cover-to-cover-characters to access a product bundle for your convenience.



Step 1: Use sculpture wire, paper towels, and tape to create the character's head and bust.



Step 2: Attach the wire armature to the cover, through holes.



Step 3: Cover the form and add detail with Celluclay.



Step 3: Attach the cover to inside pages with Blickrylic Matte Medium.

To create the cover:

1. Use Blick Sculpture Wire to create a basic shape of the desired animal head and bust.
2. Determine placement on the front cover and mark the outline with a pencil. Leave a margin of approximately 1/2" on the left side of the front cover and the right side of the back cover to allow for binding later.
3. Determine the center of the outline, making two registration marks centered approximately 2" apart. Exact spacing will be determined by the general shape of the wire form.
4. Use a pushpin to make holes at the registration marks. To widen the opening, wiggle the pushpin around in a circular motion.
5. Attach the wire form armature to the cover by threading a wire end through the holes made in step 4. If no wire ends exist at the desired points, simply attach pieces to the armature to thread through. The wire should be long enough to go through the board and have at least 1 1/2" to fold over at a 90-degree angle on the back side. Secure the wire with Lineco Spine Repair tape.
6. Fill large open spaces in the wire armature with paper towels and scraps of paper.
7. Mix the Activa Celluclay Instant Papier Mache in a plastic zip bag, adding water and squishing the outside of the bag to eliminate lumps.

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Saddle Bookbinding Technique:

1. Individually fold the desired number of sheets of 10" x 16" Super Deluxe Sketch Paper and one sheet of Pacon Tagboard in half to 10" x 8".
2. Measure for the three holes on the fold of both the drawing paper and tagboard. The holes should be 2-1/2" from the top and bottom edges, and in the middle at 5". Mark each page separately to avoid misaligning or skewing the pages.
3. Use a push pin to punch holes where measured.
4. Arrange the folded sheets together, with the tagboard on the outside of the bundle.
5. Bind the book. Holding the book open, stitch with needle in the following method:
 - a) Thread through the center hole from the outside, leaving extra thread for tie-off.
 - b) On the inside of the book, thread through the upper hole.
 - c) On the outside of the book, thread through the lower hole.
 - d) Thread back through the center hole from the inside. Tie off.

Options

- Alternate means and materials
- Suggestions for mounting and display
- Alternate lesson or educational focus

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Responding

Anchor Standard 8: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Connecting

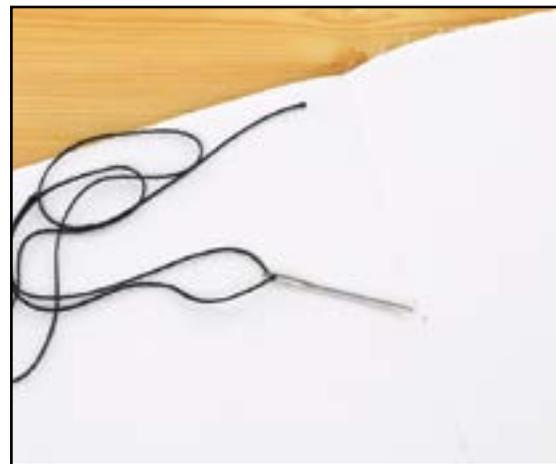
Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.



Step 1: Individually fold the desired number of sheets in half.



Step 2: Use a push pin to make holes along the fold.



Step 2: Bind the pages.

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