

# Learn Together:

## Bookmaking

### Books are made up of separate sections:

The **text block** (pages), which are usually sewn together in blocks of pages.

If all the pages were inside each other and then sewn, the book would be hard to open!

The **endpapers** which help connect the text block to the cover.

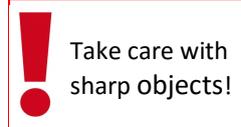
The **cover**, which protects the text block. This can be made of one continuous piece of card or two separate pieces of card, joined with buckram **spine**.

### What you'll need to make a book at home

- 5 or 6 sheets of white A4 paper
- An awl (available quite cheaply from lots of arts stores) or the point of some sharp scissors
- A needle with a large eye
- Some thick thread
- PVA glue and something to spread it with
- 2 pieces of card , 22cm by 14cm (this could be cut from a cereal box or something a bit thicker)
- 2 pieces of wrapping paper approx. 25cm by 17cm (a regular sheet of wrapping divides nicely into 8 equal pieces for this)
- 2 pieces of coloured A4 paper (or you could make your own patterns on white A4 paper)
- 2 pieces of buckram approx. 25cm long and 8cm wide (buckram is available from art shops—or you could use wide pieces of black gaffer tape)
- scissors

### To start with, make the text block (pages)...

1. Take your block of A4 white paper and fold it in half. It may be useful to use a ruler to make the folder sharp.
2. Mark 6 equally-spaced dots along the folder. Make one of them a different colour.
3. Carefully, make a hole at each of the marks with an awl or sharp end of scissors.
4. Thread the needle. Tie a big knot at the far end of the thread.
5. Start at the different-coloured dot. Push the needle through from the top of the fold (the mountain) and pull it right through from the other side.
6. Sew up through the next hole, down the one after and so on till the end.
7. When you've finished, tie a big knot in the thread and cut any spare off.
8. Put this to one side.



## Now make the endpapers...

1. Choose 2 pieces of coloured or white A4 paper. Fold them both in half.
2. If you would like to decorate your endpapers, then make your patterns or pictures on the side with the fold pointing down (a valley).
3. Glue your endpapers to the front and back of the text block, so that the fold is at the same edge.
4. Put this out of the way.



## Next comes the cover...

1. Choose a piece of wrapping paper and a piece of card.
2. Put a dot of glue in each corner of your card.
3. Put the card upside down onto the middle of the wrapping paper. The edges should all be about equal.
4. Cut each corner of the paper off at a diagonal. Your cut should just touch the corner of the card.
5. Glue each edge of the paper and then fold and stick it to the card.



Do 1-5 again to make another cover.

6. Put some glue all over the dull side of the buckram (you won't need to do this if you use gaffer tape).
7. Put each cover 1 to 2 cm in from the edge of the buckram. Make sure they're lined up! Fold the flaps at the top and the bottom over.
8. Get your text block and put glue on one endpaper.
9. Stick it centrally on one of the covers.



10. Fold the buckram spine and make sure the book sits inside with no bits sticking out.
11. When you're happy with it, stick the other endpaper to the cover.
12. Finish the book by running your finger or a ruler edge between the spine and the card cover to make a smart indent.