

hands-on lessons that

Jazzy Journals

Jazz it up! Encourage self-expression and creative writing with customized notebooks that kids will be proud of!

Grade Level: 3-8

Objectives

Students will recognize the benefits and rewards of journaling.

Students will create a customized journal.

Literature Selections

The Amazing Days of Abby Hayes by Anne Mazer (series)

Amelia's Notebook by Marissa Moss (series)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney (series)

Skills

self-expression, creative writing, journaling, measurement



Set up and Prepare

Content Overview

There is no better way to get kids hooked on reading than by introducing relatable characters who become more like "friends" the more they read. The recommended series introduce a few characters that kids will love with additional books to keep them coming back for more. In addition, many of these chapter books incorporate a journal/diary structure that add appeal and readability especially for reluctant readers. Explain that there are few rules for a diary or journal, and we often express our feelings and thoughts in pictures, prose, or poetry like some of the characters in the series. By providing students with an opportunity to create their own journals, we can instill a sense of ownership into the creative expressions they add to the pages inside.



Materials

Elmer's® School Glue, Elmer's® Glitter Glue, Elmer's X-TREME School Glue Stick®, composition notebook (not spiral bound), fabric scraps, gemstones or other embellishments, scissors, wax paper

Preparation

Cover the work surface. Select a piece of fabric large enough to cover both sides of the notebook. Prepare a glue solution (two parts Elmer's School Glue and one part water) in a shallow bowl.

Directions

Measure the height and width of the notebook. Measure a piece of fabric that is one inch more than the height and one inch more than double the width. Cut the fabric to those measurements. Place the background fabric *pattern side up* on a piece of wax paper.

Select contrasting fabric scraps to add to the background fabric. Trim the fabric to eliminate frayed or torn edges so that you can create a clean finished look. Dip the fabric scraps into the glue solution and smooth onto the background fabric. Include a few construction paper scraps for a variety of color and texture. It is not necessary to cover the entire background fabric with scraps. Let the entire piece dry.

Place the fabric face down on the work space, making sure there are no wrinkles. Open the notebook and place it in the center of the fabric. Cut a notch the width of the spine on both ends so that you can fold each side of the fabric flat over the cover of the notebook. Use Elmer's X-TREME School Glue Stick to apply the fabric cover to the notebook. For an even cleaner look, finish the inside cover by applying decorative tape along the edges of the fabric. Let dry completely.

Using Elmer's Glitter Glue, gemstones, buttons, fabric markers, etc, personalize the cover. Let dry completely.



Lesson Extensions

Research and write a brief biography of the author of the series. Where did the inspiration for the series come from? Is there anything in the author's history that connects him/her with the main character?

Allow students to choose another book from the series to read. Compare and contrast the two books.

Do a bit of research to find the author's contact information. Many authors provide this on their websites. Alternatively, you may reach out to the publishing company for a mailing address. Prompt students to write letters to the author that identify and defend their choices for the "best book" in the series. Encourage them to include details from the books.

Standards

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Determine the theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

CCSS: ELA-Literacy: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.