



ELTC-TED Conference Kuala Lumpur 2011

# Workshop: The art of making "Little Books"

*A Minimal Resource classroom activity to motivate and engage English students of all ages in the practice of both creating and enjoying literature.*

**Ruth Wickham, Brighton Education Training Fellow.  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

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## Workshop: The art of making “Little Books”

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*A Minimal Resource classroom activity to motivate and engage English students of all ages in the practice of both creating and enjoying literature.*

*This workshop was presented by Training Fellow Ruth Wickham at the ELTC TED Conference in Kuala Lumpur in 2011.*

### **Abstract**

There is something fascinating and almost magical about making one’s very own “Little Book”. Initially there is surprise as the empty book takes shape from a single sheet of paper. And then an engaging tale must be devised to fill the pages along with tiny pictures or designs. Immediately the scene is a quiet classroom with heads down and tails up as the students eagerly scratch away at their task.

As the masterpieces take shape, the students can be given opportunities to share their work (swap and read) with classmates, tell their tale to a group or the whole class while holding up their book, display the books on a table or board, and finally take it home to share with family and little brothers or sisters. Also, if especially desirable, the book can be opened flat and scanned or photo-copied, then re-folded to make sharing copies.

As an added treat, the book can include pop-up faces on every page, leading to character descriptions and discussions, and more stories.

Other examples of simple folding and pop-up books will also be indicated and discussed.

Participants should bring a pencil-case with coloured pencils / pens, and a pair of scissors if possible.

*\* Stationary items will be available to borrow during the workshop.*

## WORKSHOP SESSION

Each participant will have the opportunity to follow simple step-by-step instructions to turn a single sheet of paper (A4 or A3) into a little 4-page book. Some call it the “origami” book because it involves a folding sequence. Others call it the “hotdog book” because it looks a bit like a hotdog roll at one stage. Elsewhere it is even called the “Poof! book” because of the way it seems to suddenly take shape.

A pair of scissors is needed for making a small cut in the paper, and then a pen or pencil, and/or coloured pens can be used to write in the book and decorate it. The contents can be a story, a catalogue (such as an alphabet book) or a non-fiction work. Each page can contain merely words, pictures and words, or just pictures.

If A3 paper is used, then greater content can be included. However, the tiny book that is produced from an A4 sheet of paper – the size most commonly available in schools – has a fascination all its own and is adequate for an interesting story or similar. Participants will be shown some examples of hand-made books as example.

When all the students make these books, they can then be involved in sharing with others or even showing the book in front of the whole class. At the end of the activity, they make a wonderful wall display. And finally they can be taken home and shared with family members.

Because the book is folded and the content is on one side of the paper only, the students’ efforts can easily be photo-copied (and then re-folded) so that multiple copies can be shared.

Workshop participants will be given a second sheet of paper, and shown the step-by-step process to develop a pop-up version of the little book. Again scissors are needed for some tiny cuts, and then it is a matter of writing in and illustrating the booklet. Examples will be available for perusal and participants will be encouraged to share and discuss ideas and possibilities.

A third section of the presentation will be given to demonstrate how a little book can be prepared for folding using ‘Word’ on the computer. Participants who are reasonably computer literate should be able to easily follow the steps to try later. Producing books by this method gives the opportunity to produce copies for all students in a class maybe as a reading activity.

## PowerPoint slides and Instructions

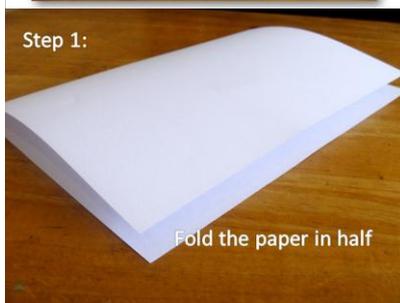
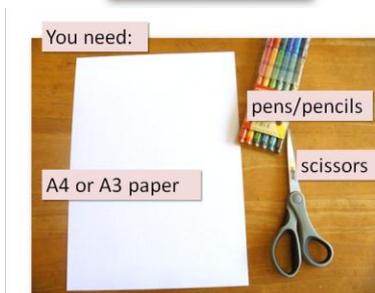
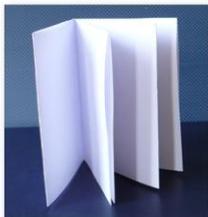


### 1. Making Little Books – the basic book.

#### THE little book

- Made from a single sheet of paper
- No need for staples, glue, sticky tape
- Can be quickly and easily created by anyone
- Can be adapted into pop-up book
- Can be created on the computer in Word
- Can be photocopied (one side of paper)
- Sometimes called “hotdog book”, “origami book” “Poof! book” ...

The little book has front and back cover, and six pages.  
It can be made with A3 paper, or A4 paper.



The little book is great because:

- It is made from a single sheet of paper – which can be recycled paper (with one ‘clean side’).
- Does not need staples, glue, or sticky tape.
- Can be quickly and easily created by anyone, including children.
- Can be adapted into a more interesting pop-up book.
- Can be easily photocopied to create more copies because it’s on one side of the paper only.
- Is sometimes called the “hotdog book” (because at one stage it looks like a hotdog bun), “Origami book” (because it is created by folding) or the “Poof! Bok” (because it suddenly appears as if by magic).

When it is completed it will have a front and a back cover, and six inside pages. It can be made from any size paper – especially A4 or A3.

#### Materials

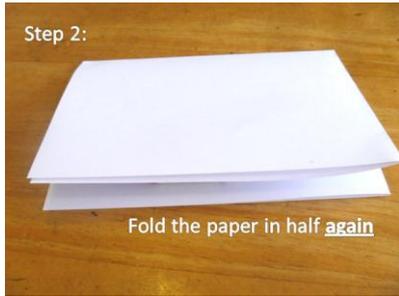
Participants need:

- A piece of paper
- Scissors (momentarily)
- Writing materials

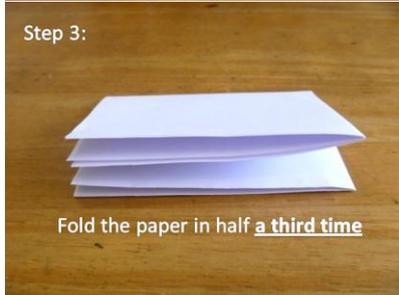
#### Procedures

Firstly, fold the paper neatly in half.

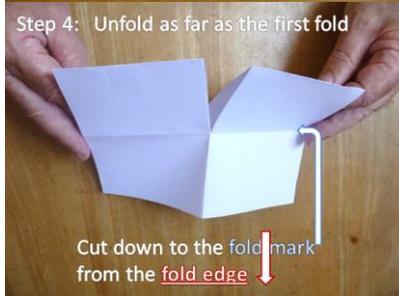
If using recycled paper, the ‘clean’ side should be on the outside.



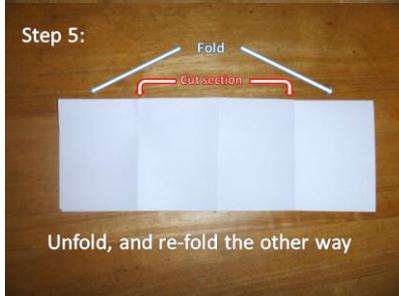
Secondly, fold the paper in half again.



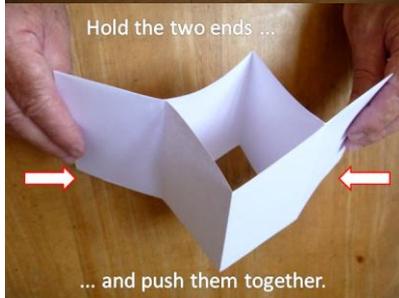
Thirdly, fold the paper in half a third time.



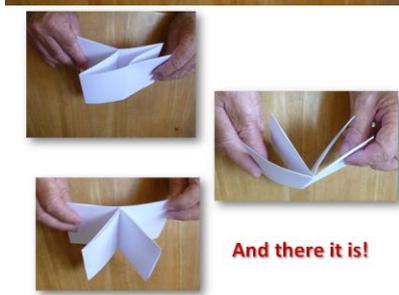
Unfold the paper as far as the first fold. Make a perpendicular cut into the folded edge along the fold line as far as the fold line halfway down.



Open the paper and fold it in half the other way. The cut will now run along the fold. Make sure the 'clean' side of the paper is still on the outside. (The vertical fold in the middle should be a 'mountain' fold.)



Hold the two ends and push them together. The cut section should open up.



Continue to push until a little book is formed as shown in the illustration.



Now ... write, draw

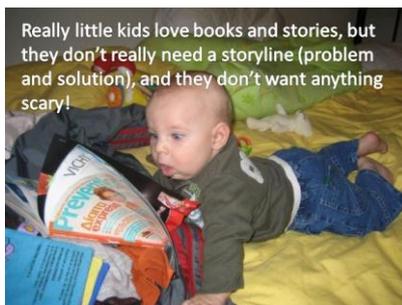
Now the little book can be used for writing, drawing, organising thoughts, making lists, ... there are many possibilities. And children love handling the little book and turning its pages.

### Basic Story Writing

- Introduce your **characters** with descriptions of physical and personality traits, their surroundings, and those with whom they come in contact.
- Create a **problem/conflict**. This could be between two people, an internal conflict, or one in which the main character overcomes an obstacle in the outside world.
- Write the **climax** of the story, which will include the main character(s) coming face to face with the conflict.
- Show how your character(s) **resolves the problem**, and what happens next.

Write a very short story in your little book.

- Introduce your characters with descriptions of physical and personality traits, their surroundings, and those with whom they come in contact.
- Create a problem/conflict. This could be between two people, an internal conflict, or one in which the main character overcomes an obstacle in the outside world.
- Write the climax of the story, which will include the main character(s) coming face to face with the conflict.
- Show how your character(s) resolves the problem, and what happens next.



Really little kids love books and stories, but they don't really need a storyline (problem and solution), and they don't want anything scary!

If your book is for a very young child, then the story doesn't need to be very exciting. They will enjoy just turning the pages and looking at pictures while you tell them about it.

### Preparing for Pop-Up Books

Start simple:

#### Making a Pop-Up Card

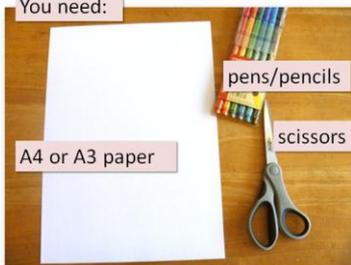


## 2 Preparing for Pop-Up Books

This is an intermediary stage towards making a pop-up book.

### Make a Pop-Up Card

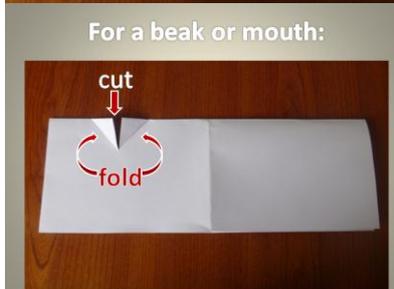
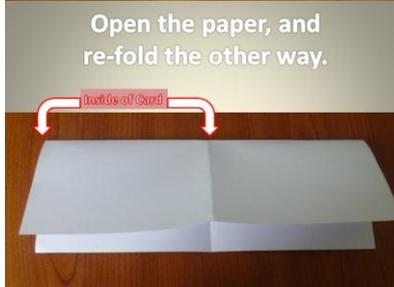
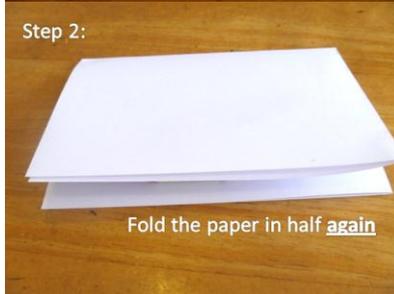
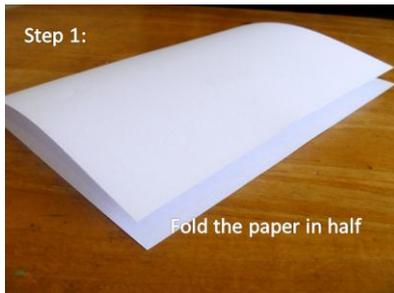
You need:



#### Materials

Participants need:

- A piece of paper
- Scissors (momentarily)
- Writing materials



**Procedures**

Firstly, fold the paper neatly in half.  
If using recycled paper, the 'clean' side should be on the outside.

Secondly, fold the paper in half again.  
This will be the Pop-Up Card. We are going to create a Pop-Up shape inside the card.

Open the paper and refold it the other way.  
Now the inside (valley) fold of the card is being folded back on itself so that we can cut some Pop-Ups.

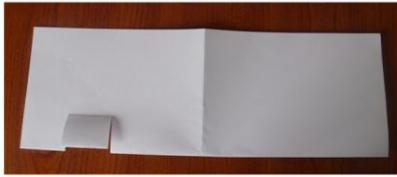
The simplest Pop-Up is a bird beak or animal mouth, made with a single vertical cut. Fold back triangles on one or both sides of the cut. Varying these folds will change the character of the mouth or beak.

Re-fold the card. The Pop-Up may need to be pushed out from behind with a careful finger the first time it is opened.

Now decorate the card to bring out the character of the Pop-Up.

## Other Shapes:

### Box Shape



Make into a box, house, furniture ...



There are lots of other shapes that can be created. Two straight cuts create a box shape. (Angling one of the cuts can create a house with a roof.)

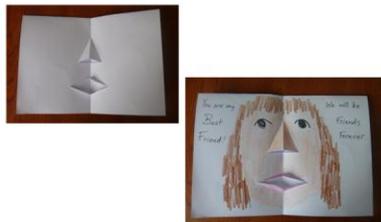
Again, decorate to bring the Pop-Up to life.

## A Face:

mouth nose



Decorate the face, create a character



A face can be created with two cuts – one for mouth and one for nose. Varying the length of the cuts, the distance between them, and the size and angle of the folds will change the appearance of the face.

Decorating the card will reveal the character.

There are many occasions that could be celebrated with a card.



Participants should think about a suitable occasion and greeting to include in their card.

## Pop-Up Books



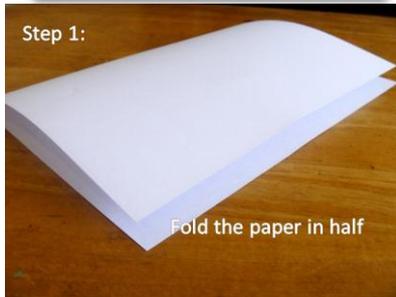
### 3 Pop-Up Books



**Materials**

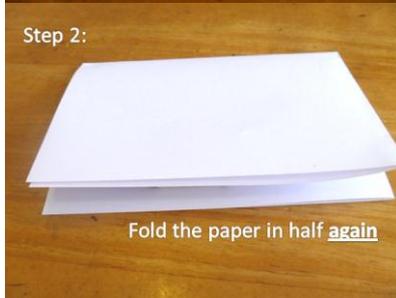
Participants need:

- A piece of paper
- Scissors (momentarily)
- Writing materials



**Procedures**

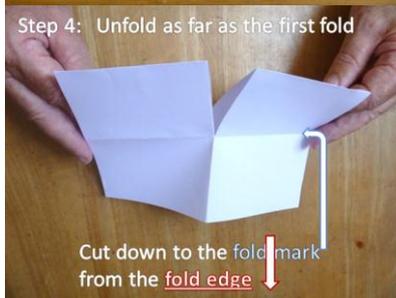
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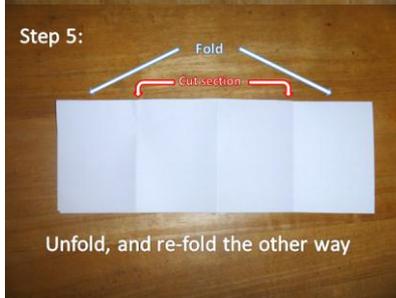
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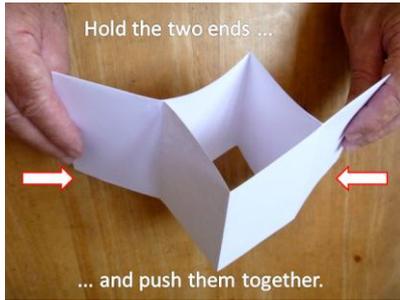
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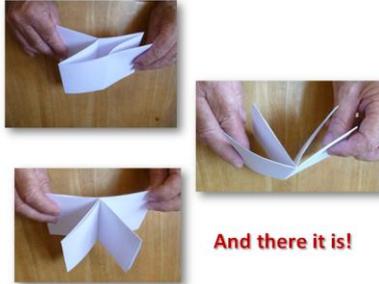
Unfold the paper as far as the first fold.  
Make a perpendicular cut into the folded edge along the fold line as far as the fold line halfway down.



Open the paper and fold it in half the other way. The cut will now run along the fold.  
Make sure the 'clean' side of the paper is still on the outside. (The vertical fold in the middle should be a 'mountain' fold.)

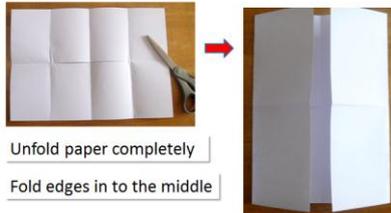


Hold the two ends and push them together. The cut section should open up.



Continue to push until a little book is formed as shown in the illustration.

Folding for pop-ups:

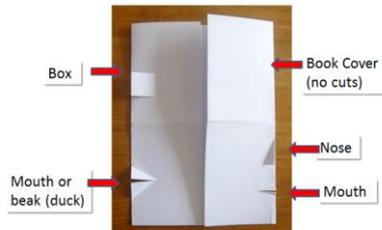


It's a good idea to mark in pencil where the covers and pages 1-6 are in the book.

Now unfold, and fold the edges into the middle.

In the illustration, the cut is horizontal across the middle.

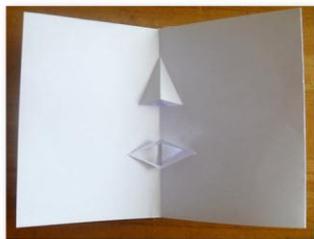
Little cuts for pop-ups:



Using the shapes practised on the pop-up card, create pop-ups for the inside pages – not the outside cover!

Participants need to think about their story to decide what pop-ups to make.

Face – nose and mouth pop-ups



A face can be created with two cuts – one for mouth and one for nose. Varying the length of the cuts, the distance between them, and the size and angle of the folds will change the appearance of the face.

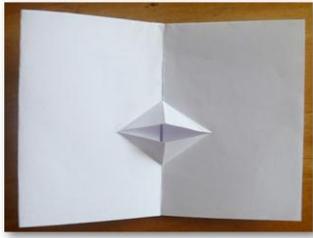
A character quickly develops



Decorating the page will reveal the character.

Duck Beak or Animal Mouth

A single cut is used to create a beak or mouth.



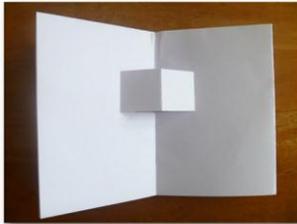
Any animal will do

It can become any animal and built into the story.



Box or Furniture or Item

A box shape can have many uses.



Something cube-shaped

Here it is a gift or parcel.



Design your story and pop-ups to go together.

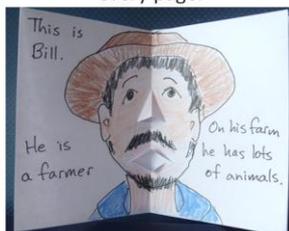
The Little Book can be turned “landscape” for a different perspective.



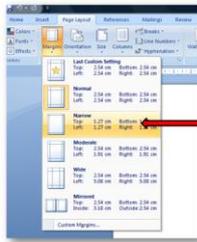
Thinking about the story will help to design the shapes.

There doesn't have to be a pop-up on every page.

It is not vital to have a pop-up on every page. Maybe just one on the middle page to add excitement to the story.

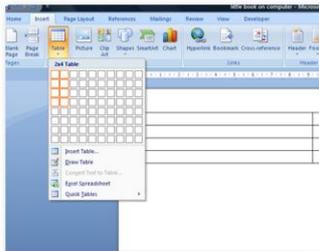


**Making a little book on the computer:**

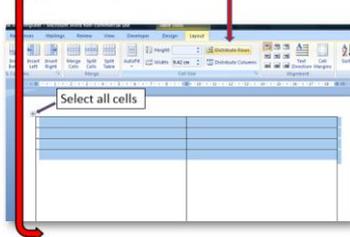


Open a Word document  
Set margins to narrow

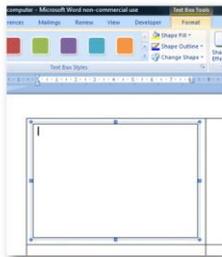
Insert a table: 2 X 4



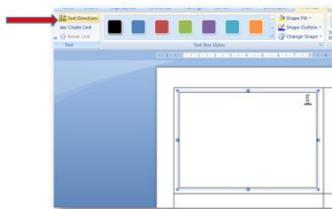
Drag down, and distribute the rows



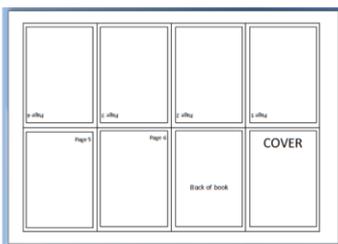
Draw a text box in each cell



Change the text direction in each box



The book format:



**4. Making a Little Book on the Computer**

In a WORD document (Portrait layout) insert a table with 2 columns and 4 rows.

Drag down the bottom line, select all of the cells by clicking on the '+' in the top left-hand corner, and then on the 'Layout' ribbon click on 'distribute rows'.

In each cell of the table draw a text box.  
(Click on the 'Insert' ribbon, click on text box, and select 'draw a text box').

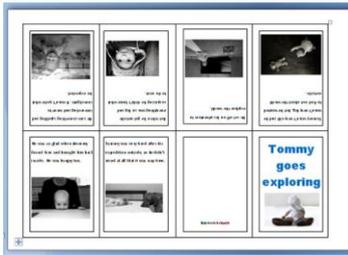
Put your cursor in the text box and click on 'Text Direction' in the 'Format' Ribbon.

Try opening out an already folded little book to work out which way the text on the pages should face, and which page goes where.

Just put a word or two on each page and have a practice print to make sure the pages are in the right places and the paper folds accurately.

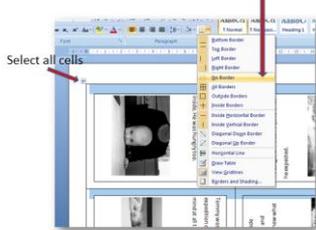
Depending on your printer, you may need to make some cells bigger or smaller – some printers insist on leaving a large space at the bottom of each page, for example.

Insert Book Material



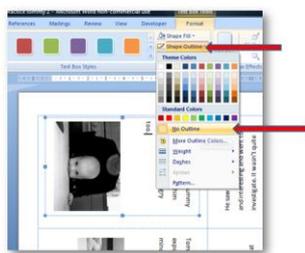
Insert your story and pictures.

Remove Table Grid Lines



Remove the grid lines of the table by clicking on the '+' at the top left-hand corner to select the whole table and then on the 'Home' ribbon (just to the left of the 'styles' click the option for no lines).

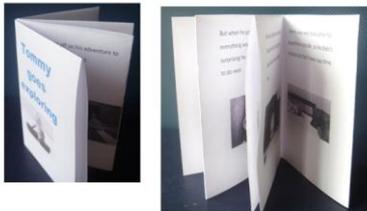
Remove Text Box Lines



Remove the text box lines by selecting each text box and then on the 'Format' ribbon look for 'Shape Outline' and select 'No outline'.

Print copies or photocopy

Print your book. Have a test fold before printing more copies.



## Conclusion

The presenter has successfully used this activity with students of varying ages and abilities, with a variety of book content and learning outcomes. The workshop is designed as a starting point for creative teachers to take ideas and adapt them to their own needs and situation. Information and further ideas are also available on the Internet for those who want to research further.