

## Lesson Unit: Making Movable Books

by Sue McCleaf Nespeca and Joan B. Reeve



**Grade:** K-2

**Time Required:** Three, 50-minute Sessions

### Overview

This unit teaches children the parts of a book and their names, increasing literacy skills. Then children will experience “movable” books (pop-up, tab, wheel, accordion, etc.). Finally, children will create their own movable books.

### Learning Objectives

- To identify the various parts of a book.
- To define a movable book as one with features that move and enhance the storyline.
- To construct three examples of movable books: a simple pop-up page; a ladder book; and an animal mouth pop-up.

**Session One:** Identifying the parts of a book and making a simple pop-up page.

### Materials

- *Cookie Count: A Tasty Pop-Up* by Robert Sabuda (or any movable book title listed below under “Resources”)
- One piece of construction paper (any color) per child for **each** page of the simple pop-up book (a six-page book would require six pieces of construction paper)
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Scraps of construction paper to make actual pop-up items
- Colored pencils, crayons, and/or other writing instruments
- Stapler OR glue
- Stickers (optional)

### Directions

1. Read *Cookie Count* or another movable book title. Then:
  - Talk to the children about some of the various parts of a book.
  - Define and show examples of: the cover; endpapers; title page; single-page illustration; double-page spreads; and gutters.
  - For help with the above consult: <http://picturingbooks.imaginarylands.org/>
2. Define a movable book and describe various kinds.
  - A movable book has pictures that either move or stand up at the turn of a page, such as: pop-ups (single or double page); flap books; pull-tab books; accordion books; wheel books (turn a wheel to reveal a picture); and transformation books (move horizontal, vertical or circular slats to reveal a picture).

- If possible, have a few extra books (see suggestions below) to demonstrate different types.
- Instruct children to handle pages and parts gently.

3. Next, have children create a simple pop-up book of four-to-six pages (or a single page for younger children).

- Give each child a single sheet of construction paper and have them fold it in half width-wise.
- Ask them to find the middle of the paper on the folded edge and to make a pencil mark there. (Describe the folded part as a tent.)
- Then, they should take a pencil and make another mark one-inch from their center mark. With a ruler they should draw a line down from this second mark one inch. A third mark should be made one-inch from the center on the opposite side from their last mark. Again, they should draw a line down an inch from this third mark.
- Now with scissors they can cut on the two solid lines they have drawn.
- Holding the paper like a tent, they should “push” the cut piece of paper inside the tent and then fold it on the crease. (The crease will now be folded the reverse of how it was.)
- When they open up the paper they will see a “step” inside. On the “step” they can attach their pop-up or a sticker.
- Children should choose their objects and draw them from other scraps of construction paper.
- Children can also label the page or write a short story about the pop-up object.
- To make several pages of a book, have children glue the outer edges of each page and stick them together or staple around the outer edges. Do not glue in the area of the pop-up.

### **Session Two:** Making a “ladder” book.

#### **Materials**

- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- Construction paper or printer paper in the following colors (one sheet of each color per child): red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple
- Stapler
- Tape
- Crayons or other coloring materials

#### **Directions**

1. Read the story *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert.
  - Talk about the different colors and kinds of flowers depicted.
  - Show the children how the back pages of the book make a ladder of rainbow colors.
  - Explain that they will be making a rainbow ladder book that will resemble this.
2. Have children create a ladder book. To do this, they should:
  - Gather one piece each of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple construction paper.

- Place the red piece of paper vertically on a flat surface and lay the orange piece on top, leaving one-half inch of the red paper showing on the top.
- Continue in the same manner with the yellow, green, blue, and purple papers, always leaving one-half inch of the previous color showing. Keep the sides as even as possible.
- Holding down the top section of the pages, fold all the bottom sheets up, matching the purple halves on top of each other, while the other pages create a "ladder" effect.
- Staple the pages together at the bottom of the folded red sheet.
- Turn the book around, with the staples at the top.
- Cover the staples with tape.
- Draw a flower on each page to correspond with its color.

**Note:** This book may also be made with half sheet of paper cut horizontally or vertically. For an authentic rainbow, a seventh page of indigo, or very dark bluish purple, may be added before the purple page. Older children may do the above independently as you model the procedure, while younger children will need assistance. (The more of the assembly they can do themselves, the more ownership they will feel.)

### 3. Take Home Assignment

- Have children take their ladder books home and find household items that match the colors of each ladder page.
- Let them add a drawing, picture, or sticker to represent various objects. For example, on the red page, children may add an apple, a toy fire truck, or a red barn.
- Family members can help with this project.

## Session Three: Making a "frog" mouth pop-out.

### Materials

- *The Wide-Mouthed Frog* by Keith Faulkner
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Decorations for the frog's face

### Directions

1. Read the story *The Wide-Mouthed Frog*.
  - Talk about the various animals depicted in the book.
  - Tell the children they will make a page showing the pop-out frog mouth, which they can then move during rereading of the book.
2. Make a pop-out frog's mouth. To do this, the children should:
  - Fold green construction paper in half horizontally.
  - Cut a two-inch slit in the middle of the folded edge.
  - Fold the *cut* corners down into triangle shapes.
  - Unfold the triangles and reverse their direction, pushing them to the inside of the folded paper with a fingertip.
  - Press the triangles into place inside the folded paper.
  - Hold the paper like a book, and open and close it to move the frog's mouth.

- Add wiggle eyes or other decorations and draw around the mouth to finish the frog's head.
- Now reread the book as students participate with their movable pages.

## Follow Up

### Modifications

You can modify these activities for kindergarteners if the tasks prove difficult and the children need help. For example, older children will be able to make their own frog's mouth. For younger children, you may simply want to demonstrate how to make the frog and then allow the children to take turns manipulating the page and providing the frog's dialogue as he meets each new animal.

### Assessment

- Children can identify four or more common parts of a book.
- Children can give a definition of a movable book.
- Children can demonstrate how a movable book works by carefully manipulating its parts.

## Resources

### Books Used in this Lesson

- Ehler, Lois. *Planting a Rainbow*. Harcourt Brace, 1988.
- Faulkner, Keith. *The Wide-Mouthed Frog*. Dial, 1986. Jonathan Lambert, Illustrator.
- Sabuda, Robert. *Cookie Count: A Tasty Pop-Up*. Little Simon, 1997.

### Additional Children's Books

- Agee, Jon. *Flapstick*. New York: Dutton, 1993.
- Brown, Rick. *What Rhymes with Snake?* New York: Tambourine, 1994.
- Carle, Eric. *Papa Please Get the Moon for Me*. Simon & Schuster, 1986.
- Carter, David. *If You're Happy and You Know It*. Cartwheel, 1997.
- Faulkner, Keith. *The Long-Nosed Pig*. Dial, 1998. Jonathan Lambert, Illustrator.
- Pelham, David. *Sam's Sandwich*. New York: Dutton, 1990.
- Pienkowski, Jan. *Dinner Time*. Los Angeles: Price Stern Sloan, 1981.
- Milne, A.A. *Winnie-the-Pooh's Lift-the-Flap Rebus Book*. New York: Dutton, 1992.
- Sabuda, Robert. *Wizard of Oz*. Little Simon, 2001.
- Wood, Audrey. *The Napping House*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1994.
- Young, Ed. *Mouse Match*. Harcourt, 1997.

## Instructional Books

- Diehn, Gwen. *Making Books That Fly, Fold, Wrap, Hide, Pop Up, Twist, and Turn*. Lark Books, 1998.
- Irvine, Joan. *How to Make Pop-Ups*. New York: Beech Tree Books, 1987. Also, *How to Make Super Pop-Ups* and *How to Make Holiday Pop-Ups*.
- Johnson, Paul. *A Book of One's Own: Developing Literacy Through Making Books*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1990.
- Johnson, Paul. *Literacy Through the Book Arts*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1993.
- Stowell, Charlotte. *Step-by-Step Making Books*. Kingfisher, 1994.
- Valenta, Barbara. *Pop-O-Mania: How to Create Your Own Pop-Ups*. Dial, 1997.
- Walsh, Natalie. *Easy Bookmaking: Thematic Pop-Ups, Cards, & Shape Books*. Scholastic, 1994.
- Walsh, Natalie. *Making Books Across the Curriculum*. Scholastic, 1994.

## Websites

- Elements of a Picture Book: <http://picturingbooks.imaginarylands.org/>
- Robert Sabuda's Site: <http://www.robertsabuda.com/>
- David Carter's Site: <http://www.popupbooks.com/>
- Joan Irvine's Site: <http://www.makersgallery.com/joanirvine/>
- The Movable Book Society: <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~montanar/mbs.html>

\* Some of the above description for this activity is from *Picture Books Plus: 100 Extension Activities in Art, Drama, Music, Math and Science*, written by Sue McCleaf Nespeca and Joan B. Reeve. ©2003 by the American Library Association.