

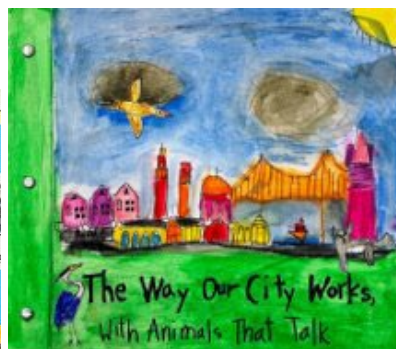
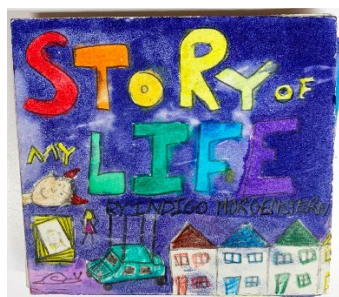
Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Project Educator Guide

Getting Started

- See images of previous years' winning books from the Ezra Jack Keats bookmaking project: thecjm.org/ejk
- See images of previous years' winning books from the New York City bookmaking project: <https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/ejk-bookmaking-competition/>
- Explore bookmaking tutorials for teachers: <https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/ejk-bookmaking-tutorials/>

Ideas for Themes

- **Personal narratives:** small moments; family and cultural stories; growing up
- **San Francisco stories**
- **Science and math stories:** how a seed becomes a flower; animals; shapes; word problems
- **Fiction:** stories emulating folk tales or fables; historical fiction; science/speculative fiction
- **Poetry**
- **Comics and graphic novels**



Suggestions for successful bookmaking projects for all ages:

- Make sure projects are open-ended and encourage creativity; the assignment should provide plenty of room for students to explore unique ideas and perspectives in their book or page
- Incorporate meaningful writing **and** artistic components
- Allow for opportunities for revising/editing
- The project can be a great opportunity for collaboration between classroom teacher and elective teacher or librarian
- Incorporate bookmaking into an existing unit or project you plan to teach

Suggestions for successful collaborative books (grades K–5):

- Use the project to teach letter sounds, rhyming words, or vocabulary such as emotions or opposites
- Have each student write and illustrate one page
- Encourage student involvement in title, cover page, and bookbinding

Suggestions for successful individual books: (grades 3–12):

- Books in this category can be created by individual students or a maximum of **two** students collaborating
- Make a plan to celebrate and share student books at your school site, and involve students or other teachers in selecting five books to submit for judging—we know this part can be challenging!

Bookbinding Techniques

- Bookbinding using sticks ([link to tutorial](#))
- Easy accordion books ([link to tutorial](#))
- Get creative with a three-hole punch or single hole punch, plus string, binder rings, pipe cleaners, or brads
- Use of bookbinding techniques is encouraged, and is considered as part of judging, but is not required



Additional Resources

- Reading lists from the San Francisco Public Library: <https://sfpl.org/books-and-media/read>
- Ezra Jack Keats Foundation: <https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/>
- Search award-winning children's books: <https://alsc-awards-shelf.org/>
- Children's Book Council: cbcbooks.org