

Scrap-A-Book:

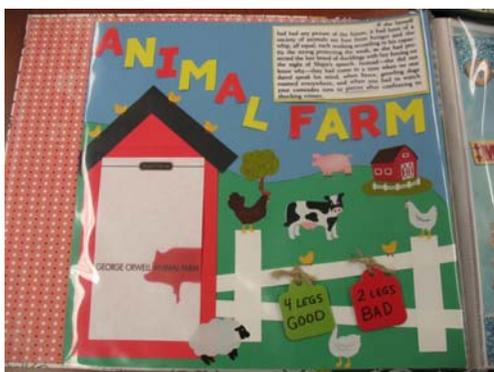
Connecting Students, Libraries, and Reading

By Patricia L. Owen, School Librarian, Eastwood High School

School librarians are always searching for creative, interactive ideas to attract students to the library. Scrap-A-Book is a great solution because it uses innovation and imagination to connect students, libraries, and reading. When students create Scrap-A-Book pages, they interpret, reflect, and share the library books they read. So what is Scrap-A-Book?

Scrap-A-Book is a blend of traditional scrapbooking and reading. In short, students craft scrapbook pages that become visual interpretations of what they read. At the simplest level, Scrap-A-Book pages include the book title, author, jacket cover, and quotations. Pages can also depict characters, themes, symbols, and plot. The creator of a Scrap-A-Book page conveys the tone, perspective, or overall message of a book. Some students focus on conflict, like man vs. nature (*Call of the Wild*); others address character development. Some students highlight a book; others a series (*The Mortal Instruments*).

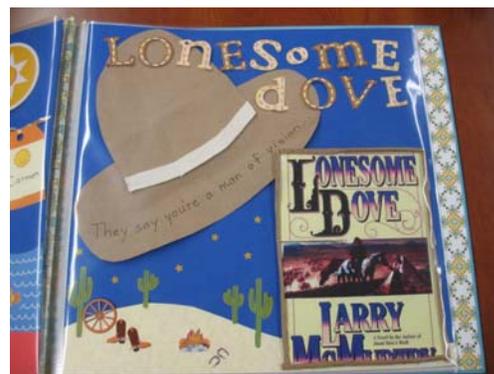
Below is an example of an *Animal Farm* page created by a student for a school assignment. Notice the slogan, "Four legs good, two legs bad." In this case, the student emphasized the man vs. animal theme.



Students love Scrap-A-Book, and so do school librarians because they can tailor the activity for multiple purposes. For example, librarians can include scrapping as a component of reading advocacy programs (Reading Counts, Accelerated Reader) or reading events (Read Across America, Right to Read Week, Banned Books Week).

Librarians also use Scrap-A-Book pages as reading advisory tools. When students ask, "Do you have any good books?" librarians can lead students to Scrap-A-Book albums.

Students like the "visual taste" and love the fact that their classmates recommended the books. Student book clubs also choose Scrap-A-Book as one of their activities. Students urge their librarian to post Scrap-A-Book pages on the school website. In person or online, students enjoy the interpretation of favorite library books. Book talking students use Scrap-A-Book pages as a visual aid as well. One student used this *Lonesome Dove* Scrap-A-Book page to illustrate a booktalk.



Scrap-A-Book projects align with Ohio Library Media Academic Content Standards: "Effective school library media programs promote and encourage reading for

academic achievement, lifelong learning and leisure pursuits" (Ohio Department of Education) Through Scrap-A-Book, librarians help students select reading materials (Benchmark A), engage in multidisciplinary reading experiences (Benchmark C), create materials for readers advisory (Benchmark D), and participate in national reading activities (Benchmark E). Scrap-A-Book also helps students "respond to literature and creative expressions of ideas in various formats and genres" (American Association of School Librarians).

Teachers can easily integrate Scrap-A-Book into the classroom. Because it appeals to students with visual and artistic learning styles and can be tailored to multiple grade levels and abilities, Scrap-A-Book offers an additional project choice. Choosing the perfect quote for a Scrap-A-Book page challenges student language skills. Integrating literary terms (themes, symbols, conflict, character) gives students a chance to apply their learning. Scrap-A-Book replaces the traditional "book report" and serves as a student assessment option alongside FaceBook pages, PowerPoints, videos, and oral presentations. Scrap-A-Book pages reflect student interpretations of classics like *To Kill a Mockingbird* or pop fiction like *The Uglies* series. On the flip side, students enjoy teacher-created Scrap-A-Book pages too.

Before introducing Scrap-A-Book, librarians should collect a variety of scrapbooking supplies. The student who created *The Seven Songs of Merlin* page (T.A. Barron series) used a range of eye-catching materials. Basic resources to have on hand in the library include scrapbook paper, scissors, glue sticks, markers, and colored pencils. Of course, some of the supplies below will tempt students to jump right in:

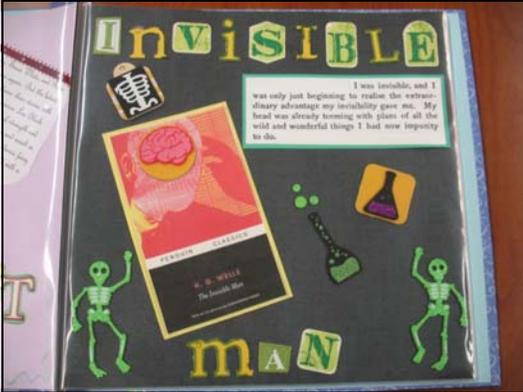
- Lettering
- Punches or die cuts
- Stickers
- Solid paper
- Stamps & ink pads
- Patterned paper
- Tape or mounting squares
- Ribbon
- Glitter
- 3D embellishments (buttons, sequins, felt)
- Gel or calligraphy pens
- Photo corners
- Decorative scissors
- Magazines for cutouts
- Rulers
- Clipart
- Jacket covers



Once students begin creating Scrap-A-Book pages, they'll naturally want to display them in a variety of ways. Scrap-A-Book pages can be inserted into page protectors and showcased in albums by classroom, genre, reading level, etc. Additionally, Scrap-A-Book albums can be placed in book nooks, seating areas, study halls, cafeteria, or wherever students gather. Individual Scrap-A-Book pages make great bulletin boards. Long after Scrap-A-Book pages are created, they continue to

motivate—connecting students, libraries, and reading.

Helpful resources



The Invisible Man page shows how chipboard, jacket covers, and glitter can attract students to a classic novel.

American Association of School Librarians. *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*. Chicago: American Library Association. 2007. Accessed 25 March 2011. www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/learningstandards/AASL_Learning_Standards_2007.pdf.

Ohio Department of Education. *Ohio Guidelines for Effective School Library Media Programs*. 2003. Accessed 25 March 2011. www.ode.state.oh.us.



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Resources about Academic Scrapbooking

- eScrapbooking <http://escrapbooking.com/overview.html>
- Moses, Alexandra R. *Academic Scrapbooking: Snapshots of Learning* by Alexandra R. Moses. Edutopia. (www.edutopia.org/academic-scrapbooking-photographs-journals). Accessed June 16, 2011.
- Scrapbooks that Teach www.scrapbooksthatteach.com—offers scrapbooking kits
- Readin', Writin' & Scrappin': Scrapbooking as a Teaching Tool. Lori Elkins Solomon. (www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Lori-Elkins-Solomon)—for-a-fee downloadable curriculum
- The Ultimate Guide to Digital Scrapbooking for Educators. Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers website (www.edgalaxy.com/journal/2010/1/13/the-ultimate-guide-to-digital-scrapbooking-for-educators.html)

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