



Pocket Poetry

Introduction

Accordion books have a rich history around the world and are made in many parts of Asia. The accordion book was first invented to accommodate long scrolls that were hard to manage because of their size. These books come in many shapes and sizes and are often made of a continuous folded sheet of paper enclosed between two covers. They can either be displayed expanded or kept flat.

This book style is perfect for presenting a short poem, quote or phrase. Illustrated poems create a sweet keepsake and are portable. This exercise combines basic watercolor techniques, bookmaking and literary arts to create a pocket poem beautifully illustrated in an accordion book.

Mindful Reflection

Looking at the Sky
by Anne Porter

I never will have time
I never will have time enough
To say
How beautiful it is
The way the moon
Floats in the air
As easily
And lightly as a bird
Although she is a world
Made all of stone.

I never will have time enough
To praise
The way the stars
Hang glittering in the dark
Of steepest heaven
Their dewy sparks
Their brimming drops of light
So fresh so clear
That when you look at them
It quenches thirst.

“Looking at the Sky” by Anne Porter, from *Living Things: Collected Poems*. Zoland Books, 2006.

Materials

favorite poem, quote or inspirational phrase
large sheet of watercolor paper, cut into preferred dimensions. We used a 4” x 18” strip.
scissors
watercolor set
salt
paint brushes
water container
illustrator pens
two 3” x 4” piece of mat board for cover
ribbon or string for binding
glue

Directions

When working with watercolors, there are several techniques that one can incorporate to create interesting effects. Preparing watercolor papers for collage is a great opportunity to experiment. Here are a few to try;

- *Wet on wet*- The wet-on-wet approach showcases watercolor paint’s ability to create beautiful ethereal washes. To produce this technique, simply wet part of the paper with your brush either with water or water a tiny bit of pigment. Then, dip your brush into another color and lightly dot it on the wet area and watch as the pigment spreads.
- *Salt*- When applied to watercolor paper, salt will soak up some of the color and create a sandy-looking effect on the page. Begin by laying down a wash that is saturated with pigment on the paper. Next sprinkle the salt on top of the pigment. Once the painting is completely dry, scrape the salt from the page.



1. Write or find a favorite piece of poetry to illustrate.



2. Cut watercolor paper into 4" x 18" strip. Measure 3" increments along the strip and make accordion-style folds every 3 inches to create six total pages.



3. Paint a watercolor scene on your paper strip using the wet on wet and salt techniques described above. Allow to dry thoroughly. Embellish with your illustrator pen, if desired.



4. Plan out how you'd like to break up your poem on your allotted number of pages, and write out your text.
5. To bind your poem with your 3" x 4" pieces of mat board, apply glue to back cover and lay a ribbon midway on back cover with equal lengths of ribbon on each side. Lay the last page (section 6) on top of the ribbon and mat board and secure while drying with

clothespin. Glue your second piece of mat board to the back of the first page, or section 1. Once dry tie the ribbon around the front cover to secure.

