

Purdue University Galleries

Educational Ideas and Activities 2004-2005

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Individual and Society: Many Voices, Many Views

1/10/05-2/20/05 Stewart Center Gallery
*Historic Texts from the Remnant Trust,
established as a living archive of premiere
first and early edition texts*

Did you know?

- One of the goals in the mission statement of the Remnant Trust is “to raise the spirits of each generation to think the grandest thoughts and be guided by the most profound idealism, implementing Emerson’s thesis on Man thinking...”
- Purdue Galleries will have texts on display such

as the Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address, Common Sense, Plato’s Republic, and the Prince by Machiavelli.

In the Gallery suggestions for questions and focus

Standards 11 and 12 are met by physically going to the gallery and discussing the space and the people who set up the exhibition

Focus on Words and Images- standards 3, 5, 13

- Read a section of one of the texts. What image does it create in your mind? Illustrate it.
- Can a text have more than one meaning? Can it tell more than one story?
- Look at the typeface, or style of type, in each book. Are they all the same? Serif type has finishing lines on the stroke of a letter, sans-serif does not. Can you find examples of both?

Focus on Book Art- standards 3, 4, 5

- Can a book be a work of art? Under what circumstances?
- Look closely at the binding of the books. Are all the books bound the same way? Describe the process of bookbinding. Do any of the books stand out in their method of binding?
- Which books have illustrations? Describe the image. Is the image faithful to the corresponding text or did the illustrator deviate from its meaning?

Focus on Printmaking- standards 1, 4, 6

- Before the invention of the printing press in Europe by Johann Gutenberg in c. 1450, books had to be made entirely by hand, a very lengthy and laborious process. What effect did the printing press have on society in the 15th century and beyond? What effect does it have for us today?
- Many of these books are first editions. What does that mean? How does the term edition in book publishing relate to printmaking?
- Some of the books have images. What method of printmaking (relief, intaglio, lithography) was used for the image?

In the Classroom *standards 7, 8, 9, 10*

While much of the exhibition deals more with text and less with image, there are a number of book and word related activities.

- Illuminated manuscripts Before the invention of the printing press, books were made by hand. Examine examples of Medieval manuscripts, and create a page by hand.
- Word Art Some contemporary artists, such as Jenny Holzer, use only words to create their art. Others, such as Lorna Simpson, combine words with images. Use words or a combination of text and image to create a piece of art.
- Book Art Use a unique or traditional method of bookbinding to create a book. Fill with sketches, images, or use as a journal.
- Typeface Create a new design for typeface. Design all 26 letters of the alphabet in your new style and name it.
- Bookmarks Summarize a book from the exhibit visually in bookmark form.
- New Meanings, Same Text Using the same words from a selected text, restructure to create new meaning. (Example: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..” could be changed to “We created these truths that hold all self-evident men to be equal” (dropped the “are”). The text could be typed out and cut into separate words for ease of rearranging.

Interdisciplinary Connections *standard 13*

- Research and read any one of the texts. What historical significance did it have for our country? What role does it play in our lives today?
- Research what book publishers do. What is the process of printing a book? Describe the entire process of book conception to book store.
- Within the past decade, internet use has risen for quick research. What effect has the internet had on the use of books for research? For book sales (both fiction and non-fiction)?

Selected Bibliography

The Art and Craft of Handmade Books, by Shereen LaPlanz. Lark Books, New York; 2001.

Well illustrated with artist created books. The step-by-step directions can get complicated, so only the basic formats can be used with students

Book: Discover the Story of Writing- from Ancient Picture Scripts to Medieval Manuscripts and Modern Printed Books, by Karen Brookfield. Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc., New York; 1993/2000.

An “Eyewitness Book” about books! Explains history of books, different types of books from a variety of cultures

Handmade Books and Albums: An Introduction to Creative Bookbinding, by Marie Ryst. Design Books, New York; 1999.

Drawn illustrations of step-by-step instructions accompany a variety of bookmaking techniques.

Marguerite Makes a Book, by Bruce Robertson, Illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; 1999.

A beautifully illustrated children’s book describing the medieval process of making illuminated manuscripts.

Websites:

<http://www.theremnanttrust.com/> The Remnant Trust site, with catalog listings and visual images of selected texts.