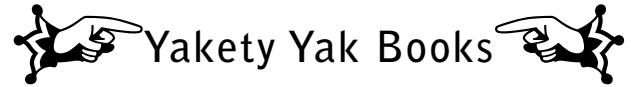


Bookmaking with Kids

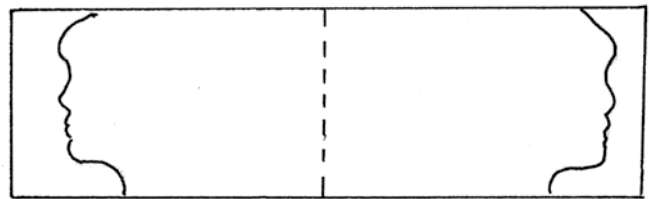


With pages that look like talking heads, this book is an irresistible format for writing dialogue, conducting an interview or telling a story from two perspectives. As soon as kids see it, they're itching to write, and they're surprisingly eager to work on getting all the niceties of punctuation right.

Plus, it's great fun for kids to adapt and illustrate the profiles.

Materials & Tools

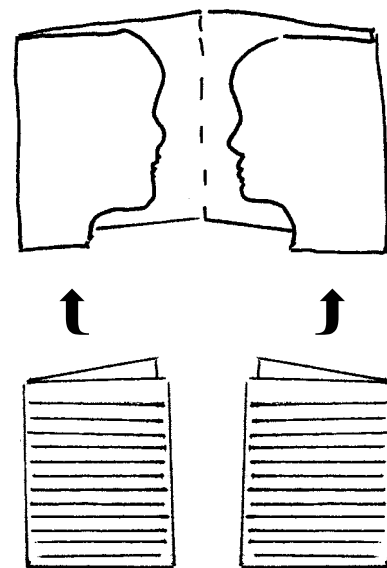
- Cover template. Each template contains two of the images shown at the right.
- Tabloid paper for printing or copying the cover template. You will need one sheet for every two students.



- Text-page template, to be printed or copied double-sided on 8½ x 11 inch paper. You'll need 1–3 sheets of paper per student, depending on how much they'll be writing.
- Scissors, writing & drawing supplies, long-reach stapler. Needles & thread optional.

Step By Step

- Fold the preprinted cover paper in half, then reopen.
- Bring the right side of the paper almost to the center (offset by about ¼ inch); fold. Repeat with the left side.
- Cut around each profile, and your cover will look like the illustration at the right.
- Cut all the 8½ x 11 sheets in half horizontally, yielding half-size sheets measuring 5½ x 8½.
- Have every student fold at least two sheets. One tucks under the left profile (and provides four pages for writing); the other goes under the right profile.



- Have older students who need more writing space fold 2–3 sheets in half for each side of their book.

"Books take many shapes and come in a variety of structures that fold and unfold to reveal their contents in unexpected ways."

—Edward H. Hutchins,
Book artist & educator

- Attach the text pages to the cover by opening the lined sheets on the left side of the book and stapling through the center fold. Repeat on the right side of the book.
- Now kids can illustrate the profiles, altering the shape of each face, adding eyes, ears, hair, jewelry, hats and more. And then they can begin writing.

* Alternatively, students can attach the signatures to the cover paper with a three-hole pamphlet stitch. (This probably will take less time, and prove far more satisfying, than having the kids take turns with the stapler!)

What to Do With Yakety Yak Books

Practice Interview Skills

- Have students draft a set of questions to ask a classmate and present the resulting profile in question-and-answer format.

Write a Biography

- Profile a historical or contemporary figure by posing interview questions on one side of the book and, on the other side, writing answers that the subject might give. *Yakety Yak* books are a great way to present bios during Black History month, for example.

Write an Autobiography

- Couple this engaging structure to kids' favorite subject: themselves. They can fill one side of their all-about-me book with their favorite things and include their dislikes on the other side. Or, they can write about their present-day persona on one side, and their future self, say at age 25 or 35.

Chronicle Family History

- With two halves, *Yakety Yak* books are great for family histories, with one half for dad's side, the other for mom's.

Still More Ideas

- Write an assignment in two languages. (This allows students to share their book with relatives who may not speak English.)
- Make up a conversation with a favorite character in a book, or between two characters.
- Use a *Yakety Yak* book as part of your conflict-resolution process, encouraging students to write down their thoughts when they're too angry to speak.

TIPS AND RESOURCES

If you've made silhouettes of your students, this is a perfect opportunity to reuse those images. Reduce them on a copier and let kids trace the outline.

Check out some drawing-lesson web sites for sketches and tips on drawing profiles.

This site, www.artyfactory.com/portraits/index.htm, has a helpful section on portrait proportions and facial features. There's also a good section on drawing Egyptian-style faces at www.artyfactory.com/egyptianart/ancient_egyptian_art.htm.

Two more sites to visit are www.portrait-artist.org/face/profile.html and www.learn-to-draw.com/drawing-people/03-profile.