WHAT IS A FACE BOOK?
The Face Book is an adventure in collaborative storytelling and pop-up book-making. Everyone contributes a folded page; you join the pages together, and depending on how many people participate, you can wind up with a book that can stretches from one end of the gymnasium to the other.

Each folded page has a simple pop-up that forms a mouth, and when kids open and close the page, the mouth appears to talk. Kids draw a face around the mouth—a penguin, a dog, a monkey, a frog, an alien, an alligator, anything—and then add a speech balloon.

What the characters say depends on the theme you choose. At a recent event, we asked kids and parents to have their characters tell why they liked books. The book “grows” as you tape the back of one completed page to another, creating what can be a giant accordion.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A FACE BOOK?
• Celebrate your classroom’s student of the week.
• Honor the school principal on her/his birthday.
• Create a book about your community and send it to representatives in Sacramento or Washington, D.C.
• Use the speech balloons to encourage students to practice the capitalization and punctuation essential to writing dialogue.
• In honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday (March 3), have kids draw their favorite Dr. Seuss characters, with birthday wishes in their speech balloons.
• Produce a book filled with kids’ hopes for the planet, for Earth Day.
• Challenge kids to write short poems for a collaborative book during National Poetry Month (April).
• Have kids use the speech balloons to write about what their animal eats and where it lives.

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And visit the Bookmaking With Kids blog at www.bookmakingwithkids.com