

Using Collage Illustration for a Picture Book

Cut-and-Paste Collage

Are you one of those people who always says, “No way! I can’t draw!”? Well, don’t be discouraged. Brushes and paint, pencils and paper aren’t the only way to make pictures. Try scissors, glue, and a pile of old magazines. This stage explores ideas for cutting and arranging colored paper and magazine pictures to create dynamic illustrations for your picture book. Anyone can do that!

A good way to use color is with cut-and paste designs. You can cut shapes from paper to represent your characters instead of drawing them. Use wallpaper samples, construction paper, or illustrations or photographs. Then past them onto colored cut-out backgrounds.

You can also do collage with cloth or curly wool or buttons or spaghetti or toothpicks... Paste them on for hair or fur or clothing or machines...

Experiment with pop-ups, see-through pages, hinged windows and doors, or accordion folds. And mix and match any of these. It’s your own inventive, original book.

It’s important to remember that all the things that have come before on character and plot development, point of view and composition, all apply equally to this illustration form. Collage allows for objects, shapes, patterns, and characters—many things you have drawn—to be cut out of paper. All those things still should be there, but collage just gets rid of the need for everything to be drawn.



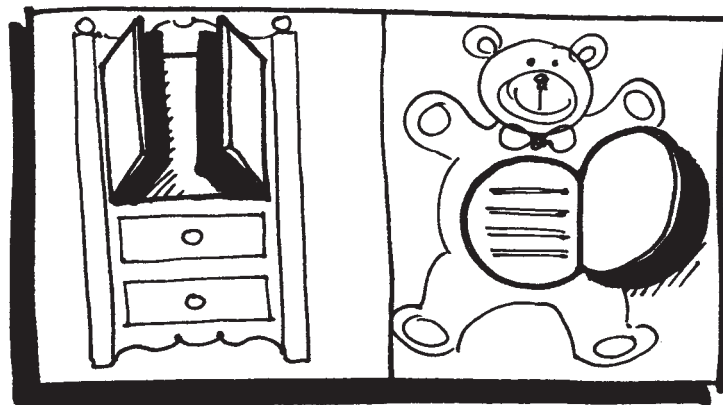
Materials You'll Need

- Scissors
- Glue, glue stick, paste, sticky tape
- Colored construction paper
- Wallpaper samples, gift wrap
- Pictures from magazines or the Internet
- Cotton balls, cloth scraps
- Egg cartons
- Pasta shapes
- Wool, embroidery cotton, string, cord
- Pencils—regular and colored
- Colored markers
- Oil pastels

More on Collage

For many children, collage provides a rich outlet for artistic expression.

- Remember that the mock-up they follow has already been edited for balanced design.
- Whole shapes cut from paper now represent characters; exotic backgrounds are derived from fancy papers or photos; even pop-ups, see-throughs, pull-downs, or foldouts may be added.
- The tactile manipulation of cotton, artificial fur, wools, etc. for small detail continues to deepen the attachment to “my book.”

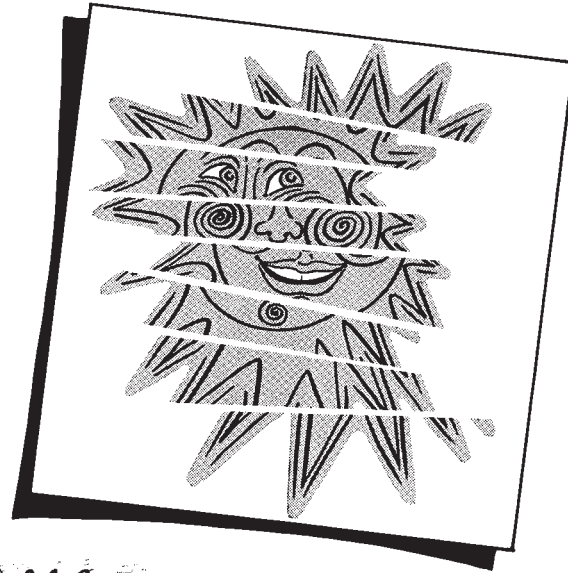
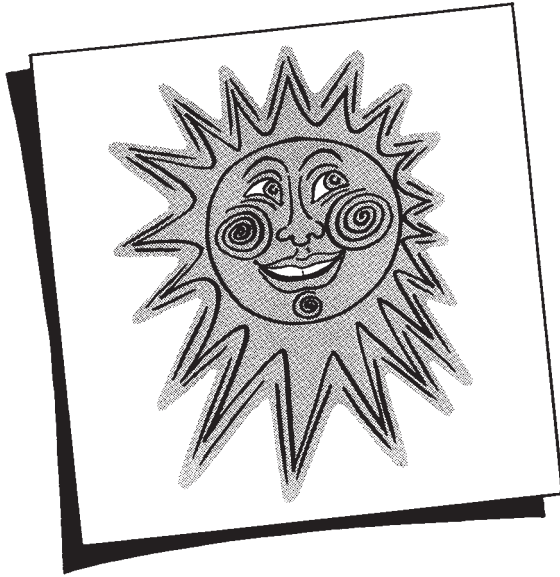


Fun-Tastic Collages

Try different styles and materials. Experiment!
Explore! Change!

For example, unusual illustrations and lettering can be created by tearing paper. This produces a ragged, fuzzy, uneven quality. Try doing an illustration using torn paper in layers.

Here is an example of experimentation. The original sun was drawn with black marker on orange paper. Some people liked it, but I thought it needed movement and vitality. So I cut the image into horizontal strips, separated them slightly, and moved the pieces to the left and right. Then I glued them onto a lighter or contrasting background.



Here is a variety of suns. Try this approach with sketches of dogs, cats, trees, cloud, chairs—anything you wish.

