

# LESSON PLAN

## AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Book Cover Telling the Story of You INSTRUCTIONS

### MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- Pencil and Eraser
- Blank Piece of Paper (any size/any light color)
- Book to trace the outline of (if you don't have one, just create a rectangle shape)

**ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Participants will think about their lives in terms of a book, and create the cover of this book using typography and illustration.

**Typography** is the art and technique of arranging styles of letters to make written language legible, readable, and appealing when displayed. (Also referred to as **typeface** or **type**.)

**Illustration** is the decoration, interpretation or visual explanation of a text, concept or process, designed for integration in published media, such as posters, flyers, magazines, books, teaching materials, animations, video games and films.

### PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- When you think about your life what themes stand out? (Ideas: Happiness, difficulties, success, perseverance, adventure, romance, travel, family, etc.) Do you want your book to be about overarching themes or about a particular memory or event?
- How can type and illustration help express the feelings and themes of your book? (Example: Romance would have flowing cursive type versus block lettering.) Think of ways that your type and illustration style reinforce your ideas.

### ART MAKING PROCESS:

#### Step 1:

- Think about your life and what your book would be about. Come up with a title for your book that represents the overall idea, and think of a supporting sentence that briefly explains the book title. Next think about objects or people or places to illustrate that would best and most clearly express your book title.

#### Step 2:

- Take your pencil, paper, and book, and place the book on top of the paper and using the pencil trace around the outside edge of the book. (If you don't have a book, just draw a rectangle shape). This is your book cover and you will do all your typography and illustration within this space.

#### Step 3:

- At the top of your book cover, using pencil, you will lightly write out the title of your book in large letters in the typeface that best expresses the theme of your life story.

#### Step 4:

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- Under your book title in a smaller typeface, write your supporting sentence lightly with your pencil.

## Step 5:

- At the bottom of your book cover write your name lightly in pencil since you are the “author”

## Step 6:

- In pencil, lightly sketch your book cover illustrations. Get creative about where you want to draw your illustrations and what you want to draw. You can use the space between the book title/supporting sentence and author’s name for large illustrations, can use the borders or can use the entire book cover area as your illustration space (Type will overlap the illustration). Illustrations can be landscapes, people, symbols, iconography, anything you choose that represents your life story.

## Step 7:

- Once you have done all your type and illustration lightly, go over all your lines with pencil to darken and add depth and shading to all you have done. Use an eraser to get rid of any lines you don’t want to see anymore.

## POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- Consider what someone who doesn’t know your life story would think after seeing your book cover. Would they understand what you are trying to convey? Would they be intrigued to find out more? Would they learn something about you that they didn’t know?
- After creating your own book cover, will you look at other book covers with more understanding of the process? Do you see how the typefaces and illustration connect to the book’s theme?

## EXTRA FUN:

- If you have any colored markers or colored pencils, fill in areas of your typeface and illustration with color. Use color choices to emphasize the theme of your life story. You can choose to use limited colors to add focus and emphasis, keep your book cover mostly black and white with small touches of color, or use a wide array of colors if that fits your theme.
- Create more book covers about other parts of your life- a series of book covers that show different experiences you have lived through.
- Begin writing your book! Perhaps this artistic process has sparked your literary interest.

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EXAMPLES:

