

Reflection Activity & Assessment of Summer Reading: Using the book *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* edited by Ellen Oh

FENWICK



Reflection Paragraph & Altered Book Project

Transform the One Read stories you read this summer into an altered book. An altered book is an old book changed into a piece of artwork. For this project, you will need to create a relationship between your artwork and the three short stories you select from *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*. Your altered book will be a piece of artwork that conveys the ideas and feelings you found in the short stories that inspire and inform your creation.

Choose themes, symbols, characters, or plot lines; whatever you decide to use as your central idea (s) from the *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* needs to be woven into your artwork. The altered book must include a two-paragraph analysis describing your altered book and the relationship of the stories to your creative work in addition to the separate reading reflection paragraph described below.

All projects require the student to write a three-point paragraph that reflects on the reading experience. The paragraph needs to be attached to the completed project activity, in this case the Letter to the Author, and submitted together to the student's homeroom teacher on Sept. 4, 2019, the first full day of school.

Part 1 The written reading reflection component: The reflection component of the Summer One Read requires a three-point response. Everyone for every project needs to write a paragraph that addresses these three ideas:

- 1.) Would you have preferred that we just tell you which stories to read or require you to read the entire book? In other words, was it fun exploring the possibilities of the anthology, was it a time-consuming burden or something in between? Why?
- 2.) Reading non-fiction that is fact based, informational material like textbooks and directions on how to do something is very different from reading fiction like the stories in *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* that taps our creativity and often asks the reader to suspend disbelief in imaginative and fantastical ways. Did you enjoy the experience of reading these short stories or did it seem like work?
- 3.) When you hear someone say, "I can't wait to just relax into a good book." What thoughts does it bring to mind?

Part 2 Create an Altered Book Project:

Your grade will be a combination of your reading reflection paragraph, your two paragraph analysis and the construction and creativity of your project. The point of this project is to express your creativity. Here are some guidelines:

A. You may use an old book, your actual summer reading book, or you may photocopy a section of the summer reading book (at least 25 pages). Your art must convey some of the themes in the book; relationship, solving a problem, identity issues to name a few

B. Draw/collage/paint on and around the text. Emphasize certain words or passages; illustrate the scene that is being played out on the page. You can choose to paint all of the text, leaving certain words un-

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painted, creating a poem. You may use multiple textiles; buttons, construction paper, cut out pictures glued over the text, real illustrations in the borders. There is no limitation to the materials you can use.

C. Pick a book. It can be any hardback book; your choice depends on how big you want your altered book to be. If you want something more like an art journal or a long story, pick a 200 or 300 page book (don't worry, you won't have this many pages), or even a textbook. You can also photocopy sections of the summer reading book (at least 25 pages) to use.

D. Cut some pages out. If your book is thicker than 100 pages, you're going to want to remove some pages. It doesn't matter where you take them from (some prefer the back), but remove maybe 25 or 50, more if your book is pretty big. This step is necessary because when you glue the pages together, the glue will expand and your book will look huge and deformed. Keep in mind you can cut more pages out later if you need to, but it will be harder, so try to get it done during this step.



E. Glue the pages together. This is to make a sturdy base for your artwork. If you paint/draw/collage on each individual page, it's likely to fall apart. So get some glue (Elmer's works okay, so does hot glue, rubber cement, or wallpaper glue) and make some stronger pages. If your book is a picture book with strong, glossy pages then only glue 2-4 at a time. If it's an average size book then anywhere from 10 to 20 pages should do. Make sure you cover the page with a thin layer of glue, press another page onto it, and smooth it out. Keep in mind that if you leave any bubbles or wrinkles, your book will look funny and you'll have a hard time closing it.

F. Prepare your pages. This is your first step in creativity. Do you want your pages to be white? Black? Do you want to leave them with the words on, to create that artsy, dramatic feel? You may paint (water color) the pages, glue construction or tissue paper on them; put photocopied pages from ***A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*** on them. Treat the pages any way you want to make a base for your artwork.

G. Art out!! Unleash your creativity on your altered book. Collage in it, draw, paint, glue, stamp, cut, anything that will fit in your book is fair game! You will want to create at least 5-6 pages worth of altered material, depicting various scenes and themes from the short stories you selected from the anthology.

H. Make your cover. Remember, the cover represents the three stories you selected. Don't just do a knockoff of the original cover of ***A Thousand Beginnings and Endings***. That artist was trying to create something that reflected the entire collection of 15 stories. Spray-paint the books cover if you don't want anything too fancy, but there's always the option of covering it in fabric or painting. Treat the outside as you would treat the inside and be as creative as you want, but keep in mind that the outside will probably receive a little more wear-and-tear.

NOTE: Additional information about the Altered Book Project may be found on the Altered Book Project FAQ sheet. This project will receive a letter grade. Please see project rubric for project expectations. Examples of altered books can be found at https://karenswhimsy.com/altered_books/