

Turn your summer read experience into an Altered Book. Is this the project you want to choose? Use the following FAQ to determine if this approach to reflecting and responding to your summer read experience will give you the best opportunity to share and develop your skills.

What is an altered book? An altered book is an old book changed into a piece of artwork. You're going to turn the three (3) or more stories you read in *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* during the summer into a book of your own. This is a chance to try your hand at retelling the original three stories in an artful way. Remember, your cover needs to represent the content in your altered book, not the original book cover from *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*.

Where can I get an idea of what the finished product should look like? Examples of altered books can be found at https://karenswhimsy.com/altered_books/ Take the time to click around the site to see how creating something new can come from something old. Your story will be completely different but The Karen's Whimsy site should give you a few ideas about what you're trying to do. You don't have to be a great artist to get your ideas across. Sometimes just the sequence of events, reused pictures from old magazines and the careful use of color is more than enough.

Do I need to attach a paragraph to my altered book project that reflects on my reading experience? Yes. 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?

How do I get started? Read the stories, at least three (3) or as many as you want until you find your favorite three. Then, think about the main ideas and messages the stories conveyed to you. Organize your thoughts and then start to doodle to generate some ideas. Loosen up, be creative. Toss what doesn't fit your overall project and keep the elements that will help to retell the story in your new format.

Next, gather your materials. You need an old book that you don't mind destroying to give life and expression to your new altered book. Get tape, markers, glue, fabric, sparkles, papier-mache, scissors, watercolors or whatever you think you need to perform your art.

How do I know what to put into pictures, designs, symbols etc.? Think about how the authors of the various short stories used old legends and folktales for inspiration for the writing of a contemporary short story. They read or heard the legend, sat back, went for a walk, took a shower or whatever and then thought about what the legend meant to them. Then, it was time to start writing. The short stories you read in *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings* will work for you the way the legends worked to inspire the authors.

Ask a librarian Ms. Smith is available via email at dms@fenwick.org so don't hesitate to reach out. The O'Rourke Library and Learning Center is a place for doing research, studying, doing homework, reading and working on projects like the One Read.