

How to Make a School Story Book

Instructions by Gwenyth Swain

Created for the "One-Room Schoolhouse Tour"

Visit www.gwenythswain.com and click on the one-room schoolhouse for more information on the tour and Gwenyth Swain's middle-grade novel, *Chig and the Second Spread* (Delacorte Press, 2003), a heart-warming story set in part in a one-room school during the Great Depression.

Materials Needed:

scissors

2 pencils (1 sharpened and 1 unsharpened)

straight edge or ruler

hole punch

3 paper clips (#1 size; smooth, not ribbed)

1 rubber band

2 sheets 8 ½ x 11 inch colored paper, light-weight cover stock or construction paper

4 sheets regular bond printing or copying paper, cut once to measure 7 x 8 ½ inches

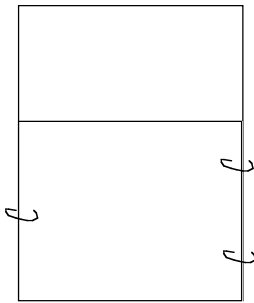
1 sheet of what's left of the above—a single piece of paper measuring 4 x 8 ½ inches

glue stick

Steps:

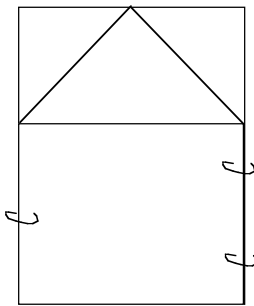
1) Since everybody helped out in a one-room school, students should help pass out the supplies above.

2) Take the 2 colored cover sheets and 4 white inside sheets and make a "book sandwich." Think of one cover as the top bun, the white sheets as the burger (or veggie burger), and the last cover sheet as the bottom bun. Make sure the white pages are flush with the bottoms of the covers.



<Covers flush with bottoms of covers. All thicknesses held by paperclips.

- 3) Clip in three places with the front of the book facing you. The clips should secure all thicknesses of paper, with one clip on left-hand side, two on the right-hand side.
- 4) Take the long, skinny single piece of paper and fold it in half “hamburger” style. Then unfold it. Place it over the top of the book (above the clips). Use the sharpened pencil to make a mark at the very top of the front cover in the middle (where there’s a fold line in your white sheet). Make two marks at the sides, at the bottom of the single sheet—and *just above* the tops of the four white text pages inside your book.
- 5) Use a straight edge or ruler to draw two pencil lines linking those pencil marks.



<Draw lines linking pencil marks to form “roof” of school story book.

- 6) Cut along those two slanted lines, cutting through both the front and back covers.
- 7) Use the hole punch to make two holes, one just above and one just below the paper clip on the left-hand side of the book, more or less opposite the two other clips. Note: Punch the holes as far into the book as the puncher allows (usually about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch).
- 8) Take the unsharpened pencil and lay it over the wholes. Take the rubber band, “lasso” it around one of the pencil, pulling the rest of the rubber band through the hole and to the backside of the book. Then lead the rubber band through the final hole and “lasso” the other end of the pencil at the front of the book.
- 9) Remove paper clips. If you wish, use glue stick and scraps of colored paper (one small square and one triangle) to decorate your book with a bell tower. You can also use the single white sheet of paper, cut down to size, to form a door for your book.
- 10) Fill your book with stories, pictures, and thoughts on school-times past and present.

Enjoy!

© Copyright 2005 by Gwenyth Swain

This instruction sheet made possible in part by a Minnesota Writers Career Initiative Grant from the Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis, MN

Visit www.gwenythswain.com and click on the one-room schoolhouse