

# POP-UP Story

## Nancy Walkup

Children love pop-up books as each page brings a new surprise and a delightful response. Students can make their own pop-up characters with teacher guidance and just a few paper-sculpture techniques.

### Developing a Story

Explain to students that pop-up books tell stories with paper sculpture. Show and discuss different styles and types of pop-up books. Robert Sabuda and Calef Brown are two possible authors to use. Demonstrate procedures and discuss possible subjects for a pop-up face or creature to illustrate a story. Have students write down ideas for their stories.

### Making a Pop-Up Face

Distribute 9 x 12" (23 x 30 cm) paper and have students fold it in half horizontally. Guide them to cut a horizontal line starting at the middle on the fold about halfway to the unfolded sides of the paper. Have them fold each cut back to make a 45° angle. They should then fold each cut the opposite way and then push out the "mouth." (You may have to help with this step or you may want to have students practice folding and cutting on scrap paper first.)

Demonstrate folding the paper back in half again and lightly drawing half of a simple shape for a face or body around the "mouth," taking care not to draw on the folded edge. Have students cut out around the shape they have drawn.

### Background and Details

Give students a second color of 9 x 12" construction paper and have them fold it in half.

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Then have them open it and place their cutouts on the new paper, lining up the folds. Check that they carefully glue

the face onto the folded background paper, taking care not to glue any portion of the mouth. Students can trim the background paper to fit or leave it attached like pages from a book. Encourage them to add details with construction paper, different kinds of paper, markers, or crayons.

When the pop-ups are complete, have students write out their stories and display them with the artwork.

**Note:** This lesson is adapted from the Studio Exploration for Lessons 23 and 24 in *Explorations in Art* (Davis Publications, Inc., 2008).

*Nancy Walkup is the editor of SchoolArts. She taught this lesson at W.S. Ryan Elementary School in Denton, Texas. nwalkup@davisart.com*

### NATIONAL STANDARD

*Students understand and use similarities and differences between characteristics of the visual arts and other arts disciplines.*

### WEB LINK

[www.robertsabuda.com](http://www.robertsabuda.com)

### Objectives

Students will:

- understand that some artists design pop-up books.
- perceive and discuss features and mechanics of pop-up illustrations.
- create a character for a story using pop-up techniques.

### Materials

- 9 x 12" assorted colors of construction paper, two per student
- assorted colors of construction paper scraps
- scissors
- glue
- markers or crayons (optional)

### Studio Evaluation Criteria

- Pop-up character's mouth opens and closes as the paper is opened and closed.
- Cut-paper and drawn details clearly add to the meaning of the character's identity.
- Details are securely attached so they stay on the art as it moves.

