High School Lesson Plans

Artists Books as an "Area of Concentration" for 2-D Design AP (by Ann Tomlinson)

Focus: Understanding the role of history and literature and their connectedness with the arts.

Pass Objectives:

1.1 Using the principles of design
1.2 Using the elements of design
2.1 Using knowledge of history and art
2.2 Understand the connection of periods of art history with world history
2.3 Understand the connections between art and divergent cultures
2.4 Understand the connection with art and other art forms including literature
3.0 Understanding the media of drawing, painting, fiber arts and mixed media

Supplies: Appropriate drawing or painting materials, quality paper, mat board, fiber materials, and magazines for collage, found objects both 2 and 3-dimensional.

Before work begins ask that the student use websites to locate visual material on "Artists' Books."

Procedure: With the world at their disposal, ask students to choose an area of interest through history. The Marla Frazee book, On the Morn of Mayfest, may be used as an example. Mrs. Frazee illustrates a medieval town as it celebrates Mayfest.
Next, ask them to write a simple text that illustrates their theme. This will probably elicit research into history so that the images are historically correct.

Finally, encourage students to illustrate their text in a series of drawings, paintings, or mixed media imagery that enhances their theme.

Students may be innovative in their use of materials and dimensions of the book.