

Active Program 1: Art & Life: Art Journaling with Piper

Activity Introduction

Piper expresses herself through journal entries and art in order to reflect, unwind, and meditate on the issues that are bothering her. Teens don't have to be expert artists like Piper, however, in order to make the most of an art journal. This activity will introduce teens to the idea of art journaling through some examples from *Piper Perish*, and demonstrate how art journaling can be a creative and therapeutic activity.

Books to Display or Book Talk

Sketch!: The Non-Artist's Guide to Inspiration, Technique, and Drawing Daily Life by France Belleville-Van Stone

Art Before Breakfast: A Zillion Ways to be More Creative No Matter How Busy You Are by Danny Gregory

Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative by Austin Kleon

Dot Journaling-A Practical Guide: How to Start and Keep the Planner, To-Do List, and Diary That'll Actually Help You Get Your Life Together by Rachel Wilkerson Miller

Activity Supply List

Journals

Discarded books in good condition

Pens

Colored pencils

Markers

Paint

Paintbrushes

Water

Old magazines

Old newspapers

Glue

Tables/chairs

[Activity handout](#) (provided by committee)

Detailed Description of Activity

Have teens register so that you know how many journals you will need. If your library cannot afford to purchase journals, consider using discarded library books or donated books that are in good condition and have teens paint over the pages. Another option is to ask teens to bring a journal or notebook with them to the program.

Prior to the program, collect art supplies such as markers, colored pencils, and paint. Also collect any magazines, newspapers, or discarded books that are no longer in circulation and ok for teens to cut up to use in their art journals. Put the supplies out on a table where teens will be able to select those which they would prefer to use.

At the beginning of the program, have teens select a journal and give them the activity handout that has been provided by the committee. Explain what an art journal is and how it can be used, and talk about how concepts of an art journal can be used alongside bullet journaling, or keeping a photo album, a planner, or a regular journal.

The blank page can be intimidating, so make sure that each teen who attends begins at least one page of their journal. Each teen's art journal should reflect the unique way that they express themselves and keep track of their daily lives, thoughts, and troubles. This is also a good opportunity to talk to teens about found art and mixed media art like the kind that Piper makes in *Piper Perish*. Encourage teens to search for unusual mediums and focus on creating with what they have on hand instead of holding off until they have the "right" supplies or skills.

This program can take anywhere from 1 to 1.5 hours depending upon how long teens want to stay and use the materials provided. A librarian or staff member should stay with the teens throughout the entirety of the program in order to discourage negative self-talk.

Activity Resources (Produced by the Committee)

Art Journaling Handout

Activity Resources for Teens, Teachers & Librarians

Mindful Art Studio - <http://mindfulartstudio.com/how-to-start-an-art-journal/>

Active Program 2: Sew Like Enzo

Activity Introduction

In *Piper Perish*, Piper's friend Enzo gets inspiration from creating new outfits for his friends. Teens who want to learn how to sew may not have had opportunities to learn or know anyone who has the skills to teach them. A sewing machine can seem overwhelming to someone who is using it for the first time, but it is easy to set up a basic sewing class at a library and teach teens the skills they need to get started.

Books to Display or Book Talk

Teach Yourself Visually Fashion Sewing by Carole Ann Camp

Epic Cosplay Costumes: A Step-By-Step Guide To Making And Sewing Your Own Costume Designs by Kristie Good

Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing: A Modern Guide to Couture-Style Sewing Using Basic Vintage Techniques by Gretchen Hirsch

The Colette Sewing Handbook: Inspired Styles and Classic Techniques for the New Seamstress by Sarai Mitnick

Couture Sewing Techniques, Revised and Updated by Claire B. Shaeffer

DIY Wardrobe Makeovers: Alter, Refresh & Refashion Your Clothes: Step-By-Step Sewing Tutorials by Suzannah Hamlin Stanley

Girl with a Sewing Machine: The No-Fuss Guide to Adapting and Making Your Own Clothes by Jennifer Taylor

Activity Supply List

Sewing Machines

Tables/Chairs

Power Outlets

Scrap Fabric

Scissors

Thread

Bobbins

Seam Ripper

Rotary Cutter

Cutting Mat

Sewing Patterns

Detailed Description of Activity

This class will need to be taught by someone who has basic sewing skills. If no one at your library has these skills, consider contacting local sewing supply stores or tailors to see if anyone will be willing to provide the class. Your library may require teens and/or guardians to fill out a waiver, so make sure that you inquire about that before you advertise the class.

It is important to have teens register so you know how many sewing machines you will need. If your library does not own sewing machines, ask staff members to lend their machines for the class. Every machine is different, so if you are working with a variety of donated machines, be sure to practice on them first so that you will know how to answer questions as they come up during the class.

Collect scrap fabric and thread prior to the class. You will need the scrap fabric so that teens can practice different types of stitches, and a roll of thread for each machine. For a beginner class, it is wise to have novice students start with a thin fabric like cotton or linen and general purpose thread.

Before the class, set up the sewing machines and make sure each one has thread and an empty bobbin. When the class begins, have teens select a sewing machine. The class will have two parts.

For the first part you will be demonstrating how to use the machine and then having each student practice. First, demonstrate how to thread the bobbin, and then have the students practice threading the bobbin on their own machine. Next, show them how the bobbin goes inside the machine under the presser foot and needle. Then demonstrate how to thread the needle and have each teen practice this as well on their own machine. Last, demonstrate how to pull the bobbin thread up through the machine and explain how the bobbin thread and the thread through the needle work together to sew. The first part of the class will usually take 30-45 minutes depending upon the number of students and their skill level.

When both the bobbin and the needle have been threaded, you can then have teens select a fabric to work with and show them how to use the commands on the machine to create different types of stitches. Let the students have time to practice sewing with scraps of fabric and look at and ask questions about other sewing supplies. A class like this is also a good opportunity to talk to teens about different sewing supplies, such as rotary cutters, patterns, seam rippers, and cutting mats. You will want to give the students at least 30 minutes to 1 hour to practice and look at sewing supplies.

A single instructor can handle about 6 students who are beginners. If the class will have more than 6 students, find an assistant to help walk around and answer questions. It is not recommended to have more than 10 students per class. The class should take 1.5-2 hours.

Active Program 3: Pop Art Night at The Factory

Activity Introduction

In *Piper Perish*, one of Piper's constant complaints is that she does not have the space to work in her crowded house. Give teens a space to be collaboratively creative by hosting an Andy Warhol-themed art night at your library.

Books to Display or Book Talk

Pop Art by Tilman Osterwold

Andy Warhol 365 Takes: The Andy Warhol Museum Collection by Staff of Andy Warhol Museum

Activity Supply List

Tables

Chairs
Tape
Paint brushes, variety of sizes
Acetate sheets, letter size
Acrylic paint, black and other assorted colors
Black and white photos of celebrities and public figures, letter size
Printer
Printer ink
Paper
Water
Paper towels
Cups
Paper plates

Detailed Description of Activity

At this art night program, teens will be using photos of public figures, acetate sheets, and acrylic paint to create some pop art. It is also an opportunity for teens to be collaboratively creative the way that Andy Warhol and his friends were at The Factory. The end result will be some works of art that have some Warhol flair and incorporate supplies that he would have used.

Prior to the program, find a large room where you can set up tables. Teens will be using paint during the program, so make sure that you specify in your marketing materials that they will need to wear clothes that can get dirty.

Collect all of the items on the supply list. You will need to print out some letter-size black and white photos of celebrities and other public figures. Andy Warhol was inspired by people he read about every day in magazines and newspapers, so try to stick to people who teens will be currently discussing. It is also a good idea to use photos that have high contrast if possible.

On the day of the program, set up the tables and chairs. When teens arrive, allow them to look through the photos you have collected and select one that they would like to work with. They will also all need to have a cup for water and a small plate to use as a palette. Have each teen set their picture down on the table and tape a sheet of transparent acetate over it. They can then use the brushes and different colors of acrylic paint to add color, outlines, and their own unique vision to their photo. Pop art is a way to analyze and respond to popular culture, so encourage teens to think about the effect that their chosen celebrity or public figure has on our society.

The final product can have a variety of forms. Teens may want to keep only the acetate and not the black and white photo, or bond the black and white photo to the acetate so that the color is layered over it. Sheets of acetate can also be layered on top of each other to add more details because the acetate is transparent. Acrylic paint dries quickly, so the teens should be able to take home their work of art at the end of the program.

During the program is a good opportunity to talk about the pop art movement as a whole as well as Andy Warhol his contemporaries like Roy Lichtenstein and James Rosenquist. The program should take 1.5-2 hours.

Activity Resources for Teens, Teachers & Librarians

Craftsy - <https://www.craftsy.com/blog/2014/11/painting-on-acetate/>

The Art Story - <http://www.theartstory.org/movement-pop-art.htm>