

## Golden Door Book

A journal can be a place of refuge — especially when it's kept behind closed doors.

(art + social studies; art + history; art + literature)

"The New Colossus," written by Emma Lazarus in 1883, is one of the most familiar American poems, although the title is not often recognized. Perhaps the most well-known lines of the sonnet are "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" and "I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Lazarus donated the poem as a means of fundraising for the base of the Statue of Liberty, where it appears on a bronze plaque today.

The sculpture's original concept has faded and it's original title is now rarely used: "Liberty Enlightening the World." After the publication of Lazarus' poem, in which she referred to the female figure as the "Mother of Exiles," the statue took a new association with the general public, as a symbol of opportunities and fresh beginnings for those immigrating to the United States.

The concept of a "Golden Door" inspires discussion and debate yet today.

To open and pass through a Golden Door, as described in Lazarus's poem, a person would be entering a place of refuge, freedom, and belonging. In essence, that's exactly the opportunities provided by a personal journal: a place where thoughts and feelings can be expressed without judgement or criticism.

Using the Golden Door as a theme students create a hardcover "door" that opens into simple, accordion-folded pages. The pages can be filled with drawings or words, then the door can be shut to keep those entries personal. Or, students can be challenged to express their own ideas on ideals such as freedom and liberty. This lesson plan also incorporates a simple and safe method of transferring images and text onto a page.

**GRADES 3-12** Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.



### Materials (required)

Rigid board for book cover, recommend:

[Blick Canvas Panels](#), 4" x 8" (07008-0048); two per student

[All Purpose Chipboard](#), 30-ply, 28" x 22" (13115-2232); share one piece among seven students

[Sargent Art Matte Acrylic Medium](#), 32 oz (00733-1007); share one across class

[Sargent Art Metallic Acrylic, Aztec Gold](#), 8 oz (00730-9035); share three across class

[Unfinished Wooden Beads](#), assorted sizes, pkg of 240 (60711-0000); one bead per student

[Stonehenge 90 lb Drawing Paper](#), Warm White, 22" x 30" sheets (10423-1782); share one among three students

[Blick White Glue](#), 4 oz (23882-1004); share one among three students

[Blick Scholastic Golden Taklon Flat Wash Brush](#), 1/2" (05859-4012); one per student

[Ribbon Assortment](#), 40 yards (62100-1040); share one across class

[Westcot Wooden School Rulers](#) 12" (55427-1012); one per student

### Optional Materials

[Blick Studio Markers, Colorless Blender](#) (22148-0000)

[Blick Art Gum Eraser](#), small 1" x 1" x 1/2", box of 24 (21507-1024)

[Raffia](#), assorted colors (60908-1372)

**Step 1:** Create doors from canvas panels and cardboard scraps.

**Step 2:** Accordion-fold paper and glue to doors. Create tie-close with string and a bead.

**Step 3:** Fill with drawings, writings, collage, and image-transfers.



### Preparation

1. Each student needs a front and back door. Provide canvas panels or heavy cardboard cut to approximately 4" x 8" to resemble the proportions of a door.
2. Cut drawing paper into strips for the pages of the book. A 22" x 30" piece of drawing paper can be cut into three strips, 30" wide by approximately 7-3/8" high to fit the specified door size.

### Process

1. If desired, create panels and rails on the "doors" to further describe their appearance. It may be helpful to view doors in advertisements or in buildings first. Cut and glue rectangular scrap pieces of cardboard onto the main pieces. Create a front and back door and allow glue to dry.  
As an option, paint the doors first and add details using a permanent marker once the paint is dry.
2. Paint the door using metallic gold paint on all surfaces. Allow to dry and apply a second coat, if needed.
3. While paint is drying, fold the strip of paper accordion-style for the inner pages. Use a ruler to measure first fold 3-3/4" from one edge and create a hard crease by pressing. Turn the paper over and make a second page by carefully aligning a second crease with the same paper edge. Repeat until paper is completely folded. A 30" strip will produce eight pages, 3-3/4" wide.
4. Determine which is the front door panel and which is the back. Tape a 15" piece of ribbon, raffia, or string onto the inside of the back panel so that 3" extends from the right of the panel and 8" extends from the left.
5. Glue one end of the folded paper strip over the string on the back "door." Press the accordion pages folded down onto that same panel and apply glue to the top page. Position the front "door" face up on that page and make sure it is aligned with the back panel and the string is loose on each side. Hold together with more tape or binder clips until glue has set.

NOTE: Make sure that top and bottom of "doors" are both going the same direction.

6. Glue a round wooden bead, approximately 1/4" diameter, on the right side of the door to indicate a handle. If desired, paint it gold to match. This can also be used as a point to tie the book closed using the string.
7. Fill book pages with text and images as desired. Historical and personal images may be especially relevant in collage applications. To transfer images onto pages:
  - a) Make an inkjet printed image, and trim away any background or areas that will not be included in the transfer. Images must be reversed.
  - b) Brush a small amount of acrylic medium over the image and position on a page. Burnish lightly with fingers to make sure there's good contact and the medium is distributed evenly.
  - c) Color over the back of the image with a colorless blender marker. It will cause the toner/ink to dissolve and the medium will hold it onto the paper. Expect imperfect transfers. Burnish lightly again and peel away paper.
  - d) Allow to dry, then gently rub away any excess paper with a gum eraser.

### National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

#### Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

#### Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

#### Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.