## Main Lesson Books





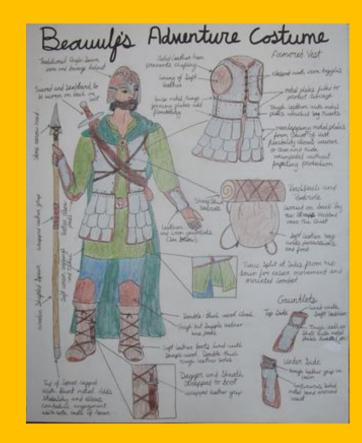


**Tips from Oak Meadow for grades 5-12** 

## What is a Main Lesson Book?

A main lesson book is a blank book that becomes filled with the student's drawings and writing. It is used as a learning tool as well as documentation of the student's work. The creation of a main lesson book (MLB) nurtures qualities of thoughtfulness, intention, perseverance, and creativity.







The main lesson book serves as a way to collect all of the student's work in one place. In the main lesson book, the student will fill the blank pages with beautiful drawings, colorful maps and diagrams, orderly numbers and equations, vibrant geometric drawings, and carefully formed writing.





Classification Example Christmas Fern

You can also glue into the main lesson book photos of larger projects, leaves and seeds collected for science studies, and anything else you would like to include in this special book.



## But what if my child doesn't like to draw?

Your child doesn't have to be an artist in order to create a beautiful, thoughtful main lesson book. Attention to detail, intentional use of color and design elements, and putting time and care into each page will result in a work of art that displays knowledge in an aesthetic way.

#### CONTRACTOR CONTRA

#### Mama's Bank Account

<u>Mama's Bank Account</u> is a book written by Kathryn forbes. It is about a Norwegian farmly living in San Francisco in the early 1900's. The story is narrated by Kathin, one of the children in the family. The family consists of Manna, Papa., Nels, Christine, Katrin, Dagmar, and Mama's faursisters, and her great uncle.

The book focuses on the ways Mama helps her family and everyone around her during hardships or even with daily problems. One of the ways she helps makes everything Okay is by mentioning her "Bank Account". The bank account never really existed, but was invented in order for her children to feel safe and content.

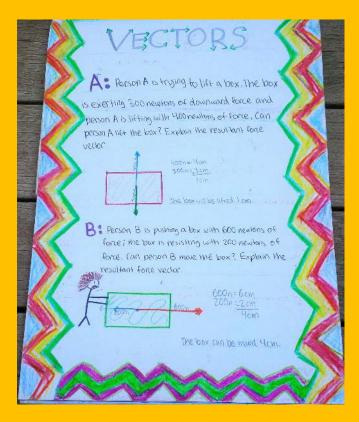
The characters in the story either help or hinder Mama through the various challenges presented.

Katrin is a kind girl who cares very much about her mother's feelings, and tries very hard to keep her parents happy.



# **Does everything go into the main lesson book?**

The main lesson book is used in different ways throughout the years, but in general, it is used for the "final" work rather than for practice pages. Your child should be encouraged to put his or her best work in the main lesson book.



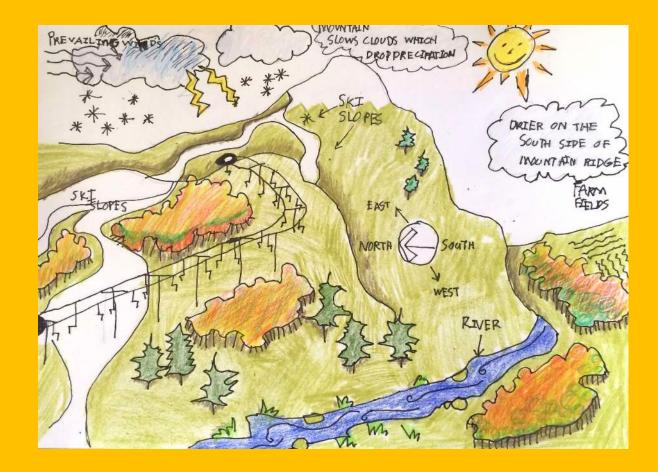


Practice drawings and rough drafts of writing are worked out on scrap paper before being carefully copied into the MLB.

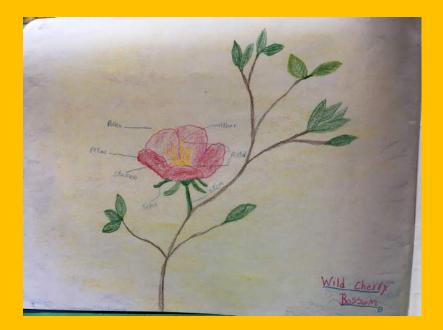


Finding Mean, Median, Mode and Range Mean: average of all numbers in a set Median: number at midpoint of a set Mode: most frequently occurring number in a set Range: difference between lowest and highest number in a set set of numbers: 31, 33, 34, 33, 32, 35, 37 36 Range Mode Median 33 15 most 33 = 34 frequent

Using a different MLB for each subject can indicate progress in the different areas of study.



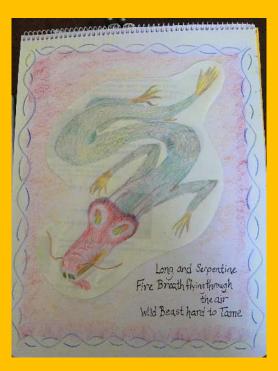




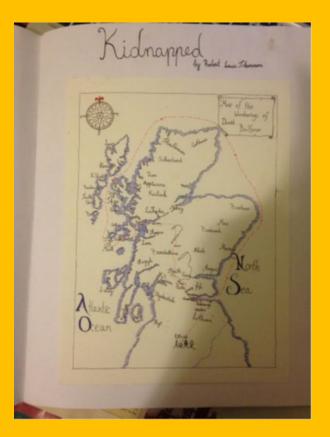
The MLB instills in the student the value of taking care to do one's best effort.



The MLB lets students turn a blank book into a beautiful form of personal artistic expression.



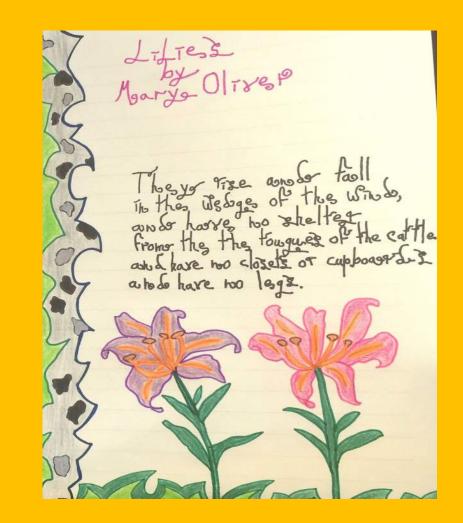
MLBs can be used in upper grades and High School for scientific drawings and field observations, for noting new math concepts, as a journal for English courses, and for essays with illustrations and accompanying text. Social studies offers many opportunities for creating memorable MLB pages, including maps, or special research projects.





Main lesson books can provide a unique glimpse into how students interpret what they are studying.





### What are the best materials for creating a MLB?

When writing paragraphs, stories, essays, and reports, it's best to use graphite or colored pencils because they produce a more refined line and make it easier to write legibly in a smaller space. A calligraphy pen can be used to add an artistic flare.

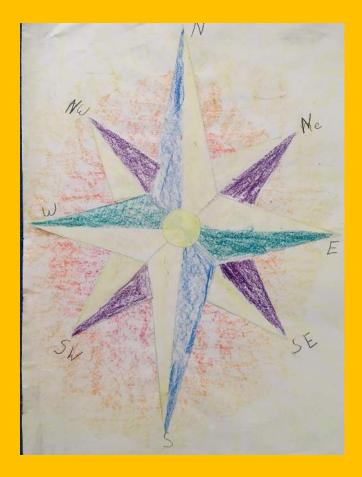
Illustrations can use different media, but colored pencils or crayons don't smudge as easily as other materials such as pastels.





## Use the whole page.

Encourage your student to create a large picture on the page, including a background.





A main lesson book takes on a unique personality during the course of the year, and it becomes an important and treasured record of the student's educational journey.





## Map of Chris' Journey

11.5.P

Houston

The Main Lesson Book should be viewed as a treasured keepsake.

300

Detrito

Cut

MEXICO

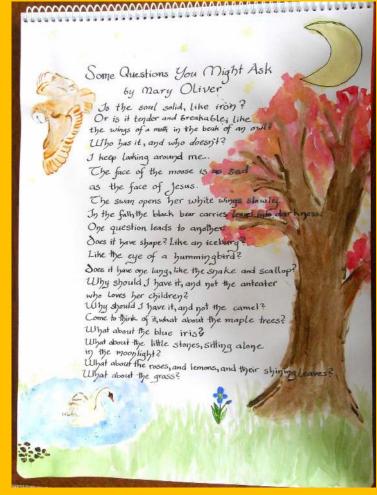
AStory



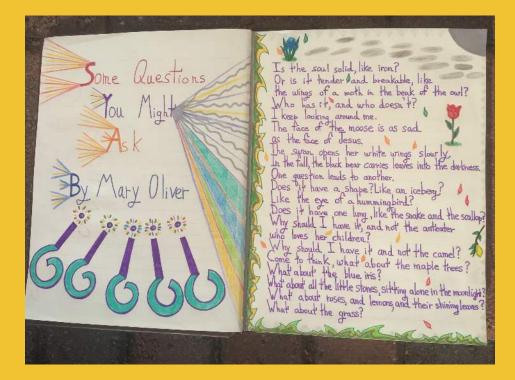
It is a lovely representation of a student's educational progress and accomplishments; a wonderful testimony to all the achievements that occur at each grade level. "This year we completed many assignments which were both challenging and fun. Out of all the assignments that I had to complete my favorites, by far, were MLB and creative writing assignments. I'm a very artistic person and so I love when we have the option to draw something or write a creative story or poem. That's why English (this year) was very calming apart from subjects like math or biology. Whenever my mind got too cluttered I would always work on English."

Victoria Minarovic, Oak Meadow Student





Same poem, different style! Each student creates their own interpretation of a project in a main lesson book.







Enjoy creating your main lesson book!

