Monsters! Ink!

Lesson Four

A Bit of a Sticky Situation...

Ok, we've gotten our characters created and breathed a bit of life into them. It's time for students to set the stage for their story's events. They're going to literally build their story's setting!

The **setting** is the environment in which a **story** or event takes place. When you're coming up with a story, character and plot (or the "who" and "what" of a story) are the two most important ingredients. But setting (the "where" and "when") comes a very close third.

Actually, a powerful setting is almost like a *character in its own right*, in that it has...

- A heart and soul
- A presence
- An influence on the events

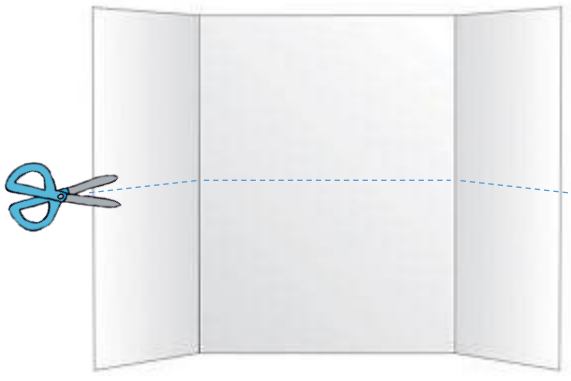
And so it's really no coincidence that you construct a fictional setting in exactly the same way that you create the story's characters...

Just like we're about to do! It's time to set the mood and make a setting with lots of details!

Crafting 3D Settings

Materials:

- Cardboard tri-fold displays
- Box cutters
- Acrylic Paint (washable preferred)
- Paintbrushes
- Paper plates (to use as palettes)
- Mod Podge
- Sponge Paint Brushes
- Printables (suggestions & resources links are below)
- Scissors
- Pencils
- A wide variety of scrapbooking papers
- Glue
- Glue Guns
- Additional art materials: ex. Tissue paper, construction paper, rocks, twigs, fishing line, popsicle sticks, string, moss, dried or fake flowers, paper drink umbrellas, toilet paper tubes, beads, buttons, bottle caps, old newspapers, old catalogs and magazines, stickers, and any other 'junk' you have lying around may inspire a creative burst.
- Paper & ink to print templates
- Access to online templates
- Sample images & teacher-made sample for inspiration
- Completed story characters



Tips

Tri-Fold: Cut the trifold display in half lengthwise with the box cutter. One half will serve as the base and the other half will serve as the background. Now, what kind of place will your characters be in today?

Scrapbook paper These books provide a great starting point in setting construction as with only a few books you can easily gather a collection that contains a wonderful and wide variety of visual images, textures, and shapes that can inspire a bit of confidence even the most 'but I'm not artistic!' of persons.

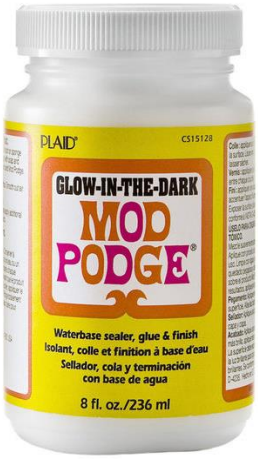
There are natural textures (wood, trees, bark grasses, water, sand, rocks,…and so much more), images, characters, landscapes, travel themes, the possibilities are infinite.

Mod Podge: Seriously, is there anything Mod Podge CAN'T do? Mod Podge is a tool that allows students to easily construct layers. Always start with the underlying design elements and work your way upward (when layering). Experiment with design elements to determine the layout of your piece. Add interest to your design by using large and small pieces, layering and overlapping elements and coordinating colors.

Cut your items to fit your surface. Measure as necessary, with a ruler and a pencil, and trim your items to fit. Students will be much happier with the end results if they cut everything to fit before Mod Podging as opposed to after.

Adhere each element with your Mod Podge using a sponge/foam brush. Remember, <u>always</u> start with the underlying design elements and work your way upward (when layering). Apply a medium coat of Mod Podge to the surface. Too little Mod Podge and you will get wrinkles – and you can always wipe away excess Mod Podge.

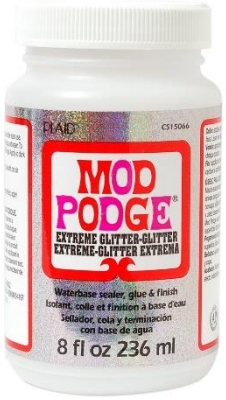
<u>Smooth, Smooth, Smooth</u>. Keep smoothing until all of the bubbles are removed. Then, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, let your project dry for 15 – 20 minutes. Don't put a top coat on right away.



Tip for working with large pieces: smooth from the center outward.

Add a protective coat of Mod Podge to your project using a sponge or flat brush. Allow to dry and then repeat. The number of coats you finish with is up to you, but we recommend at least two. Let dry and you're done!

Option: When you finish, if you experience any tackiness or just want to add durability, add a clear spray or brush-on sealer to the top.

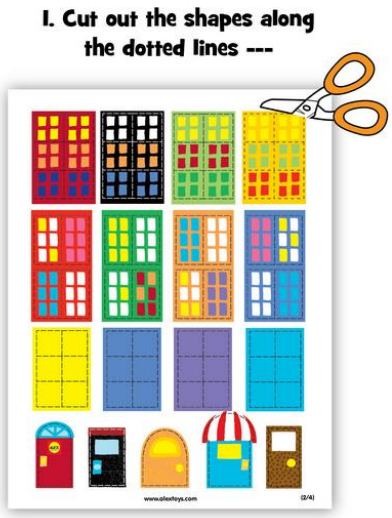


Note: Tissue Paper – There is nothing that you need to do to prepare tissue paper for Modge Podging, but just be advised that because it is so thin, it is very difficult to Mod Podge without wrinkles. The good news is that wrinkles are typically part of the charm of using tissue paper and add a little character to your surface.

Printable Resources:

Note: Some of the following resources are more advanced than others and some are easily constructed by even the youngest of students. Look through and select carefully those that are grade appropriate for your group. For the youngest grade-levels you may choose to do only 2-3 group settings for your whole class in which to base their stories. The more time-consuming larger pieces may be worth constructing even for younger students as they will be used for multiple stories.

Check out the gorgeous resources & printables at The Printable Neighborhood from Vivint **(here)** *A full-fledged town to download, print, and assemble. This paper toy neighborhood includes an ever-growing collection of homes, people, vehicles, stores, restaurants, and other buildings important to a growing town.* There are now over 40 different printable for you to download for students to print, cut, glue, and design settings with!



Here is a convenient place to access all of the Made by Joel Paper City posts. Print, color, build, and play!

There's more at Juice Box City from Alextoys.com. Welcome to Juice Box City, population – however many juice boxes you can drink! Take a drive down Orange Lavaburst Lane or see what's happening at Flashin' Fruit Punch Park.

Check out the amazing printable paper model kits at Haunted Dimensions. This is the definitive haunted mansion builder's site. Ray Keim is not only master paper modeler and gingerbread mansion builder, his talents have also been put to use working with Universal Studios Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights. In addition to Haunted Mansion models from the Disney parks in California, Florida and Paris, he has created some of the creepier facades from Universal's Halloween Horror Nights, the Norman Bates home, and Amityville Horror House, among other models. Keim is also in the process of creating an interactive progressive original model, The Knoll. Builders can follow along with the mystery "A Trespasser at Reeves Hall," and discover new downloadable pieces of the model along the way.

Casita /Little house /Kleines Häuschen Lantern printable

Ravensblight: This is probably the most Gothic site listed, but their models are original designs by artist Ray O'Bannon. O'Bannon, has set the site up as an odd little town with free paper toys, music downloads, PC games and more. His structures include Ravensblight Manor as well as a cliff house, two mansions, a Gothic chapel, and several other haunted structures, vehicles, and landscapes. He also offers paper replicas of battle axes, vampire stakes, floating candelabra, flutterbats, swords, and a ray gun.

The Toymaker: Any list would be incomplete if it didn't include artist, author, and geeky mom Marilyn Scott-Waters' wonderful site. Waters has been featured in several parenting and art publications, and is the author of two Paper Toys books. She is also illustrator for the young readers' books *The Search for Vile Things* and *Haunted Histories*. Her goal is for parents for spend more time creating with their kids, and her free downloadable paper crafts encourage this parent-kid partnership. Her Halloween crafts include several easy crafts and her Madame Fortunata's Cottage is an ideal haunted house build for beginners and kids.

There are a million possibilities for making 3D landscapes and cityscapes out of simple (often 2D) materials (like these free printable nature texture papers). Start building a solid foundation and then let your imagination go wild transforming 2D paper into a 3D sculpture of your story's setting.

Some other sites with fun printables:

Canon Creative Park: Their Halloween crafts and scrapbook item have a nostalgic "old school " vibe to it, and the paper crafts range from beginner to advanced levels such as the interactive Jack and the Halloween Dancers with a pumpkin that opens and closes at the turn of a gear. The effect is great, but it's recommended you get a little model building experience under your belt first.

Martha Stewart: There are some great entomology, biology, and botany-centered Halloween printables. If nothing else, check out the Snake and Frog Vellum Lanterns. You'll want to find a place to hang these year 'round.

Lia Griffith and her haunted house & 3D haunted village will add some spooky fun to any story! To get your hands on our 3D paper haunted village simply download and print. If you are using a cutting machine then you can use the SVG file. If you want to cut these designs by hand then simply download the templates and print onto card stock. Cut the patterns by hand then assemble the pieces as shown. The great thing about this project is that you can print and cut as many little houses, trees or fences as you want!

Tips: Remember some of these models can get pretty big and can look just as nice built half size. They take less ink and paper that way, but may be harder to build.

Many of these sites give you building and materials tips, as well as display ideas and models by fellow crafters.

Note: As free models, these modelers ask that builders don't re-distribute or sell any of their patterns, but that's just common decency.

CR-V
WHERE THE NEXT STEP IS NEVER FAR AWAY
WHERE The Ride MATTERS AS MUCH AS The Race

Monsters! Ink! Lesson Four Supply List

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- Paper & ink to print templates
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- Sample images & teacher-made sample for inspiration
- Completed story characters
- Imagination

Pacing Guide:

This lesson has been designed to take two to three 75-minute sessions to complete. It may take more or less depending on the needs of your classroom and the abilities of your students.