

# Idea Books

## A List of Resources

An Idea Book is a sketchbook + journal used in grades K-12 for recording personal experiences including observations, research, and reflections. This is an accompanying handout of resources for the Idea Books booklet.



### Books for ideas, inspirations, and examples for Idea Books

**Angelou, Maya.** *My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, and Me.* New York, New York, Clarkson Potter, 1994.

Through the words of Maya Angelou and the photographs of Margaret Courtney-Clarke we are introduced to a girl, her brother, her best friend (a chicken), and her village among the Ndebele people of South Africa.

**Banyai, Istvan.** *Zoom.* New York City, New York, Puffin, 1995.

A wordless book on a perspective adventure from afar to close up. Also check out Powers of Ten from the great designers Charles and Ray Eames - no doubt an inspiration and source for Zoom.

**Brookes, Mona.** *Drawing With Children.* Jeremy P. Tarcher, 1996.

Excellent book for children of all ages with easy-to-follow lessons for building artistic skills and for using drawings in various subjects. Also see my handouts on compositional forms.

**Cooper, Elisha.** *Dance.* Greenwillow Press, 2001.

From exercises to the production this book shares the sequence of events with dancers through sequential illustrations and words. Also check out the author's book *Building*.

**De Bono, Edward.** *Children Solve Problems.* London, Great Britain, Penguin Press, 1972.

Wonderful book with children solving problems through sketches and words. Great ideas to use and build from.

**Gomi, Taro.** *Scribbles.* San Francisco, California, Chronicle Books, 2004.

Ideas, ideas, and more ideas in a drawing/coloring book format. Fabulous.

**Grimes, Nikki.** *Talkin' About Bessie, the Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman.* New York City, New York, Orchard Books, 2002.

Biography of Elizabeth Coleman told from many different perspectives. Excellent for perspectives.

**Haring, Keith.** *Nina's Book of Little Thinks.* Prestel, 2000.

The pop artist Haring created a book of ideas for Nina, a friend's daughter.

**Kelly, Irene.** *It's a Hummingbird's Life.* New York City, New York, Holiday House, 2003.

Wonderful sketches and information on the life of hummingbirds. Excellent model of documenting observations.

**Hoban, Tana.** *Look Book.* New York, New York, William Morrow, 1997.

What we see if a matter of perspectives. Recommend this book and many others by the same author.

**Hyerle, David.** *Thinking Maps.* Cary, North Carolina, Thinking Maps Inc.

Visual tools to organize one's thinking. [www.thinkingmaps.com](http://www.thinkingmaps.com) [www.maptheminde.com](http://www.maptheminde.com)

**Lorenz, Albert.** *Metropolis.* New York, New York, Abrams, 1996.

Perspectives on ten cities in ten centuries from fresh vantage points. Hundreds of compelling images generate many ideas.

**Matthaei, Gay and Grutman, Jewel.** *The Sketchbook of Thomas Blue Eagle.* San Francisco, California, Chronicle Books, 2001.

A follow-up to *The Ledgerbook of Thomas Blue Eagle* - both are excellent artistry combined with thoughtful research.

**Moss, Marissa.** *Amelia's Notebook.* Berkeley, California, Tricycle Press, 1995.

This is the first book of a very popular series that is formatted in a composition book style.

**Munari, Bruno.** *Supplement to the Italian Dictionary.* Montova, Italy, Corraini Editore, 1963/1999.

From the great Italian designer a book that photographs to examine different ways of talking through gestures with written translation accompanying each gesture in four languages.

**Parker, Steve.** *It's a Frog's Life.* Pleasantville, New York, 1999.

An idea book from the perspective of a frog. Also check out *It's an Ant's Life* by the same author.

**Helen Voris.** *Teach the Mind, Touch the Spirit, A Guide to Focused Field Trips.* Chicago,

Field Museum of Natural History, 1986.

Excellent guide of ideas to use during field trips.

**Wright-Frierson, Virginia.** *A North American Rain Forest Scrapbook.* New York City,

New York, Walker and Company, 1999.

The author observes, draws, paints, and writes about the majesty of the world's largest temperate rain forest. She has also done island and desert scrapbooks.



### Book Sources

The following web booksellers are excellent sources of used books, including out of print publications. Abebooks and Alibris are both a consortium of independent booksellers.

[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)

[www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

[www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com)

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