



RATIONALE

Children, young people or adults create an art piece by sticking various materials on a piece of paper. A large variety of material may be used, such as pieces of paper, magazine cut-outs, photographs, pieces of fabric, stickers and found material. Collages may also incorporate text written and illustrations drawn by the students.

This response strategy allows children to be creative and produce art in a way that is accessible even for those who may not be good at illustration. It is also a useful tool for students to reflect on their own lives and practices, using the books they have read as a launching pad.

ADVICE FOR MEDIATORS

- Make sure that the activity is connected to both the theme and form of the book in some way (see examples below).
- Collages have an accumulative nature. It is built up from different examples of a practice or cultural resource as well the contributions of different individuals.
- This activity can be done by both individuals and groups. It works well as a whole class activity.
- Mediators should also take part in this activity.
- While you may ask students to bring their own material from home, it is better to have material on hand for them to use.
- You may also forego sticking material onto pieces of paper and choose to your collages composed only of words and illustrations.

EXTENDING THE TASK

Creative response activities are a good way to expand on the themes in the books after reading the book or introduce the theme of the book before.





Example 1:

Al-Kannas/Le Balayeur de Poussière [The Street Sweeper] by **Mathilde Chèvre** includes a spread where we see the various pieces of paper that the street sweeper has collected, including stamps, paper money, newspaper cuttings, children's homework, letters, etc. Children can create a collage on the various pieces of text and paper they encounter in their environment.



Example 2:

In *Al-Amma Osha [Aunt Osha]* by **Fatima Sharafeddine and Hanan Al-Qa'i**, the main character, Aunt Osha, talks constantly and her talk is represented as small triangles cut out from newspaper. We asked children to write on cut out triangles the things they talk about daily.

ADVICE FOR MEDIATORS

Have the children discuss their collages and the various elements they included on them. If the mediator had taken part in the activity, this goes for them as well!

TAKING NOTES OF CHILDREN'S RESPONSES

Collages provide a ready record of themselves. If the children would like to keep them or take them home, take high resolution photographs of each collage. You may also want to document the children's 'making of' of their work by audio or video-recording, taking notes of what they say or having them write about their collages and the elements they have decided to include on them.