Family First Kits

These instructions were created for a Mythological Beast Bookbinding Workshop and corresponding take-home kits. Kits for this and other Reynolda-inspired projects are available in the Museum Store or by contacting the Education department.

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We are also providing these instructions on our website, should you wish to create your own version of the project at home. Find a list of needed tools and materials on the next page, along with instructions and a printable template to create your own bestiary.
Classical mythology includes a range of beasts combining different animals—a griffin, for example, blends the body of a lion with the head and wings of an eagle. Learn bookbinding techniques and create your own bestiary of interchangeable animals and monsters. With each page turn, you can create a unique animal creation.

### INSPIRATION

At Reynolda, mythological beasts lurk in all manner of decorative items, from clocks, to andirons in a fireplace, to lamp shade finials. When Mrs. Reynolds furnished Reynolda, furniture makers and designers were interested in designs from Ancient Greece and Rome, among other times in history, and this included mythology. While visiting the Museum, see if you can find any mythological beasts.

Consider:
- What animals or ideas did the artist combine to make this?
- What material(s) did the artist use to create this?

### MATERIALS

**Included in your kit:**
- Two 7 ¼” x 9 ¾” mat board rectangles for book covers
- Two 1 ¼” x 9 ¾” mat board strips for book spines
- Two pieces of construction paper for book covers (10” x 11 ¼”)
- Two patterned papers for end papers (8 ½” x 9 ⅜”)
- Printed and prepared illustrations
- Blank drawing pages with cutting lines
- Glue stick
- Needle and hemp binding thread
- Pencil

**Additional tools you will need:**
- Scissors
- Ruler or bone folder (you can also use the scissor handle)
- Optional: colored pencils or markers; binder clip
INSTRUCTIONS

Video instructions for this activity can also be found on youtube.com/Reynolda.

PART ONE: BUILD BOOK COVERS

1. Place one of the large, construction paper sheet covers on your work area. Glue one mat board (9 ¾ x 7 ¼”) and one thin mat board (the spine board, 9 ¼” x 1 ¼”) onto the paper, in the center (as shown in the illustration below). Leave a small gap between the boards, about ⅛” to ¼” wide. Repeat this step with the other cover.

In this orientation, the one on the left will make the back cover. The one on the right will make the front cover.

2. Fold each corner of the cover paper down so that the fold meets as closely to the corners of the mat board as possible, as in the diagram to the right. Glue the corners down. Repeat for the second cover.

3. After gluing down the corners, fold the remaining edges of the paper along the mat board, hugging it tightly. Glue the flaps down. Repeat for the second cover.

4. Use your needle to find the pre-punched holes on the spine board. Gently push the needle through all three holes to create a hole in each side of the cover paper and ensure that your needle will pass through the mat board. Send the needle through multiple times, if necessary. In a later step, you will be sewing through each hole multiple times and so you want the needle to pass through somewhat easily. Repeat for both covers.

5. Glue the decorative end-papers ((8 1/4 x 9 3/8”) to the center of each cover board. Then, again use your needle to locate the holes and punch them through the end-papers.

6. Take a soft edge of ruler or bone folder (or the handle of your scissors) and gently run it along the “ditch” between the main cover board and the spine board. This will create a slight crease and prepare the book to fold open along the gap between the boards. Take care not to rip the paper.
PART TWO: PREPARE BOOK PAGES
1. Create your own illustrations on the three blank book pages. The small vertical lines in the middle of the page show where your people or creatures should line up (the neck/shoulders and the waist.) The faint horizontal lines show where to cut.
2. After drawing on the blank pages, you may choose to color in each page. Alternatively, you can wait to color your pages until after you have bound the book.
3. Once you have made your illustrations, cut along the faint horizontal lines to match the other, prepared pages. Gather all pages together in the order you would like them to appear.

PART THREE: BIND YOUR BOOK
1. Take your paper stack with the pre-punched holes and use your needle to re-poke the holes to ensure the needle will easily pass through while you stitch the book together.
2. Place your book pages between both covers, lining up the holes. (Hint: you can poke your needle through one of the holes on the back cover, through the book pages, and through the same hole on the front cover to help line them up.) You can use a binder clip to hold the boards and pages in place.
3. Thread your needle with the twine, but do not knot. Use the diagram to guide your sewing.
   a. Bring your needle and twine into the bottom hole from the back of the book. Leave a tail about 2” long (you will tie with this tail in the last step.) (Tuck tail into binder clip if you have one.)
   b. Wrap the twine over the bottom edge of the book and again bring your needle through the same hole, from the back to the front. Pull snugly, but don’t pull your tail through the hole.
   c. Wrap your twine to the left, around the spine of the book and again bring your needle through the same hole, from the back to the front. Pull snugly.
   d. Send your needle into the center hole, from the front to the back. Pull snugly.
   e. Send the needle back into the center hole (the twine will wrap over the spine) and out the back. Pull snugly.
   f. From the back of the center hole, send your needle through the top hole, from the back to the front. Pull snugly.
   g. Take the needle and twine around the spine to again bring the needle through the top hole, from the back to the front. Pull snugly.
   h. Take the needle and twine around the top of the book to again bring the needle through the top hole, from the back to the front. Pull snugly.
   i. Stitch into the center hole, from the front to the back. Ensure that all twine is pulled securely to the book (not loose.) Find the tail that should be sticking out of the bottom hole. Use it and the remaining thread you sewed with to tie a double knot over the back side, bottom hole. Once you are happy with the knot, cut the tails and enjoy your book! See what creations you can make.
GUIDE to mythological and other imaginary beasts

**Centaur**
Head and chest of a man + body of a horse

**Griffin**
Head and wings of an eagle + body of a lion

**Sphinx**
Head of a human (or falcon or cat) + body and legs of a lion (sometimes they also have wings)

**Merpeople**
Head and torso of a human + tail of a fish

**Pan or faun (nicer) or Satyr (not as nice)**
Head and torso of a man + waist and legs of a goat (or possibly a bull for satyrs)

**Hippogriff**
Head and beak of an eagle + lions front legs (with talons) + back legs and tail of a horse

**Basilisk** – Head and wings of a rooster + body of a snake
**Cerberus** – Three headed dog + dragon’s tail + a backbone with serpents
**Chimera** – A generic word for a creature combining different animals
**Chinese Dragon** – Typically drawn as a snake like creature with four legs and claws
**Pegasus** – A horse with wings
**Phoenix** – A colorful bird who dies in flame and then is reborn from the ashes
**Scylla** – A six-headed creature
**Manticore** – Head of a human + body of a lion + scorpion-like tail
**Minotaur** – You could create it with the head and legs of a bull + the torso of a man
**Unicorn** – A horse with a single, spiraling horn emerging from its forehead

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**Other creatures you might create with your own illustrations**
Cut along dotted line here ^ to make paper fit book dimensions. After drawing illustrations, cut along the other horizontal lines.