

Bucket of Books, Basket of Books & Bag of Books

Each of these projects are especially neat when you decorate the bucket, basket and bag according to the themes of the books that you are bringing to read. (If you are reading dairy books, decorate the bucket of books in cow print.)

Bucket of Books

Materials Needed:

- ❖ 5 gallon plastic bucket
- ❖ 1 yard of agriculturally-themed fabric
- ❖ 1 small decorator pillow form or polyfill batting
- ❖ Various ribbons and trims to match the fabric (i.e. colored cord)
- ❖ Hot glue gun
- ❖ Glue sticks
- ❖ Masking tape

Instructions:

1. Take the lid off of the bucket and set aside for later.
2. Begin by gluing one end of the fabric to the top of the bucket. Continue to glue fabric around the entire top of the bucket.
3. Cut slits on either side of the bucket where the handles are. Glue down the fabric very well around there to prevent fraying of the fabric.
4. When you have glued the fabric all the way around the top of the bucket cut excess material off.
5. Fold under the frayed edge and glue all the way down the bucket making a neat seam.
6. Turn the bucket upside down to glue the material to the bottom.
7. Glue down fabric to the bottom of the bucket. It depends on the fabric you choose as to the method of gluing. One way is to glue pleats at equal intervals all the way around the bottom of the bucket. (Some material may not lay completely flat against the bucket.) Cut off any excess fabric.

8. Set the bucket aside and get the lid.
9. Cut fabric in a circle that is approximately 4 to 5 inches larger than the lid all the way around.
10. Take the wrapper off of the decorator pillow and put it on top of the bucket lid.
11. Place the fabric on top of the pillow. Flip over the lid and tape one side of the fabric to the lid with masking tape.
12. Pull the other side tight and glue to the lid.
13. Carefully take the tape off and glue the other side of the fabric to the lid.
14. Repeat the previous 3 steps to the opposite sides of the lid.
15. Once there are four sides glued down, you can glue the rest of the fabric to the lid. Make sure that the fabric is tight to keep the pillow form in place.
16. Now you can be creative and glue ribbons and trim to the bucket and the lid. When you are done you will have a cute bucket that you can carry agriculture books into the class in and a neat seat to sit on or have a student sit on.

Basket of Books

Materials Needed:

- ❖ One basket (The kind that you buy for picnics that has a side for plates and then different compartments for the napkins and flatware work really well. Put the books in the side where the plates go and then stuff the other compartments with pencils, brochures and bookmarks.)
- ❖ Hot glue gun
- ❖ Glue sticks
- ❖ Decorations - ribbons, ivy, trim, flowers, fruit, etc. (Anything that you can glue onto a basket will work.)

Instructions:

1. You can really use your creativity for this basket! Just use hot glue to glue your accessories onto the basket.

Bag of Books

Materials Needed:

- ❖ One medium size plain bag
- ❖ Agricultural stencils
- ❖ Stencil or fabric paint
- ❖ Stencil brushes
- ❖ Masking tape
- ❖ Paper towels
- ❖ Optional: agriculturally-themed fabric, fabric adhesive (WonderUnder), stickers, stamps and/or patches

Instructions:

1. Decide on a design for your bag. (You may want to sketch it out on paper before you start to paint.)
2. Put a plastic bag inside the bag you are decorating.
3. Tape down the stencil to the bag using masking tape. Select the color and rub on the stencil paint with the stencil brush. Make sure not to stencil the paint too thick as it will take a long time to dry and could smear the other stencils on your bag.
4. Wipe off the front and back of the stencil with the paper towel to prevent excess paint from getting on other parts of the bag.
5. Allow 5 to 10 minutes of drying time before placing the stencil on a different part of the bag.
6. Continue stenciling using the same procedure until your pattern is done.
7. Once stenciling is dry finish the bag by placing stickers, patches or other accessories to the bag.
8. Give the bag at least overnight to dry before using it.
9. Other options include ironing on patches or pieces of fabric or using stamps or stickers instead of stencil painting.