



My Book!

Imagine reaching school age without ever having owned, or even borrowed, a book!

There are children in Congo who have no books, their parents have no books, their classroom has no books and they have no access to a public library or the internet.

Even newspapers and magazines are unaffordable luxuries and a calendar picture is such a rarity that it stays on the wall for years.

These children learn to read from a blackboard, and never see a book with coloured pictures to help them bridge the gap between images and words.

Each child in your class can give another child the joy of a very special first book.

Two of the books are in French, the language they learn at school, and two are in Swahili, the language they speak at home.

The books are formatted so that they can be printed on one sheet of A4 paper. One cut and a nifty fold will turn them into quite a conventional little 6 page book- like a simple home reader in Australia.

Step-By-Step Guide to Making Tiny Books

1. Print out the Books you want your class to choose from. Make some copies so they have one each. You can download them here: <https://www.bonvolo.net/schoolkit>
2. Talk about the text and the languages. If you like, the children can visit the Global Storybook Site and experiment with changing the language of the different books. Here are the links to the stories we use.

<https://storybooksafricanlanguages.net/stories/en/0030/>

<https://storybooksafricanlanguages.net/stories/en/0302/>

<https://storybooksafricanlanguages.net/stories/en/0067/>

<https://storybooksafricanlanguages.net/stories/en/0008/>

Can your students find how we adapted the stories to fit the 6 page format?

3. Students cut and fold the pages like this:



- a. Fold the page in half, then in half again and again.
- b. Unfold until it has only one fold left. Make one cut from the middle of the paper along the long center fold to the perpendicular fold.

- c. Fold all of the folds back the other way so that the paper will go either way.
 - d. Refold the longest fold line so that the blank side is no longer visible.
 - e. Squash the ends in so that the middle section makes a diamond shape seen from the top.
 - f. Close the book so that the credits are on the back and the cover is on the front.
4. Students personalise the book with a cover design that reflects the theme: Fire, Feelings, Cooking or Actions. Bold colours like textas or coloured paper collage show up better on the photo, but any medium is fine. The last page has a place for children to draw the last picture: a candle or oil-lamp, a gift or happy face, a bowl of yummy soup, a child in action (for each book respectively) and to sign their name.
5. You can scan the images and send them to penny@mondeto.com or collect the little books and post them to SchoolKit 50 Victoria St, Cooma, 2630 and we will scan them. The first option is better if the children want to keep their books.
6. Please make sure that you fill out the form here:
<https://www.bonvolo.net/schoolkit>
and deposit the SchoolKit donation here:
<https://directory.rawcs.com.au/23-2023-24>
7. The scanned books will be sent to Congo, printed, folded and distributed with the SchoolKits your class have sponsored. We will take photos and video and share them with you.



Thank you for supporting children in need through SchoolKit!