

The background features several abstract shapes: a large yellow shape in the top left with a cluster of pink dots; a pink shape in the top right with a cluster of pink dots; a blue wavy line in the middle left; a light blue shape in the bottom left with a cluster of yellow dots; a large yellow shape in the bottom right with a cluster of pink dots and an orange wavy line; and a green wavy line at the bottom.

COLLAGE

At home activities for

- **under 5s**
- **primary school students**
- **families**

INSPIRATION

WHAT IS COLLAGE?

A collage is a piece of art made by sticking or arranging various different images or materials together. Collages can be produced by cutting out existing photographs or images, arranging colourful paper shapes together, layering magazine cuttings, textured paper and text or creating one image out of a mixture of materials like paint, chalk and photography.

COLLAGE ARTISTS

Explore different collage techniques by investigating the following artists:

- Henri Matisse
- John Stezaker
- Hannah Höch
- Wangechi Mutu
- Richard Hamilton
- Lorna Simpson
- David Hockney
- Peter Blake

A quick google search will find lots of images from these artists. What can you find out about their art?



INSPIRATION

JOE ORTON AND KENNETH HALLIWELL

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell were a writer and artist couple who lived together in Islington in the late 1950's and 1960's. In May 1962 they were prosecuted for theft and malicious damage and sent to prison for six months. They were accused of taking books from Islington libraries and returning them with collaged covers.



The pair created collages on the front and back covers, and sometimes rewrote or added extra plot text to the jackets. The imagery and text were often outrageous and thought provoking. Orton and Halliwell would amuse themselves by watching reactions from members of the public when they discovered the altered books on the shelves. The two artists also cut pictures from magazines, newspapers and books to decorate their walls and furniture.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Explore the images on the following pages with your under 5s. What can you see? Talk about the animals, faces and colours in the pictures.

With primary age children, explore the images together and discuss the questions below:

- What do you think about what Orton and Halliwell did? What do you think about the punishment they were given?
- How do you think members of the public may have felt when they took home edited books?
- How might you collage and edit your favourite book?



**This is the wall of Orton and Halliwell's flat.
Look closely.
How many faces can you count?**

Image: Islington Local History Centre

AGATHA CHRISTIE

The
Secret
of
Chimneys

AGATHA CHRISTIE



Look closely at this book cover.
What images do you think Orton and Halliwell added?
What could this story be about?

Image: Islington Local History Centre

Collins
Guide to
ROSES

Collins Guide to

ROSES

**BERTRAM
PARK**

PLANTING
CULTIVATION
PRUNING

—
1350 ROSES
DESCRIBED

—
80 PAGES OF
ILLUSTRATIONS

635
.93
ROS



by
**BERTRAM
PARK**

COLLINS

Look closely at this book cover.

What images do you think Orton and Halliwell added?

How does the edited book cover make you feel?



Look closely at this image.
Which room have Orton and Halliwell
decorated here?

UNDER 5S

These activities will help to support your child meet the statutory skills identified in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, in particular 'expressive arts and design' and 'communication and language'.

MONSTER COLLAGE

1. Cut out images of animals and people from magazines or print stock images from online.
2. Cut out different body parts, heads, legs, arms, wings, tails...
3. Combine and stick them together on card to create imaginary monsters or beasts
4. Can you give your creation a name?

STORY COLLAGE

1. Cut out images from magazines or print stock images from online.
2. Cut them out and stick them down together on a large piece of card.
3. Can you use it to tell a story? Can you name the things in the picture? Can you count them?

**ADULTS PLEASE SUPPORT
CHILDREN WHEN USING
SCISSORS**



WATER COLLAGE

1. Fill a tray with cool water.
2. Create floating collages using colourful cellophane, flowers, leaves, buttons, glitter, feathers or other lightweight items.
3. Take photos of each finished collage and explore the pictures together later. What shapes and colours can you name?

TEXTURE COLLAGE

1. Create an image together using varied materials from around your house. Try bubble wrap, tin foil, crumpled paper, cotton wool and ribbon.
2. Count and name the different textures together.

PRIMARY STUDENTS

This activity will help to support your child meet the statutory skills and knowledge identified in the Art and Design and English curriculums.

Make a collaged book cover inspired by Orton and Halliwell's rebellious art.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- An old book that you don't mind getting creative with OR a notebook OR a piece of plain paper.
- Old magazines and newspapers (check that they are no longer needed).
- Scissors (adults must supervise use of scissors).
- Glue.
- Colourful paper, cut up packaging, pom-poms, sequins, ribbon and stickers, if you have them.

STEP ONE

Using the worksheets on the pages below, or a plain piece of paper, plan your own story and front cover design. Look at the photos of Orton and Halliwell's work as inspiration.

STEP TWO

Go through your materials and cut out images, words, textures, colours and shapes you like or think are relevant to your design.



ADULTS PLEASE SUPPORT CHILDREN WHEN USING SCISSORS

STEP THREE

Layer your collage pieces onto your notebook's front cover, old book or plain piece of paper. Start by gluing down your background before adding characters and text on top.

STEP FOUR

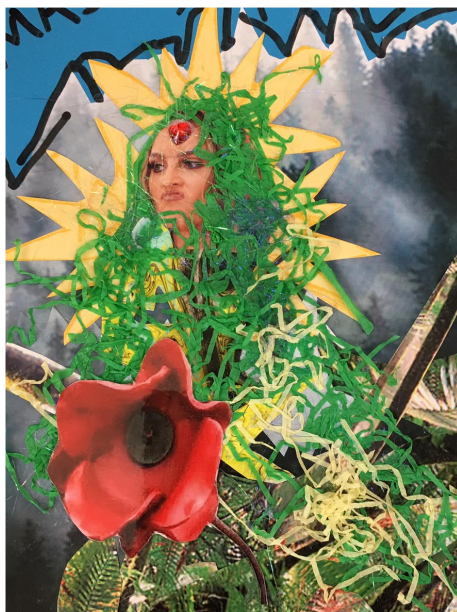
If you can, use the blurb resource in this pack. Print it, fill it in and stick it on the back of your book. If you don't have access to a printer, copy the format and create your own! This is where you tell your readers what your book is all about.

EXTRA

Could you begin planning and writing your own story to go with your collaged front cover? Use the resources in this pack to help you.

GET INSPIRED...

Have a look at these examples made by Islington families. What stories might be waiting behind these creative book covers?



STORY PLANNING

Title:

Describe your main character:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

BOOK COVER DESIGN

A front cover tells your audience about your story. What will your front cover tell your readers about your book?

My story is.....

scary

silly

funny

strange

magical

mysterious

educational

Sketch your design here:

BLURB

Use this template to tell your audience about your story.

Explore the books in your house. What do they include in their blurbs? Do they include quotes from reviewers? Do they tell you about the author? How do they encourage you to read the book?

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WHOLE FAMILY

GROUP COLLAGE ACTIVITIES

Collect a range of materials from around your home (newspapers, old magazines, wrapping paper, bubble wrap, colourful cellophane etc.) and try these activities:

- Take it in turns to name an object. Race to create a picture of the object or idea using collage materials.
- Start with a clean piece of paper. Pass it around the family or group, with each participant adding a collage piece until you are happy with it!
- Using the primary school resource as a guide, encourage each family member to create their own book-cover collage. Talk about your stories together and investigate each other's work.

BOOK-COVER CHARADES

- Collect your favourite books together from around your home.
- Take it in turns to select and act out each story or title, while the rest of the family guesses.
- Take it in turns to direct your family in recreating the front cover of each book.
- Take photos of your tableau and share them with us on twitter!

COLLAGE A STORY

Can you tell a story together as a family? Collage it together using your voices.

Sitting in a circle take it in turns to say a line of a story you all know and love, or to make up a new story as you go along.

EXTRA: Record your story, make art inspired by it or act it out!



Tweet and share your work:
[@IslingtonMuseum](#)
[@CallyClockTower](#)