

# Hey there, Makers!

Hey there, makers!

We're talking to you – yes, you. Every one of us is a maker. We are crafters, gardeners, bakers, woodworkers, chefs, artists, teachers, thinkers, explorers, storytellers, tinkerers, architects, knitters, weavers, builders, musicians, mechanics, dancers, poets, and so many other things.

The phrase "gather, make, wait" appears throughout the picture book *To Make*, encouraging readers to use these steps as building blocks to understand making as a non-linear creative process. *To Make* inspires all of us to "keep making" whatever it is that makes our hearts sing.

Makerspaces encourage and facilitate making of all kinds. They're filled with supplies, tools, and opportunities. They spark curiosity and inspire questions like "What can we build, make, sculpt, or create?" and "How do these things fit together?"

In these spaces, children create on their own terms. They learn new skills and resources. They play with materials, words, and ideas in new ways. They build confidence and learn about themselves and others. Makerspaces inspire students to work together, to work independently, to delegate roles, to set goals, to hold one another (and themselves) accountable, to communicate, to problem-solve, to experiment, and to understand setbacks, unknowns, and waiting as part of a longer process. Overcoming these natural challenges helps children build flexibility that carries into other facets of their lives.

In this way, makerspaces can support Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) tools such as recognizing strengths, identifying and solving problems, goal-setting and self-motivation, empathy and appreciation for diversity, and accepting and offering help. And, always, they should be inclusive, culturally-affirming spaces for all children to be invited, to explore their identities and interests, and to tinker, play, create and make.

This companion guide is designed to support you as you support your makers. It ties into the following subjects: English Language Arts, Science and Nature, Art, History, Design, Photography, and Problem-solving. You'll find a range of flexible activities; they can be modified according to your group of children. The following pages will:

- 1. Facilitate conversations about To Make and making.
- 2. Offer a diverse reading list focused on creativity, making, and makers.
- 3. Further inspire students to cultivate a "lifelong making" mindset.
- 4. Encourage children to work together and engage in community via making.
- 5. Empower students to embrace process versus outcome and that challenges and waiting are part of any process.
- 6. Engage children in reflecting on and owning their unique identities as makers.

## **HarperCollins**

"A stunning picture book ode to the joys of the creative process and the spirit of collaboration. This lyrical story from Danielle Davis and Mags DeRoma is perfect for fans of Kevin Henkes, Gyo Fujikawa, and Julie Fogliano. To make . . . a cake, a garden, a song, you first gather, then make—and wait. . . . This gorgeous, timeless book gently emphasizes patience as part of the making process and is a fitting book for all homes, classrooms, and makerspaces everywhere."

### Susie Gomez

"As a middle school teacher, I am excited to use *To Make* with my students as a motivational and instructional tool. *To Make* is the perfect book to introduce to students as they begin the writing process, a process that often requires them to have patience and dedication to make something to share with the world. *To Make* will surely motivate and inspire young readers and writers to feel confident in pursuing both academic and personal goals."

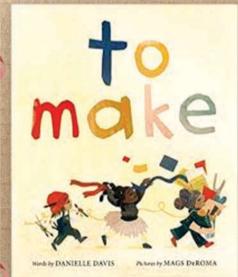
#### Maliha Din

Early Childhood Educator, M.Ed

"To Make encourages children to seek out their artistic identities. It's a beautiful reminder of creative process."

# Lauren Kratz Prushko

"To Make is an engaging book perfect for storytime and to pair with any library program that involves making something and expressing yourself.
You can imagine a group of children chanting the catchy but powerful refrain, gather, make, wait."



Khadesia Latimer @thebusybrushes Elementary Art Teacher, M.Ed

"I love how this book focuses on the process as much as the product. In art class, we sometimes forget that the process is just as important! That's where the learning and growing takes place. The process stops when the product is deemed finished. Then we can step back and enjoy what we've create by sharing it with others."

### Booklist

"Sure to inspire all sorts of creativity."

#### A. Rampen Kindergarten Teacher

"To Make is the perfect circle time book for my full day kindergarten students to begin the inquiry process, whether it's introducing the concept of inquiry based learning and guiding children to take ownership over their own independent discovery in a play based classroom or beginning the brainstorming process after a new inquiry has arisen."

#### Delaney Daly Children's Librarian, MLIS

"To Make is a terrific resource for caregivers and educators who wish to instill the values of diligence and perseverance in the hearts and minds of young readers."



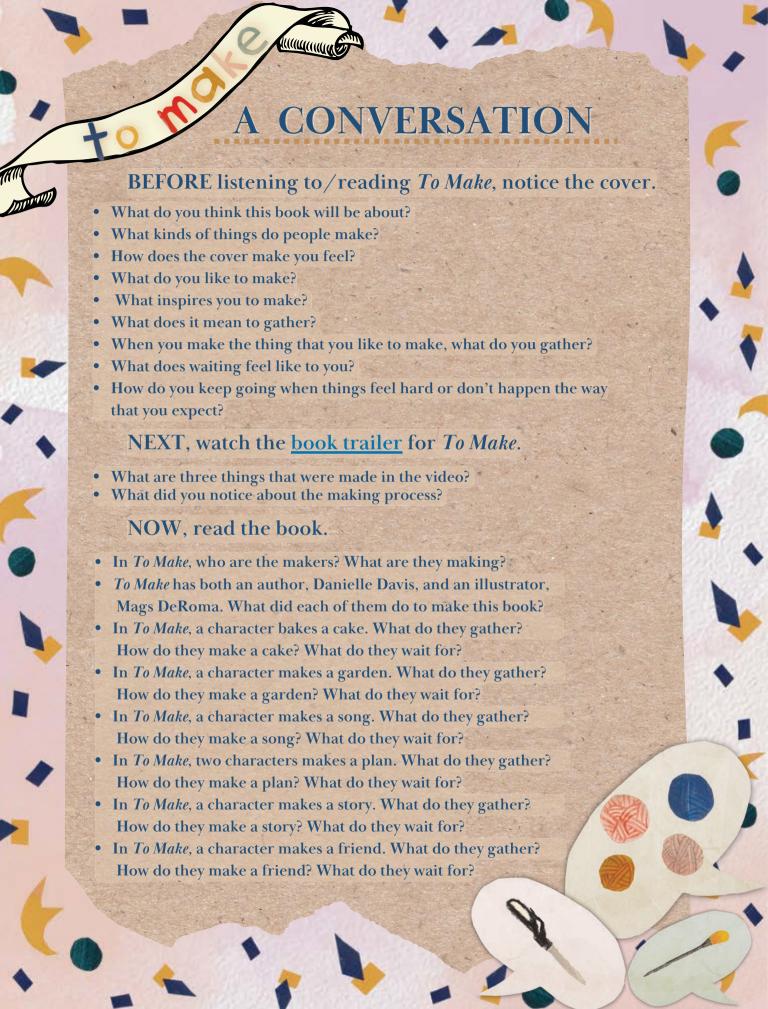
# A KIDLIT BOOK LIST TOGETHER



Making surrounds us. We see it in our daily lives, our traditions, our activism, and our relationships with friends, family, and ourselves. Think about your favorite stories. Does a character make something? What do they make? How do they make it? How does making play a role in the overall plot?

Here is a list of some of our favorite kidlit stories about makers and making. We anticipate it growing, especially with your help, so we recommend bookmarking it! In the collaborative spirit of *To Make*, we hope the document we've created will become a collaboration with you – yes, you! We welcome you to share stories that speak to you about makers and making by adding them to this community resource. We've organized them in the following categories:

- 1. *TO MAKE* \_\_\_\_\_. This section includes stories about making anything from mistakes to baked goods to dances to drawings and beyond.
- 2. *TO MAKE* Change In Our World. This section includes stories about helping other people, helping communities, helping animals, and helping our world. There are so many ways to make a difference.
- 3. *TO MAKE* Traditions. This section includes stories about making traditions, both small and large, with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, etc.
- 4. TO MAKE Creative Identity and Creative Process. This section includes stories that explore creating as a process. These stories look at where makers create, why makers create, and how makers create.
- 5. MAKER BIOGRAPHIES. This section includes stories about real life makers and their lives!







TO MAKE depicts makers creating different things, from a wooden birdhouse to a windchime to a dance. By sharing unique maker identities, TO MAKE emphasizes that all makers experience a non-linear creative process that includes gathering, making, and waiting. In this activity, students will create a Maker's Journal to track their journey as a maker and reflect about making.

You can invite students to decorate a pre-made notebook or to bind paper together themselves, thinking not only about form (what represents them as a maker, and what do they like?), but also about function (how many pages will they want? How will they organize it? What will make it easy to use?).

Suggested materials for decorating pre-made journals: Mod Podge, paintbrushes, scissors, magazines, construction paper, cardstock, markers, paints, sequins, puffy paints, etc. For making and binding journals: paper, string, fabric, decorative paper, cardboard, and a curved needle.

After students have created their Maker's Journals, they'll use them to explore identity, process, and reflection via specific questions. We recommend introducing this project soon after reading TO MAKE and setting aside time for students to write in their Maker's Journals often, even daily. This activity can culminate (after a week of projects, a month of projects, or even an entire year of projects) in students creating a Maker's Talk, during which they can share their story, what they've made, and what it means to them in a Maker's Showcase.

Suggested materials: time, thoughts, and something to write with.

Suggested book pairings: TO MAKE, stories about Creative Process and Creative Identity, and Maker Biographies.

Everyone is a maker. And so are you. This project is an opportunity for you to create a journal that reflects you. Your Maker's Journal is a safe place for you to explore, reflect, brainstorm, doodle, and capture your making process and your story.

Step 1: Gather physical materials that inspire you to decorate your journal.

Mu (Step 1: Gather physical man-Step 2: Make your journal by designing, assembling, gluing, arranging and/or binding your materials.

Merc Step 3: Wait for your materials to dry by reflecting on your creative process! What was easy/difficult/unexpected/fun? What do you think would have made the process of making the journal smoother? What did you learn?

Step 4: Now, it's time to journal! Refer to the Creative Inventory Identity and Process sections for questions to get started. Choose a few questions from these sections each time you return to your Maker's Journal. After you make something, write about the questions in the Reflection section.

# YOUR CREATIVE INVENTORY

### **IDENTITY:**

Who are you as a maker? Which materials are you drawn to? What textures, sounds, and colors do you like? How do you feel when you experience them? How do you feel when you make? What do you like to make? Where do you make? What kinds of clothing do you wear when you make? What time of day is best for you for making? What kind of music do you listen to when you make? Do you have a playlist, artist, or song you return to? Who supports your making? Who do you share your creations with? Who are other makers that you know? How often do you make? If you could make anything, what would it be? How would you make it? What do you do when you have a setback or have to wait? What are three adjectives to describe yourself as a maker? What are three adjectives to describe the vibe of what you make? What's the first thing that you can remember making? Does your family and/or friends have traditions around birthdays or holidays that involve making? Who is a maker that you look up to? What kinds of books, graphic novels, films, comics, magic-tricks, musicals, movies, sports, objects, nature, memories, music, inventions, and artists inspire you? How do you encourage yourself to have confidence as a maker? Melman und How do you encourage other people to have confidence as a maker?

### **PROCESS:**

What are you currently working on? Where are you in your making process? How did you begin this project? How does making feel to you right now? What has been fun or challenging or unexpected so far? What kinds of materials are you using? How are you using them? Which new skills are you learning to complete this project? How will you know when this project is complete? How could this project have come only from you? What has inspired you so far? What are you trying to say with what you're making?

### REFLECTION:

How did that project impact you as a maker? What kinds of setbacks did you encounter and how did you approach them? What was easier than you anticipated? What would you do differently next time? What surprised you? What are you most proud of about the project? What are you thinking about making next? How will you approach making it? What does this project mean to you? What theme do you want to explore next? Who might you like to share this project with? How will you share it? Is there anyone who helped you with it that you'd like to thank? Is there anything you've learned that you want to pass on to someone else?

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outh and Step 6: Compile a Maker's Talk! Your Maker's Talk will share how you started you. Refer back to your Creative Inventory for ideas! What sticks out to you? Which themes did you find in your answers and journaling? The format of Talk is completely up to you. Will you write a song, a poem, a fairytale, take and display a series of photographs, create a brief stop-motion film, a personal essay, or a presentation? How will you tell your story? Step 7: Wait for the opportunity to share your Maker's Talk with other people when you feel comfortable! While you're waiting, think about who you'd like to share with! Muc Curlle life When willen when when when we was and we want to the work of the w Ulu Muy curde blu Meline My man Where



In TO MAKE, a character builds a birdhouse to attract a new friend. In this activity, students will be challenged to first think of what friendship means to them and then to "gather, make, wait" while they fashion a new clay friend.

Suggested materials: clay, sculpting tools, cookie cutters, textured rollers, paint, etc.

Suggested book pairings: TO MAKE and stories about making community and friendships

Every maker supports other makers. Creative communities depend on making connections and inspiring one another through mentorships, workshops, collaborations, and friendships. In this project, you'll create a new friend. A creature? A robot? It's up to you!

Step 1: Gather your experiences and knowledge about friendship. Brainstorm together or individually about the following questions: Why is friendship important to you? What does it mean to be a good friend? What qualities do you look for in a friend? How do you prefer a friend to show their care for you tangibly? How do you prefer to show a friend you care for them?

<u>Step 2:</u> Make your new friend! Use clay, sculpting tools, googly eyes, and any other materials of interest to bring your creature to life.

<u>Step 3:</u> Wait for your clay to dry. While you're waiting, think about the foods, songs, and toys you'll share with your new friend!



Check out your Creative Inventory!
Choose three questions and answer them in your Maker's Journal.







TO MAKE encourages readers to continue making "because one day you will share something wonderful that only you know how to make." TO MAKE's inspiring words emphasize an important truth: all of us have the capacity to impact our world in powerful ways. In this activity, children will work together to find an issue in their community or school, make a plan, and collaborate to help or create a solution.

Inspiration: There are many ways your students can help create change. It could be organizing a letter-writing campaign to a school board, creating a donation drive for the unhoused, assembling care packages for activists, or creating posters to spread awareness about an issue. Here are some other examples: Your students think there aren't enough books in the library, so they decide to raise money to buy books by making desserts and holding a bake sale; Your students are worried that winter is coming and the animals in the local shelter will be cold, so they decide to make fleece blankets to keep them warm. Your students admire the StopGap Community Ramp project and its dedication to accessibility for all. They decide to assess high traffic areas in their community, fundraise, order, and install StopGap ramps to make sure everyone can use the spaces we share.

Suggested book pairings: TO MAKE and stories about making change in our world.

Every maker has the potential to make a difference. The world needs people like you to identify things that aren't working and to create ways to help fix them. In this project, you'll collaborate with your classmates to improve your school or community.

<u>Step 1:</u> Gather ideas, facts, resources, and opinions. Together, brainstorm an issue in your community or school. What's something that's unjust, frustrating, sad, or just plain isn't working? Is there something you can create or do to help solve the problem? Or maybe there's an organization you can support by spreading awareness. Who could you reach out to for support, either in person or online?

<u>Step 2:</u> Make your item or plan. Work together and build, assemble, write, or organize to create your group's response to for the issue you've chosen. Together, introduce and implement your plan.

<u>Step 3:</u> Wait to see a difference. While you're waiting, brainstorm how you might get more people involved! What has resulted from the change?



**Check out your Creative Inventory!** 

Choose three questions and answer them in your Maker's Journal.







# **RESOURCE MAKERS**



Jenna Rothberg loves books, paper-crafts, people, and all the ways they intersect. She earned a Ph.D. in literature from Washington State University, earned the title of Mom in 2020, and shares WHY, HOW, and WHAT to read with kids on Instagram <a href="@kidlitbrain">@kidlitbrain</a>. Jenna likes to make paper portraits, cross-stitch, and desserts.

JD Smithson is a librarian in North Idaho and a former Peace Corps Volunteer. Reading, making and volunteering are her favorite things, and she earned her MLIS from the University of Washington. JD's favorite makes are clothes, rugs, quilts, and paper crafts. You can find her library marketing work on Instagram @librariansdontreadatwork.

# **CREATION CREDITS**

TO MAKE illustrations and lettering created by Mags DeRoma.

Maker's Ribbons and photo created by Abby Hunter.

Resource edited by Danielle Davis.

# LINKS

TO MAKE's book trailer: <a href="https://youtu.be/124m6">https://youtu.be/124m6</a> 1VoX8

Danielle Davis's Website: www.danielledavisreadsandwrites.com

Mags DeRoma's Website: www.magsderoma.com

Jenna Rothberg's Instagram: www.instagram.com/kidlitbrain

JD Smithson's Instagram:
<a href="https://www.instagram.com/librariansdontreadatwork">www.instagram.com/librariansdontreadatwork</a>

Maliha Din's Instagram: www.instagram.com/ohthebookswelove

Khadesia Latimer's Instagram: www.instagram.com/thebusybrushes

Abby Hunter's Instagram: www.instagram.com/fetegazette

Beginner bookbinding method: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0984uZFc5bw

Our collaborative booklist about makers and making: https://tinyurl.com/TOMAKEbooklist

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Step-by-step how to press plants:} \\ \underline{\textbf{www.homedepot.com/c/ah/how-to-press-flowers/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90166ce06}} \\ \underline{\textbf{72}} \end{array}$ 

Example of 6x6 wood pieces:

www.amazon.com/HAKZEON-PlywoodProjects-EngravingProject/dp/B093165YNS/ref=sr 1 18?

crid=8HJFYXWZ1HHC&keywords=plywood+
square&qid=1652330184&sprefix=plywood+s
quare%2Caps%2C227&sr=8-18

Maker's Ribbon Craft Tutorial:
<a href="https://www.danielledavisreadsandwrites.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/makerribboncraft\_tomake\_picturebook.pdf">https://www.danielledavisreadsandwrites.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/makerribboncraft\_tomake\_picturebook.pdf</a>

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