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The Braille Alphabet

Margaret Cadaver’s mother, Mrs. Partridge, is blind. Still, she can tell a great deal about a person just by observing with her other four senses.

“Mrs. Partridge put her fingers up to Phoebe’s face and mashed around gently over her eyelids and down her cheeks. ‘Just as I thought. It’s two eyes, a nose, and a mouth.’ Mrs. Partridge laughed a wicked laugh that sounded as if it were bouncing off jagged rocks. ‘You’re thirteen years old.’”

—Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Braille Facts

When Sal and Phoebe walk into Margaret Cadaver’s house, they find Mrs. Partridge reading a book in Braille. In 1829, a Frenchman named Louis Braille developed an alphabet made of raised dots, enabling blind people to read by running their fingertips over the dots. Here is the Braille alphabet. Use it to write a message in Braille at the bottom of the page.

a •	b • •	c ••	d •• •	e • •	f •• •	g •• ••
h •• ••	i • •	j •• •	k • •	l •• •	m •• •	n •• ••
o • •	p •• •	q •• •	r • •	s • •	t •• •	u • ••
	v • •	w •• •	x •• ••	y •• ••	z • •	

Message

Pandora's Box

Phoebe tells Mr. Birkway's class the story of Pandora and the gifts given to her by the gods.

“Last, there was a beautiful box, covered in gold and jewels, and this is very important—she was forbidden to open the box.”

—*Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

Pandora's box was full of bad things. In fact, the only good thing it contained was *hope*. But you may choose to use your box to hold good things, if you wish.

Materials

- one small box for each student
- white glue
- paintbrushes
- old magazines and catalogs
- scissors

Directions

First, cut out pictures from magazines and catalogs to decorate your box. These might be pictures that illustrate your feelings about the world. You might choose to find pictures that show how you feel about your mother, your home, or a friend.

Now, begin gluing the pictures to the outside of your box, overlapping them to make a collage. Try to cover the box completely but make sure to leave enough space so that you can lift the lid. Allow the glue to dry.

Finally, paint a thin layer of glue over the pictures. Allow to dry. Repeat. Your box will now have the shiny look of shellac, and it will be resistant to dirt and ripping.

You may choose to take a walking tour of your school's neighborhood in order to collect materials for your box. Perhaps you will include acorns, leaves, and rocks. Or perhaps you will put in a found penny, a broken bracelet, or an interesting discovery of another sort. The choice is yours!

