

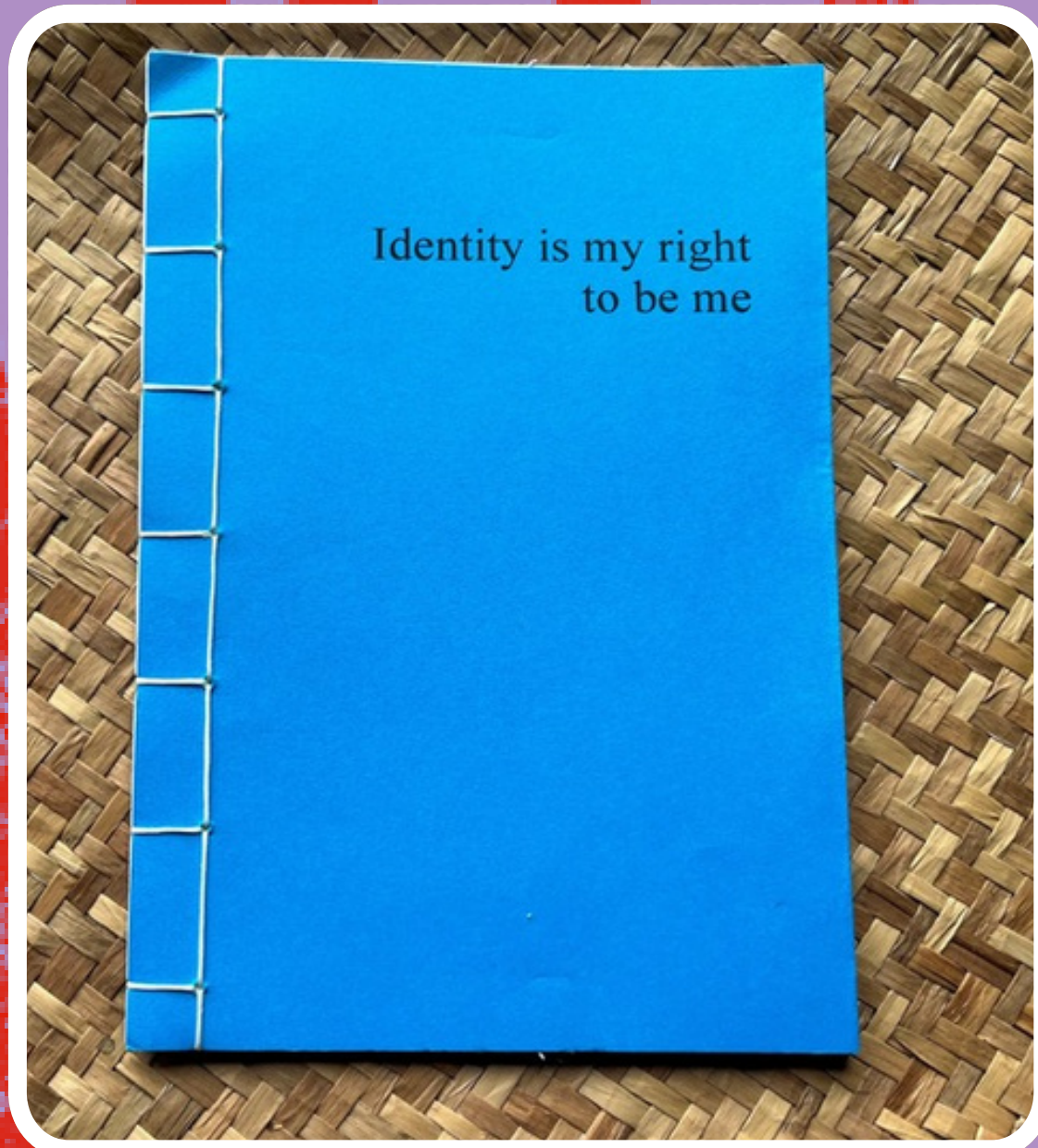
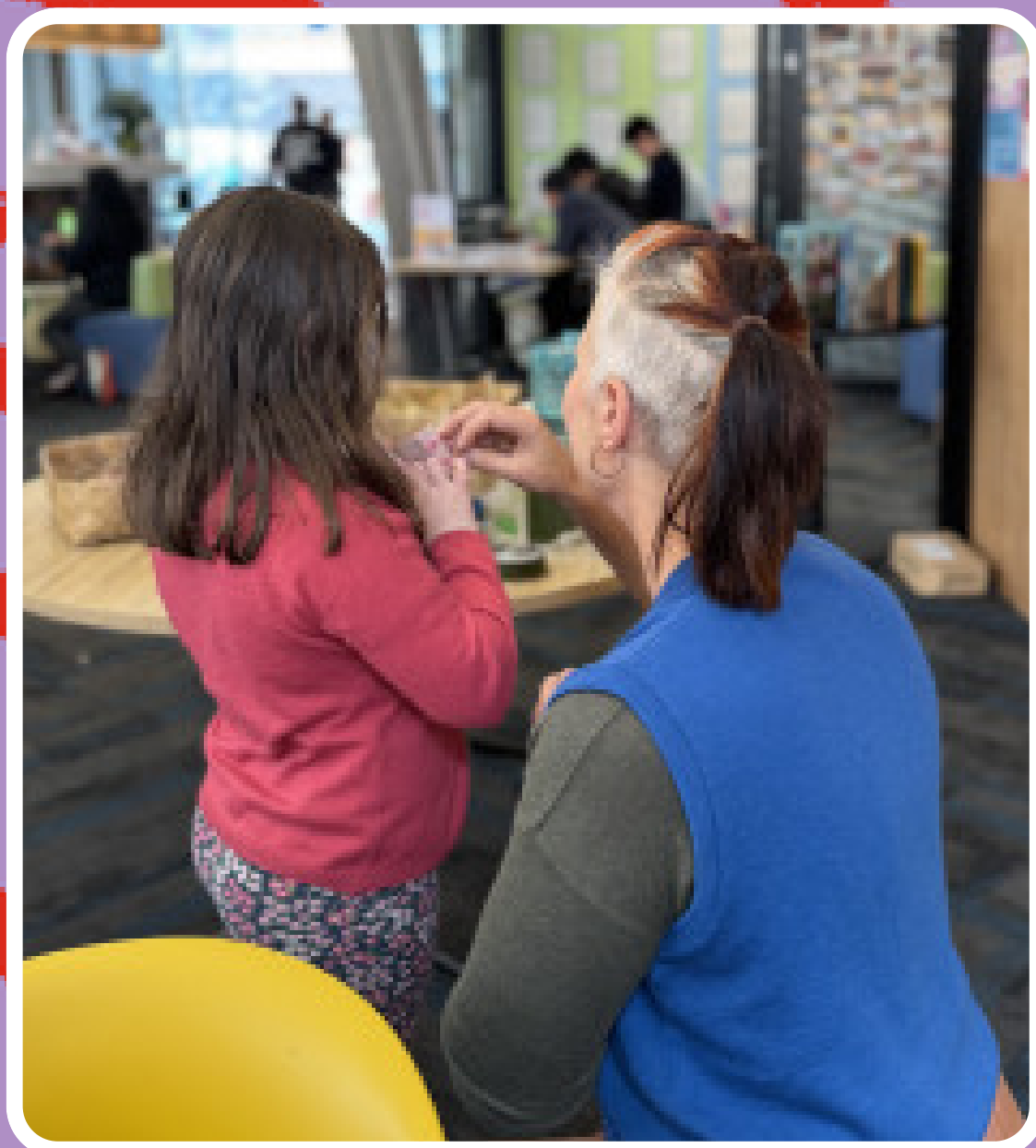
BOOK BINDING - IDENTITY IS MY RIGHT TO BE ME

Together with Emma from The Light Library and Auckland Libraries, 4 workshops took place across Auckland throughout August and September 2025, facilitating kōrero about identity through story telling and book making together.

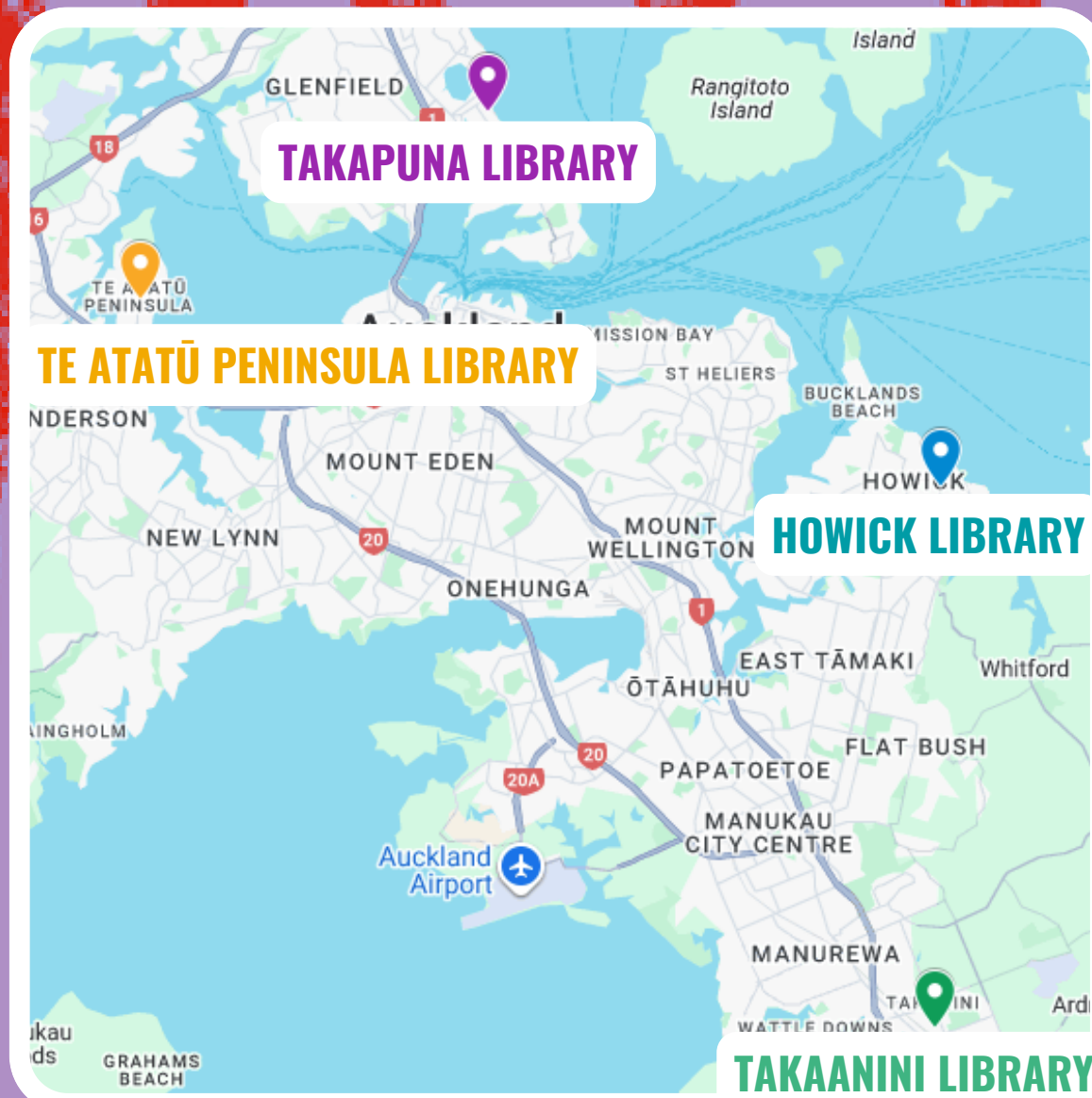
Emma showed us amazing creative ways to bind books together and we used these as a basis for discussing identity and its importance for tamariki (and adults too!).

We had such an amazing time meeting around 90 tamariki and their whānau across the four directions of Auckland and learning more about what identity means for them. The ideas discussed were woven together by Emma into the incredible poem in the book you are about to create - "Identity is My Right to be Me."

Check out the video from our
last workshop!

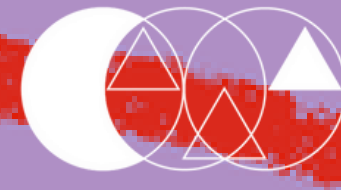


Four workshops across Tāmaki Makaurau



MATERIALS:

-
- A collection of handbound journals in various colors (green, blue, red) with the text "Identity is my right to be me" and "THE LIGHT LIBRARY" logo. Sewing tools like thread spools, needles, and a comb are also visible on a woven surface.



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TIPS AND TRICKS

Printing

When printing the document files for the booklet remember to print using the setting “Actual Size”. Ensure your paper is A4 and in landscape format.

Thread

Always pull the thread tight when you bring it through one of the holes. This will help keep it tidy and stop things tangling.

If your thread ends up too short - tie a new piece to the end and continue

Holes

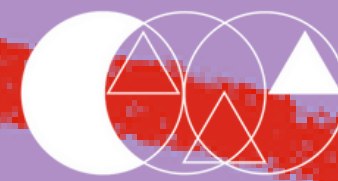
If your holes are not lining up - straighten up the pages and use your pegs to make sure the book is firmly held together then use your awl to re-punch the holes.

If your struggling to pull the needle through, use the awl to widen the holes a bit more and try again

You can also use a hammer and nail to create the holes in the books - Adult required for this.

Safety

Some parts of this process are tricky and use sharp objects. Please do this alongside an adult if required, or try our easier method using a hole punch instead!



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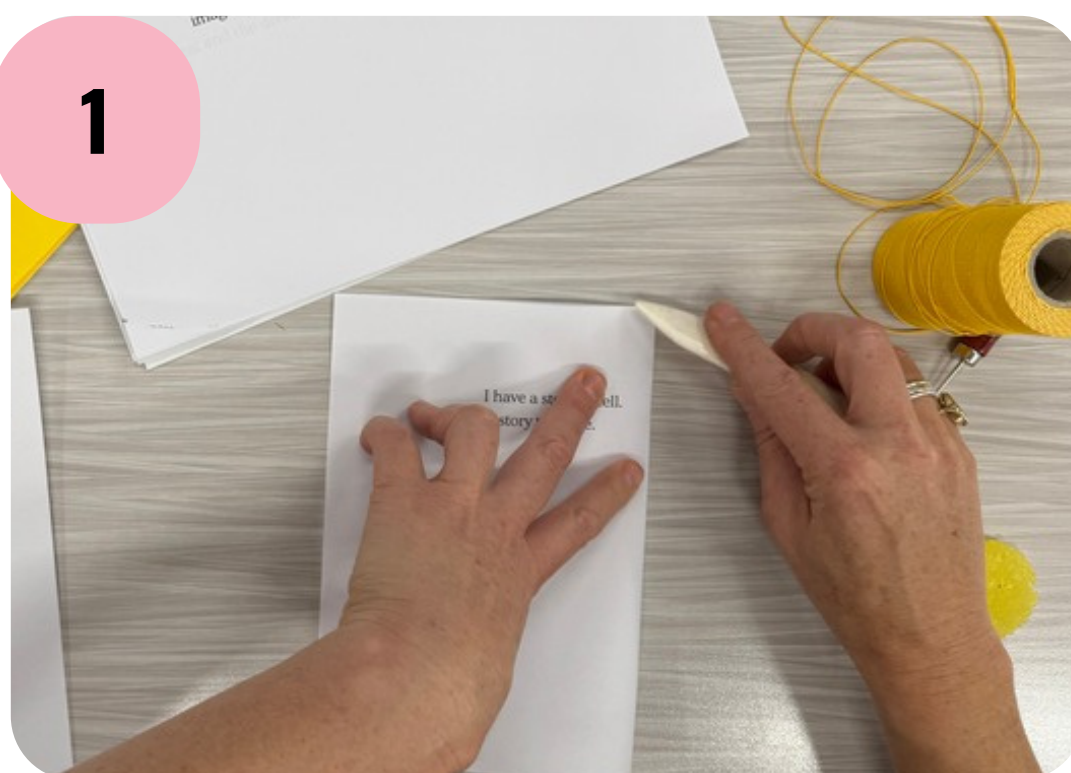


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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BOOK

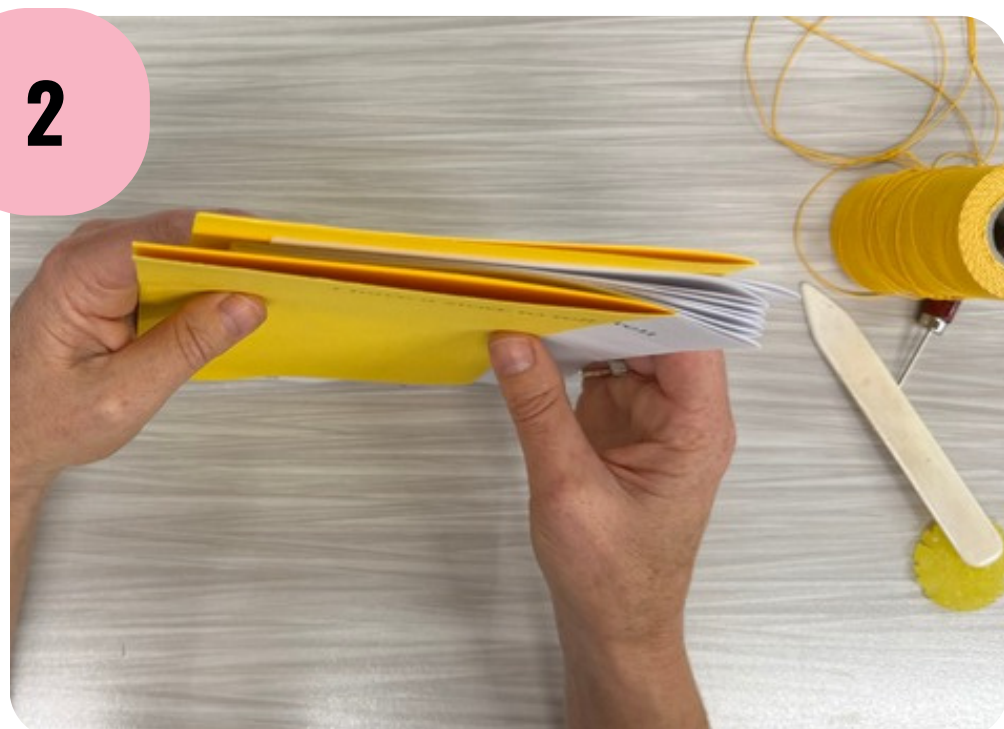
Follow these steps!

1



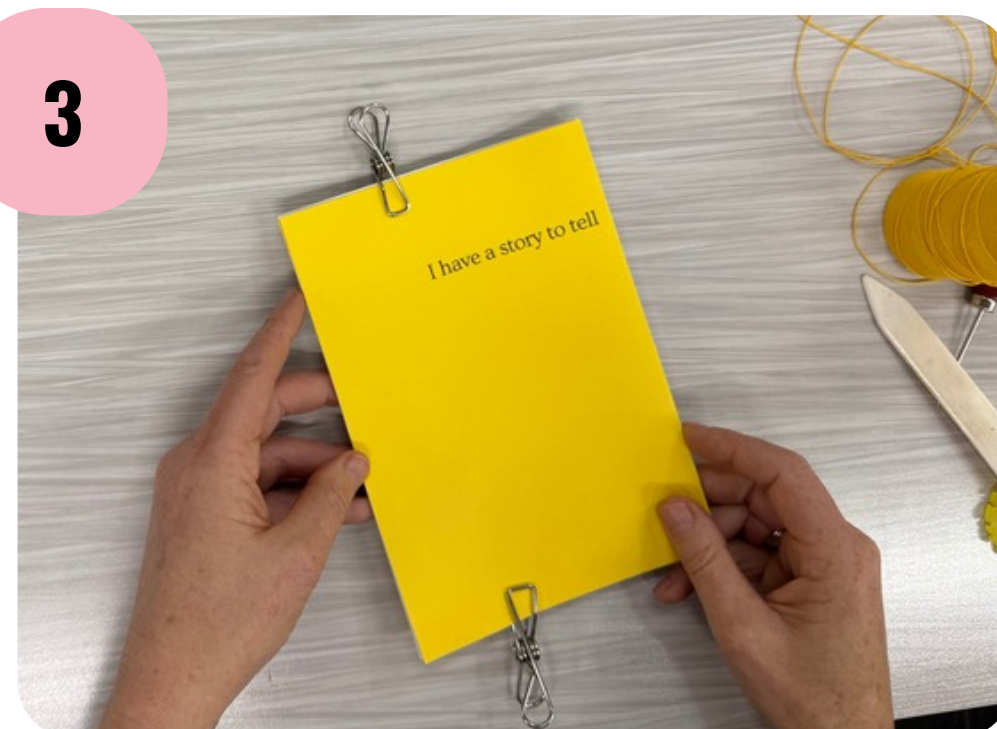
Fold the pages and the cover in half.

2



Use page numbers to stack in the correct order with the folded edge on the outside of your book

3



Secure with pegs - 1 at the top and 1 at the bottom to hold secure.

4

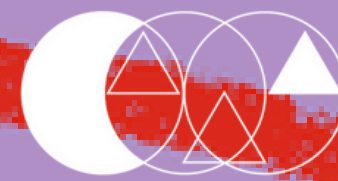


Place the hole template on the book and use your awl to push holes through the cover and pages carefully.

5



Remove the template and keep the pegs in place.



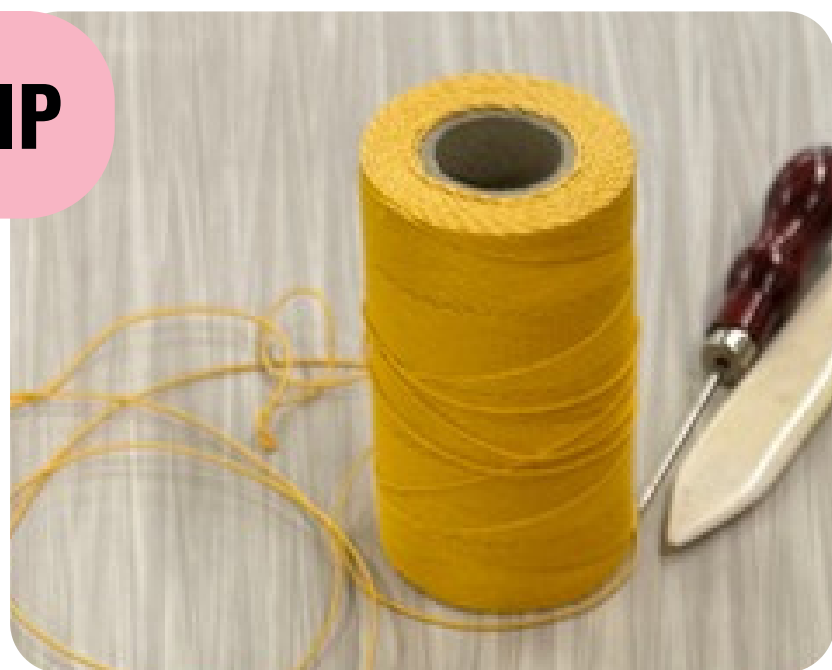
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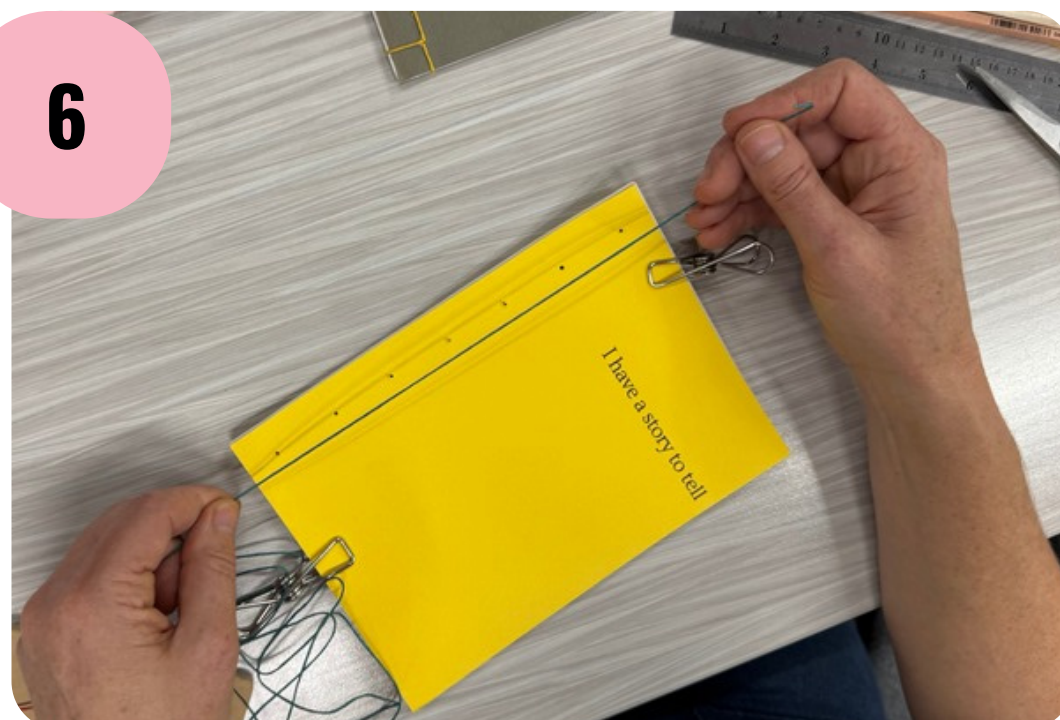
Getting your thread ready!

TIP



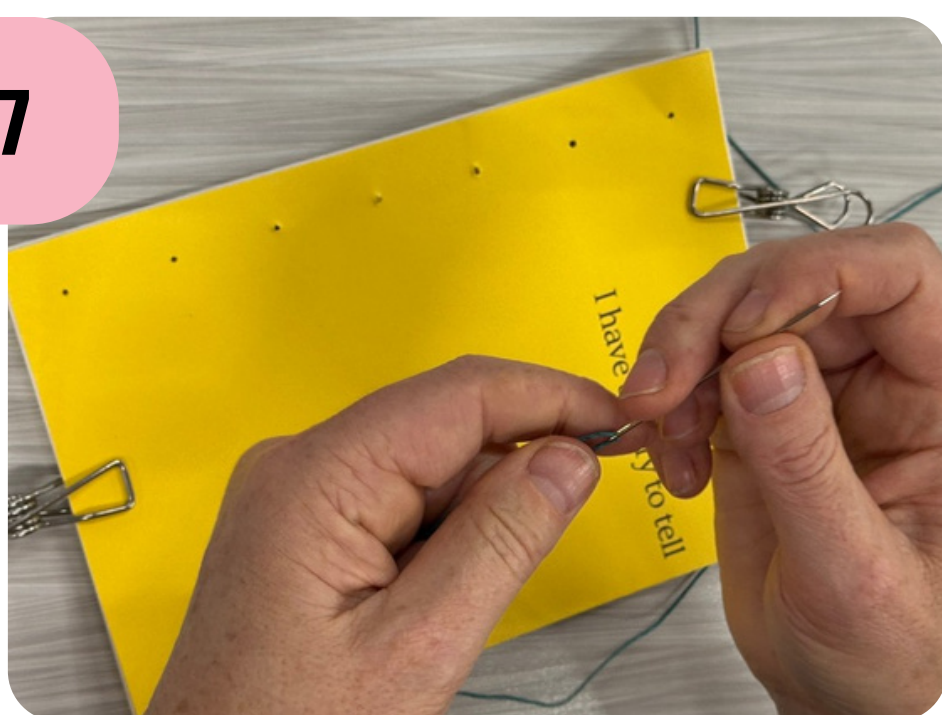
Use heavy thread - linen thread or embroidery thread.

6



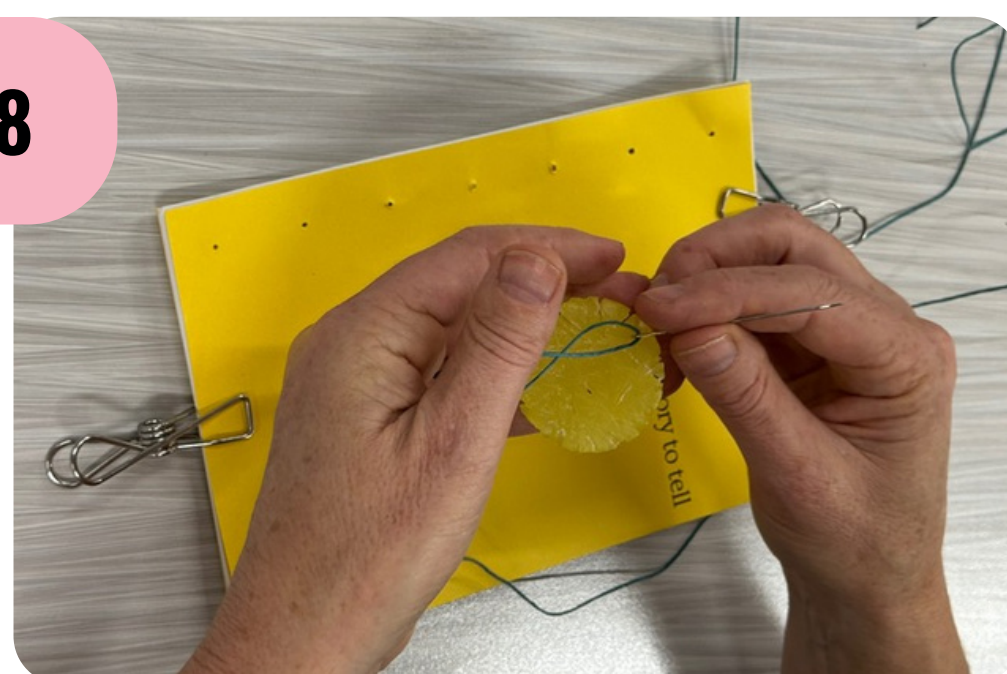
Measure out thread 4 x the length of your book plus a little more.

7



Cut your thread and thread it through the eye of your needle.

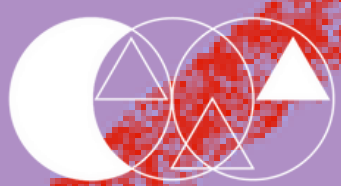
8



Wax your thread by running it along your wax. This will make it easier to work with!

Ka rawe!
**You are ready to
bind your book!**





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HOW TO BIND YOUR BOOK

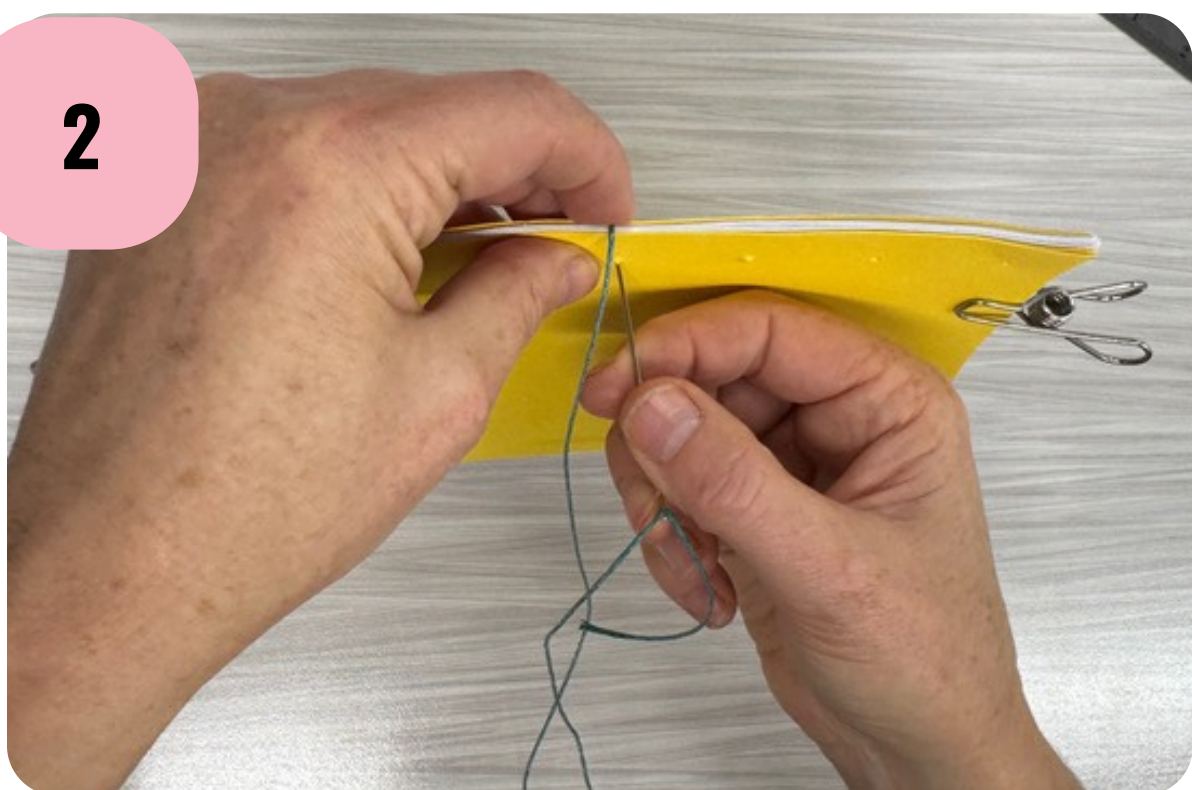
Follow these steps!

1



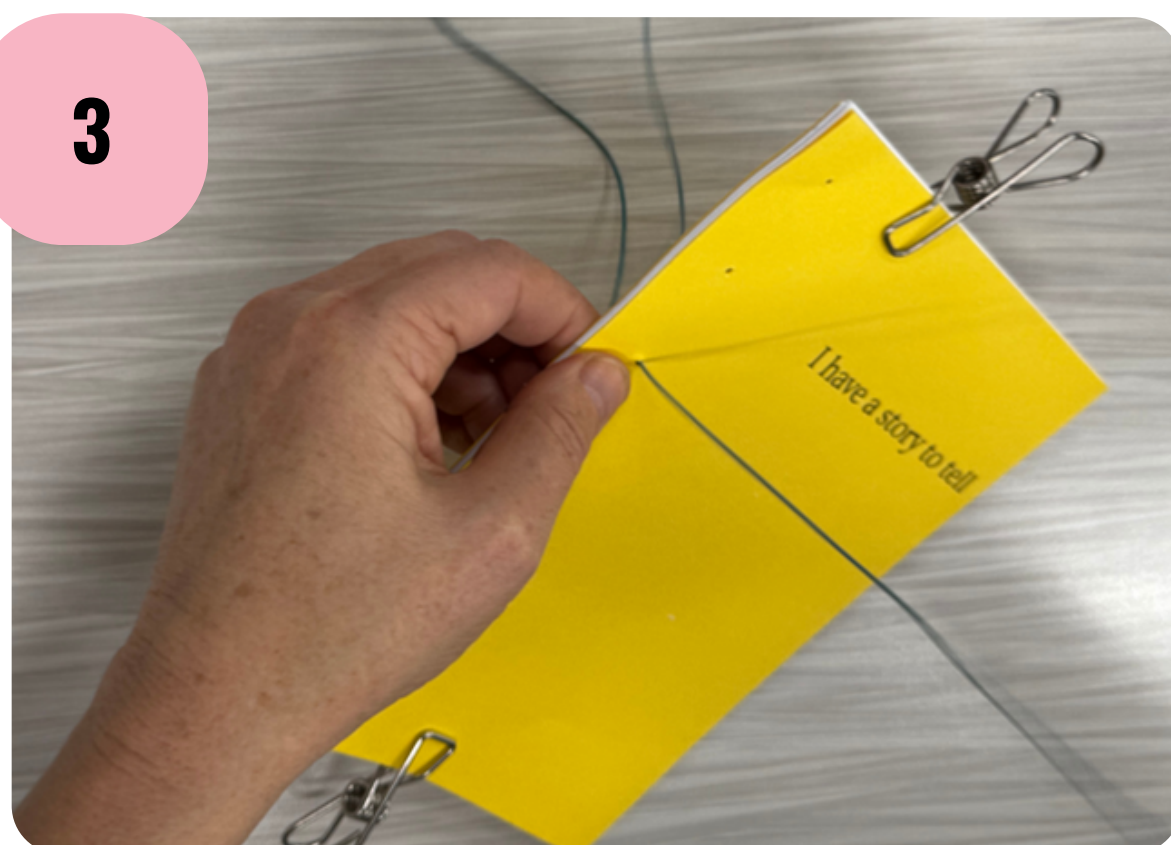
Take one peg off, open up to the middle of your book and thread from the inside out through the hole in the middle. Leave a ~10cm tail of thread inside the book. Secure peg again and check holes are still aligned.

2



First stitch on the middle hole.
Wrap thread *around the book spine* to come back through the same hole.

3



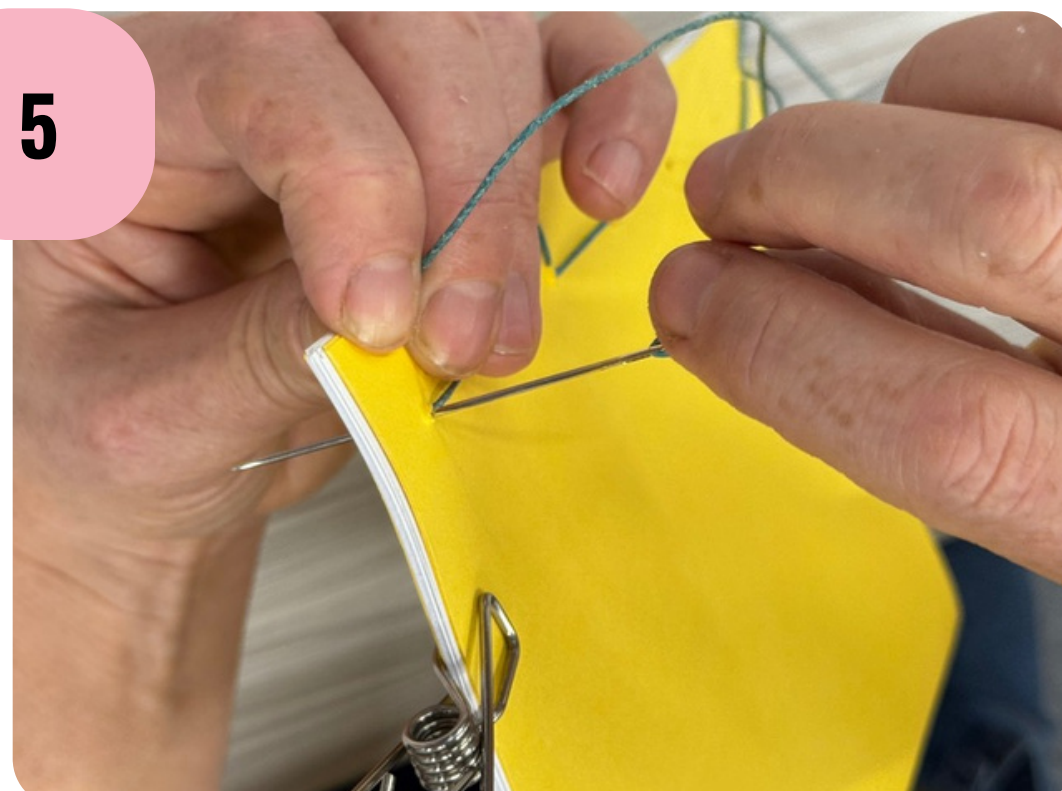
Stitch up - Move *up to the next hole* and take your thread all the way through, make sure you pull it snug.

4

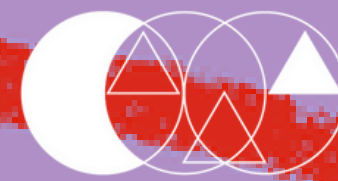


Stitch around - Wrap the thread *around the spine* and through the same hole.

5



Continue this pattern - Stitch up to the next hole, bring your thread all the way through and then thread it back around. Continue until you reach the top of your book.

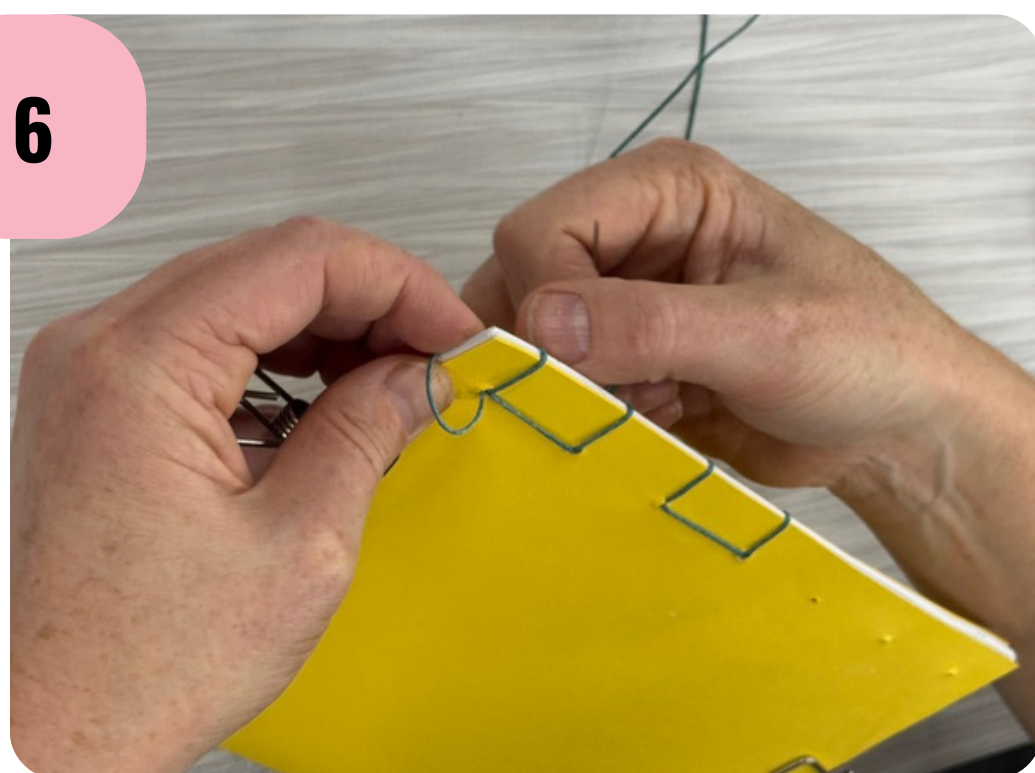


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6



Sewing the corner - At the top do an extra loop over the top of your book and back through the top hole a third time.

7



Moving down - As you make your way down the book you will fill in the gaps of the top half by repeating the pattern. Next we repeat the pattern for the bottom half of the book.

8



Back to the middle - Once you have done the same thing at the bottom of your book make your way back to the middle stitch, filling in the gaps.

9



Final stitch - Remove your pegs and bring your thread in through the middle of your book where you started. You should now have your original tail and your thread together on the inside of your book.

10

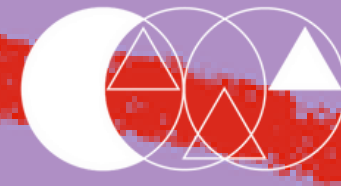


Tie off - Cut your thread, knot the two tails of thread together inside the book and trim them if desired.

11

Customise your special identity book!
Add your own illustrations, or further writing and reflections! You could even add special photos.





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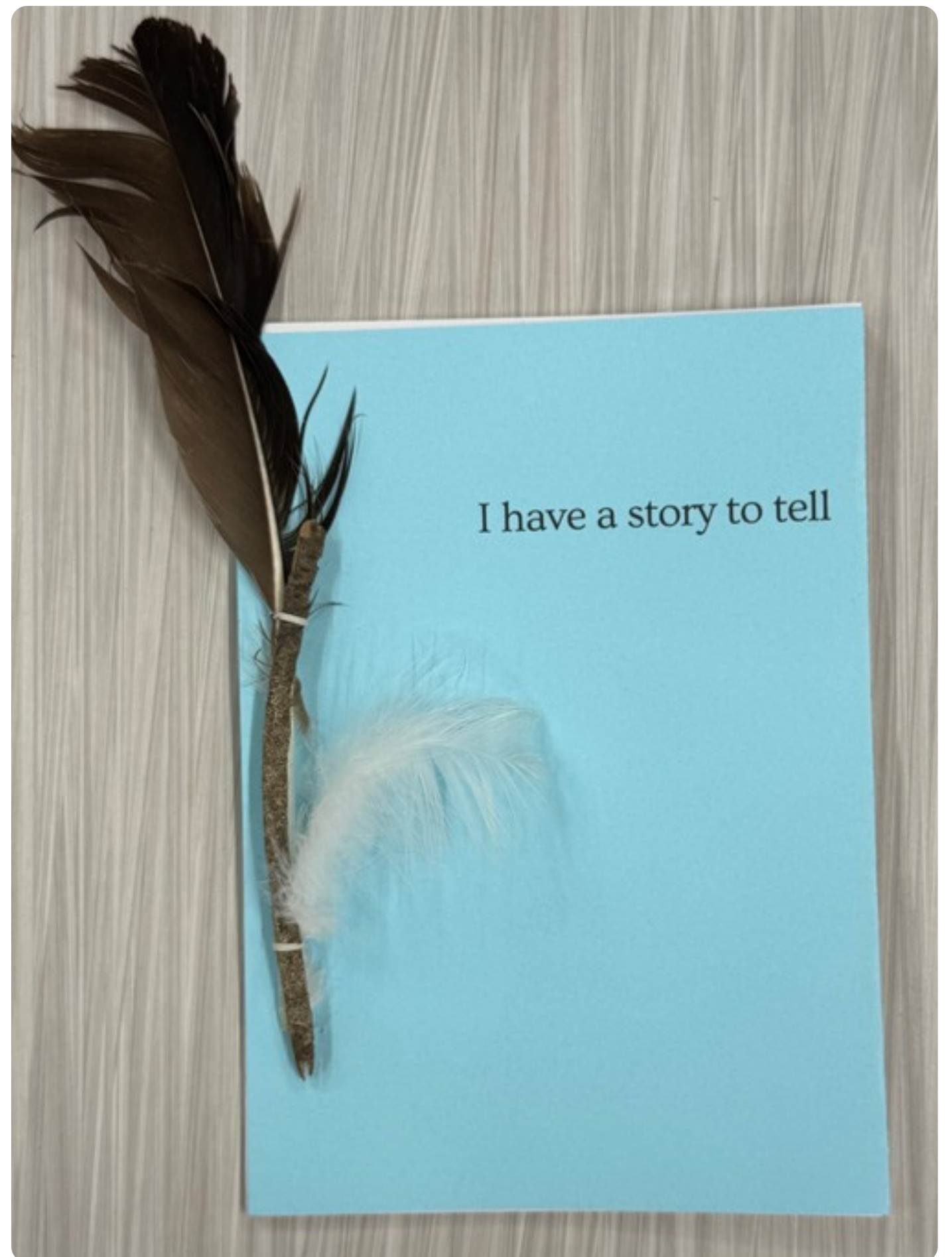
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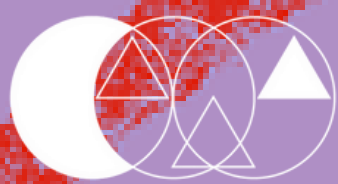
BOOK BINDING - EASY METHOD

MATERIALS:

- 1 A4 Printed Pages and A4 Printed Cover
- 2 Elastic Band
- 3 Stick or feather
- 4 Hole Punch

Top tip: This method is a lot faster and easier than the traditional sewn binding, and requires less specialised equipment!





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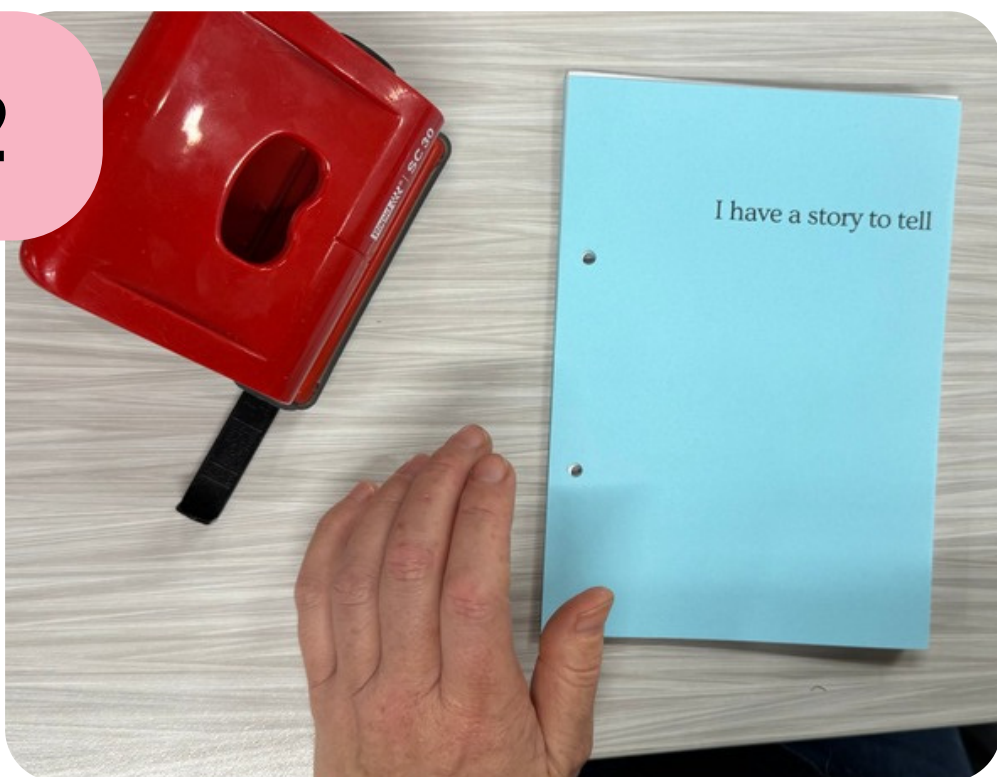


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HOW TO BIND YOUR BOOK

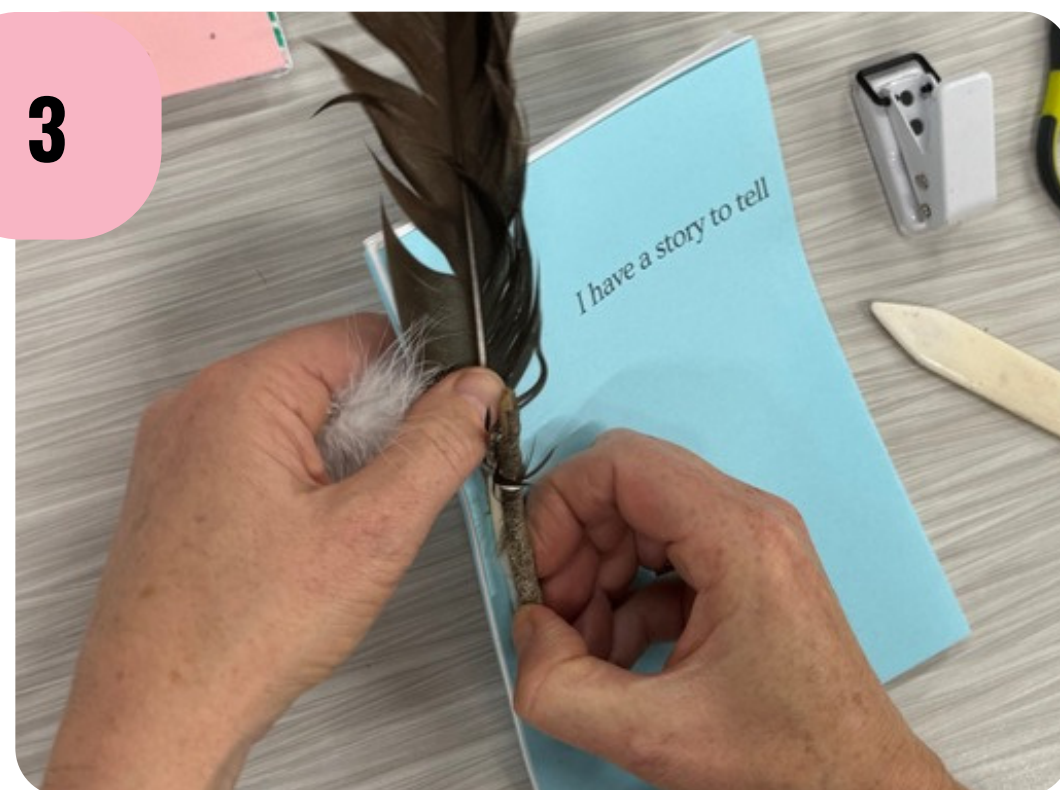
Follow these steps!

2



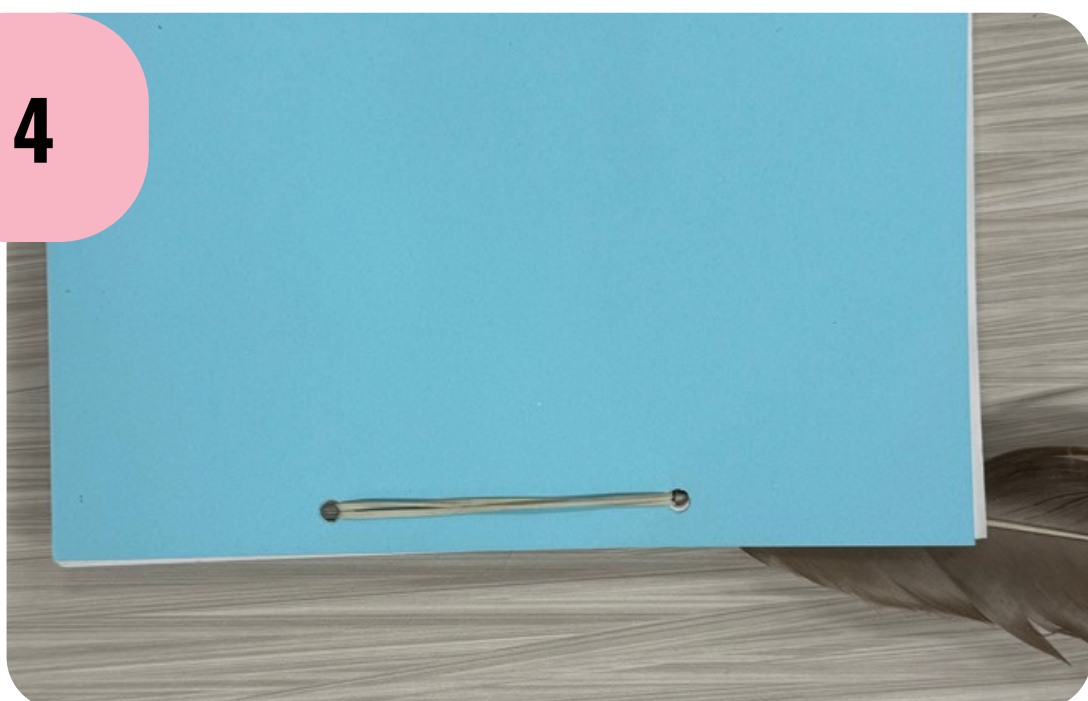
Use a hole punch to create two holes through your book in the middle. You might need an adult to help you!

3



Wrap the elastic around your stick and then put the end of it through the top hole.

4



Flip your book over and pull the end of your elastic band down and through the second hole.
Put the other end of your stick through the loop.

5

**Customise your
special identity
book!**

Add your own illustrations, or further writing and reflections! You could even add special photos.

