

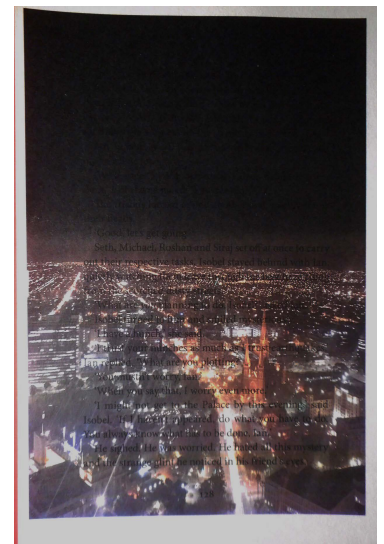
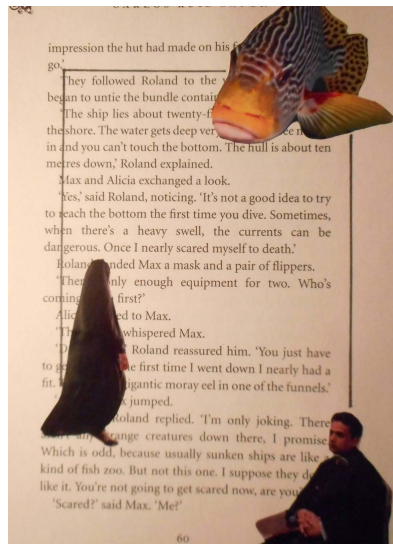
PatchWord quilt: Creating stories through art

By Angela Mare

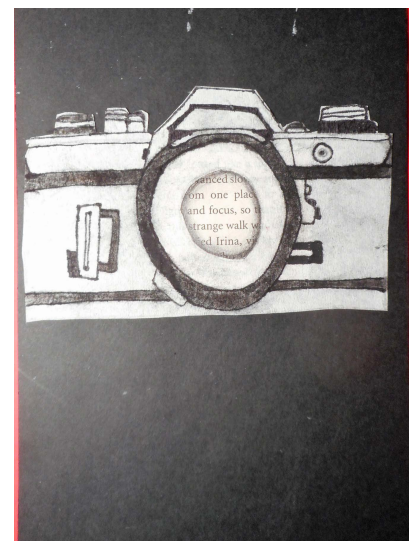
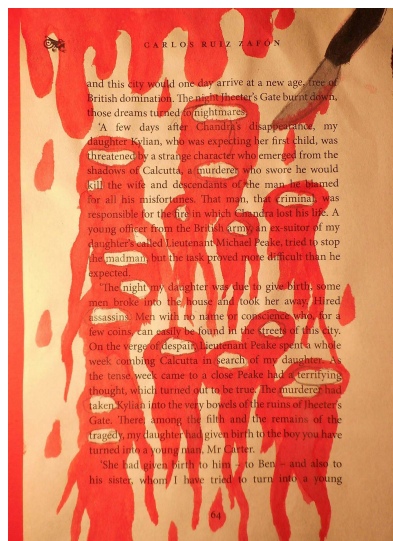
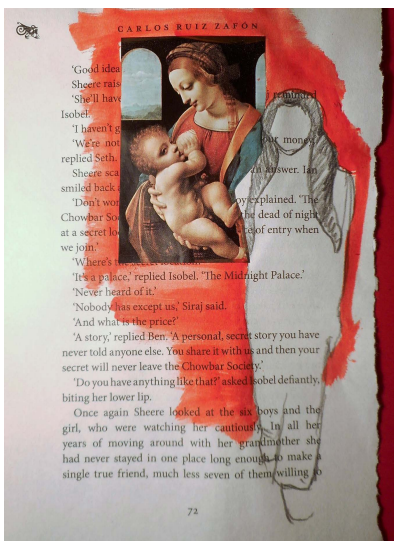
Snapshot

Angela Mare describes a wonderful project that saw students re-purpose pages from old books that had been culled from the library's collection to transform them into a patchword quilt.

Lauriston Girls' School, through the auspices of the Lauriston Arts Association, celebrate the Arts every two years with a week-long festival filled with workshops, pop-up lunchtime performances and activities. The Festival is designed to showcase the talents of Lauriston students and staff via the spoken word, singing, comedy and drama as well as art. The library participates with a focus on the literary arts.

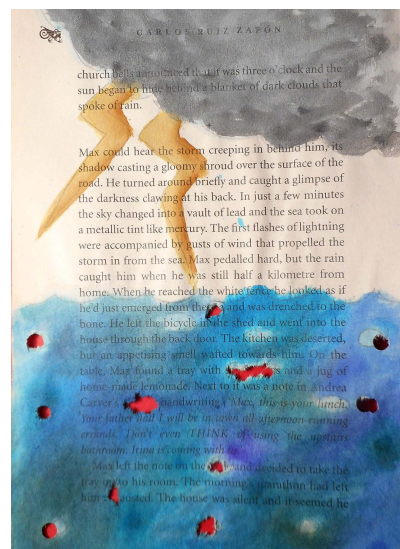
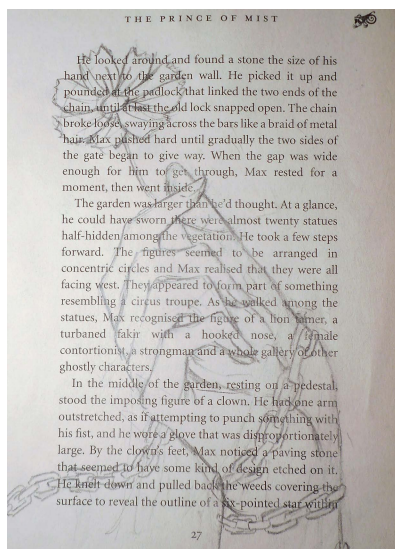


At the last Festival in 2018, Catherine O'Dwyer, the library's technician and a visual artist in her own right, co-ordinated the creation of a 'PatchWord Quilt'. This unique project saw students

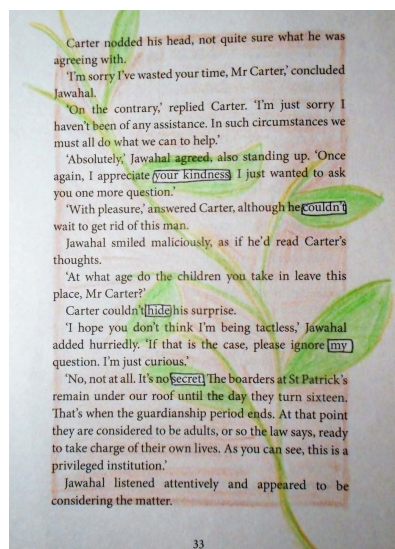


re-purposing pages from old books that had been culled from the library's collection, and transforming them into a patchwork quilt. At lunchtimes, the library became an art studio with Year 7 and 8 students excitedly participating in creating individual patches. Senior students were given time in art classes to create patches as a fill-in activity.

The students were given free range to embellish the pages to create artistic works. Many created black-out poetry, which isolates specific words or short phrases on the page by blocking out the remainder of the text. The highlighted words then create a poem or saying which can range from random and absurd to lyrical and sublime poetry. The students in the lunchtime Creative Writing



Club were encouraged by their teacher Saradha Koirala, herself a published poet, to create these poetic patches. Other students used the text as inspiration for the artwork and focused their attention on the word and spirit of the words on the page. Many students just relished the idea of time to create miniature art pieces knowing that it would become part of a larger concept.



By the end of the third week, there were more than enough patches to create the quilt. Each patch was sewn onto an A4 sheet of thin, coloured tissue paper creating uniform patches. These were then sewn together to create the quilt. We knew the quilt would be displayed in the library's central lightwell, so both sides of the quilt needed to have different patches.

Repurposing these books gives life to something forgotten by time and technology. Something old and time worn has now become something vibrant and alive once more.

The quilt represents the comfort and warmth that stories give you in the cold winter months and so it is a wonderful example of the community coming together to create stories through art.

Angela Mare is Head of Library and Information Services at Lauriston Girls' School.