

## PRINTMAKING

### Materials List:

**Heavy papers to make a print plate:** We use oak tag and corrugated cardboard to create our print plate. The oak tag is sturdy enough for the base, but any thick paper will do. We use both oak tag and the cardboard to complete the plate. You can use any waterproof material that can be securely glued down to the plate and is less than 1/8" thick.

**Glue:** Any kind will do, but make sure to leave time for the glue to dry before printing.

**Paper:** You can print on any type of paper; just make sure that the paper you are printing on is slightly larger than your print plate.

**Ink:** We used Speedball or Dick Blick water soluble printing ink; depending on where you buy it, a small tube of ink might cost about \$4-\$6. Make sure whatever you use is water soluble and not oil-based. You can also use tempera paint or an ink pad for small prints.

**Brayers:** A brayer is the round tool used to spread the ink. A brayer spreads the ink evenly. However, you can use a thick paint brush instead of a brayer. Brayers are about \$10; the kind we usually use for printmaking are hard brayers.

**Tray:** You will need a tray in which to put the ink. You can use the type of styrofoam tray that are often used in meat packaging. Styrofoam or plastic make good trays because they don't absorb the ink. These can be ordered from art stores or just recycled from your groceries.

### Tips for printmaking:

- Be sure to wear a smock or apron – you will be using ink, and it will get on your clothes.
- Make sure to ink your print plate well, but don't use too much ink!
- If your print is not as clear as you would like, don't worry – you can use one print plate over and over!

### Explorations:

- 1.) When making your print plate, cut out your shapes and then try a few compositions before you glue them down. Let the glue dry before your print.
- 2.) When you roll the brayer in the ink, roll the brayer back and forth and up and down until you hear a sticky sound.
- 3.) After you put your paper on your print plate, press down on all parts with a clean brayer, a wooden spoon, or your hands.
- 4.) Before you take the paper off, check the corners to make sure the ink printed. Then, lift the paper off the plate (this is called "pulling a print").