

Copybooks

School children in the 1700s and 1800s used copybooks to practice their penmanship as well as to learn correct behavior by committing proverbs and other maxims to memory. “Judge not hastily the actions of others,” for example, might be a page heading in a copybook. A young scholar’s task would be to dutifully copy the adage a number of times down the page.

Making a Copybook

- A. Fold and cut several sheets of 8-1/2x11 unlined paper as shown to create 5-1/2x8-1/2 sheets.
- B. Fold these sheets as shown to make 4-1/4x5-1/2 pages.
- C. Place the pages together and lay them on top of a slightly larger piece of brown paper or wrapping paper that will serve as a cover.
Poke holes through the entire thickness about one inch from top and bottom.
Finally, run your thread, string, or yarn through one hole to the next; then tie the ends together, making a knot inside the book. (If you prefer, tie the ends on the outside in a decorative bow.)

