

CONCEPTS: BOOKPLATE UNIT

1. Bookplates are used to identify the owner of a book. “Ex Libras,” is Latin for, “from the library (of)”
2. The first bookplates copied the design methods of heraldry, which originally had been used to identify warriors in battle, but later represented family identity.
3. Modern bookplates use imagery to suggest a unique personal identity, or the identity of a larger organization, like a school. Corporate logos can be traced back to the ideas within this art form.
4. Bookplates use formal compositions, which means the shapes and arrangements are mathematically simple. This makes the designs more compelling to the eye.
5. In studying the genre of bookplates, much can be understood about the history of books but also, the history of culture. The genre contains a vast library of symbols and insignias that belong to world culture.