LEARN how artist MARY SULLIVAN creates books in her interview at tennesseecraft.org/2020kidstent.

GATHER your art supplies:
- Heavyweight paper for cover
- Lightweight paper for pages
- Plastic sewing needle
- Yarn or thread
- Pencil and scissors
- Cardboard to protect work surface

Tip: Make a decorative hand-printed cover for your book by following the steps in the printmaking activity.

CREATE your own pocket-size book! Follow along with the video tutorial at tennesseecraft.org/2020kidstent.

Step 1: Stack the cover paper on top of the pages. Then fold it all together and crease. Tip: Run the side of a pencil along your fold to make a nice crisp crease.

Step 2: Open up the book and punch three holes along the crease: one at the head (top of the book), one at the tail (bottom of the book) and one at the center.

Step 3: Thread your needle with yarn and begin to stitch from the inside. First pull the needle through the center hole, leaving a tail of yarn inside. Then from the cover side, run the needle through the hole at the head of the book. Now from the inside, run the needle all the way to the hole at the tail. For your final stitch, run the needle back through the center hole to finish on the inside.

Step 4: Make sure your beginning and end pieces of yarn are located on either side of the strand of yarn that runs along the crease of the book. Then tie them off and snip the ends.

SHARE your artwork with friends and family on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #tncraftkids!

“My specialty as a stationery bookbinder is in the design and manufacture of blank books: journals, notebooks, accounts, albums, sketchbooks, and the like. I design and bind each book by hand using ethically sourced materials based on the structural needs of each book, favoring hand sewing and traditional hand binding methods. The success of my binding rests not on the end result of my studio endeavors, but in the useful life of each individual book as it is enjoyed by my clients.”