

SPOOKY STORY PLACEMATS

These eerie table settings look perfect when paired with dark dish ware or Halloween motifs. Simply tear the pages from creepy old books and cut into circles, rectangles, squares, or whatever you find most spellbinding. They're spill and water-resistant, too!



You Will Need:

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- 2-3 blood-curdling books (look for ones with bold, spooky chapter titles or haunting covers that you can incorporate into the design)

Other supplies

- Scrap pieces of construction paper or lightweight cardboard to draw templates
- Clear contact paper (available at office and home improvement stores)
- Double-sided tape
- Ruler or tape measure
- Scissors
- Pencil

Directions:

- 1) To make classic round plate chargers for a formal table, draw and cut out two templates from the construction paper or lightweight cardboard (if you prefer a different size and shape, simply cut out a similar large and small template accordingly):
 - a. One circle measuring approximately 14" in diameter
 - b. One slightly smaller circle measuring approximately 13 ½" in diameter
- 2) Tear several sheets out of the books and set aside. Flip through the book and include chapter headers, images, etc. for added interest. Expect to use at least 10 pages per placemat.
- 3) Take your torn out pages and begin to make a random arrangement that is slightly larger than your smaller template. Use double-sided tape on the corners and edges of the pages to hold the collage together. You will need one collage for each template.
- 4) Place the smaller template on top of the collage and trace around it with the pencil. Carefully trim away the excess from the collage.

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- 5) Remove the paper backing from one of the squares of contact paper. Place the contact paper on the table, sticky side up, and tape the top corners to the table to keep it from moving.
- 6) Place a finished collage onto the center of the sticky square. Carefully smooth out the pages to avoid creases.
- 7) Take a second square of contact paper, turn it sticky side down, and tape it onto the table just barely above the first contact square. Next, slowly begin to pull off the paper backing and press and smooth the two sticky sides together as you go. This part can be tricky, so go slowly! Remember to leave an edge of contact paper beyond the collage so it sticks well.
- 8) Place and center the larger 14" template from step one onto the laminated collage. Trace and trim around it to finish the charger.