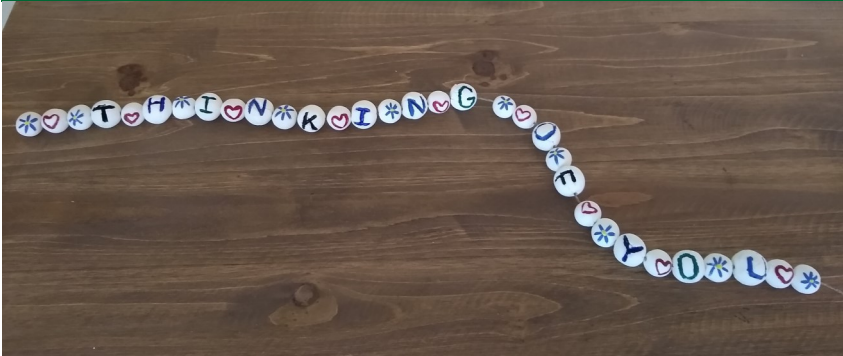


Grief Garland with Homemade Beads



Create your own grief garland with homemade beads that can be hung below a photograph, along a bookcase, or placed anywhere special. The beads can spell a message about the person who died, can spell the person's name, can be painted or shaped with the loved ones' favorite things in mind, etc. The possibilities are

endless! Below are instructions for making your own clay, however, feel free purchase any clay that hardens when cooked or dried if preferred.

You Will Need:

- 1/2 Cup Cornstarch
- 3/4 Cup Water
- Medium-sized Pot
- Optional: Paint and Brushes
- 1 Cup Baking Soda
- String/thread/yarn
- Nail/Screw/Toothpick

Directions for Clay:

1. In a medium-sized pot combine cornstarch, baking soda and water.
2. Stir over medium heat.
3. After several minutes the mixture will begin to thicken. Remove from heat when it resembles creamy mashed potatoes.
4. Spoon dough into a bowl and cover with a damp cloth or plastic wrap until it is cool.
5. There is no wrong way to create beads! You can create your beads into various shapes and etch designs into your beads. These beads were made by rolling balls of clay and then using a nail to poke a hole through the center. You can use a nail, screw, toothpick, etc. Just make sure that whatever you use to poke the hole is thicker than the string/yarn/thread you will use to create your garland.
6. You can let your beads dry over the course of a day or two, or you can speed up the process by placing in an oven preheated to 350°F. Turn the oven off as you place your beads inside to dry. Leave in the warm, but turned off oven, for about an hour.
7. Once your beads are dry, feel free to paint and/or glaze them. Painting and glazing is not necessary, though it may help to preserve the beads. Objects made of homemade clay can sometimes absorb moisture which may cause them to deteriorate over a long period of time. Painting and/or glazing your beads will ensure they last a very long time.
8. String beads on thread/yarn/string and hang somewhere special!

