

# Tools

These are some of the basic tools you will need to work with clay.

sponge

rib

paddle

plastic bowl

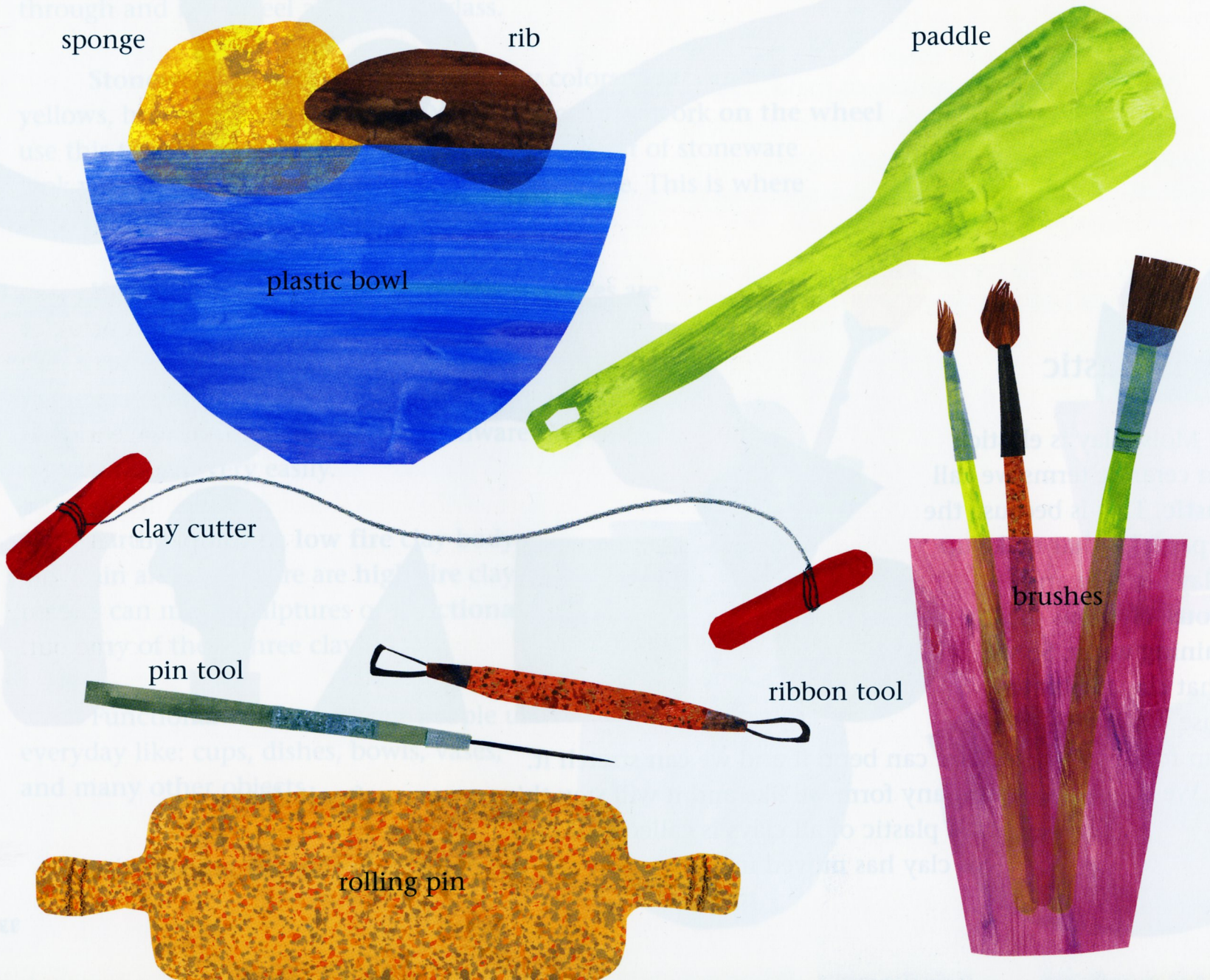
clay cutter

pin tool

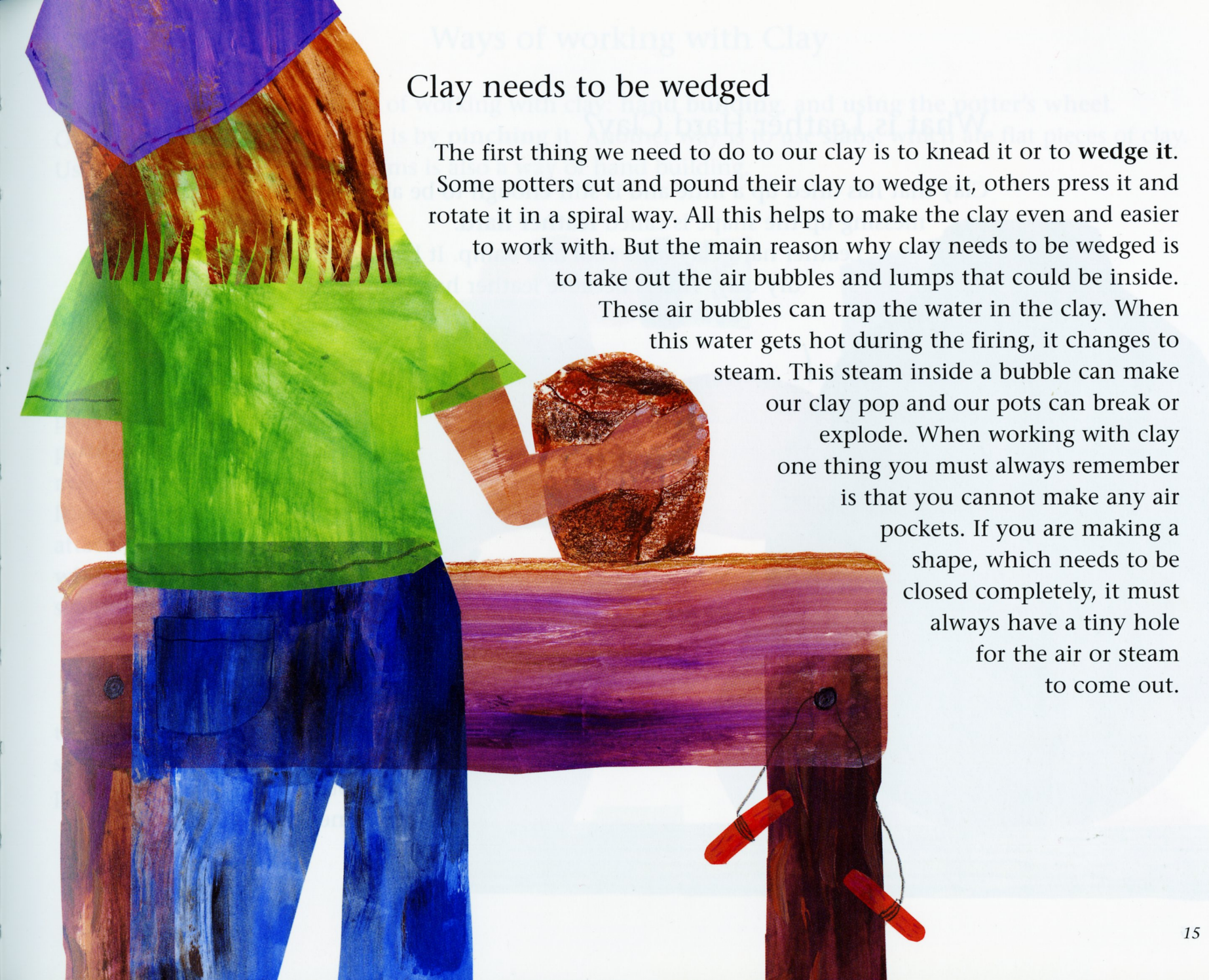
ribbon tool

brushes

rolling pin







## Clay needs to be wedged

The first thing we need to do to our clay is to knead it or to **wedge it**. Some potters cut and pound their clay to wedge it, others press it and rotate it in a spiral way. All this helps to make the clay even and easier to work with. But the main reason why clay needs to be wedged is to take out the air bubbles and lumps that could be inside.

These air bubbles can trap the water in the clay. When this water gets hot during the firing, it changes to steam. This steam inside a bubble can make our clay pop and our pots can break or explode. When working with clay one thing you must always remember is that you cannot make any air pockets. If you are making a shape, which needs to be closed completely, it must always have a tiny hole for the air or steam to come out.