

Learning Postman

Request-Response pattern

Quiz #3: Your First API Request

Request Parameters

Variables in Postman

Query parameters

Task: Search books by genre

Task: Multiple query parameters

Path Variable

Task: Get a book by id

Quiz #4: Query vs. path parameters

Sending data with POST

Task: Add a book

Task: Add an authorization header

Task: Use Postman Auth instead!

Quiz #5: Sending Data With Postman

Introduction to variables and scripting

Variables in Postman (Continued)

Setting variables programmatically

Task: Your first script

Task: Grab the new book id

Halfway Test

Quiz #6: Intro to Variables

PATCH and DELETE

Task: Checkout your book

Task: Delete your book

## Task: Add an authorization header

Some APIs require **Authorization** (aka **Auth**) for certain endpoints in order to permit a request.

## Authorization

Think about why you might not want an API to have completely open endpoints that anyone can access publicly. It would allow unauthorized people to access data they shouldn't see, or allow bots to flood an API with thousands of calls per second and shut it down.

There are multiple methods for authorizing a request. Some examples are **Basic Auth** (username and password), **OAuth** (delegated authorization), and **API Keys** (secret strings registered to a developer from an API portal).

## Getting an API Key

APIs that use API Key auth usually allow developers to sign up in a developer portal, where they will receive a random API Key that can be used to authorize their requests to the API. The API Key allows the API to track who is making calls and how often.

The Postman Library API v2 uses very light protection and does not require you to register for an API Key. You simply have to know it:

Header name: **api-key**  
Header value: **postmanru1z**

As the [documentation](#) shows, the Postman Library API v2 requires adding this **header** to any requests for adding, updating and deleting books, since these operations change data in the database instead of simply reading them.

## Headers

Headers are how we can add **metadata** about our requests, such as authorization information or specify the data type we want to receive in a response. This is different than the actual payload data we send in the body of a request, such as our new book information.

You can think of headers like the outside of an envelope when you send a letter. The envelope has information about delivering the letter, like proof that you've paid for postage. The actual data "payload" is the letter inside the envelope.



## Add the API Key to the request header

- On your "add a book" request, click the **Headers** tab
- In the Headers helper table, add the **key** **api-key** with a **value** of **postmanru1z**
- Save and Send** your request.

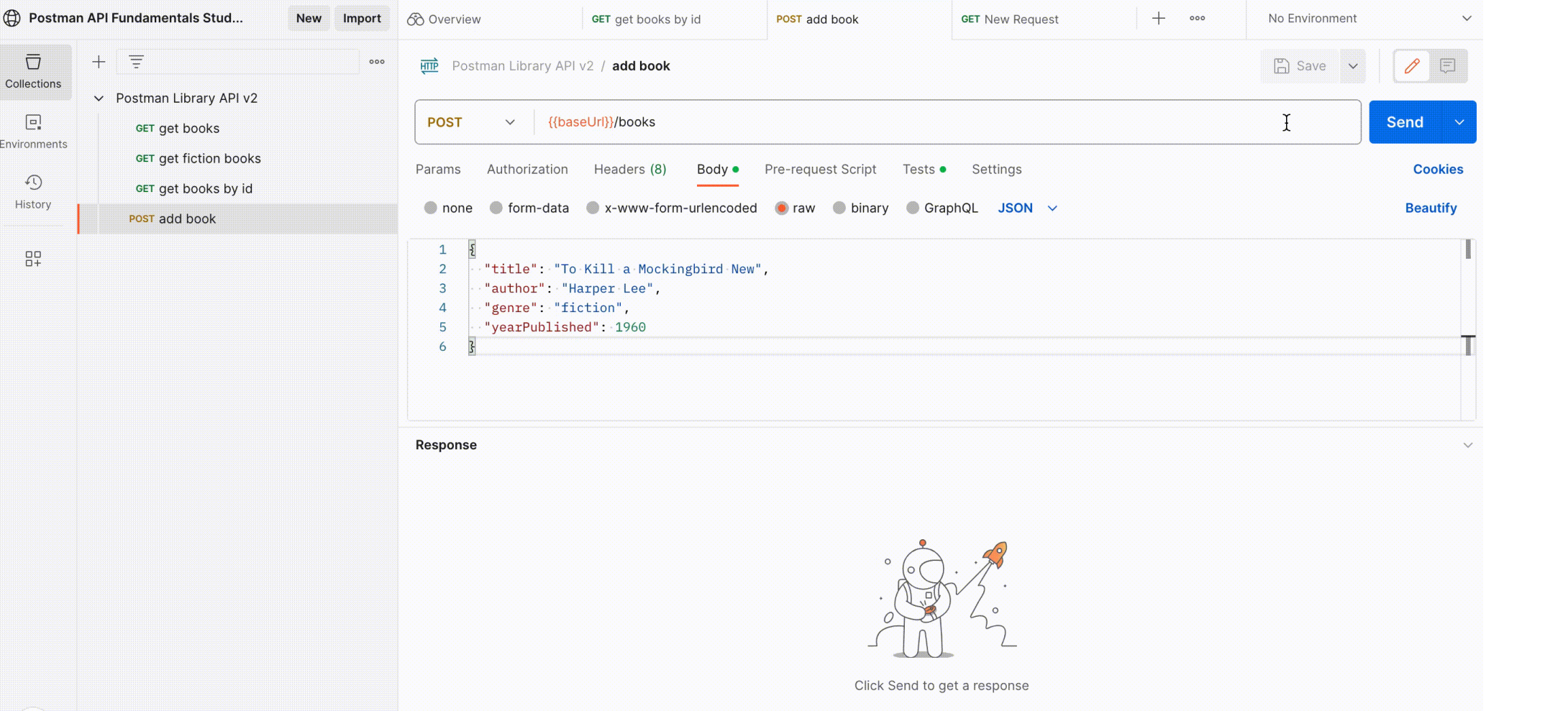
## Success!

Your book was added! Now that your request is properly authorized in the header, you should get a **201 Created** response with a response body that is an object representing your newly added book!

Your new book has been assigned a random, unique **id**, and has extra information now, such as it's **checkedOut** status and when it was added to the library (**createdAt**)

## (optional) View your new book

You can now return to your "get books by id" request, and in the path parameter **id** replace it with the value of the id you received in the body of the book you added.



Anyone can now see your book when they fetch books!

## But wait, it gets easier...

There is an easier way to add Auth in Postman... let's find out next 👁👁