The problem was that you need to put curly braces around an array reference when it's in a string like that.

"SELECT * FROM books WHERE bookid = {$_POST['bookid']}"

The curly braces tell the PHP parser where the variable starts and ends because when you start adding symbols, it gets confused.

The $var way works, too, but it creates messier, harder-to-read code.

(Of course, since you're a beginner, I won't point out the XSS flaws.)