

STORYBIRD



ISTC 731:

Theory and Practice for Integrating Digital Resources into Learning and Teaching

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WHAT IS STORYBIRD AND HOW CAN IT BE USED?

Description: Storybird is an online tool that can be used for story telling. Students have the ability to create their own stories or books using a database of over 10,000 pictures. In addition to creating stories, you can also participate in specific lessons, quizzes and writing prompts as well as read from a database of leveled books.

Purpose: The purpose of this tool is to provide a creative writing platform that can help boost a students' skills related to literacy. It is engaging for kids and provides them with resources to boost their writing.

USING STORYBIRD IS SIMPLE FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Step 1

Choose an illustration



Step 2

Write your story

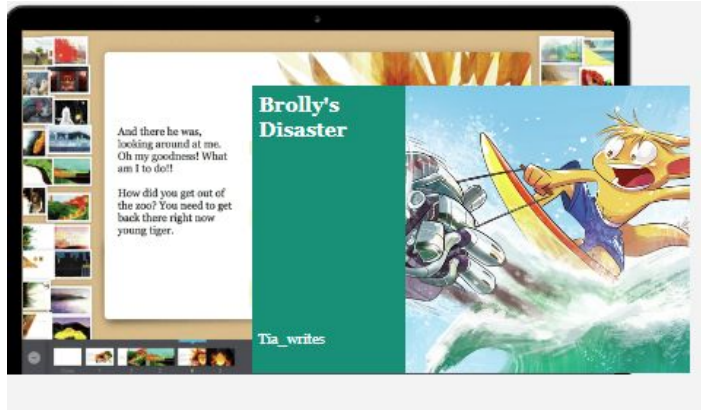


Step 3

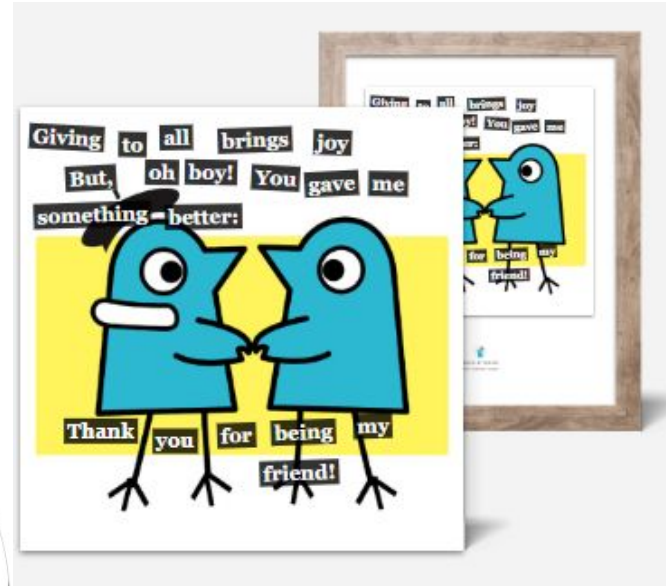
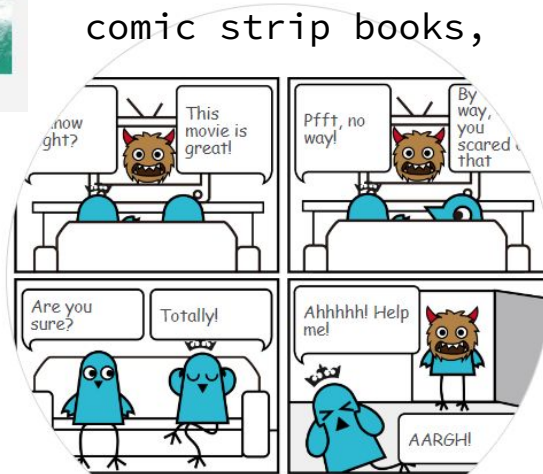
Publish your book



EXAMPLES OF THE POSSIBILITIES WITH STORYBIRD



Creating picture books,



poetry, and more.

USING THE THOMAS AND BOYSON TAXONOMY FOR INTEGRATION

This model evaluates the instructional use of computers and consists of 5 categories of application.

The five categories are:

- **Experiencing**-sets the cognitive or affective stage for future learning (foundational skills)
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- **Informing**-used to acquire information (learning a new skill)
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- **Reinforcing**-used to strengthen specific learning objectives (drill and practice)
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- **Integrating**-provide opportunity to apply previous learning
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- **Utilizing**-used after learning a concept to tackle more complex ideas or assignments

STORYBIRD IN TERMS OF THOMAS AND BOYSON TAXONOMY

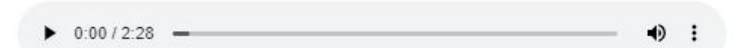
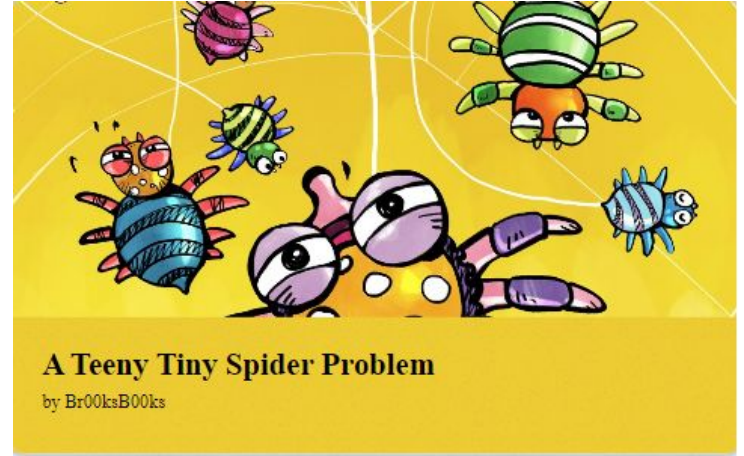
Depending on which feature you are using in Storybird and how you use it, I think that you could integrate this technology in your literacy lessons relating to all of the categories of Thomas and Boyson Taxonomy.

Examples:

Experiencing could take place by allowing students an opportunity to read a new book from the different genres of books included in the digital library. **Informing** could occur by assigning students a lesson within the program relating to a specific concept or skill. **Reinforcing** could occur through the answering of the questions included with the lessons in the program. **Integrating** can take place by using the “create” option and allowing students the opportunity to showcase the skills they’ve learned through making books. Last, **utilizing** can happen by giving students access to this tool and its features as an option in addition to traditional writing in their journals.

PERSONAL USE

Storybird is a new web tool that I have just discovered and have never used. My school is piloting a new literacy curriculum this year and I would love to find ways to incorporate this. I think students would really be engaged by having the option to create books digitally and not just by writing on paper. It's great because it also offers a library of books that could also be used for a shared reading with the whole class, for read alouds or for even independent reading time. The lessons that can be assigned to students are at all levels. I am interested in some of the lessons to support important skills needed for basic writing. For example, "Hello to Sentences" is a story that talks about what makes a sentence complete.



LIMITATIONS OF STORYBIRD

Storybird is free to educators if you are using the basic plan. The basic plan includes access to the digital library to read books, access to how-to guides and having the ability to use artwork to create books of your own.

You have to pay for an individual plan (\$4.99/month) or a school plan (billed annually) for access to all of its features which would include the courses, resources and more.

Overall, the free-option for educators still offers great features.

REFERENCES

Read, write, discover, and share the books you'll always remember. Storybird. <https://storybird.com/>

Thomas, R.A. & Boysen, P. (1984) A taxonomy for the instructional use of computers. *AEDS Monitor*, (22)11, 15-17