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EDU 510: Foundations of Technology

Week 7

Free Downloadable Websites for Creating!

www.storybird.com

Taken right from the website description: Storybird is a service that uses collaborative storytelling to connect kids and families. Two (or more) people create a Storybird in a round robin fashion by writing their own text and inserting pictures. They then have the option of sharing their Storybird privately or publicly on the network. The final product can be printed, watched on screen, played with like a toy, or shared through a worldwide library. Storybird is also a simple publishing platform for writers and artists that allows them to experiment, publish their stories, and connect with their fans. This site would be fantastic for secondary level students, and a unique way of writing/publishing stories, poems, and other forms of the written word.

www.goanimate.com

This site is used for making videos and skits. You can build your own from scratch, or use their skit templates to add your own running commentary (ie: presidential debates). This site would be most appropriate for the secondary level student. It would be a unique way for students in debate class to post/create a real, or fictitious, debate. It would be a relaxing, fun, and interactive means of sharing thoughts and opinions for students who may take some time to warm up to public speaking.

www.fluxtime.com

This site would be great for any age level. You can create animation, upload it to your workspace, e-mail it, work cooperatively with others, etc. The graphics are colorful and child like (unlike goanimate.com), which helps gear it toward a younger learner.

www.animasher.com

This site has 3 simple steps for creating an animated video. Using clip art, motions, and sounds, students can create their own little video. It is not a fancy site, and create basic-looking “scrapbook style” videos. It might be a good place to start for the inexperienced animator!

www.tuxpaint.org

Taken directly from the website: Tux Paint is a free, [award-winning](#) drawing program for children ages 3 to 12 (for example, preschool and K-6). It combines an easy-to-use interface, fun

sound effects, and an encouraging cartoon mascot who guides children as they use the program. Kids are presented with a blank canvas and a variety of drawing tools to help them be creative.

<http://www.kidscom.com/create/write/write.html>

Using this site, children can create a story using their best imaginative juices! They can share online, and possibly even have their story published on the website. I appreciate that this site promotes playing smart and staying safe online.

www.art.com

Art Pad on art.com is a great tool for creating canvas-like art. It is similar to MS Paint. I could see myself using this in the preschool classroom. I like that it has both a print and E-mail option. Students could print their art to take home, for me to store in their portfolios, or we could e-mail it right to their parents! When parents check their email in the evening, it might be a nice little surprise from their little one!

<http://www.girlsense.com/kiddonet/comicsPlatform2/fireworks.html>

As a mom of a third grader who loves to draw comic strips, I am fairly certain he would be entertained by this site as well. Kids (or adults!) can drag/drop faces into pre-made comic strips and enter text as they wish. This would be simple for ages 9 and up! Also, don't be fooled by the title of the URL. It's not just for girls!

www.creatingmusic.com

This is a great website for children to explore a musical environment online. Children can compose music, have a performance, play music games and do music puzzles. Children can also just hear music - which is the foundation for inspiring children to create music! This educational website could be used in any classroom.

www.kerpoof.com

This site is geared toward K-8th grades. It is leveled by grade, and has many creative options: spell a word, make a movie, make a card, make a drawing, make a picture, and tell a story. It is colorful and user friendly. It also has a component for educators, including lesson plans. This site receives great reviews from me. It was really easy to use, and making a movie couldn't be simpler for elementary students! Additionally, I love that it has a spelling tool on it. Any way that students can practice spelling is a definite perk. Children who prefer visual/auditory learning would benefit from this site.