Title of Session: Fanfiction and Technology
Moderator: BJ Berquist
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Room: Fanfiction Group

BJB2: are you familiar with fanfiction, Lauren?

BJB2 . o O (it was kind of new to me)

LaurenWB : not really, but I am an English teacher and think it would be interesting to incorporate into the curriculum

LaurenWB : gives students a chance to be creative, challenges them to think about what they read previously

BJB2 nods

BJB2: did you take a look at the two links Patricia has featured in this room?

LaurenWB : I'm definitely interested in anything that makes them think

LaurenWB : not really

LaurenWB : I just thought a discussion would be interesting

BJB2: http://www.fanfiction.net/

BJB2: hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url

LaurenWB : wow

BJB2: gives you quite a few examples of what is being done out there

LaurenWB : there's a lot

LaurenWB : !!

LaurenWB : I first heard about fanfic because I'm into Harry Potter and saw recommendations for good fanfic on the website

BJB2 smiles

LaurenWB : and it was really enlightening to see what young writers are doing

BJB2 nods...we do lose sight sometimes of what people in other parts of the country are doing and become kind of locked into our classrooms

BJB2 . o O (which is why Tapped In is such a great resource for educators)

LaurenWB: it is

LaurenWB: I attended an assessment chat last week

LaurenWB: got some great ideas

BJB2: the other site that Patricia has featured is http://www.livejournal.com/

LaurenWB: oh yeah

LaurenWB: blogs are big for this stuff

BJB2: Patricia was interested in learning how other educators are using technology with fanfiction

BJB2: during last month's discussion we did talk about blogs and wikis

BJB2: how else could you engage your students to write for an authentic audience?

LaurenWB: well my school system is working with SchoolFusion, which is apparently like a high school version of Blackboard...that might be a forum to share their work that could also work it into the classroom

LaurenWB: a system like that

BJB2: hmmm, interesting. Were you aware that TI has a K-12 Student campus?

LaurenWB: yeah, but I'm not sure if my county would approve it's use without looking into it first

LaurenWB: they're big on that stuff where I am

BJB2: you could also bring your students to the TI student campus and collaborate with another classroom in your district or in another city or state

BJB2 understands about admin concerns

LaurenWB: but I'll definitely let them know that it's available

BJB2: I will let you know that the student campus is a safe and secure place. The teacher

creates the classroom and assigns usernames and passwords

BJB2: when the students log in they land in that classroom

LaurenWB: I know that they've created a major initiative about cyberbullying

BJB2: they are not able to enter any other classroom or room in the student campus unless you designate that feature

LaurenWB: so I'm sure that would alleviate some concern

BJB2: when the students log out if they have engaged in real time text chat their transcripts are emailed to the teacher

BJB2: this gives the students a safe place to LEARN TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ONLINE BEHAVIOR

LaurenWB: lol that's definitely needed

LaurenWB: it's a free-for-all for them right now

BJB2: we filter up the wazoo and try to protect kids from everything...but it's not a very realistic process...

BJB2: we have an obligation to teach them to be good netizens

LaurenWB: at least someone is

BJB2 . o O (unless we want to keep them under our wing forever ;-))

LaurenWB: I just want to create a place kids can feel safe with sharing their fanfic...a lot of students are really shy about it (I would know--I teach creative writing)

BJB2 nods...the student campus classroom has a threaded discussion board where students could post their writing

BJB2: you can assign real names to each student or give them numbers

BJB2 . o O (whatever gives that that sense of security)

LaurenWB: I really want to try to apply this to normal English classes too...give them a chance to really have to think about they've read when they adapt their own version

LaurenWB: I'd probably assign numbers myself if it wasn't creative writing

LaurenWB: I expect the creative writing students to share ;)

BJB2: would you use a specific book or topic for all the students in a class, Lauren?

BJB2 . o O (for fanfiction)

BJB2: I'm very interested in the creative process also...and see very little of it with my students

BJB2: have you read Daniel Pink's A Whole New Mind?

LaurenWB: I'd use what we read in class: short stories like "Contents of the Dead Man's Pocket", "Lamb to the Slaughter", "The Cold Equations", "The Pedestrian" or books like "To Kill a Mockingbird", "Night", etc

BJB2 nods. So the students could write the story from a different character's point of view for example?

LaurenWB: the reason you don't see much creativity is that NCLB no longer requires them to be creative, unfortunately...I could easily see someone asking "how does FanFic fit into our curriculum?"

LaurenWB: yeah, I'd have them experiment with pov, tone

LaurenWB: mostly POV at first...that would be the easiest for the non-writers

BJB2: I really recommend Dan's book...a great case for teaching and nurturing creativity

LaurenWB: also they could write new endings, sequels, prequels

BJB2: have you used picture books?

CaryH joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Cary

CaryH: Hi!

LaurenWB: no picture books yet...I'm just trying to find a way to work this in

BJB2 . o O (The True Story of the Three Little Pigs for example)

BJB2: we're discussing creative writing, Cary...and how it can be used with fanfiction

BJB2: are you a fan of fanfiction, Cary?

LaurenWB: that would be a great way to introduce it

BJB2 nods to Lauren...non threatening

CaryH: This is my first time in an online course on Tapped in.

BJB2: welcome to the community, Cary. Are you a teacher?

CaryH: Yes, although I am currently working at the district level as an instructional technology specialist.

LaurenWB: cool

CaryH: So, dumb question but is this whole session a chat room?

LaurenWB: pretty much

BJB2: what's your district's attitude on creativity, Cary? Arts, literature, etc.

BJB2: Tapped In is a community of practice for educators, Cary...

BJB2: there is a monthly calendar of public discussions...

CaryH: I think we're fairly status quo...typical traditional education.

CaryH: Okay, so what exactly is fanfiction?

BJB2: but there are also over 800 special interest groups, a student campus, and many university profs bring their classes online here

LaurenWB: FanFiction is fiction is a branch of fiction loosely based off of something previously written by another author

BJB2: some schools also do prof dev for their teachers in Tapped in

CaryH: I've visited several times but have not really taken the time to thoroughly investigate all the possibilities of Tapped In.

LaurenWB: from a different point of view, different time setting, etc

BJB2: sort of like unraveling a story and knitting it back together in a new format

CaryH: Okay, hence the reference to "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs".

BJB2: right.

BJB2: I've found that picture books often help to make the topic less threatening to the

students

CaryH: I know some of the teachers at my former school did some of this type of writing. The kids really enjoyed it.

LaurenWB: FanFic is big in popular literature...Harry Potter has a huge following in FanFic, and I've discovered many of our creative writers write FanFic as opposed to their own stories

CaryH: Interesting.

LaurenWB: I'm on the fence if it's the best way for them to learn to creatively write, but it's something

LaurenWB: at least they're thinking

BJB2: I think I'm on the same fence as you, Lauren!

CaryH: I think it's probably a great way to teach story.

BJB2: it's the next step before plagiarism

CaryH: Yeah, well what an authentic way to introduce plagiarism!

BJB2 laughs...yikes!

LaurenWB: yeah

BJB2: but you're right in that the basics of the story are already there so it takes off some of the pressure

LaurenWB: that's a concern...teaching the line between homage and stealing

BJB2: at least with fanfiction you are aware of the original story

LaurenWB: exactly

BJB2 . o O (you as the teacher)

LaurenWB: which is why I'm interested

LaurenWB: they HAVE to think about the story before they can change it

BJB2 nods.

CaryH: It's a natural hook, though...kids (particularly middle school students) are drawn

to crossing the line.

BJB2: do you have your students work from an outline?

LaurenWB: I probably would

BJB2 . o O (or a graphic organizer of some kind?)

CaryH: So, do you use tools such as Inspiration or Gliffy?

BJB2 smiles...that was my next question, Cary!

BJB2: you could use those tools

CaryH: Are there other ones out there?

BJB2: probably ;-)

LaurenWB: I like Inspiration myself

BJB2: I can't keep up with all the online tools available

CaryH: Inspiration has not caught on in my district...probably due to lack of professional development.

BJB2: so Inspiration would be a good tech tool to organize a fanfiction story?

CaryH: I think so, although I'm new to fanfiction talk. :0)

LaurenWB: I like how you can potentially use it to break up the parts of the story with it, and then have space for them to make their potential changes

LaurenWB: keeps them organized so they don't fall into plagiarism by accident

CaryH: It is a great way to pull in those visual learners.

BJB2: Cary, the owner of this group has posted two URLs that you should look at ...they're featured in this room above the chat window

CaryH: Yeah, I saw them...will check them out!

LaurenWB: and you can also make outline versions of the same thing for those students who are a bit more linear

BJB2: good comment, Lauren...along with creativity, we need to teach academic integrity

BJB2: another way to use an outline is to convert the outline to a ppt

BJB2: it's like using file cards for each topic

BJB2 . o O (I'm not sure they even make file cards any more!)

LaurenWB : yeah

LaurenWB : I also would probably use student peer editing in the actual classroom...work on editing skills as well as plagiarism identification

BJB2: nice

CaryH: I have to go now...sorry...but it was nice chatting with you!

BJB2 waves bye to Cary. We're almost finished

CaryH left the room (signed off).

LaurenWB : I think I'm going to try this next semester

LaurenWB : just to see what happens

BJB2 sighs...guess Patricia isn't going to make it. I apologize, Lauren, but I enjoyed the discussion

BJB2: perhaps you can join a future discussion and let us know about how it works

LaurenWB : thanks!

LaurenWB smiles

LaurenWB : have a great evening

BJB2 waves goodnight