

Title of Session: FanFiction
Moderator: BJ Berquist
Title of File: 20071210fanfiction
Date: December 10, 2007

Room: FanFiction Group

BJB2: while we wait for the discussion leader to arrive, a few reminders...

BJB2: if you are new to Tapped In, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and click on detach

BJB2: this will make your chat window larger and easier to follow

KirkL: ty

JannatulF: yay!

JannatulF: thanks!

BJB2: during the discussion, if a url is shared, make sure to either allow popups or hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard

JannatulF: ok

BJB2: let's start with introductions, please. Tell me where you are located and what experience if any you've had with fanfiction

BJB2: I am a teacher in Pennsylvania and on the Tapped In helpdesk

PatriciaMe: I'm from Texas, Experience=none :[

JannatulF: I am studying to be a teacher in NYC

DaveMa: hey all, I teach 9th graders just outside of San Diego

JenniferNK: I'm a student at Texas A & M - Kingsville and I don't have any experience with fanfiction

JannatulF: I haven't had any experiences w/ fanfic

KirkL: location AZ also becoming a teacher

PatriciaMe: I'm from Texas A&M Kingsville as well.

JenniferNK: awesome

DaveMa: no experience with fanfic, although i worked at a writing camp and some of the kids were into it

RebekahT: I'm from Virginia and a teacher

BJB2: looks like we might want to talk about what we're talking about then :-) Any thoughts on fanfiction?

PatriciaMe: What is fanfiction?

KirkL: ty

JannatulF: I thought it was stories fans created out of original written pieces

DaveMa: I thought fanfiction was basically creating new writing that is written in the same style as already existing stories

JannatulF: Harry Potter fanfic is pretty popular

JenniferNK: ohh....

BJB2 agrees about the Harry Potter fan fiction

DaveMa: my friend is a teacher and one of her students came in with the "last Harry Potter book" months before it came out

DaveMa: turns out it was just fanfiction

JannatulF: my friend wrote stories about it and put Hermione and Ron together in pretty intimate situations :)

BJB2: fan fiction is when an author/writer extends a story from a different point of view or adding a new character

PatriciaMe: ohh.

JannatulF: sounds about right!

BJB2 nods to Jannatul and Dave

RebekahT: I didn't know that

JenniferNK: oh ok...didn't know... ha

BJB2: this definition opens fan fiction up to all levels and ages...

DaveMa: yeah... the "last book" this kid had included some interesting interactions between characters

BJB2: you could have elementary students do fan fiction on an elementary book and high school students working at their level

JannatulF: I think it's a good way to allow kids to explore their creativity

PatriciaMe: I agree with that.

RebekahT: makes them use their imagination

BJB2: What the creator of this group was researching is how to use technology with fan fiction.

JannatulF) yep

DaveMa: I agree... and it provides structure and existing characters for students who might struggle with creativity

BJB2 nods...I like the idea of scaffolding, Dave

PatriciaMe: so say I don't like the ending of a novel I can re write the ending?

JannatulF: what is scaffolding?

BJB2 smiles...why not, Patricia?!

PatriciaMe: yay, I like fanfiction

BJB2: Jannatul, scaffolding is providing support and guidance

DaveMa: I have my students create "missing" chapters sometimes

JenniferNK: oh that's awesome

PatriciaMe: that sounds awesome Dave

JannatulF: ok

RebekahT: my students make up what the characters do

PatriciaMe: I think I would have liked English more if my teacher would have used fanfiction

BJB2: for instance, Dave mentioned the characters and the existing story structure

JenniferNK: yea... never used it...

JannatulF: speaking of characters, student can use tech w/ fanfic by creating animated characters, for example, to reflect how they envision their characters to be...

BJB2: Dave, do you integrate tech into your student fanfiction?

JannatulF: software for that might be expensive though...

DaveMa: I haven't, although in one of my graduate classes I created an iMovie for a "missing" chapter of Huck Finn I wrote when I was 16!

RebekahT: that sounds great

JannatulF: iMovie sounds like a great idea!

JenniferNK: all the software that I know of for that would be expensive...unless there's some that I don't know about

JannatulF: podcasting can also be used to tell their stories

PatriciaMe: iMovie does sound like a good idea

KirkL: with classroom management...have u had a problem with students writing anything inappropriate

JenniferNK: what is iMovie?

BJB2: there is a rather inexpensive comic creator that might just fill the bill for those visual learners. Anyone familiar with www.comiclife.com?

BJB2: imovie and photostory are excellent solutions also!

JannatulF: nope

BJB2: . o O (imove is for macs and photostory is for pc's)

BJB2: both are free

RebekahT: cool

JannatulF: imovie is like video clips

JenniferNK: oh ok

JannatulF: anyone has a site for it?

JannatulF: I've never really used it, but heard it is a great tool

BJB2: imovie comes with the mac

PatriciaMe: would PowerPoint work?

DaveMa: I think versions of iMovie and Windows Movie Maker are usually free

BJB2: PowerPoint would also work, Patricia

JenniferNK: yea windows movie maker is usually free

RebekahT: PowerPoint would be a great introduction for them

PatriciaMe: I have window movie maker :]

JannatulF: yeah, there are tons of great free software!!!!

JannatulF: I love google earth!!

BJB2: how would you use google earth for fanfiction, Jannatul?

JannatulF: if they are creating adventure stories, they can use it to map their journey!

BJB2 smiles...how cool!

JenniferNK: oh that's a great idea!

RebekahT: good idea

PatriciaMe: that sounds cool

JannatulF: and google docs could be used to have student work together and create an integrated story

DaveMa: even between classes/schools/countries... if you were really ambitious

BJB2 . o O (you can also do that in the Tapped In student campus)

JannatulF: do what now?

BJB2: teachers from anywhere in the world can collaborate and have their students

collaborate in their student group rooms

PatriciaMe: what's google docs?

JannatulF: it is a collaborative tool

JannatulF: it is like microsoft word

RebekahT: I think that would be a great project to do

PatriciaMe: ohh.

JannatulF: but ppl can make changes together in real time

JannatulF: it can also store documents

PatriciaMe: so technology can do a lot for this fanfiction stuff?

BJB2: google has some very exciting collaborative tools

JannatulF: yep

JenniferNK: I never knew any of this...very interesting

BJB2: well, it's not the technology so much as how it is used ;-)

JannatulF: well a bunch of heads together brings about an interesting combo of ideas :)

BJB2: there was a Tapped In discussion led by Midge Frazel on google tools...check the archives at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

JenniferNK: thanks

JannatulF: ty

BJB2: Jannatul, collaboration is the most important feature of all the Tapped In events!

PatriciaMe: thanks.

BJB2: we had discussed blogs and wikis during the other fanfiction discussions....this group is much more creative!

BJB2: but blogs and wikis are still options

BJB2: wikis would be more collaborative

JannatulF: cool

JannatulF: I love wikis

JannatulF: my online class is thru wikispaces

DaveMa: that would make a good bumper sticker

DaveMa: I love wikis

PatriciaMe: what would make a good bumper sticker?

BJB2 chuckles

JannatulF: it is a great window of ideas and great work has been posted there throughout the semester

KirkL: lol

DaveMa: I really need to learn more about online collaboration for my students.

KirkL: what grade level

PatriciaMe: when did fanfiction start

DaveMa: 9th grade

JannatulF: I've been hearing about it since 2003...

BJB2: I think fanfiction has been around for some time

JannatulF: hs can make use of a lot of cool tech

PatriciaMe: oh, I just heard about it today :]

JenniferNK: yea me too

JannatulF: how about making a website to display there (and other) fanfic?

PatriciaMe: are there such websites?

JannatulF: Ning is a great social networking tool that allow for the spread of such works

JannatulF: I've made a ning page to display a field trip

JenniferNK: I'm going to check that out

BJB2: I wouldn't be surprised if there isn't already one or more ning sites for fanfiction

JannatulF: it's amazing how much programming is out there for us normal folk to do, without knowing anything about programming

PatriciaMe: oh ya, that's true

BJB2 looks around the room at all the 'normal' folk :-)

DaveMa: I got the feeling from the camp kids i had that maybe a lot of fanfiction happens outside of school. it's sort of its own little alternative community. and I think the internet has made that possible.

JenniferNK: hahaha

BJB2: you are not normal! You are the risk takers and the explorers!

JannatulF: if anyone is interested in ning: please feel free to check out my site:
<http://fitmuseumfieldtrip.ning.com/>

JannatulF: hehe

JannatulF: I always felt normal

PatriciaMe: um, sorry to ask but what is ning?

JannatulF: that is, until I started learning about all this cool stuff out there... all free on the web!!!

JannatulF: it's a social networking tool

BJB2: ning is a social networking site www.ning.com

PatriciaMe: oh thanks, bj

JannatulF: it's like facebook, myspace, etc

PatriciaMe: ohh.

JannatulF: u & ur friends & others stay connected

JannatulF: & share thoughts, ideas,

JenniferNK: That's cool Jannatul!

PatriciaMe: that's nice.

KirkL: myspace is becoming a big no no for many school teachers....how does this effect fanfiction?

BJB2: depends on how you use it, Kirk

KirkL: big controversy here

BJB2: you don't have to use the sites blocked by the schools

BJB2: and you still should have control over what kinds of posts the students are permitted to make

PatriciaMe: I think myspace is over rated

KirkL: agree

BJB2: one of the reasons I suggested the tapped in student campus is that the teacher maintains control over a safe and secure site for the students

BJB2: you can also use a password protected wiki

JannatulF: that's nice

PatriciaMe: that's nice to know.

BJB2: so, you've suggested google earth and google docs and iMovie and ppt

BJB2: what else can we do to get the kids writing?

JannatulF: podcasting to read their writing?

BJB2: oh, nice :-)

PatriciaMe: that sounds fun.

JannatulF: I wonder if they make it into an ebook...?

JenniferNK: oh ebooks!

KirkL: introduce non-educational reading materials.....people who read more write more

PatriciaMe: that's true.

KirkL: show the entertainment value of writing

PatriciaMe: fan fiction can also be used to release stress and emotions. like re write a certain book to be a description of their lives only their favorite characters playing the part.

JannatulF: if they create a site to store their fanfiction, they can using blogging and forums to change/improve their pieces...

DaveMa: Patricia that's a good point... I think a lot of kids who write fanfiction put themselves in the story

JannatulF: I second that

BJB2 . o O (original authors probably do that too to some degree)

DaveMa: absolutely

JannatulF: a lot of our inner-city kids in nyc have issues they don't like to deal with; stories can be good ways to get rid of those negative feelings

KirkL: yah freedom writers

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Sue. This group is doing a really great job discussing fanfiction!

PatriciaMe: freedom writers, I liked the movie :]

SusanR listens attentively

JannatulF: so should we go over some examples of fanfic maybe?

JannatulF: I've never really read one myself

JannatulF: anyone knows of any good ones...?

JenniferNK: me neither

PatriciaMe: that's a good idea.

BJB2 checks to see if Patricia Pierce, the leader of this group has any featured urls

JannatulF: digression: will this conversation be in the transcripts?

DaveMa: I'm looking on wikipedia and it says fanfiction began as early as the 17th century with unauthorized sequels to Don Quixote

DaveMa: !

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

BJB2: <http://www.livejournal.com/>

JenniferNK: oh wow

JannatulF: wow!

JannatulF: yaya wikipedia!

JenniferNK: wikipedia is the best. haha

BJB2: yes, all the urls and all the chat text will be included in your transcripts

PatriciaMe: so I can find fanfiction on wikipedia

JannatulF: my college prof warned though b/c wikipedia is a free space and anyone can make comments there. they doubted the veracity...

BJB2: you can also use good old google and search for fanfiction sites

DaveMa: yeah, it's not the best for hard facts

DaveMa: but good for casual knowledge

PatriciaMe: okay thanks

BJB2: but I'd look at <http://www.fanfiction.net/> too

JenniferNK: yes

SusanR: and a quick overview

JannatulF: this may have been covered earlier: did anyone use fanfic in a classroom yet?

BJB2: Dave has apparently used it

PatriciaMe: I think Dave used it!

DaveMa: I've used it as a "missing" chapter assignment...

JannatulF: oh yeah

DaveMa: and I've asked kids to write in the mindset of certain characters

JannatulF: any comments?

JannatulF: how did it go w/ the students?

KirkL: how about a role-playing exercise to start a story and have the students finish the story up for homework...then act out various parts found in a story the next day

JannatulF: I like both ideas! :)

DaveMa: well I'm biased... I'm an English teacher with a creative writing background

JannatulF: oo, nice one Kirk!

DaveMa: but

JenniferNK: me too!

DaveMa: I think kids love writing creatively

PatriciaMe: oh that sounds nice Kirk.

PatriciaMe: where was this when I was in highschool :[

JenniferNK: I know

JannatulF: I know, right?

JenniferNK: I feel the same way

JenniferNK: ha

JannatulF: lol

DaveMa: and I think they often write more when given a creative task

JannatulF: things are really changing for kids nowadays

DaveMa: that doesn't mean "better"

DaveMa: but I think it has a lot of value

PatriciaMe: I like to write when I can use my creativity :]

KirkL: same with most students

JannatulF: we can easily accommodate an art tool to increase their creative power from pen on paper to brush on canvas...

KirkL: deep

DaveMa: I love the idea of comics/drawing being included

JannatulF smiles

BJB2: here's an article that might be of interest <http://www.teleread.org/blog/2006/09/29/of-fan-fiction-vidgames-tv-and-learning-can-the-bad-stuff-inspire-good-writing-in-k-12/>

BJB2: I did mention www.comiclife.com before...not free, but not terribly expensive either

KirkL: yah for my children's lit class we had to write a children's book and my friend did the illustrations...tuff stuff

BJB2: if anyone does Catcher in the Rye, check this out http://ps044.k12.sd.us/Forms%20of%20Fiction/catcher_in_the_rye.htm

DaveMa: I also had a friend who published her student creative work in a lit. magazine using www.lulu.com just upload and pay per copy... pretty easy

DaveMa: it'd be possible to publish a fanfiction journal or something

JannatulF: yeah, maybe something organized thru the school

JannatulF: or even publish in school newspaper?

JannatulF: anyone know of any free art tools...

JannatulF: ?

DaveMa: good find bj

PatriciaMe: has any one here written any fanfiction?

JannatulF: I would suggest photoshop...but u gotta buy it

BJB2: one more from Bud the Teacher: http://budtheteacher.typepad.com/bud_the_teacher/2005/06/fan_fiction_on_.html

BJB2: if you have no online art tools, what about doing the artwork and then scanning it?

JannatulF: I think it allows for digital capture of watercolors and such in painting

JannatulF: sounds fine to me

BJB2: or even taking a digital photo and uploading it

JannatulF: m hm

PatriciaMe: that's another way

BJB2: sometimes the tactile experience of creating art is more important than the actual artwork

BJB2: speaking of one hour...our time is about up for this discussion. The fanfiction discussions are usually once a month

JannatulF: ok cool

BJB2: the next one will be on the second Monday of January

PatriciaMe: well I have to go now but this has inspired me to write my own fanfiction.

JenniferNK: ah ok

KirkL: cool

BJB2: check your January calendars

PatriciaMe: bye.

JannatulF: bye

KirkL: bye

JenniferNK: bye!

JannatulF: great talk!

JannatulF smiles

BJB2: thanks, everyone!

JannatulF: ty

SusanR: thanks ..now I have a clearer understanding of Fan Fiction and how it can be implemented in the classroom

BJB2: good, Sue...it's fun and creative with a little scaffolding for the students

SusanR: indeed

BJB2 waves goodnight