

Title of Session: K to 3 Resources - Student Interactive Sites

Moderator: Susan Roseman

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Room: Comfy Conference

SusanR: Welcome all

SusanR: I will start with some newsy items while we wait for late arrivals

SusanR: Can we start with brief intros .. what you teach or hope to teach ... or your involvement in the educational field ..and where you are located

SarahSal: I teach 2nd grade in Northern Va

SarahSal: This is my first year

MirabaiK: I teach second grade in Woodbridge VA

AmyWH: Hi, I'm Amy from Harrisonburg VA. I am a math coach.

MirabaiK: It is also my first year.

SusanR: I am a former grade 1 and 2 teacher myself ..over 25 years or so in the classroom

MirabaiK: awesome

AmyWH: I spent 10 years in 1st and have been coaching for 6

SusanR: from Ontario Canada with a passion for technology

SusanR: Are you familiar with the SAW movies?

MirabaiK: yes

AmyWH: no

SarahSal: nope

SusanR: I had a grade 5/6 that was fascinated by these movies ..we had a great discussion

SusanR: They are terrifying and usually shown around Hallowe'en

SusanR : and now there is a video game based on it

SusanR : here is the url

SusanR : <http://blog.wired.com/games/2009/04/hands-on-konami.html>

SusanR : the bottom line is "it's definitely a unique mix of puzzles and really, really disgusting horror."

SusanR : comments?

MirabaiK : Wow. It looks really cool. Looking at it now.

SusanR : yikes ..the movies can give you nightmares for weeks on end

MirabaiK : It does seem to be for older kids.

AmyWH : Death in the title does not seem like something I would present in an Elementary school

SusanR : yes, it is ..however young ones can be exposed

AmyWH : my guess is our school filters would block

SusanR : I believe it is a game to be purchased

SusanR : one more newsy item

AmyWH : "torture porn movies" seems inappropriate

SusanR : most of the grade 4/5/6 spec ed class I was in had seen one or all 3 of the SAW movies

SusanR : on a more pleasant note

SusanR : The rise of the Digital Refuseniks

SusanR : <http://newspapertree.com/opinion/3613-the-rise-of-the-digital-refuseniks>

SusanR : anyone else have a newsy item before I share a GREAT blog I follow

MirabaiK : no. interesting article.

SusanR : next on the agenda is a blog I follow for great resources and tech integration ideas

SusanR: This blog is geared to the K to 3 teacher. Kathy Cassidy teaches a class of six year olds in Moose Jaw, Sakatchewan.

SusanR: This blog may give you some inspiration in more ways than one. Let me know what you think.

BJB2: I was just in the Math Transformers group discussion where they were talking about the teachers who use tech vs the ones who are refusniks

SusanR: sorry I missed that one, Bj

SusanR: here it is http://www.classblogmeister.com/blog.php?blogger_id=1337

BJB2: very cool, Sue!

SusanR . o O (grade one ... no inhibitions)

AmyWH: cute

SusanR: Is there anything there you might apply to your classroom setting?

SusanR: or wish to implement

SusanR: Sarah, Mirabai ... your impressions?

SarahSal: I'm still looking, It's cute so far.

AmyWH: not being very familiar with blogs, I am trying to figure out all that I am seeing and what it relates to

SarahSal: I've thought of blogging for my class.

SarahSal: I am a huge blogger at home

MirabaiK: I have a webpage that I keep up for my classroom. But this blog is really cool. She does a lot of interesting things with her kids.

SusanR: blogger is an easy way to start

AmyWH: The use of video can be very motivating for children, Having an outlet for the video is interesting. I am not sure about my districts policy though, don't think we can show faces.

SarahSal: I fear I don't do enough blog worthy activities

AmyWH: what is blogger?

BJB2: podcasting is also a good option to embed in a blog

MirabaiK: me too.

SusanR: start small, Sarah ..students can reflect on their activities

MirabaiK: The kids write the blog?

SusanR: you can start with something like posterous

MirabaiK: or help write the blog?

SarahSal: I love that but it seems hard to manage. Is it a center? Who gets to do it each day?

SusanR: have a schedule and cycle through the class

SusanR: <http://posterous.com/>

SusanR: kids can reflect and you can post

SusanR: for them

SusanR: this is an example ..can be adapted to any grade level

SusanR: <http://maryh.posterous.com/>

AmyWH: from the spellings in the posts it looks like Kathy allows her kids to do the typing :)

SusanR: . o O (inventive Spelling is accepted in the early grades ..educators can stipulate it on their blogs)

MirabaiK: cool. I think it validates the kids.

AmyWH: it would also make it more manageable

MirabaiK: that webpage seems interesting. You just send in things and they create a page for you?

SusanR: yes, precisely, Mirabai

SusanR: and now for some student interactive sites

MirabaiK: awesome.

SusanR: Scholastic Story Starters

SusanR: is a fun way to get an idea for your next writing piece.

SusanR: Just follow the directions and spin away.

SusanR: a nice warm-up activity

MirabaiK: is it on the scholastic main page?

SusanR: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/storystarters/storystarter1.htm>

MirabaiK: thanks

HollyH joined the room.

HollyH: Hello sorry I'm late

SusanR: we are looking at story starters for our youngsters, Holly

SusanR: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/storystarters/storystarter1.htm>

MirabaiK: Thanks. The kids will really enjoy it. It is great.

AmyWH: looks like fun, I will probably put this in the "mom" file and do with my own children in the summer!

SusanR: Scholastic Story Starters is a fun website to use with the whole class or as a writing learning center.

SusanR: See if you can find one more you might use with your youngsters

SusanR: from this almighty collection

SusanR: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/learn.jsp>

AmyWH: I like the word finder at the beginning! What a great simple tool

MirabaiK: I didn't realize the resources scholastic offered teachers.

SusanR: It is an incredible resource!

AmyWH: Fraction Jams look good

MirabaiK: Everything looks really good.

SusanR: Incidentally there is a teacher resource with printables to go along with Story Starters

SusanR: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3749809>

MirabaiK: Thanks.

SusanR: The Reproducibles are at the bottom of the page

HollyH: Any chance you have a resource for students to practice reading test skills interactively?

MirabaiK: What are some other good interactive websites?

SusanR: let me think

SusanR: hmm

SusanR: Map out your students' writing with this interactive graphic organizer.

AmyWH: Really like the math hunt on this same site

SusanR: http://readwritethink.org/materials/letter_generator/

JeffC joined the room.

JeffC waves

JeffC: is this where the sites are at? ;-)

SusanR: <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/essaymap/>

SusanR: that other was the letter generator

AmyWH: looks like a good tool

MirabaiK: I am going to be working on a research project. This will be a good resource for the students.

JeffC is doing an essaymap on <http://www.tikatok.com>

SusanR: this is one of many interactives from learner.org

SusanR: <http://www.learner.org/interactives/story/index.html>

SusanR . o O (there is a drop down menu of more interactives at the top RIGHT hand corner)

MirabaiK: I like the way it reads the stories to the kids.

JeffC . o O (interactive story looks like a great site Susan, to get the students understanding the elements of a story.)

AmyWH: looks great!

SusanR: Storynory - Free Audio Stories For Kids

SusanR: comes to mind

SusanR: one can download the audio as well as have a printed version

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall.

SusanR: would you use such a resource?

SusanR: take a look

SusanR: <http://storynory.com/2009/04/12/my-lord-bag-of-rice/>

AmyWH: will pass along to the reading teachers in my bldg.

MirabaiK: I like that it reads the story, but do the pictures change?

HollyH: thank you so much for sharing these resources.

SusanR: I will leave you with the FAQs for the site

SusanR: <http://storynory.com/2009/04/08/faq/>

MirabaiK: Thank you.

BJB2: you could show using a whiteboard and have the kids listen as well as read the story

SarahSal: Thank you Sue.

SusanR: since we are at the top of the hour

SusanR: The whiteboard is an excellent idea

BJB2: Thanks, Sue. Always a pleasure joining your discussions.

AmyWH: Thank you

BJB2 . o O (have the kids do their own illustrations, Mirabai!)

MirabaiK: good idea

SusanR: there are many literacy related activities that can be used with these stories

BJB2 waves goodnight. The next K-3 Resources is April 28

SusanR: some are short and sweet

SusanR: <http://storynory.com/archives/stories-for-younger-children/>

SusanR: any last minute comments.. I will remain on site for a short while

AmyWH: Thank you for the good ideas!

JeffC: let me throw in <http://www.tikatok.com>

JeffC: that site allows students to write their own books (teachers create accounts for them).

JeffC: sort of ties this together with the earlier excellent resources shared here.