Digital storytelling in English Language Teaching

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Example stories

Center for Digital Storytelling http://storycenter.org/stories
> US stories by adults from many backgrounds, arranged into categories such as *Education*, *Refugees*, etc. Some are bilingual, or with subtitles. They get taken down so it's best to download any favourites e.g. using Free YouTube Downloader (http://download.cnet.com/Free-YouTube-Downloader/3000-2071_4-75219434.html)

Edublogs using VoiceThread http://esleflstudents.edublogs.org
> http://esleflstudents.edublogs.org/2009/07/10/tris-culture
> http://esleflstudents.edublogs.org/2009/07/08/does-friendship-really-exist-a-fable-by-carmen-laura

"Las Ollas de mi Suegra" (The pots of my mother-in-law) – by Cindy Ortega
> https://mcli.maricopa.edu/storytelling

"Phone call"
> http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/games/cartoon/no_02/no_02.htm

"The Jungle Hotel"
> http://www.zimmertwins.com/node/1401748

"The king and his children"

> http://digitalstorytelling.segfl.org.uk

"All about polar bears" – Monica Schnee's ESL pre-school ESL
> http://eslschnee.weebly.com/kinder--polar-bear-voicethread.html

Resources

A Google search will bring up many resources. Here are some I've used:

US college ESL (MiraCosta College Community Learning Center)
http://mccdigitalstory.blogspot.co.nz
> *Examples from the courses over several years, and lots of links. Click on "Web page for …" to see course outlines with links to grammar info, assessment rubrics, etc.*

Özge Karaoglu (2009)
http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/%C3%B6zge-karao%C4%9Flu/digital-storytelling
> *A blog piece with the advantages of digital storytelling, and an overview of websites.*

Story Circles – LaGuardia Community College, New York
http://ctl.laguardia.edu/dstory
> *A website with teaching resources, programmes, and examples.*

Free ESL materials.com
http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/digital_storytelling.html
> *Lots of websites to check out, if you have the time!*

Free software websites

Movie Maker	http://windows.microsoft.com/en-nz/windows-live/movie-maker
My StoryMaker	http://www.clpgh.org/kids/storymaker/embed.cfm
Cartoon Story Maker	http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/games/cartoon/
Powtoon	http://www.powtoon.com/
VoiceThread	http://voicethread.com/about/library/category/esl/
Zimmer Twins	http://www.zimmertwins.com/about/teachers

Do…
- **Get to know the technology** first – and/or have a techie on hand!
- **Focus on the language outcomes**, e.g. narratives (past tenses), text cohesion (conjunctions), pronunciation (stress and intonation, phonemes).
- I**nclude other outcomes** as appropriate, e.g. copyright/referencing, audio-visual communication.
- **Prepare tasks** for each stage of the process, some of which can be without computers.
- **Provide a forum** for students to share the final product.

Don't …
- **Assume that "digital natives" are confident** with new technology.
- **Underestimate the time** needed with each student.
- **Panic** when the students are all doing their own thing rather than listening to you!

References

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