

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>, e.g.

<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>

"Independence" – by Geeta Subedi

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/312929874079123763>

"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.

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).
- **Include 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!

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