

Twenty-First Century Storytelling



Theresa McGee

Identified as one of the oldest forms of communication, storytelling creates connections and stretches our imaginations. The need to share and interpret stories in the classroom is still important, we just have more ways of telling it using technology. Varying your lesson presentation between traditional storytelling and online sources can be engaging for students living in a world filled with technology. Capture the attention of your students by integrating some of these great online resources:

Audio and Interaction

Most appropriate for elementary students, Arturo's Art Stories (arturosart-stories.org) from the Dallas Museum of Art uses animation, audio, and user interaction to explore the meaning behind artwork. These stories could easily be used as an introduction to a unit or as an independent student activity.

Another site useful for younger students is Story Line Online (www.storylineonline.net) presented by members of the Screen Actors Guild. Listed among other children's classic

stories, *When Picasso Met Mootisse*, written by Nina Laden, is read aloud by an actor and is a change of pace from a traditional read-aloud story during class.

Students fourth grade through high school will enjoy the variety of world cultures represented in Picturing the Story (mag.rochester.edu/PicturingTheStory). This informative site offers several interactive features including a "looking tour" of a work of art while listening to a professional storyteller or watching the description told in sign language. Be sure to check out the fantastic teacher resource including many reproducible worksheets related to each work of art.

Another resource in audio format that is suitable for all audiences is Cybermuse: Stories in Art (tinyurl.com/CyberMuse). Interact by moving your mouse over the image to explore smaller details with audio descriptions.

Language Arts Integration

Tate Tales (tinyurl.com/TateTales) is a website useful for all grades that allows students to create or read about stories submitted by other students

based on artwork in the Tate collection. The prompting questions make it a great way for students to get started interpreting visual images and writing about them immediately.

Using a similar writing and submission format, Haring Kids (tinyurl.com/HaringStory) also has a useful elementary writing tool inspired by Keith Haring's work.

Multimedia Mix

The Art of Storytelling (www.artof-storytelling.org) sponsored by the Delaware Art Museum, is an engaging website appropriate for all levels. The first of three categories on the site lets you experience a story about a piece of fine art by listening or reading content created by website visitors. In the second category, choose an inspirational work of art and write or record an audio story about it. The third category contains a collage builder that uses images from the collection to create a new composition producing new meanings or stories.

Technology has never been more relevant and integrated into the lives of students as it is today. Online content can help you reach these techie kids and achieve some of your instructional goals. There's more than one way to tell a story, and these online resources will help. 🗨️

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