

TECHNOLOGY

Grades
K-2, 3-5

by | Karen Larson

KEEPING CURRENT WITH COOL WEB 2.0 TOOLS

Here are further Web 2.0 tools to use to make your professional life easier—and to make learning come alive!

- **Create a Story: Have Your Students Telling Tales!**

www.referencetable.net/puzzels/createastory

This site allows students to input information and formulate a story. It is great for getting especially reluctant readers and writers to eventually create and read stories, as it demonstrates how a narrative can be built around basic words and ideas.

Again, it is similar to Mad Libs, where students are prompted to insert nouns, verbs, etc. The site then builds a story around the students' entries. Here is an excerpt from an example I created:

Once upon a time there was a young boy named Bob. Bob was 13 years old and lived in Denver, Colorado. While walking home from school one day, an aqua cow jumped out from behind a bookcase and tackled Bob to the ground. But just when he was about to let out a scream for help, Bob realized that the aqua cow was only licking his face, not trying to bite it off. At that moment, Bob decided to keep the aqua cow as a pet...

- **Kerpoof: Intuitive Creation**

www.kerpoof.com

This website is owned by Disney. You can make artwork, create an animated movie, design a card, and tell a story—all very intuitively. Even very young learners have success with this site.

- **Lulu: Get Published!**

www.lulu.com

This is an easy-to-use and affordable self-publishing site. You can create books, photobooks, cookbooks, and more with your students! After your class has created a book, you can direct parents to this site and they can choose to have the book published for home use.

- **Poem Creator: Guaranteed Smiles!**
www.kidport.com/Reflib/English/PoemCreator/PoemCreator.htm#Poem%20Creator

This is a great poem creator for reluctant writers. Students input words much the way one does with a Mad Lib, and the site creates a poem for them. Here's an example:

Mary had a Little Lamb

Karen had a small dog. Its hair was red as bubble gum. And everywhere that Karen went; the dog was sure to go.

It followed Karen to school one day. Which was against the rules. It made the students laugh and whisper to see the dog at school.

Another great poem creator site is www.aipoem.com. Here is an example I created using this site:

In the Library

My heart cries
In the Library
I found a book
Another book
There are too many books
I have fallen to pieces

- **Voicethread: Let Your Voice Be Heard!**

voicethread.com

Voicethread makes it easy to converse about media. A VoiceThread is a multimedia slide show you create with images, documents, and/or videos. Visitors can react to your VoiceThread using text, an audio file, video (via webcam), or voice (through a phone or microphone). They can even draw on the image(s). It's great for storytelling!



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