



Technology Integration Ideas

Inspire reluctant writers with digital storytelling. The TechnoToon project integrates technology into language arts. Have your students use their imaginations to create a story that looks like a cartoon or animated comic strip. This is a fun creative writing activity that students will enjoy.

TechnoToon can be used as a creative writing unit, an option for a book report, or as part of a novel study. Here are a few ideas!

- *Write an Original Story:* Plan a story or simple scenario that has a beginning, middle, and end. Divide the action into panels. Use text boxes to describe the scene, callouts for characters to speak or think, and clip art to illustrate the action. (see *what is it sample*)
- *Only a Dream:* Create a dream sequence that shows a series of imaginary scenes. This is an easy way to plan a digital story. (see *my dream sample*)
- *Illustrate a Wacky Scene:* Have fun with a cliché or popular expression. Make a simple scene that explains what happens when pigs fly, there is a blue moon, or it starts raining cats and dogs.
- *Invent a Superhero:* Create a character and give them a name and superpower. Have the hero save the day! Take part in a rescue mission, engage in an epic battle with a powerful foe, stop a crook, or retrieve a lost item.
- *Tell a Joke:* Make people laugh! Use one clip before and after clips, or several slides to tell a joke.
- *Transform a Popular Story:* Remake a nursery rhyme, fairy tale, or popular story. Change characters, adjust the story line, or rewrite the ending.
- *Retell a Story:* Summarize the main parts of a story as scenes. In the first scene introduce the characters. Use clips to illustrate the action.
- *Rewrite the Ending:* Produce an animated story. Include a slide that explains why this ending is different.
- *Makeover a Realistic Story into a Cartoon:* Take a realistic story and substitute cartoon characters for the main characters. The characters were substituted for cartoon characters, but the plotline remained similar. Create a short cartoon version.
- *Join the Action:* Insert yourself into the story. What advice would you share? How would you help? Recreate a scene from the story. Use a clip art character, photo, or web cam image to put yourself into the scene. Does your advice or behavior change the ending?
- *Form a Connection:* Reflect on the story. What connection do you have? Do you like the same things as the main character, have you shared a similar experience, or does the story remind you of something you have seen or read? Explain the connection and use evidence from the book or your life to support your ideas. (see *connection sample*)
- *Conduct a Character Analysis:* How does the character change as the story unfolds? Create a three panel animated comic strip. In the first panel introduce the character at the beginning of the story. Use callouts and textboxes to show their mood, describe their character traits, and explain their role within the story. In the second panel illustrate an important event that causes a change or growth within the character. In the final panel show the character at the end of the story. How are they different?

TechnoToon blends computing skills with language arts. The activities engage students in creative writing.

Great news! You can integrate the use of cartoons or animated comic strips into health, social studies, history, or science. These are excellent ideas to encourage your students to transfer their skills.

- *Design a Public Service Announcement:* Raise awareness about an important issue. Educate the public about safety, nutritious eating, or school initiative. Make a simple cartoon strip that highlights important information. (see *psa sample*)
- *Report the Facts:* Create an animated series called *Did you Know?* Each slides includes facts about a topic.
- *Explain How-To:* Present steps in a sequenced logical manner. Write instructions to demonstrate how to complete a task.
- *Produce an Animated Biography:* Report about a famous person. Summarize important details, significant events, and explain how they contributed to society. Use photographs or clip art, combined with callouts, and/or starbursts to create a first person account. (see *biography sample*)
- *Highlight a Historical Moment:* Reveal what historical figures were thinking at the time a famous photo was taken. Add callouts or think bubbles to show dialog or express a thought.
- *Recap Historical Events:* Organize events into an animated timeline. Select several key moments and explain their historical importance.

Transfer learning to new situations. Integrate cartoons or animated comic strips into other subject areas.