

Online Tools to Support Literacy Instruction

Association of Computer Technology
Educators of Maine Conference



Little Introduction



Ladd M. Skelly

Sarasota, FL

Lskelly@classroom.com

Classroom Connect

- Director of Instructional Services

Educational Background

- Teacher
- Tech Coordinator
- District Administrator

Today's Agenda

- Introduction: Good reading instruction
- Why use technology?
- Integrating technology
 - 5 essential reading components
- Lesson plans in reading
- Enhancing reading
 - Online reading activities
 - Online tools



Conference Resources

- <http://twi.classroom.com/workshops/lskelly>





Top Ten Signs You May Need Some Remediation in Teaching Reading

1. If you've read *Tell-Tale Heart* to your first graders...
2. If you believe using profanity is the best way to teach *phonemic awareness*...
3. If you've said, "I think *Mad Magazine* is a good instructional resource for vocabulary and comprehension."
4. If you've said, "Ya know, I really like Bush's "*No Child Left Untested*" initiative."
5. If you're still wondering when to use *read* and *read* ...
6. If you can't figure out who the main character is in *The Cat In the Hat*...
7. If you've asked, "Do teachers still use those *Dick and Jane* books?"
8. If you've said, "Can I teach reading? Are you kidding me? I just finished *Green Eggs and Ham*."
9. If you think the "No Child Left Behind" initiative refers to a school *field trip policy*...
10. If your best instructional resources come from the reading materials in your *bathroom*...

Good Reading Instruction Includes...

- Offering students a *print-rich* environment within which to interact
- Engaging students with *surrounding* print as both readers and writers
- Engaging children in *language* activities that focus on both the form and the content of *spoken* and *written language*

Good Reading Instruction Includes...

- Providing *explicit explanations* in support of students' discovery of the alphabetic principle
- Providing opportunities for students to practice reading and writing for *real reasons* in a variety of contexts to promote fluency and independence

"Phonemic Awareness and the Teaching of Reading:
A Position Statement from the Board of Directors of
the International Reading Association"

Children Need...



- To read a great deal to become proficient readers
- Access to appropriate books
- To develop fluent reading to become proficient readers
- Time for classroom literate conversation to develop thoughtful literacy

What Really Matters for Struggling Readers
by: Richard Allington's (2001)

What Makes Reading Fun?

- Integrate activities that are appropriate and engaging
- Provide choices in learning
- Provide opportunities to express oneself
- Use a variety of multimedia
- Give access to meaningful resources and books



Why use technology?

- Provides additional reading strategies and content
- Expands the range of learning opportunities
- Provides a different perspective
- Gives access to other experts
- Motivates and engages students
- Expands the learning outside the classroom

Technology and Literacy

- Knowledge Loom
 - <http://www.knowledgeloom.org>
 - Effective Practices for Supporting Elementary Literacy



Technology

"A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any other invention in human history, with the possible exception of handguns and tequila."

- Mitch Radcliffe

Techie Talk

- What is needed to gain greater access to online resources and tools?
 - Adobe Reader
 - QuickTime
 - Shockwave player
 - Flash player
 - Windows Media Player



Techie Talk

- CNET Downloads
 - <http://download.cnet.com/downloads>
 - Shockwave, RealPlayer, Adobe Acrobat, and QuickTime
 - Web-authoring tools

Understanding what is read;
purpose, fully and effectively

Knowing and using the words to
communicate effectively

Reading text accurately, quickly
and with expression

Knowing the relationship between
text and its context

Identifying and manipulating
text and its context

Components of
Scientifically
Based
Reading
Instruction

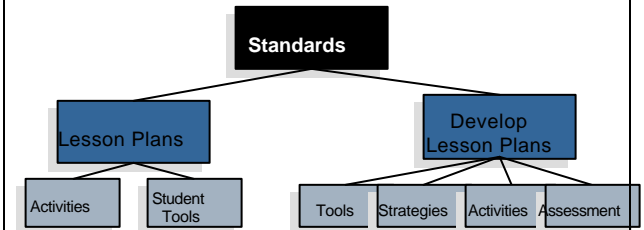
Questions to Ask

- What authentic literacy task(s) can students complete by using the materials developed with this electronic tool ?
- Are there any questions or concerns you have?
- How much time does it take to “teach the tool”?
- What are some advantages to using this electronic tool?

Questions to Ask

- Does this electronic tool provide you with more efficient methods of assessment?
- Does this electronic tool enable you to construct activities more efficiently?
- Does this electronic tool inspire you to integrate Internet resources into your instruction?
- How might you use the resources here to link back to classroom instruction?

Putting It All Together



Activities

"If a seed of lettuce will not grow, we do not blame the lettuce. Instead, the fault lies with us for not having nourished the seed properly."

-Buddhist proverb

Activities

- Phonemic Awareness
 - Starfall
 - <http://www.starfall.com>
 - First Grade Backpack
 - <http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/1217/grade1.html>
- Phonics
 - BBC Schools TV Series
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/wordsandpictures/>
- Fluency
 - Reader's Theatre: Aaron Shepard
 - <http://www.aaronshp.com/>

Activities

- Vocabulary
 - **Word of the Day**
 - <http://www.m-w.com/game/>
 - **Clifford Interactive Stories**
 - <http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/index.htm>
- Comprehension
 - **Reading Comprehension**
 - <http://www.rhlschool.com/reading.htm>
 - **Guided Reading**
 - <http://208.183.128.8/read/guidedr.html>

Tools of the Trade

- Planning?
- Communication?
- Resource?
- Research?
- Reference?
- Authoring?
- Assessment?
- Literacy?
- Productivity?
- Teacher Portals?
- Lesson Plans?



Planning

"It is a bad plan that admits of no modification."

Publius Syrus (42 B.C.)

Planning Tools

- **Creating Online Projects**
 - *Teacher's Guide for Building Integrated Technology Projects*
 - www.essdack.org/building/
- **Evaluating Internet resources**
 - *Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators*
 - <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/eval.html>

Communication Tools

"The newest computer can merely compound, at speed, the oldest problem in the relations between human beings, and in the end the communicator will be confronted with the old problem, of what to say and how to say it."

-Edward R. Murrow

Communication Tools

- **Gaggle.net**
 - <http://www.gaggle.net/>
 - Teacher monitored email for students
- **ePals**
 - <http://www.epals.com/>
 - Teacher monitored email for students
- **Mosaic ListServ Website**
 - <http://www.u46teachers.org/mosaic>
 - Links to downloads from listserv discussion!

Resource Tools

- **Filamentality**
 - <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/>
 - a Web-based learning site that targets the use and development of online projects.
- **Advantages**
 - Access to other online projects
 - Create projects online
 - No knowledge of HTML required
 - Online templates
 - Immediate posting
 - Online guides

Resource Tools

- **TrackStar**
 - <http://scrtec.org/track/makingtracks.html>
 - a Web-based learning site that targets the use and development of online projects.
- **Advantages**
 - Access to other online projects
 - Create projects online
 - No knowledge of HTML required
 - Online templates
 - Immediate posting

Research Tools

- Refdesk.com
 - <http://www.refdesk.com/>
- Research It!
 - <http://www.itools.com/research-it/>
- Noodle Tools
 - <http://www.noodletools.com/>
- Hotsheet.com
 - <http://www.hotsheet.com>
- Ask an Expert
 - <http://www.askanexpert.com/>

Reference Tools

"Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

-Winston Churchill

Reference Tools

- Word Central
 - <http://www.wordcentral.com/>
 - Student dictionary
 - Build your own dictionary
 - Daily Buzzword
 - Auditory component



Reference Tools

- Refdesk.com
 - <http://www.refdesk.com/>
 - Fast access
 - Intuitive and easy navigation
 - Comprehensive content
 - Rationally indexed



Reference Tools

- **Slate Citation Machine**
 - http://www.landmark-project.com/citation_machine/cm.php
 - Fast access
 - Intuitive and easy navigation
 - Electronic citations
 - Web pages to email

Authoring Tools

- **Web Pages**
 - Homestead- <http://www.homestead.com>
 - Tripod – <http://www.tripod.com>
- **Advantages**
 - Accessible anytime, anywhere
 - Good forum for students to create projects
 - No editors necessary-free

Assessment Tools

- **RubiStar**
 - <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/>
 - Online, electronic rubrics tool
- **Advantages**
 - Create electronic rubrics
 - Variety of templates
 - Printable
 - Save as a Web page (html)

Assessment Tools

- **Project-Based Checklists**
 - <http://www.4teachers.org/projectbased/>
 - Online, electronic checklist tool
- **Advantages**
 - Create electronic checklists
 - Variety of templates
 - Printable
 - Save as a Web page (html)

Literacy Tools

- eBooks

- Tumblebooks

- <http://www.tumblebooks.com>

- Microsoft Ebook Reader

- <http://www.microsoft.com/reader/default.asp>



Literacy Tools

- Finding eBooks

- Free eBooks.net

- <http://www.free-ebooks.net/>

- SearcheBooks.com

- <http://www.searchebooks.com/>



Productivity Tools

"To do good work, one must first have good tools."

-Chinese proverb

Productivity Tools

- The Biography Maker

- <http://www.bham.wednet.edu/bio/biomaker.htm>

- Steps student through the writing process
- Student work done "offline"
- Site acts as a idea generator

Productivity Tools

- RhymeZone
 - <http://www.rhymezone.com/>
 - Great tool for students
 - Easy to use



Productivity Tools

- Teach-nology
 - http://teachers.teach-nology.com/web_tools/web_quest/
 - Inquiry based lesson
 - Participatory learning
 - Very easy to use fill in the box format



Productivity Tools

- Graphic Organizers
 - Teach-nology
 - http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/graphic_org/
 - Create online
 - Suggestions for usage
 - Region 15 (*Middlebury, CT*) Curriculum Resources
 - <http://www.region15.org/curriculum/graphicorg.html>
 - Download as PDF or Word doc
 - English and Spanish

Productivity Tools

- Classroom Materials Creator
 - Discovery Tools
 - <http://school.discovery.com/teachingtools/teachingtools.html>
 - Tools that allow you to make your own materials
 - Puzzlemaker
 - Lesson Planner
 - Worksheet Generator

Productivity Tools

- HPR*TEC
 - <http://www.hprtec.org/>
 - Uses technology to enhance teaching, learning, and educational decision-making
 - A network of solutions



Productivity Tools

- Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning
 - <http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks>
 - Lesson Plans
 - Threaded Discussions
 - Transcripts of Online Discussions
 - Great Articles

Productivity Tools

- SCORE - Schools of California Online Resources for Education
 - <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/SCORE/cla.html>
 - Cyberguides
 - Electronic Standards-based lessons

Productivity Tools

- Listen and Write
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/listenandwrite/home.htm>
 - Writing activities
 - audio poems
 - a gallery of children's work

Productivity Tools

- Kids Pub
 - <http://kidpub.com/kidpub/>
 - the largest collection of stories by children on the Internet
 - \$6.95 per year
 - Allows compliance with [COPA](#) (Child Online Protection Act), which was approved by Congress in October 1998.

Productivity Tools

- KidsScribe
 - <http://web2.airmail.net/def/>
 - Promotes a kid safe environment
 - Opportunity to publish stories and poetry



Teacher Portals

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

Teacher Portals

- Education World
 - <http://www.education-world.com/>
 - Massive subject directory for educators
 - All curriculum areas
 - All state standard links

Teacher Portals

- AOL @ School
 - <http://www.aolatschool.com/>
 - Massive subject directory for educators
 - All curriculum areas
 - Teacher and student resources

Teacher Portals

- Teach-nology
 - <http://www.teach-nology.com/>
 - Free access to lesson plans
 - Reviewed websites
 - Educational Games
 - Printable worksheets

Teacher Portals

- Blue Webin'
 - <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/>
 - Super subject directory
 - Categorized in each subject area as tutorials, activities, lessons, resources, projects, and hotlists

Teacher Portals

- Creative Teaching
 - <http://www.creativeteachingsite.com/>
 - Promotes creative teaching and professional enthusiasm!
 - Check out the humorous grammar rules!

Teacher Portals

- **Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators**
 - <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/>
 - Top notch resource for educators
 - Lots of technology integration information

Lesson Plan Resources

- Microsoft Education: Lesson Plans
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/education/?ID=LessonPlans>
- TEAMS Distance Learning
 - <http://teams.lacoe.edu/>
- ERIC Clearinghouse
 - http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/www/indexlp.html

Lesson Plan Resources

- **SparkNotes**
 - <http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare>
 - Must register – but free!
 - All subjects
 - Wide selection of printable literature study guides

Lesson Plan Resources

- **Reading Workshop Online Tutorials**
 - <http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/elementary/palmasola/rcompstrat.htm>
 - Tutorials and quizzes
 - Many comprehension topics

Keep in Mind...

As Eleanor Doan said:

"Good tools do not make a good teacher, but a good teacher makes good use of tools."



Top 10 Signs That You May Really Dislike Technology

1. If you slap your monitor more than three times per day...
2. If you've said, "It will be a cold day in hell before I touch that computer"....
3. If you still use a ditto machine...
4. If you've told your students that computers are a figment of their imaginations...
5. If you decorate your computer as Darth Vader during Halloween...
6. If your last updated classroom computer was an Apple IIe and you don't really mind...
7. If it takes you more than 10 minutes to find the computer in your classroom...
8. If the last tech training you attended was on the integration of the TV into the curriculum...
9. If you have a picture of a computer on your dart board...
10. If you use your computer as a door stop...

Any Questions



For More Info:



Ladd Skelly

lskelly@classroom.com

Conferences Site:

<http://twi.classroom.com/workshops/lskelly>