LESSON PLAN

Subject	Cross-curricular, English & ICT
Level	Grades 5-6
About the Author	Sarah Kett, Elearning Content Specialist, *Digital Learning for the K-8 Classroom*
Duration	Approximately 1:45 - 2 hours

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Overview: What is Digital Storytelling?

Digital stories can be described as "mini movies" made using digital tools on a computer versus a video camera1. These stories are usually short (less than seven minutes) and conveyed through a combination of text, images, animations and sounds. Effectively integrating digital tools for storytelling into the classroom allows students and teachers to become authors and digital storytellers.

Lesson Plan

Introduction to Digital Storytelling is the first lesson plan in a project-based 7-8 week digital storytelling unit. Students will require prerequisite knowledge of tools and technology to complete this lesson. Mini-lessons introducing relevant digital tools can be planned prior to the start of the first lesson or throughout the duration of the unit.

LESSON 1: Introduction to Digital Storytelling

Learning Outcomes
- Identify features of a story
- Learn the various mediums/multimedia used to tell a digital story
- Identify basic structure and delivery structures of a digital story

Resources
- iPad cart (class set)
- SMART Board
- Internet access
- Idea Journal (hosted Google Docs)
- Apps: **Kahoot!**, **Flipgrid**

Preparation

- Set up the three survey questions in Kahoot! (see Starter)
- Queue up the three short digital storytelling videos to show students (see Introduction)
- Create lesson exit slip in Flipgrid (see Conclusion)
- Have students create an Idea Journal before or during the lesson

Vocabulary

- Non-fiction
- Fiction
- Digital
- Medium
- Digital Storytelling
- Multimedia

Consolidation

- Peer assessment
- Exit slip

Procedure

Starter (25 minutes)

Begin by asking students the following:

1. **Whole class + individual sharing:** "We all enjoy telling and hearing a story. What was the last story you remember hearing? Why do you think you remember it? How was it told? What are different ways we can share stories?"
2. **Think, pair, share:** "Can do you define what 'makes' a story? Turn to your partner next to you to discuss. Define the word, 'story'. What makes a story a story?"
3. **Begin class survey on Kahoot!:**
   QK1: In your opinion, what is the best way to enjoy a story? (student's select top three)

A. Pictures	E. A poem
B. A movie	F. Music
C. A novel	G. In-person (voice & gestures)
D. A short story	H. Radio (sounds, music, voice)

   QK2: Would you say it's true that everyone has a story? (students vote Y/N)
   QK3: Do you have a story? (students vote Y/N)
   Close: Share the survey results as a class, briefly discuss answers and misconceptions
4. **Whole class:** "In what way/format/medium would you want to share your story? How would your story be best told? Think about the format carefully - why is this be the best way to deliver your story?"

Introduction (20 minutes)

- Share 'digital storytelling'
- Ask: When did this format become popular? Why is it effective (clarify: why did it do a good job at settling the story)?
- Discuss vocabulary (above)
- Draw simple **structure of a story** on the board based on student input (for reference later)
- Share the following **digital storytelling examples** with students:
    1. My Life and Photography by Rita Rocha (2 min 14 sec)
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvQGV_G0wCs
    2. My Digital Story by Nadine Baylon (3 min 35 sec)
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2V_OLABwQjQ
    3. Ryan's Well Digital Story by esllibraryasij (7 min)
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXWFJsvBiRE

Main (55 minutes)

- Divide class into six groups
- Assign each group one iPad and one digital storytelling example to re-watch/pause/play
    - Groups 1 & 4: Story 1
    - Groups 2 & 5: Story 2
    - Groups 3 & 6: Story 3
- Groups rewatch their assigned digital story once together. Groups can re-watch/pause/play the story as many times as needed in order to prepare to share their answers to questions 1-6:
    1. What are the key facts/important/engaging anecdotes that stood out to you? (List at least 5)
    2. What was the structure of the digital story? (Identify the main elements and their order)
    3. How did the author portray these moments? (Please list the mediums)
    4. Did the format/medium used enhance the key moments, or take away from them? (Please explain)
    5. What would you change? (Please explain)
    6. Was the digital story missing anything? (Please explain)
- Groups exchange work and discuss the other group's answers, as a form of peer assessment.

Conclusion (10 minutes)

- **Exit slip:** Have students complete an exit slip using iPads and Flipgrid individually.
    "I would write my digital story about ＿＿＿＿＿＿ ."
    "I would want to use ＿＿＿＿＿ medium(s) ＿＿＿＿＿＿ to tell my story"
- **Record:** Have students add additional thoughts/ideas about digital story ideas in an Idea Journal.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Here is a list of useful digital storytelling resources you can explore:

- 64 Sites for Digital Storytelling Tools and Information - Global Digital Citizen Foundation
- 6 Reasons You Should Be Doing Digital Storytelling With Your Students - Getting Smart
- Digital Storytelling: A Powerful Technology Tool for the 21st Century, Bernard R. Robin
- Digital Learning Day
- EdTechTeacher
- StoryCenter

Not sure how to integrate digital tools and technology into your teaching practice?

This lesson plan was based on learnings from the Digital Learning for the K-8 Classroom course designed by digital literacy expert Detra Price-Dennis at Teacher College, Columbia University. This 100% online four-module course explores how to incorporate digital literacies into your teaching practice, develop a curriculum with digital tools and assess your students in digital spaces.

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