

Title of Session: The Art of Storytelling: makebeliefscomix.com

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: Bill Zimmerman

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Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

BjB : Welcome, everyone, to this month's Storytelling discussion.

BjB : We usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions

BjB : please tell Bill where you are located and what grade you teach

AshleyBar: my name is Ashley

BjB . o O (or hope to teach)

AshleyBar: I am a student teacher at the University of Houston in Texas

StefanieC: I am in Clear Creek ISD student teaching in K

AmandaEM : I'm Amanda...I'm student teaching in a fourth grade classroom in Cy-Fair

MaxineP: I am a student teacher for kinder in Houston for UH

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

BjB : I'm in Pennsylvania and I teach remedial communication

AshleyBar: I am currently in second grade

ElisaG: Elisa in Houston, hope to teach 2-4th grade

MonicaPM : My name is Monica Martinez and I am currently a student teacher from the University of Houston in Texas.

MeghanML: My name is Meghan. I am a student at A&M Kingsville studying education.

AmyKH: Hi my name is Amy, I teach in Pearland ISD and hope to teach Kindergarten

FannieA: I am a computer technology teacher at Jr. High school in Dallas.

JenniferNo: My name is Jennifer and I am student teaching in a 1st grade classroom in Sugar Land, TX

LennyS: I teach at adult correctional institutions

JenniferER: I student teach 11th grade English in Fort Bend ISD and will be teaching 10th grade English in the fall

JosephineN: I am a UH student teacher hoping to teach Special Ed, currently in an ESL classroom

SarahBe: I'm Sarah and I am getting my masters in Fredericksburg VA

BjB: Bill is our guest speaker for this session. He is going to share information about his comix site.

JenniferER: I'm At Austin HS

TristenA: My name is Tristen and I am finishing my degree in Elementary Education. I'm in Regina, Saskatchewan

BillZ: I'm an author of books that are used in many schools to encourage young people to find their writers voices, a journalist, and teaching English and writing to immigrants.

NormaMar: I'm Norma and I am in Houston Texas

JenniferER: Where are you located Bill?

BjB applauds for Bill and gives him her attention

BjB: when Bill is ready he'll show you the url of his website

BjB: when he does, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url

SarahBe: thanks for the tip

BjB: Bill, did you want to give any background info on your comix site?

BillZ: I recently launched a new web site -- <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com> -- where you can create your own comic strips

MeghanML: looks like fun

MonicaPM: cool!

BjB . o O (a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to Actions in the top right of the chat window and click on detach to make it easier to read the chat)

MaxineP: wow

JenniferER: Do teachers from all content areas find this useful?

BillZ: It gives you 10 fun animal and human characters, blank talk and thought balloons you can fill in with words, and story prompts

BjB : I was playing with the site earlier, Bill. It's a lot of fun

NormaMar: wow great website

BjB : and has a lot of features

MaxineP: my students will love that

AshleyBar: it's very inviting

JosephineN: can you give it again, please?

BillZ: it's being used in elementary schools, in homeschooling programs, by educational therapists who work with autistic and deaf children

MeghanML: that's really neat

MaxineP: neat

JenniferNo: yes, could you give it again, it kicked me out of the room

BillZ: it is so nice to hear your reaction

AmyKH: what grade level is this designed towards?

MeghanML: when did you design this?

JenniferER: Neat. Do kids of all ages enjoy this? I'm asking because I teach teenagers

BillZ: I grew up learning to read by looking at comic strips and comic books

DavidWe did, too

BillZ: I worked with a designer for a year and launched it late last year

NormaMar: what age is this website appropriate for?

FannieA: I teach jr. high and wondering would it interest them?

MeghanML: I've never been into comic strips but this looks like it would be fun

BillZ: I think so because so many young people are reading graphic novels, and this way they can building up their own books by creating stories with the characters they like

MonicaPM : I think students of all ages would enjoy this.

NormaMar: even pre-k

BjB : I agree, Monica

AshleyBar: I introduced comics to my Kindergarten students

MeghanML: it's very inviting for students

AshleyBar: they loved listening to the comics

AmandaEM : That'd a great way to teach sequencing.

AmandaEM : for younger students

BillZ: yes, and if you work with adults who are learning English, they seem to love it, too; i have been doing workshops with them -- it's very reinforcing to see your work

AshleyBar: exactly

AmyKH: great idea Amanda

AmandaEM : thanks Amy

MeghanML: wow

SarahBe: I think this would be great with ESOL kids too, my ESOL kids do really well when they can draw first before they write

BillZ: when you create a comic you have the options of printing it out as well as emailing it to friends

JenniferNo: this is neat, kids would really love this

NormaMar: yes it will help them with their writing skills

MaxineP: so many ideas

FannieA: sounds cool!

JosephineN: Can you tell us how this is used with deaf and autistic children?

JenniferNo: very good for technology integration

BillZ: yes, and kids can create comics together -- it's a great way to practice language

SarahBe: and I also think it would be applicable across the subject areas, esp. history or science

BjB : Josephine, what about describing the different 'moods' of the characters?

MonicaPM : and even math

CelesteR: It is definitely useful for the study of any novel. Take the characters and apply them to a comic strip. It will show if the student understood the qualities of the character...and the theme, and the plot...etc.

MaxineP: could be used as an assessment

BillZ: therapists who work with autistic children often have to create scripts to show them how to interact socially, so you could create a strip showing them how to introduce themselves to other people

AmyKH: I like that I idea

MeghanML: me2

NormaMar: yeah me too I think it's a great idea

FannieA: Great idea

BillZ: the characters are like surrogates for us, and we can use the different emotions to express how we may be feeling

MonicaPM : that is a good idea

MeghanML: it really illustrates for them

AmyKH: For feelings, you could tie it into a book such as My Many Colored Days

JenniferER: Could these be helpful for ESL kids in helping with the English language?

BillZ: you can also use the comics to reinforce new vocabulary words and have students use them in their strips

MeghanML: great idea

AshleyBar: this is such a great website. I'm going to have to go and play with this after we finish this discussion.

AmandaEM: The only problem is that my classroom would use the comic strips to reflect violent scenes they see on TV and in video games.

JenniferER: Great idea Bill!

MeghanML: they would become excited about learning new words

BillZ: on the site, too, is a button called More Story Ideas which has many ideas to help users start their stories

AshleyBar: great idea for vocabulary introduction or review

NormaMar: yes its looks both fun and interesting both for teachers and students

JenniferER: They hate just memorizing vocab words.

BillZ: thank you, Jennifer

MaxineP: give them ur expectations

AmyKH: I would have the same issue in my classroom

SarahBe: I like that you have the story starters at the bottom

MaxineP: and rules if not they won't do it

AmyKH: I see it already just in their free journal writing

BillZ: you could encourage kids to build up portfolios of stories that show their development over a year

JosephineN: Oh! Great idea Amy!

JenniferER: My student drew a comic of how she wished our novel had ended on her quiz today!

NormaMar: using this website students can use their imagination to come up with sentences or phrases.

BillZ: I also have another site -- <http://www.BillZtreasurechest.com> -- which has many other kinds of writing activities

MeghanML: or how they feel about different situations

ElisaG: It could also be a way for a troubled child to express themselves

JenniferER: Can you give us some examples from your other site?

NormaMar: free writing

BillZ: I am very interested in finding ways to help people express what's inside them

JenniferER: Yes, I am as well

StefanieC: me too

MeghanML: what a great idea

MonicaPM : me too

AmyKH: I like the writing website

NormaMar: same here

JosephineN: definitely... especially for the emotionally disturbed

BillZ: yes, there are excerpts from 16 books I have written, from creating oral histories, to making memory quilts, to guiding boys through adolescences

JenniferER: I try journaling, but many kids just stare off into outer space during journal time.

NormaMar: I feel this are all great websites for students

BillZ: in my books I try to give them prompts to get them started

MeghanML: this would give students more freedom in journaling time

MeghanML: and make it a lot more fun for them

JenniferER: what are "Oral Histories?"

StefanieC: I like giving students prompts

AmyKH: my ED student would insert violence into the comic strip

SarahBe: I find that some of my students just need time to work through their blocks and barriers

BillZ: as a newspaper editor I used to create a page that asked kids questions about the news, and we'd print what they wrote

ElisaG: Think of the positive possibilities

SarahBe: sometimes it's hard for them to generate ideas

JenniferER: I give prompts everyday but Monday and they still just stare at the page.

MonicaPM: I bet they would really like it better than journal writing because they really like to be on the computer.

NormaMar: I feel that they would need teacher/parent supervision when using the website

CelesteR: The Interactive journal is super for those who don't want to work...I am using it tomorrow!

BillZ: I tell the kids not to worry about spelling, to come as close as they can to the words they want

NormaMar: that is a great idea Bill

JenniferER: Can you explain "Oral Histories" to us?

MaxineP: yes, that is what I tell my students, write try to spell it but just write

BillZ: some kids use the site to talk about things that are bothering them, such as bullying

MeghanML: they could express relationships at home also

BillZ: you could help them create a strip on how to deal with bullies

BillZ: yes, the characters are their surrogates

MeghanML: or help teachers realize when a student is being hurt emotionally

JenniferNo: I think this is great, I think kids would really enjoy writing more if they got to use something like this on the computer

JenniferER: Thanks for the idea Celeste! I'll check it out.

NormaMar: or just to express any feelings that they might have

SarahBe: a lot of my students are concerned about their deployed parents

BillZ: they can also color in the strips that they print out if they like

MeghanML: it could show us a lot about the students

SarahBe: I think it would be great to use the sites to connect them with their parents

MeghanML: maybe we could catch things earlier

FannieA: I agree that it could show a lot about the students

MonicaPM: we could understand them better

BillZ: I would welcome feedback from the children on what works or doesn't work for them, what more they would like

SarahBe: it would be a great tool to use to help the deployed parent get involved in the literacy process

NormaMar: by using these websites is also a great way to integrate technology

MonicaPM: I agree

MeghanML: and an artistic side

BillZ: my original goal was to bring parents together with their children to do this together as a family activity and have fun together

MonicaPM: yes, definitely

FannieA: would definitely be a way for teachers to integrate technology

NormaMar: into the students' curriculum

JenniferER: True, this would really help their creativity.

BillZ: they could even email an unfinished cartoon to a friend or relative and that person could complete it if they wanted to

JenniferER: My students have such a problem with 'brainstorming.' They can never come up with something to write about.

SarahBe: I was thinking about that

MaxineP: yep we need the yech

AmandaEM: great way to incorporate interactive writing in your classroom

ElisaG: They would like that

BillZ: the kids could also create birthday or special day comic strips

AshleyBar: great idea bill

SarahBe: I think the kids would have fun sending unfinished cartoons to their parents in iraq to complete

MeghanML: helping to bring the children closer to others is great

BillZ: teachers could use the strip to begin a lesson on a difficult subject

FannieA: I like that idea

MeghanML: def!

NormaMar: yes there all great ideas for making learning fun and interacting

JenniferNo: Bill, are they able to save their work on the treasure website or do they just have to print it off?

AshleyBar: the students in my class now love to create birthday cards for their friends in class

BillZ: they have to print it out.

MaxineP: cute

BillZ: but they could email a copy to themselves at home and save it that way

StefanieC: ok

JenniferNo: oh ok, well that's great

MeghanML: yeap

BillZ: there are panel prompts at the bottom right hand corner that say things like To Be Continued or Next Day...

NormaMar: or even to share with family and friends

ElisaG: awesome

AshleyBar: this is a wonderful tool

MeghanML: I wish I could have had something like that when I was younger...I think I would be more comfortable with a computer today

NormaMar: excellent

AmyKH: I am seeing a lot of activities connected to children's literature. These could be used as extensions

MonicaPM : me too!

BillZ: it's important, too, that they fill in the name the Comix box and Author's Name box so this gives them ownership

MaxineP: good to know that

JosephineN: Being that the kids can pride themselves in the work they do in this site, they are really encouraged to write and very expressively. It's like pulling teeth some days in my classroom when it comes to writing

SarahBe: I agree

NormaMar: me too

MeghanML: me too

JenniferNo: this is a really neat site Bill, I like the variety of prompts

MonicaPM : great way to motivate them

BillZ: The characters give them a beginning

SarahBe: I think you may also have to address issues of plagiarizing with the older students.. you know taking ideas from comics they already read

AshleyBar: these would be great for students to share with the entire class so that they become more comfortable speaking in front of a group

StefanieC: Do you find that students do better writing in the morning or the afternoon?

JosephineN: ahh yes... plagiarism

MeghanML: good idea

JenniferER: Oh yes... I just had to do an entire lesson on plagiarism with them

MeghanML: how old are your kids?

AshleyBar: I just introduced plagiarism to my second grade class

FannieA: Yep, plagiarism is a problem

BillZ: I would hope that the characters would encourage them to create their own stories

JenniferER: 16-17 years olds

SarahBe: you wouldn't be believe the amount of sponge bob whatever pants stories I get for free writing assignments.... its rather annoying

NormaMar: I had that conversation with my second grade class two months ago

AmyKH: wow so young

JosephineN: well... actually, if we set the rules straight at the beginning... I'd imagine it shouldn't be THAT much of a problem

SarahBe: I visit the topic about once a month with my third graders

MonicaPM: I agree

MeghanML: thats good

MeghanML: learn early

JenniferER: Yes... I'm wondering how my teens would react to this.

JenniferNo: do you have any other sites Bill

JosephineN: yeah... keep that topic fresh

MeghanML: I don't remember hearing about that till I was a junior or so

JosephineN: I'd imagine the older students would get a kick out of it too

JenniferER: They would either LOVE it, or find too juvenile for them.

ElisaG: They'll love it

JosephineN: I'm sure there's plenty who still doodle comics

SarahBe: I think it would depend on how you sell it to them

NormaMar: me neither but with all the different sources on the internet

BillZ: no, just those two, but I have a new book out called Doodles & Daydreams: Your Passport for Becoming An Escape Arts that encourages people to enter their own imaginations and respond to different situations

ElisaG: it can be a great mind opener for them

AshleyBar: I think this is a better way to share your ideas then writing it down on plain old paper

JenniferER: Oh yeah, but you know how they can be.. "I'm too cool for school"

MeghanML: I agree

BillZ: I like seeing kids work on a cartoon strip together and collaborating -- it can be a very rich experience

ElisaG: Present it in a cool way, they'll go for it.

MonicaPM: But they would definitely like it better than just writing in a journal.

NormaMar: yes because by using comic strips is like bringing the characters to life

BjB: Bill, how would you have kids collaborate?

SarahBe: that's a great idea--- especially for history concepts

NormaMar: in a very cool way for the students

MeghanML: it isn't writing...I'm sure that would get the students attention anyways

AmyKH: Great opportunity for creative book reports or lessons on characterization

BillZ: how do you feel about my giving students the chance to write in Spanish, too; many Spanish teachers have asked for this

JosephineN: if they create the characters...

MelanieHi: Has anyone ever tried using "squiggle stories" to get your students writing creatively?

NormaMar: no not yet

JosephineN: they can better relate or see a better perspective of what they are talking about

StefanieC: I would be all for students writing in Spanish

MeghanML: what are squiggle stories?

AshleyBar: what are "squiggle stories"?

JenniferER: Yeah, it would be cool to see my teens making political cartoons. Too bad I don't teach government.

SarahBe: when it comes to writing in Spanish, it would depend on what my objectives are

JenniferNo: something else you could do is have one student start the comic, then another person would add on and then another and so on. Then they could read the comic to see how it turned out. Kids love these activities b/c a lot of times the story turns out goofy

StefanieC: any language that students speak in I would encourage them to write in as well

BillZ: I also sometimes take the Sunday comic strips, white out the balloons and ask my students to fill them in with their own dialogue

AshleyBar: great idea!!!

MeghanML: yeah!

NormaMar: sure is a great idea

MeghanML: I like that idea!

JenniferER: Oh, that's cute Bill

JosephineN: wow... that's a good one

MonicaPM: that's a great idea

SarahBe: that would be a lot of fun

AmandaEM: good idea

JenniferNo: that's a good idea, I never thought of that

SarahBe: especially for the younger grades

ElisaG: It would be great to see different stories from the same strip

MelanieHi: I use it for 1st and 2nd graders but I think it could be used for older kids.. it's a piece of lined paper with a squiggle or doodle the kids have to finish the squiggle to create a picture then craft a story around their picture

AshleyBar: that would be a great idea for a workstation at the elementary level

NormaMar: me neither but I will sure use it with my class

AmandaEM: I did a sequencing activity...I took the Sunday comics, cut them up, and had them resequence

SarahBe: sounds like a great center activity

AmyKH: I like the squiggle story idea

BillZ: on my BillZtreasurechest site are activities for creating family oral histories and creating a class memory quilt together made up of paper panels

AmyKH: Great for journals

SarahBe: both the squiggle drawing and the Sunday comics

MeghanML: good idea

NormaMar: what is exactly the squiggle story idea

AshleyBar: I have done a paper quilt before

MeghanML: I would love to read some of those stories

AshleyBar: the students loved it

AmyKH: Many connections to outside literature

FredK: Using classic art for story starters works too

JenniferNo: where does it talk about the class quilt on your site, Bill? I am trying to find it

BillZ: do you think there are enough characters now, or will kids want a lot more?

StefanieC: I have done the squiggle idea...kids like it

SarahBe: Thanks Bill for the helpful hits, tips and resources. Unfortunatley I need to leave. Have a great night!

BillZ: I think it's in the section Tell Your Life Stories or the one on Family Activities

MeghanML: they might in a way connect with certain characters

AmandaEM: we use the six trait writing process and I think this is a great way to focus on voice

BillZ: thanks Sarah

JenniferNo: oh, there it is. thanks

ElisaG: It's a great start, later they might like more characters to be added.

MonicaPM: I think it would be a good idea to add more.

MeghanML: good characters and bad characters

BillZ: I hope to add more, and maybe someday encourage users to create their own characters

MeghanML: that's a good idea

AshleyBar: that would be fun

MonicaPM: that would be great

MeghanML: express themselves even more

MonicaPM: especially for our artists

BillZ: it was very hard to build this site, so I have to take it in steps

AshleyBar: maybe even seasonal characters

ElisaG: I bet

NormaMar: yes that will help them express them selves even more freely

StefanieC: I agree

BjB : who funds the site, Bill?

BillZ: me, my own savings -- I have done it as an experiment to learn how to use the web in a creative way.

NormaMar: how long have you had this website available Bill?

JenniferER: Did you use to write comic strips professionally Bill?

ElisaG: I would say you have definitely succeeded.

MeghanML: me2

BillZ: since late November, and about 3,500 visitors are coming each week now, from as far away as China and Singapore

StefanieC: wow

AshleyBar: wow

StefanieC: that's good

MeghanML: wow!

NormaMar: yes I think that you have done a great job with the websites

BjB cheers for Bill

MonicaPM : I think you have done a wonderful job.

MaxineP: wow that's great

MeghanML: good job!

JenniferNo: yes, it is a great site, very helpful. I like how you provide examples and things to print off as well

BillZ: perhaps in time I can get Scholastic or National Geographic to help sponsor it

ElisaG: Even better

MeghanML: yeah that would help a lot!

BjB : Thanks for joining us today to talk about your work.

JenniferER: That would be cool.

NormaMar: that would be great if they can sponsor your website

BillZ: Thank you so much for having me, and for all your encouraging words -- I really needed to hear them

AmyKH: It would be great if Scholastic sponsored and put some of their characters in the site for the strips.

MeghanML: well you ve done something great!

AmyKH: It would help out for the younger grades

StefanieC: thanks for the resources

JenniferER: Awww... I hope you weren't feeling down Bill.

ElisaG: Best of luck Bill, thank you

BillZ: thank you so very much

NormaMar: yes thank you

JenniferNo: thank you for coming and sharing

AshleyBar: thank you so much

NormaMar: very helpful resource for us teacher

JenniferER: Good luck and wonderful job!

MonicaPM : thanks Bill!

MaxineP: thanks for all the information!!

AmandaEM : thank you!

NormaMar: yes thank you

JosephineN: wait, is this the end of the session?

AmyKH: Thanks for the resources

MaxineP: I think

BjB : we still have about 15 minutes left

NormaMar: I thought it was supposed to be an hour long session?

StefanieC: do we have to be here an hour

BjB : Bill, you teach at the college level?

BillZ: if you have any questions, you can always contact me later at wmz@aol.com; I'm not going anywhere; I'm still here

MeghanML: thanks!

BillZ: I teach adults on an intermediate language level

MeghanML: where do u teach?

BillZ: but I also work with kids in elementary and junior high school as a tutor

MaxineP: cool

BillZ: I teach at College of Mount St. Vincents Institute for Immigrant Concerns in New York City

BjB nods. I was looking at your ID page and wondered about the College of Mt. St. Vincents

NormaMar: your websites will sure help you with teaching intermediate language level

MeghanML: that's neat

JosephineN: really... what is your most interesting outcome of your websites being used on the kids you've tutored, Bill?

BillZ: For many years I created a nationally syndicated Student Briefing Page for Newsday newspaper

AshleyBar: How long have you been teaching?

BillZ: The web sites empowers them -- it helps them find their voice; as a kid I felt very powerless and had no voice -- my folks had too many problems to hear me out, so I write books to help people express their inner voices

NormaMar: have you always taught upper grades?

NormaMar: that sounds good Bill

MonicaPM : that's very insightful!

JenniferER: What made you want to do comic strips?

BillZ: I have worked as a newspaper editor all my life, tutored during the week, and since leaving the newspaper two years ago, have been teaching immigrants

MeghanML: what made u want to do that?

MeghanML: working with immigrants?

BillZ: I love the fantasy of comic strips, the beautiful colors, the crazy characters, the ability to enter new worlds

JosephineN: wow... if only this method existed when I was a child

DavidWe smiles

JenniferER: So did you use the strips on the immigrants? Is that were you first saw their usefulness?

JenniferNo: how have your students responded to the resources you have made?

BillZ: take a look at my Make Beliefs page on my other web site to get a sense of the world I love

JosephineN: and to make anything a reality in a fictitious world

NormaMar: it would have sure helped us a bunch to have had this type of resource.

AshleyBar: everyone needs an escape sometimes

MonicaPM : yes even adults!

BillZ: the students love the characters -- the adults in particular -- the characters make them laugh and smile

MeghanML: true

NormaMar: that is true Ashley

StefanieC: that's true

JosephineN: amen

JenniferER: No kidding... that's why I have always loved theater. I got to play make-believe!

BillZ: I read many newspapers, but the news is so very terrible, my favorite pages are always the comic strips, and I have worked with artists all my life as a newspaper editor

MeghanML: creativity!

NormaMar: yes

AshleyBar: me too, even now the first few pages I read are the comics

MeghanML: I love the comics in the news paper a great way to start off Sunday!

BillZ: I wrote my first Make Beliefs book when my sister was very, very ill, and I wanted to imagine a better world, where you could dance on the moon to talk to animals

NormaMar: who doesn't love to read the comics

StefanieC: that's interesting

MaxineP: how inspiring

MeghanML: wow,

JosephineN: That's very touching

JenniferNo: that's sweet

NormaMar: sure is

BillZ: as a kid my favorite day was Sunday morning when my dad would go out for jelly donuts and bring back a zillion newspapers with color comic strips

ElisaG: wow, you found an outlet for your emotion

MaxineP: things like that will change ur life

MeghanML: so true

JosephineN: You've got a great vision, Bill. I'm sure you'll find great success in this art of escape... something we all need a bit of.

BillZ: I wrote the Doodles & Daydreams escape artist book while riding each day for four hours a train back and forth from work -- I thought I'd go crazy so I had to write a book about escape

NormaMar: definitely

JenniferER: That's so funny! I still look forward to Dilbert on Sundays... and how I miss The far Side

AshleyBar: did your parents first introduce you to the comics

AshleyBar: or did you just find them on your own

BillZ: yes, and I could never eat a meal unless there was a comic book by my plate -- my mother allowed me to get away with that

StefanieC: funny

MeghanML: lol

AshleyBar: that's wonderful

CelesteR: Bill, what happens to the journals after they are submitted? Are students able to see them transcribe into an orderly fashion somewhere. I am referring to the "record your memories." I would like to see how they publish themselves and other students can also read them. Also, how do you deal with students who publish vulgar language?

NormaMar: that is funny

BillZ: I wish I kept all those comics; I'd be rich now

JenniferER: Well, I hope she still made you eat your veggies!

DavidWe smiles

BillZ: do your kids read newspapers in class at all

CelesteR: Yes!

AshleyBar: I introduced them to my Kindergarten class this year

MonicaPM: they usually draw comics

JosephineN: Personally, I feel that vulgar language already been addressed and restricted in the classroom.

AshleyBar: The comics were put into a folder called "The Funnies"

JenniferER: Mine typically do not, no.

JosephineN: BUT

BillZ: that's good to hear because the newspaper business is in such trouble

JenniferNo: in a classroom I was in last semester they looked at the paper every week

AshleyBar: They loved looking them over during their free time

NormaMar: I bet they do

JosephineN: to understand the child better, we should also allow them to freely express without restrictions

ElisaG: My students will love this, so will my husband..

MeghanML: true

BillZ: for my newspaper page, I would sometimes take photos of newsmakers and put blank bubbles over the pictures and ask the kids to fill in dialogue

JenniferER: Oh, that makes sense... with the internet and cable news shows, the newspaper is becoming a thing of the past.

AshleyBar: sometimes it's hard to find comics that four, five and six year olds can relate to though

MeghanML: that's cute

MaxineP: great idea

NormaMar: that is so cute

MeghanML: I'm sure that would be hard

MaxineP: Ashley I agree

MonicaPM : me too

NormaMar: you sure have many creative ideas

BillZ: you could have all the kids in a class create their own comic strip based on a theme of the day, such as dealing with a particular problem

MonicaPM : and a wonderful imagination

JenniferER: My kids do that in their yearbooks... to their friend's pics

AmandaEM: ooh theme of the day

BillZ: each kid might approach solving the problem in a different way and they then could compare notes

AmandaEM: great idea

MeghanML: haha

LewisA: At paperboy.com you have access to the online newspapers from all countries and no doubt there would be comic sections to access

ElisaG: great idea

AshleyBar: thanks

StefanieC: that's a good idea

MeghanML: I agree

MonicaPM: good idea

NormaMar: me too

CelesteR: I teach at the high school level. Teachers fight over the newspapers. There is a Graphic Novel course taught as an elective, and comic strips are part of the requirement for passing the course.

MeghanML: this whole website is such a good idea

AshleyBar: students could create a comic strip about how they felt on the first day of school

MeghanML: or any situation

BillZ: or how they feel about asking someone out for their first date

JenniferNo: that's a good idea Ashley

MeghanML: a holiday

NormaMar: I sure love this website idea

ElisaG: They could create a comic strip about that and pass it on to the students that come after them into that grade.

MeghanML: we could learn a lot from it

AshleyBar: it would be good for the first week of school

AshleyBar: then you can really tell how the students feel in the class

BillZ: or a cartoon strip about what is going on in the heads of the students as they listen to their teacher drone on

JenniferNo: it would be a good icebreaker. they could create a comic about them to introduce themselves

MeghanML: lol

MaxineP: yep!!

MeghanML: good idea

AshleyBar: great idea Jennifer

MonicaPM : that's a great idea Jennifer

NormaMar: it would be interesting to see how students would fill the bubble on their own

AmyKH: Bye everyone

NormaMar: many different types of outcomes from each student

NormaMar: bye Amy

AmandaEM : bye Amy

StefanieC: bye

BillZ: bye Amy

FredK: Your two sites will be most useful for literacy tutoring, and I appreciate all the brainstorming ideas generated tonight. Thanks for your creative session and sharing of your sites.

JenniferNo: I am beginning to see that there are endless things that can be done with a comic strip

AmandaEM : have a great night...I'm sure I will incorporate this into my classroom before the end of the semester

JenniferER: Thanks Bill, I have to go! I appreciate all your ideas!

MeghanML: thanks Bill.

BillZ: thank you Jennifer, Meghan

BjB : The next Art of Storytelling discussion is May 9

DavidWe: Thanks, Bill

BjB : Thanks again, Bill. I hope you enjoyed the discussion.

AshleyBar: Thank you for all the great resources and ideas Bill.

BillZ: thank you David and BJ; I had a ball, it was great, just great

DavidWe smiles

FredK: Thanks again, Bill

NormaMar: We sure did enjoy all of Bills creative ideas

JosephineN: thank you, Bill.

DavidWe will buy Bill a knish at Zabar's one of these days

NormaMar: and his websites

JenniferNo: Thanks Bill and I will be looking for new things to come

MaxineP: awesome ideas, I look forward to using some in my class

MonicaPM : Thanks Bill for your wonderful ideas and websites!

JosephineN: I really wasn't sure how to get through to kids to express themselves

ElisaG: Bill, thanks again. I am sure to use this real soon with my 2nd graders.

BillZ: thank you for coming tonight

JosephineN: this is sure to be greatly engaging

BillZ: don't forget feedback after you try it with your kids

ElisaG: sure

MonicaPM : definitely

JenniferNo: ok

NormaMar: sure

NormaMar: I will let you know how my students responded to this activity

JosephineN: Good night, all

MaxineP: bye

AshleyBar: goodnight everyone

BillZ: good night, people