A Special eBook presented by *Technology & Learning* and Digital Media in the Classroom

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Digital Storytelling: What Does it Look Like?

By Judy Salpeter

In the February, 2005, issue of Technology & Learning (techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=60300276], we wrote about the ways in which the art of digital storytelling is catching on in classrooms and schools around the country. Many of the educators interviewed for that article had been inspired by the Center for Digital Storytelling (www.storycenter.org) whose workshops focus on using still images, graphics and music to create a slide-show-style video that is built around a personal narrative, written and read aloud by the storyteller. In this eBook we share some examples of these types of stories, as well as a variety of other video, audio and multimedia projects that take digital storytelling in new directions.

Some of the stories you will see and hear were created by children or teens, others by teachers, and still others by community members or multimedia professionals working on projects outside of a school context. These examples, organized into different categories, are just a few of our favorites out of hundreds of exciting digital stories on the World Wide Web. For more examples and information, check out "Digital Storytelling Jumping Off Points." [link to this]

2004

Thanksgiving Story: One girl's story about how her family shares Thanksgiving with those in need.

Hashimoto Persimmon Farm: A story of a family and their family business, as told by a student narrator who is not related to the family.

Mochi Tsuki: A story about one family's celebration of the Japanese New Year.

The Challenge: This story uses humor, fun, & action to get the message about good nutrition across to others.

Rules of Attraction: This wonderfully funny story uses humor to define a scientific term.

STORIES ABOUT SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU

Many of the most moving stories by attendees at Center for Digital Storytelling (CDS) are memorials or tributes to significant people in the stortellers' lives. Here are some great examples.

Scott County Students www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/studentstories.html

The following stories can be found using the menu at the Scott County site:

A Memoir: My Granny: An elementary school student talks about her grandma and what makes her

special

My great aunt Angie ("Blooming"): A moving story, from a neice's point of view, about a loving woman and her son, a developmentally-disabled adult. "They're like two peaceful trees… they make you feel special."

Is family important to a middle school student? One boy's story of his mom, the adventures they've had together, and why even though "she pulls out embarrassing pictures and I get mad and get in trouble," he loves her

A fifth grader's special hero ("Aunt Patty's Dream"): A girl's tribute to her aunt and the ways in which she has triumphed over adversity. "She thought all of her dreams had died but new ones were born."

Digitales

Three multimedia stories, told by authors of different ages, about their parents:

Hot Irons www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=29 A grown daughter's story about making peace with her mother.

Coming from Vietnam www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=13 A high school student in Wichita, Kansas, tells of her mother's voyage to the United States.

My Father's Eyes www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=26 A daughter's memories of being wrenched from her home in Laos and her struggle to understand her parents and what they went through to give her a new life.

Capturing Wales Here are three examples from the community-based Capturing Wales project:

Chained Memories www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/matthew-hawkridge.shtml A grandson talks about "remembering" a grandfather he never really knew.

The Boss of the World www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/dewi-roberts.shtml "My dad's the boss of the world," the storyteller would brag when he was a boy. Here is his tribute to his late father.

An Angel From Above www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/louise-clark.shtml A single mom describes the birth of her child and the healing he brought her.

Digital Story Bee www.bubbe.com/dsb/index.html These stories, told in text and still photos, are not exactly "movies" but they share a lot with the more video-based digital stories elsewhere in this directory. At this site you can choose from a number of touching stories featuring women's memories of their grandparents.

Fathers and Sons www.zonezero.com/exposiciones/fotografos/fathersons/index.html These three text-and-photo-based stories, told to photographer Pedro Meyer in e-mails, are powerful in their honesty:

Thinking of you www.zonezero.com/exposiciones/fotografos/fathersons/shahidul.html E-mails from Shahidal Alam to Myer about his relationship with his father as he was dying.

The Baramoter Story (E.R. Beardsley) www.zonezero.com/exposiciones/fotografos/fathersons /beardsley.html E.R. Beardsley's story, in text and some photos, about his middle son.

Greetings from DeLand www.zonezero.com/exposiciones/fotografos/fathersons/biferie1.html Dan Biferie's thoughts on his oldest son's 15th birthday

Celebrating Mom www.fray.com/hope/mom/ A mother's day tribute to two moms -- the birth mother the storyteller never knew and the adoptive mom who raised and loved her.

PLACES, EVENTS, AND TURNING POINTS In these digital stories, authors tell of important places, objects and personal experiences that will live on in their memories.

No Soup, Just Matzo Balls www.bubbe.com/oomph/nsjmb/index.html This 15-page story, from "Bubbe's Back Porch" uses text, still photos and audio narration to tell the story of one woman's life and her experiences growing old. ("I use more salt than I'm supposed to but I told the doctor, what's the point of living three extra years if nothing tastes good in the meantime")

Missing Pieces www.fray.com/hope/pieces Memories of September 11, by a wide range of Americans.

StoryCorps storycorps.net/listen/ These stories, all told through audio recordings, cover a range of experiences - from memories of learning there was no Santa Claus to a birth mother telling her son about the day he was born to a young woman describing her experiences as a teen with cerebral palsy.

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us From the 2004 menu of Hawaii's Island Movie contest, select:

Thanksgiving Story: One girl's story about sharing Thanksgiving with those in need.

Scott County Students www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/studentstories.html Use the menu at this site to locate the following examples:

"Get Me Beef" (or "How I found buffalo") was written by a second grader whose speech difficulty had limited his communication until he became a digital storyteller. Here he tells the story of a summer he will never forget.

Help!!!!! (On the Road Again!) After moving to 10 different places in a few short years, this young woman arrived in Scott County with much trepidation. The story of her experiences touched everybody in her class and brought her closer to her mother.

Scott County Teachers www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/teacherstories.html Find the following from the menu:

What do you REALLY want to do? "Sometimes the best advice comes in the form of a question," explains this teacher as he describes a moment that changed his life.

The umbrella provides a visual metaphor for many phases of one teacher's life.

A second chance at love. A wife describes her husband's joy as he holds his grandson for the first time.

Mother-daughter parallels. (Whose Race is This?) "To this day, I wonder if I was swimming for myself or my dad," a teacher asks herself, as she watches her daughter race and hopes she isn't pushing her too hard.

Reaching out. Through helping others, a couple comes to appreciate their own blessings.

A life-changing injury. A high school basketball coach describes the path that led him to his current calling.

A fourth grade teacher's dream (Carpe Futurum). Believing in possibilities was what helped Jeanne Biddle realize her childhood dream of traveling to Japan.

Capturing Wales Memories from four Welsh storytellers:.

My Perfect Moment www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/alpha-bah.shtml A man shares his surprise and joy at finding his family after fleeing Sierra Leone and believing they were dead.

The Chair. www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/alexandra-dukes.shtml One family's experiences as seen from the point of view of an armchair they all loved.

The Quilt www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/delyth-rees.shtml One woman describes finding a long-lost cousin she had never known.

My Brown Boots www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/sherrall-morris.shtml "I'd stand in puddles and scuff the toes," says this storyteller as she describes her attempts to make her boots stand out from the others.

PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS These stories, from digital storytellers of all ages, focus on achievements and accomplishments.

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us In the 2003 menu of the Hawaiian Department of Education's Island Movie web site look for:

Striving for Goals: A story told by a female soccer player who worked hard to succeed

Scott County Students www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/studentstories.html Use the menu to locate the following stories of student achievement:

Practice makes perfect. A third grader describes an important music recital.

Turning Table: A young girl's story of her baptism/commitment ceremony.

The Horse Show: A second grader's special day.

Scott County Teachers www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/teacherstories.html From the menu, locate:

Life-Long Learning. One educator takes pride in her voyage from stay-at-home mom to college graduate and a credentialed teacher.

Capturing Wales Five more great examples from the Capturing Wales web site:

No stopping me now www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/dana-rees.shtml " I have never been wrapped in cotton wool" begins Dana Rees, talking of her determination to live life to the fullest in spite of a disability caused by a stroke before she was born.

Education and Me www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/sughra-muhammed.shtml "I was totally uneducated, no English whatsoever..." says Sughra Muhammed. Today, she's proud of her hard-earned education and the other women she is helping.

Thank you for the music www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/suzanne-donald.shtml After years of feeling fascinated but insecure about music, a young woman discovers her talents at a Karoake bar.

Around the Bend www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/clare-woodward.shtml Learning to drive after many reluctant years is a challenge and a triumph for this storyteller.

Wheels in Wales www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/helen-jones.shtml "From the day I was born I was bike crazy," says this storyteller, as she shows that using a wheelchair doesn't mean she can't ride a racing bike.

STORIES ABOUT RECOVERY AND HEALING The most personal digital stories frequently focus on healing and recovering from a variety of traumas. While a therapeutic environment is frequently necessary to allow such stories to be told safely, you will find here some examples that illustrate what is possible when the right support is given.

Into the Light www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=28 A heartfelt story from the Digitales site, celebrating one woman's delight at finding love and unexpected happiness.

Scott County Teachers www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/teacherstories.html Use the menu to locate these two stories by Scott County teachers:

Life's Ups and Downs. One woman describes giving birth to her second child, nearly dying, facing the prospect of raising her children without a partner, and finally learning that she's not alone.

Ms Terrah. This true story of a grouchy cat whose fears are gradually allayed by a family's love is a metaphor for healing, both feline and human.

Capturing Wales Two stories of pain and healing:

A Place of Sanctuary www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/meinir-coleman.shtml "If my story can help anyone come to terms with their depression, then it has been well worthwhile," says

this storyteller as she describes a setting that has helped her heal.

Dark Days and Rainbows www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/margaret-oliver.shtml "Why? Why do I feel the guilty one?" Margaret asks as she describes her struggle to convince herself it was safe to leave her house after being the victim of a violent crime.

Silence Speaks www.silencespeaks.org/stories.html All of these powerful stories are told by survivors of violence. Here are two examples (which you can select from the site menu) to get you started:

Lakshmi's story. A story of domestic captivity and freedom, told through animal metaphors.

Carlos's Story about a violent family, why he joined a gang, and how prison and an education eventually helped him set himself free.

Close to Home www.c2home.org/gallery/index.html The gallery section of the Close to Home web site, created by a Boston-area nonprofit, features several powerful digital stories about domestic violence and where victims can turn for support.

DOCUMENTING HISTORY AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS Unlike the examples above, these stories focus on people and events that are farther removed from the life of the storyteller. Through the power of digital storytelling, however, the authors uncover personal meaning and create memorable tales that speak to others.

We Made Do: Recalling the Great Depression. www.mcsc.k12.in.us/mhs/social/madedo/ A project by students in Mooresville High School in Indiana, this site contains oral histories, period photographs and e-mailed letters from people with personal stories to tell about the 1930's and the Great Depression.

Frank Martinez www.sfett.net/1_iCan/3_ican3/3_frankmartinez/frankmartinez.html This student movie from the San Fernando Neighborhood Film Festival features an interview with a Latino artist who served in the army during WWII.

Digitales Bernajean Porter refers to this category of documentary stories as "Beyond Words." Here are three examples from her Digitales site:

Hiroshima www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=5 Two Missouri eighth grade boys retell the story of the bombing of Hiroshima and express the sadness and shock they feel as they do so.

They Were The Children of Our World www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=24 This poem and slideshow, created first in PowerPoint and then digitized into a movie for web distribution, expresses one tenth grader's view of the lasting effects of the Holocaust on the world today.

Grass Born to be Stepped On www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=12 A powerful documentary about women's rights in China by a group of students in Wichita, Kansas.

Lewis Hine Child Labor homepage.mac.com/jbtv/iMovieTheater24.html Old photos, music and narration are used by an educator to introduce students to the history of child labor.

Face-to-Face: Stories from the Aftermath of Infamy www.secondstory.com/index.php?page=collection&pid=50 Created by professionals, with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, this montage of photo essays, accompanied by recorded interviews, compares the experiences of Japanese-Americans following Pearl Harbor to those of Arab and Muslim Americans following the events of September 11, 2001.

Scott County Students www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/studentstories.html From the menu, find this story:

September 11. A moving group project by elementary students recounting that fateful day. ("How horrible!").

Student Movies from Springfield Check out these three documentaries created by students in Springfield, Illinois:

What is a hero? www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/grant/brown/hero.html A sixth grader's story about local heroes and firefighters who helped on September 11.

Life's Timeline www.springfield.k12.il.us/movie/timeline.html This movie, created as part of a language arts-social studies project, combines personal and historical events into a powerful interactive timeline.

Nicholas Vachel Lindsay www.springfield.k12.il.us/lindsay/ Developed by students at Lamphier High School for a Springfield museum, this site takes viewers on a virtual tour of a local historical figure's house, with student narrators, dressed in period costumes, conducting the tour.

Veterans Gallery www.ballstonveterans.com/Veterans%20Gallery/Veterans%20Gallery.htm One-page transcripts, with photos, of veterans' interviews conducted by students at Ballston Spa Central High in New York.

STORIES OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURE Like the documentaries above, these stories paint a broader picture -- with an emphasis on culture and community.

Third World Majority www.cultureisaweapon.org/stories/mainframe.php3?v=s Created by a collective of "young women of color … dedicated to developing new media practices that affect global justice and social change," these cultural and political digital stories are organized by subject (e.g., African-American, Arab, survivor stories, reclaiming Cinco de Mayo, and more)

Zone Zero The documentary section of photographer Pedro Meyer's site includes the following stories, told in photos and text.

Ingrid - Mexico www.zonezero.com/comunity/portfolios/index.html A documentary about the use of space and recycled materials in Tijuana's poorest zones.

Sahira -Rep Dominica www.zonezero.com/comunity/portfolios/index.html Sahira shows how, in the Dominican Republic, the beauty parlor is a temple where help is sought, thanks are given and hair is worshiped

Capturing Wales

After All These Years www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/joanne-nixon.shtml Memories from five generations about the local village school.

I Was There www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/paula-richards.shtml A young woman recalls her childhood as a daughter of a striking coal miner and the community feelings the strike engendered.

What's in a Name? www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales/background/peter-prendergast.shtml "Roots are where we decide to put them," says painter Peter Pendegrast as he explores his Irish-Welsh-Norman origins in a story featuring beautiful canvases of his own creation.

Lovely Life. www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northeast/sites/digital_stories/pages/davidii_kakande.shtml A comparison of life in Uganda and Wales by an immigrant who often thinks, "People here in Wales behave strangely."

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us From the 2003 menu, select:

Memories of Kipapa. Older residents of the community talk about their memories and what the local school was like in the "olden days."

On the 2004 menu, look for:

Hashimoto Persimmon Farm: A story of a family and their family business, as told by a student narrator who is not related to the family.

Mochi Tsuki: Another third-party story about how one family celebrates the Japanese New Year.

Community Histories by Youth in the Middle East www.cctvcambridge.org/stream/qt/chyme/index.html The result of an international storytelling workshop involving Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian youth, this site features powerful digital stories from participants.

TAKING A STAND/MAKING A POINT From public service announcements to multimedia editorials, all of these digital stories are told to convince the audience of something.

Chicagoland PSAs homepage.mac.com/jbtv/iMovieTheater13.html A montage of PSAs, from the Chicagoland Television Educators' Council web site, focusing on such topics as suicide prevention and propaganda.

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us Check out these three examples from the 2003 menu of the Island Movie site:

Stop the Fear, End the Hate: A teenage view of the tough sides of high school.

Golden Rule: A beautiful non-verbal story of "do unto others".

Fishing Nets are Hazardous to Whales: Elementary grade students make the case for reforms in

fishing practices.

Scott County Students www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/studentstories.html From the menu, choose:

Art Education: One students' view of the importance of art education.

Proud to be an American. A message about optimism and how terrorism will not shake the nation's faith.

Scott County Teachers www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/teacherstories.html Look for:

The Art Room. A teacher describes the power of art to help students and prisoners learn and change -- and decries the short-sightedness of decision-makers who kill such programs.

SFETT iCan Film Festival These four stories, like many others at the San Fernando student site, convey powerful messages through film:

Education www.sfett.net/1_iCan/3_ican3/6_education/education.html Advice to teachers and policymakers about how to improve education.

Second chance www.sfett.net/1_iCan/3_ican3/7_secondchance/secondchance.html Commentary on bullying and cruelty, told through a fictional story.

The Power of 1 www.sfett.net/1_iCan/4_ican4/23_thepowerofone/thepowerofone.html An entertaining, fact-filled and convincing story on why young people should register to vote.

Sweatshop www.sfett.net/1_iCan/2_ican2/14_sweatshop/sweatshop.html This project struck a chord with human rights groups and industry leaders around the world.

STORIES OF CLASSROOMS AND EDUCATION

TeachStory www.teachstory.com/ Educator Tom Banaszewski tells about digital storytelling and projects he's done with kids.

Digitales These stories all resulted from work Bernajean Porter has done supporting educators to tell their own stories about teaching:

Vicki www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=1 "Vicki, you will be a teacher, it's your calling," said her grandma, and she was right. Vicki Dewitt describes her experiences as a teacher, focusing on one student in particular.

Reflections www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=25 A Florida teacher shares her discovery that good teaching is not about being a great teacher

Westward HO www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=18 A fourth grade teacher explores her success with Missouri's eMINTs program and the impact it has had on her students.

The Music in My Head www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=6 Another eMints teacher describes herself ("I was one of those teachers you worried about from the day you hired me") and one of her students ("She was the student you worry about from the day you walk into the room") and how they both learned to hear the music in their own heads.

HollyWood Heights Stars www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=9 An Illinois teacher reflects on her experiences with a regional program aimed at fostering engaged learning and high academic standards.

STORIES THAT TEACH OR EXPLAIN While not everybody would classify multimedia reports as "digital storytelling" all of these examples add a personal touch to conveying factual information.

iCan Can Make Your Day www.sfett.net/1_iCan/2_ican2/2_icanmakeyourday/icanmakeyourday.html Advice from the San Fernando student filmmakers on making great movies -- combined with an ad for their iCan community film festival.

CTEC "How To" Winners homepage.mac.com/jbtv/iMovieTheater12.html Excerpts from three winning "how to" videos from the Chicagoland Television Educators Council. Their creators focused on how to repair a computer, make bruschetta, and play the blues guitar.

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us From the 2003 menu, check out:

The Banana Story: Created by a group of English as Second Language Learners, this story is told from the point of view of a bunch of bananas growing on a tree.

Or take a look at these two 2004 winners:

The Challenge: This story by a group of elementary grade students uses humor and action to get out the message about good nutrition.

Rules of Attraction: An amusing teen story (and experiment) to explain pheromones.

Scott County Students www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/studentstories.html From the menu, select the following:

Ethnic Gardens, a historical and cultural report by four high school students.

Springfield iMovies

Owl Pellets www.springfield.k12.il.us/movie/owls/ Students describe their experience dissecting owl pellets in science class.

Periodic Table www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/lincolnmagnet/projects01/elements/ Seventh graders at Lincoln Magnet School worked in teams to write ads for elements from the periodic table.

Geometry in my Town www.springfield.k12.il.us/movie/geometry/index.html Using still photos and video cameras, students created group movies showing geometric shapes from real life.

(RE)TELLING TALES The traditional art of storytelling generally involves recounting great tales and literature. Here are some digital examples of "old-fashioned" storytelling.

Bookhive www.bookhive.org/zingertales/ Videos of great adult storytellers telling and acting out children's stories.

Cbeebies Story Circle www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/storycircle Animated and narrated fairy tales, bedtime stories, animal stories and more from this BBC web site.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/Sandburg/winebrinnerbear/index.html Primary grade students in Springfield, Illinois, pair up to read portions of Bill Martin's book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See," in front of wall murals they painted of characters from the story.

Kid's Vid kidsvid.hprtec.org/nav_pages/theater.html These videos of students retelling stories are featured at the High Plains Regional Technology in Education (HPR-TEC) web site:

Tortoise Run: A fifth grade class retells Aesop's fable in clay and animation

Captain Underpants: A student book report in the form of a videotaped news show.

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us The following movie can be accessed from the 2003 menu:

Mo`olelo O Maui: The Maui legend as re-told by Hawaiian students, complete with elaborate backdrops.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS These examples all involve the use of video or other forms of multimedia to share original, creative work.

Performing Arts homepage.mac.com/jbtv/iMovieTheater9.html Excerpts from three videos created by performing arts students as part of the Chicagoland Television Educators Council competition.

Springfield iMovies

Haikus www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/iles/haiku/ Haiku poems written and read by fourth graders, accompanied by photos, music and text.

African folktales www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/lincolnmagnet/projects01/folktales/index.html As a culminating project to a unit on African folk tales, students wrote and performed their own tales -- in person and digitally.

Digitales

Oreo the Attack Bunny www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=22 Converted from KidPix to a web movie, this story is the work of an Illinois second-grader.

Trip to the Moon www.digitales.us/story_details.php?story_id=21 This story, originally created by two first graders using Kids Studio, uses text, clip art graphics, voice and sound effects to tell an

imaginary tale. Judy Salpeter, former editor in chief of T&L, now serves as a consultant, freelance editor, and program chair for Technology & Learning Events.

"Jumping Off" Points

The sites listed here, in alphabetical order, offer a wealth of resources for learning more about digital storytelling and locating great examples online.

Adobe's Digital Kids Club www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons Adobe offers tips, tutorials, and lesson plans for incorporating digital still images and video into the curriculum. Their gallery currently features still images submitted by teachers and students but they are soliciting digital video examples from schools as well.

Apple Learning Interchange ali.apple.com/ali_sites/ali/exhibits/1000019 The Apple Learning Interchange site offers a wide range of videography tips on everything from audio to lighting to integrating still images into a video. It also offers links to online communities of iMovie and Final Cut Pro users.

Bubbe's Back Proch www.bubbe.com Abbe Don is the creator of Bubbe's Back Porch, a family storytelling web site, as well as the Digital Story Bee, a workshop designed to help women tell family stories while demystifying the technology behind the World Wide Web. You can access many of these stories at the bubbe.com site.

Capturing Wales www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales This consortium of the BBC Cymru/Wales, Cardiff University's Centre for Journalism Studies, and the Community Action Network of the United Kingdom offers workshops to Welsh people of all ages who want to tell their own stories digitally. The Capturing Wales web site features many engaging and inspiring tales that have emerged from the project.

Center for Digital Storytelling www.storycenter.org At the CDS web site you can read interviews, download articles about digital storytelling, learn about some of the projects CDS has been involved with internationally, and order Joe Lambert's book, Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community

The Chicagoland Television Educators Council www.niles-hs.k12.il.us/ctec Joe Brennan of Niles Township High School District 219 in Illinois maintains this web site, which features winners from the annual CTEC festival. The videos are organized into fourteen categories, such as documentaries, animation, comedy and public service announcements.

Creative Narrations www.creativenarrations.net/site/storybook/index.html Creative Narrations, a nonprofit organization that provides multimedia support and training to help people "document and represent the voices and images of change" in their own neighborhoods and communities, offers this online storybook of digital tales created by project participants.

DigitalStories.org www.digitalstories.org Guy Ballard of Niles Township High School District is in the process of launching this new site to host digital stories submitted around four themes:

educational, community, personal and fictional.

Digital Storytelling in the Scott County Schools www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/ds.html The district web site offers wonderful examples of digital stories by students, teachers and community members, as well as tips, tools, resources and FAQs for creating digital stories.

DigiTales www.digitales.us Check out Bernajean Porter's site for ideas, rubrics for evaluating digital stories, many cool storytelling examples, and other relevant resources. You can also order her new book, DigiTales: the Art of Telling Digital Stories.

The Director in the Classroom thedirectorintheclassroom.com Although he does not call it digital storytelling, Nikos Theodosakis offers a variety of relevant resources at this videomaking site for educators, including a directory of student film festivals, copyright-free sound clips and images, and articles and books on various aspects of video production.

ElectronicPortfolios.org electronicportfolios.org/digistory/index.html Dr. Helen Barret's site offers information on electronic portfolios, links to a variety of digital storytelling resources, and articles such as "Electronic Portfolios as Digital Stories of Deep Learning" (electronicportfolios.org/digistory/epstory.html) that examines how to bring the two together.

Fray www.fray.com This edgy online magazine is where many tech-savvy adults go to tell their own stories using hypertext, images and other media elements. While only a few of these tales are appropriate for classroom use, they are worth exploring as interesting examples of digital storytelling.

Island Movie islandmovie.k12.hi.us Island Movie is a digital storytelling contest for students in Hawaii, with additional participation by schools in Alaska and Japan. At this web site you can view winning stories from previous years, learn about contest rules and rubrics, or check out the links to copyright and fair use resources.

JasonOhler.com www.jasonohler.com Visit Jason Ohler's site for information on his upcoming book, "Telling Your Story: Putting the Story into Digital and Traditional Storytelling," as well as links to other digital storytelling resources.

Kenton County Schools' Digital Storytelling Site www.kenton.k12.ky.us/DigitalStory/dstindex.htm This site, put together by educators at the Kenton County Schools in Kentucky, offers infromation on video-making and storytelling resources as well as links to various video-based stories by students.

Kieran Egan's Home Page www.educ.sfu.ca:16080/kegan/ An author and educational researcher, affiliated with Simon Fraser University, Egan has published articles and books on a variety of topics related to imagination and learrning. One of them, "Teaching as Storytelling," explores the power of stories to help students absorb and develop enduring understandings of information. At Egan's home page, you can read excerpts from this and other publications.

Lynell Burmark's Home Page www.tcpd.org/burmark/burmark.html Lynell Burmark's book "Visual Literacy: Learn to See, See to Learn," published by ASDC, focuses on the use of visuals to teach, learn and communicate. While many of the examples relate to still images, they are relevant to anybody interested in incorporating digital imagery into the curriculum. At her site you can learn

about the book or download a variety of interesting handouts.

Mark Standley's Web site www.mstandley.com/photography.html The web site of author and educator Mark Standley includes articles he has written about digital storytelling as well as links to projects such as the iDidaMovie contest he launched in Alaska.

San Fernando's iCan Film Festival www.sfett.net Students at California's San Fernando High School, under the leadership of teacher Marco Torres, showcase their filmmaking prowess through an annual community film festival and a web site featuring moviemaking advice and a gallery of videos from previous years.

Sara Armstrong Consulting www.sgaconsulting.org Sara Armstrong's site offers links to resources related to a number of education technology topics -- including digital storytelling.

SchoolHouse Video www.schoolhousevideo.org. A collaborative project between Saddleback Valley Unified School District and KOCE-TV in southern California, SchoolHouse Video offers advice on copyright, music use and video production; storyboard templates; sample videos and more.

Silence Speaks www.silencespeaks.org/stories.html This project, created by Amy Hill, an associate of the Center for Digital Storytelling, is a non-profit endeavor to help survivors of violence tell their stories. You will find powerful examples at the web site.

Springfield iMovies www.springfield.k12.il.us/movie/ This site, by students and educators in the Springfield, Illinios, schools features many examples of student work as well as links to articles about digital storytelling

StoryCorps storycorps.net/listen/ With a mission of collecting "extraordinary stories from everyday people," StoryCorps is a national project with plans to place soundproof recording booths around the country and invite people to record broadcast-quality interviews with the help of a trained facilitator. You can hear examples and learn more at the StoryCorps site.

Tech Head Stories tech-head.com/dstory.htm Storyteller and educator Hilary McLellan has compiled an amazingly extensive list of stories, sites, projects and publications related to digital storytelling.

Techszewski techszewski.blogs.com/ Teacher and researcher Tom Banaszewski's blog is a great place to read about -- and see examples of -- his experiences with digital storytelling over the years. He also includes links to other valuable resources in the field.

Visible Knowledge Project Newsletter crossroads.georgetown.edu/vkp/newsletter/0902/resources.htm The September 2002 community newsletter by the Visible Knowledge Project focused on digital storytelling. You can visit the archived newsletter which has links to relevant resources, sample stories and grading rubrics.

Why Do It? Make Your Case

In speaking to educators about digital storytelling in the classroom, we heard many stories about the

learning that is taking place. The key educational benefits of digital storytelling can be summarized using the following categories:

A. Enduring Understanding
B. Writing Skills
C. Visual and Media Literacy
D. Technology Skills
E. Other 21st Century Skills
F. Motivation and Engagement

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

In her book, "Digitales: the Art of Telling Digital Stories" (www.digitales.us/digitales_book.php) Bernajean Porter makes a strong case for ways in which creating digital stories about real-life events "enables students to move from working with data factoids to enduring understanding of concepts."

A number of other thinkers and researchers share this view:

Roger C. Schank, founder of the Institute for Learning Sciences at Northwestern University and author of the book "Tell Me A Story: Narrative And Intelligence" (www.bibliovault.org/BV.book.epl?BookId=4540), maintains that, throughout history, stories have been a key way of helping people understand facts and find. meaning in them.

Kieran Egan, in his book "Teaching as Story Telling" (www.educ.sfu.ca:16080/kegan/TaST.html) describes how students are better able to learn dense amounts of information and build enduring understandings when information is organized around stories.

Lynell Burmark's book "Visual Literacy: Learn to See, See to Learn," (www.tcpd.org/burmark/Books/VisualBook.html) looks at the research about the impact of visual media on students' ability to learn. She summarizes as follows: "Researchers have found that humans process visual information 60,000 times faster than textual information. They've also concluded that visual aids can improve learning by up to 400 percent."

Thomas C. Reeves and other researchers at Georgia's Athens Academby conducted a research study several years ago comparing two groups of eighth graders, one of which learned history through a traditional approach and another that learned by creating multimedia reports. Both did equally well on tests immediately following the unit but a year later students who had authored the multimedia projects remembered more about the subject than the control group.

WRITING SKILLS

Many educators who are committed to using digital storytelling in their teaching report that it has had a positive impact on students' interest in and skills at writing. One example, described in more detail in "Telling Tales with Technology" (http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=60300276) is the Digital Storytelling program in the Scott County Schools in Kentucky (www.scott.k12.ky.us/technology/digitalstorytelling/ds.html).

According to an article by the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (www.ncrel.org/engauge/resource/stories/scott.htm), Scott County's digital storytelling project "is, first and foremost, a writing project. According to project leaders … the 'Seven Elements of Digital Storytelling' [from the Center for Digital Storytelling] are an excellent complement to the 'Six Scoring Criteria' in the Kentucky writing assessment. The process through which students must travel as they select an appropriate story, restructure that story in response to the Seven Elements model, create storyboards, gather content, and finally produce their video introduces them to new ways to focus on writing as a means to communicate with and potentially move an audience."

David Jakes, instructional technology coordinator for Community High School District 99 in Downers Grove, Illinois, has had similarly positive experiences. "Digital storytelling is probably the best technology experience I have seen," he writes, "because it is really not a technology experience but an experience in writing." Jakes finds that, in addition to taking great care with their writing and editing before beginning to film, students often end up rewriting their original narrative after working with the technology. His explanation: "The visual nature of the creation points them in a different direction in their writing. What we believe is happening, is that the process of digital storytelling helps students visualize and overcome difficult places in their writing, such as making transitions within a story.

VISUAL AND MEDIA LITERACY

Visual literacy has been identified by many education experts as a key 21 st century skill. In "Visual Literacy, Learn to See, See to Learn," Lynell Burmark writes, "Today, clearly, we live in a visual world…. No one doubts the need for print literacy: reading and writing words. I would advocate that visual literacy -- reading and writing images -- is an even more basic skill."

The ability to interpret images and multimedia elements and, even more powerfully, to use them in communication can be greatly enhanced by digital storytelling. Bernajean Porter, in "Digitales: the Art of Telling Digital Stories" explains that, "Digital storytelling by its very nature requires us to learn and practice visual literacy skills. Working with digital media is a perfect way to experiment and experience using a visual language. Authors begin to learn effective uses of media attributes like color, style, shape, size, pacing, and movement along with careful selection of appropriate and effective images to communicate their meanings.

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

In creating digital stories, students are addressing a variety of ISTE's "National Educational Technology Standards" (cnets.iste.org/currstands). In particular, the process reinforces crucial communications skills, defined by NETS as follows:

5. Students use [technology] to collaborate, publish, and interact with peers, experts, and other audiences.

6. Students use a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences.

Other NETS skills are addressed as well, including this one related to "Social, ethical and human issues": Students develop positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning,

collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity.

Leslie Flanders, director of technology for the Scott County Schools, elaborates on the fact that teachers and students alike are drawn to digital storytelling as a meaningful and powerful way to use technology. "To see a teacher begin solving her own technology problems because she wants to complete her digital story … or a group of teachers insist to their principal that they need at least 5 computers in a classroom or a mobile cart of 30 so their students can create stories is very convincing."

"Technology is a basic skill in the world of today's students," Flanders continues, "and it is our hope that [the digital storytelling] project allows students who might not have access to technology at home to use it in an authentic and engaging way at school. In fact our state is moving toward online assessment in the next 5 years so it is extremely important for our students to be adept at using computers."

OTHER 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

In addition to writing/communication skills and visual and technical literacy digital storytelling addresses a number of other important skills for today's students, as defined by The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (www.21stcenturyskills.org/). These include:

* Creativity and intellectual curiosity
* Self-direction
* Teaming and Collaboration
* Problem solving

One need only look at some of the story examples shown in "Digital Storytelling: What's it All About" (Link to article in this e-book) or talk to educators who are involved in digital storytelling to get proof of this. As Leslie Flanders puts it, "The learning and problem solving that goes on among the teachers and students goes so far beyond the basics that I don't know how we could ever justify eliminating the program."

MOTIVATION AND ENGAGEMENT

While it is often hard to prove through test scores, most educators know from experience that students learn more when they are engaged and excited. And there are few technology-based learning experiences that motivate students more than digital storytelling. In Scott County, Leslie Flanders and digital storytelling coordinator Jeanne Biddle tell stories of students staying after school or coming in early in the morning to work on their stories and of entire families becoming engaged in the process of retelling stories, searching for photos and supporting the young storytellers in their digital projects.

Biddle explains that the enthusiasm, engagement and results she has seen from students involved in digital storytelling projects reinforce for her the validity of the Theory of Engagement, developed by the Schlechty Center for Leadership in School Reform (schlechtycenter.org/psc/philosophy.asp). According to this theory, students who are engaged:

1) Learn at high levels and have a profound grasp of what they learn;

2) Retain what they learn;
3) Can transfer what they learn to new contexts

Britt Bravo of San Francisco's Tech Tales/Streetside Stories project sums up the optimism of many digital storytelling teachers when she says: "Once we have completed two years of Tech Tales programming and the evaluation, we are hoping that the results will indicate what arts educators already know, that [this approach] builds community, improves academic performance, engages even hard-to-reach students and develops strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills."

Digital Storytelling Toolbox

Here's a look at some of the software, hardware and web resources that can help educators and students assemble, edit and publish their digital stories.

Editing Software

Central to any digital storytelling project -- whether it involves video footage or a montage of still images and sounds -- is a good video editor. There are many options on the market but here are some favorites of the educators we interviewed about digital storytelling:

iLife: iMovie and other tools (Apple) www.apple.com/ilife/ Schools that have Macintosh computers are generally delighted with the power and ease of use of Apple's tools for video, music and photo editing that are provided free with the Mac operating system.

Final Cut Pro and Final Cut Express (Apple) www.apple.com/finalcutpro/ www.apple.com/finalcutexpress/ Those who want more options and power than they can get with iMovie, often choose to brave the complexities of Final Cut Pro. With the introduction of Final Cut Express, a scaled-down version of Final Cut Pro, there's now an in-between option for Mac users.

Premiere (Adobe) www.adobe.com/products/premiere/main.html The Center for Digital Storytelling has been using Adobe Premiere in its workshops for a number of years. Although previous versions ran on both Mac and Windows (making it ideal as a tool for a multi-platform audience), the newest version, Adobe Premiere Pro 1.5 is designed only for Windows XP systems.

Movie Maker 2 (Microsoft) www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/default.mspx Like iMovie for the Mac, Movie Maker is bundled with most new Windows XP computers, making it an appealing option for budget-conscious Windows-using schools. Although this could change in future versions, Movie Maker has not had the flexibility, required by many digital storytellers, to run music and voice tracks simultaneously.

Pinnacle Studio 9 and Studio Plus (Pinnacle) www.pinnaclesys.com/ProductPage_n.asp?Product_ID=1501&Langue_ID=7 The entry-level Pinnacle Studio 9 has been a favorite with many Windows-using schools and the newer Pinnacle Studio Plus (sold alone or as part of the Pinnacle Studio Mediasuite) is an appealing option for more advanced video editing.

VideoStudio 8 (Ulead) www.ulead.com/vs/runme.htm After doing extensive research and product testing, Bernajean Porter chose Video Studio 8 as the best Windows tool for her Digitales workshops. She is impressed with Ulead's training and support and Video Studio's power and ease of use.

Free Music and Images Regardless of how much original material a digital storyteller has to work with, there's likely to be a time when just the right image, illustration, sound effect or background music is elusive. The following web sites are popular with educators looking for copyright-free materials for digital projects:

Freeplay Music Freeplaymusic.com A great resource for digital storytellers, the Freeplay site allows visitors to search for and download music, legally and at no cost, for use in their school videos.

Kitzu www.kitzu.org A new project from the folks at Schoolhouse Video, these "digital kits" provide collections of graphics, music, sound and video clips related to a specific topic. Sample kits are now available for the food chain and Japanese internment during WWII, with others in development.

Pics4Learning pics.tech4learning.com A free service of Tech4Learning, Inc., this "copyright-friendly" site offers hundreds of photographs, organized by category, for use in educational projects.

WebPlaces Clip Art Searcher www.webplaces.com/search This site offers a search tool optimized to find clip art and photos online that meet whatever specifications you enter.

Historical materials are available for free from the government at:

The National Archives and Records Administration www.archives.gov/digital_classroom At NARA's Digital Classroom site you can find landmark historical documents and photos.

Library of Congress www.loc.gov Search for words, pictures and sounds in categories including US History and World Culture

Free sound effects can be found at all three of these sites:

Free Sound Effects www.a1freesoundeffects.com

WavCentral wavcentral.com

WebPlaces www.webplaces.com/html/sounds.htm

Other Software Favorites

Inspiration and Kidspiration www.inspiration.com These tools are used in Scott County and elsewhere for the storyboarding that precedes the creation of their digital stories.

Adobe PhotoShop and PhotoShop Elements www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/main.html While the professional-level PhotoShop is being used in some settings to refine for use in digital stories, the entry-level PhotoShop Elements generally provides all the power needed with considerably less cost and effort.

Atomic Learning www.atomiclearning.com Schools with subscriptions to this software training site use it to get up to speed on a number of the video and photo editing tools described earlier.

Roxio Toast Titanium www.roxio.com/en/products/toast/features.jhtml The Center for Digital Storytelling swears by this post-production tool for burning CDs. With Toast 6 you can also edit out unwanted noise and digitize analog input, and add pan and zoom effects.

Discreet Cleaner www.discreet.com/products/cleaner Another CDS favorite, Cleaner compresses batches of movies to prepare them for CD-ROM, DVD or the Web.

Hardware Components Although they do not specify brands, here are the basic hardware components recommended by the Center for Digital Storytelling for digital storytelling lessons and workshops:

1. One computer workstation for each project

2. A teacher's workstation connected to a media projector with speakers

3. One scanner for every six participants

4. A video capture station (if this isn't built into the computers) with the ability to digitize from analog sources such as VHS

5. Digital cameras and/or digital video camcorders to be shared

6. An audio setup in a separate room (to avoid noise interference) with a computer, a microphone and, ideally, a mixing board