

Creative Ways to Use Digital Group Storytimes in the Classroom or Library

BILINGUAL STORYTIME

The ICDL is a fabulous resource for bilingual storytimes—and, depending on the language used, a digital storytime could be part of a larger program or could be the entire program!

WORDLESS BOOKS

Did you ever want to do a storytime with wordless books, but you find the format is just too small in a hardcopy version? Try using a book from the ICDL in a language that the children in your group cannot read. Then the children can tell the story they see in the pictures. Encourage teachers to use books in other languages as writing prompts based entirely on the pictures.

LOOKING AT PICTURE BOOKS AS ART

Discussing picture books as art in a group situation is tricky—because the images are so small in a typical picture book. Use digitized books from the ICDL to discuss art elements in children’s picture books—this can be done with groups of children and/or adults. Using this tool, you could even have a parent/child book discussion of picture books; older children would love this! Use both full views and thumbnails views when talking about the art in children’s books; you’ll be able to point out patterns in text/illustrations when using the thumbnails—something you wouldn’t otherwise see in a traditional presentation of the book.

LOOKING AT ANTIQUARIAN CHILDREN’S BOOKS

The ICDL database also contains picture books from the antiquarian collection of the Library of Congress. These books make an excellent tie-in to curriculum units in a classroom on specific historical periods.

Creative Ways to Use Digital Group Storytimes in the Classroom or Library

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Use a digital storytime in the midst of the a larger program OR present an ALL digital storytime—and even let the kids help choose the books (what a great way to foster computer competency and create a truly child-centered storytime).

FAMILY STORYTIME

Use a digital storytime as part of a larger program, but offer an opportunity at the end (perhaps during snack time for the children) to demonstrate the database to the parents. Send the parents home with a brochure about how they can use the ICDL with their children at home.

GRADE-SCHOOL CHILDREN in the LIBRARY and the CLASSROOM

Grade-school children love digital group storytimes—and don't worry that they can read the text off the screen. The group will listen to you tell the story and will scrutinize the projected images in a way not possible with a hard copy book. It's also a fabulous tool for bringing stories from around the world into a story program for this age in the library or as a part of a multicultural curriculum unit in a classroom. When you use books in this format, it is less likely to make older children feel you are presenting something that is too “young” for them.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

The digital group storytime is an amazing tool to use with special needs children. You will find that the large-format images allow many children, who would not otherwise be able to focus on a small-format hard copy book, to really participate and enjoy a storytime. You'll be able to really focus on the BOOK during a digital storytime with special needs children, and they'll want to talk a lot about the stories afterwards.