

Title of Session: The Art of Storytelling

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

BJB: We usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions. Please tell me where you are located, what you teach and what brings you to this discussion.

BJB: I teach communication in a small school in south central Pennsylvania

BJB: welcome, Astrid.

MidgeF: I'm a writer, consultant and genealogist. I live in Massachusetts. I may be writing a book for teachers about DST

NgochoaiT: I am from Houston Texas student teaching in forth grade right now, I am required to attend a few chats and I enjoy story telling

CarolynP: I am from New Bloomfield PA - art

BJB: thanks, Ngochoai

AstridH: I am in Chula Vista, California (sunny San Diego). I teach ELD (English language development) in high school

BJB cheers for Carolyn

BJB: oh, cool, Astrid...ELD is perfect for storytelling

AstridH: I can't wait to learn from you guys, I've only been teaching a few years. I am very interested in storytelling.

BJB: I know Midge has participated in Tapped In discussions...she leads the monthly Frazel Features!

JerLu: I'm from Pittsburgh and I teach Latin; I'm here to learn more about using stories in Latin as well as for my admin papers (a course)

BJB: Astrid, we all tend to learn from each other during these discussions :-)

MidgeF: My Latin teacher told stories all the time!

BJB . o O (which is what makes Tapped In such a great collaborative community)

JerLu: It's definitely part of the program!

BjB: I have two topics that I'd like to look at today...

BjB: last month during the Social Studies Forum discussion on The War, I was introduced to the PBS Power of Story site

JoniaJ: My name is Jonia and I am located in Houston, Texas. I hope to teach kindergarten or fifth grade

BjB: I'm going to show you a url....hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click so you override pop up blockers

BjB: http://www.pbs.org/thewar/edu_overview.htm

BjB: take a couple minutes and explore that site

MidgeF: "last time united in one single purpose" is certainly true

NgochoaiT: this is for highschool levels though

MidgeF: Pretty much WWI is only studied at the high school level

BjB: yes, The War is certainly for high school...

BjB: but conflict resolution is for all levels

JerLu: very true

MidgeF: and WWII and Korea. Most textbooks are only going that far

BjB: what I really wanted to focus on was The Power of story Toolkit

BjB: http://www.pbs.org/thewar/edu_power_of_story.htm

BjB: interviews can be done at all levels

BjB: and a 'sense of history' is important to develop at all levels...something I think our young people have kind of drifted away from

CarolynP: interviewing family members (that were around) would bring a great connection

BjB: yes, thanks, Carolyn

AstridH: It's such a charged topic. However, I guess emotions are very important to story telling. Is that so?

JerLu: This is so true. When my children were in 4th grade, their teacher had then interview someone from the war -they interviewed their grandpa and it was amazing what they discussed and learned from him. A greater bond was made and they learned a lot.

BjB : yes, Astrid...to be authentic, you need the emotions

BjB : world war two vets are dying at the rate of 1000 per day

BjB : there soon won't be anyone left to interview

MidgeF: I read in the newspaper that 10,000 WWII vets are dying each month now. My dad was a decorated WWII hero

JoniaJ: Some parents are against any such interview because they don't want their children learning about that time

NgochoaiT: some students might not have the access to someone either

JerLu: That's too bad. My children who are now 29, 30 relish those memories.

BjB : Jonia, make it a family project...have you ever made sacrifices for something? (rationing during the war) or believed in something very strongly?

MidgeF: I can tell you (as a person of my age) that they will never get the Vietnam vets to talk

AstridH: When you invite someone to tell a story (in this case a soldier), do you give them any parameters/limitations, or do you allow the speaker to tell all?

BjB : sadly, that was a totally different war, Midge

BjB : Astrid, much would depend on the age of the children

MidgeF: I think that's why they made this film as this is the last time they will be able to do so

BjB nods to Midge

BjB : another topic on the power of story toolkit is Stories of Service...

MidgeF: I watch saving Private Ryan for about 45 minutes

BjB : do we have people who are leaders in the community today?

JoniaJ: Afraid not. There isn't much of a community feeling around here

BjB: do young people volunteer?

JoniaJ: No ma'am. or on rare occasions

NgochoaiT: even when they do, young people don't get as much attention

BjB: what about scouts? or 4H?

JerLu: many young people volunteer where I am. They are involved in church groups, boy scouts, and ROTC

AstridH: I think that schools are trying to teach that to our youth.

BjB: Ngochoai, that's where the teacher can make a change

JoniaJ: You hear about 4H sometimes. Since moving here I've heard about girl scouts about two times

JerLu: they even raised - get this- \$60,000 for Katrina victims.

NgochoaiT: what is 4H?

BjB: sometimes we have to go out and beat our own drums

CarolynP: volunteering does bring a great sense of community which may lead to leadership

BjB: 4H is usually in farming communities

MidgeF: 4 H is a farm associated youth organization

JoniaJ: We have all these great ideas and all the obstacles standing in the way of putting them in play

BjB: . o O (head, heart, hands, help I think are the 4 h's)

JerLu: teachers can be great leaders - even with habitat for humanity

BjB: yes, Jer! And get publicity for your kids

BjB: make a book with YOUR STORY!

BjB: put it in the school library

JerLu: yes. The kids really are interested in volunteering--they just don't know how to get started

BjB : contact the local paper

AstridH: Preserving the stories of those who serve our country through a young mind sounds very interesting and beneficial for all

MidgeF: <http://www.4husa.org/>

BjB : thanks, Midge

MidgeF: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health

JerLu: we do something every year for Saturnalia (Roman holiday at xmas time) - the kids love it. They donate money to several needy families and buy coats, shoes, toothbrushes, books; they wrap them up and I deliver them. They LOVE it and usually donate around 600 a Saturnalia.

BjB : sounds like there is actually a lot of community service taking place...

BjB : you just have to seek it out

NgochoaiT: that brings in culture though and at our schools, a lot of holidays are now taken away

BjB : local nursing homes usually love to have children visit

MidgeF: Some high schools give credit for graduation participation in a community projects

BjB nods to Midge

NgochoaiT: even xmas isn't supposed to be said its winder holidays

JoniaJ: I agree. There isn't much to be said or done in schools that isn't offensive to someone

JerLu: I agree. None of those kids would have thought to donate \$ to buy gifts for a needy kid for xmas but, after they did it for my class, I would have many call to find out how to do it in college

BjB : during the winter months it's always good to do a food drive for the homeless and needy

JerLu: But we don't have to focus on that if we want to focus on our kids making their own volunteer-hero stories

MidgeF: One elementary school did a "Harvest" week and had a food drive as part of what it meant to the people here in MA

BjB: I saw a really cool site where people had built sculptures out of boxes, cans, and packages...that would make a great contest and good publicity for grocery stores

MidgeF: It's good in this article that there are some guidelines for making a documentary

NgochoaiT: yes my local mall supports that, different organization could build things from dried goods, there is a theme and an organization wins after the public judges

MidgeF: I am finding that there is not a lot of information on how students are supposed to create digital stories

BjB: oh, I disagree, Midge

BjB: there are lots of links here in this room

MidgeF: I see you have a quote from Jason's book. Mine has left Amazon

MidgeF: and it is on the way here

BjB: great! Jason has some wonderful ideas

MidgeF: I will look at them, but teachers are complaining that projects take too long to accomplish

NgochoaiT: yea

NgochoaiT: and districts have guidelines

BjB: sighs...everything is too rushed...

JoniaJ: They just don't want to spend the time in doing it or the district objects

BjB: no time to create actual learning

NgochoaiT: at least where I am, the main focus is on TAKs - its a Texas thing, Texas and testing

AstridH: very true:(

JoniaJ: In my school they say that they believe in quality but it's really quantity

MidgeF: It's the same complaint that people said about Webquests. Loved in theory and such...

BjB : let's move on to the second topic I have on the whiteboard for today...

JerLu: Testing has spread to all states. Unfortunately.

BjB : has anyone read Dan Pink's book A Whole New Mind?

JoniaJ: With what we are seeing in the schools, it would work out great if we could start a whole new school district that is focused on really teaching the kids

MidgeF: Parts of it

JerLu: Sorry. I haven't.

NgochoaiT: have not heard of it

AstridH: What is it about?

JoniaJ: Sorry I've never heard of it

MidgeF: It is widely read by us tech types

BjB . o O (related to Tom Friedman's The World is Flat)

CarolynP: no, I have not

MidgeF: I have the flat book in audible content but it is very long

BjB . o O (two recommended books when you have read all your textbooks ;-)

BjB : Dan has a blog

BjB : and on his blog he brings up a topic that was in his book...Emotionally Intelligent Signage

BjB : see if this still works http://www.danpink.com/archives/2007/08/pecha_kucha.php

NgochoaiT: um...

MidgeF: This emotional connection is widely agreed upon as a universal in digital storytelling

NgochoaiT: is it the right page?

BjB : yes, Ngochoai, but let's look at this first <http://www.danpink.com/>

BjB : scroll down to the kid holding the sign

BjB . o O (be nice or leave)

BjB : that is an example of emotionally intelligent signage

BjB : everyone see the sign?

JoniaJ : Yes

JerLu : yes

MidgeF : yes

BjB : Midge, this kind of signage could be a very brief kind of digital storytelling!

CarolynP : I love it

BjB : now take a look at the video at
http://www.danpink.com/archives/2007/08/pecha_kucha.php

MidgeF : This I have watched before

NgochoaiT : k

MidgeF : That's what I want to focus on...the smaller projects (We'll see!)

AstridH : So, tell a story from a picture...

MidgeF : I disagree with some of the "experts" on what digital storytelling MUST be...

BjB : tell a story about a sign....or make the sign more people friendly

NgochoaiT : trying to connect to emotions

BjB : signs distill language down to the basics

MidgeF : I have a WWII anecdote passed down from my grandmother

JoniaJ : I suppose people just want to get to the point and they don't think about presentation

BjB : correct, Jonia...but what is lost in the process?

MidgeF: The local grocery store in an effort to involve those at home wanted to collect fat for lubricating guns

JoniaJ: Emotion. Yes I know what the sign says but that doesn't help me feel any better about the directions or message

BjB . o O (a rude, brusque, and insensitive public)

BjB listens to Midge's story

MidgeF: and asked the local ladies via a sign in the store to "Bring your fat cans in on Wednesdays"

BjB laughs...I can see where this is going

MidgeF: I wish I had a photo of the sign.....

MidgeF: Naturally, the ladies objected...

BjB understands!

BjB my fat can is empathetic

AstridH: That is an awesome story! I can just imagine what images/pictures students could come up with from that

MidgeF: Much of curriculum leaves out the emotional linkage on purpose

NgochoaiT: yes, I think this is a pretty good idea

MidgeF: Of course, much of the video on the Web is blocked at schools (more every day)

JoniaJ: We need a couple of those signs in highly stressful areas like the DPS

NgochoaiT: haha definitely

BjB: empathetic signs can work with all grade levels

NgochoaiT: definitely

BjB: what about making a welcome sign for your classroom?

BjB: what would the children want their sign to reflect?

SusanR: empathetic signs..fascinating ..lots of applications to the classroom

MidgeF: How many of you have actually created videos with students?

BjB : not I.

NgochoaiT: nope

JoniaJ: not I

JerLu: ppts but not videos

NgochoaiT: havent been in class long enough

AstridH: I am not sure how to do that..I am sorry to say not I.

JoniaJ: We just learned to make videos last semester

MidgeF: Yes, I know you haven't been in the classroom long enough...

BjB . o O (I recommend you join the next Next Vista discussion...)

JoniaJ: Most kids would want the class to be seen as fun

AstridH: Are we even allowed to tape our students?

BjB . o O (www.nextvista.org)

MidgeF: Higher ed seems to be promoting this but schools are not taking time to do it

NgochoaiT: just don't broadcast it

BjB : right, Jonia

NgochoaiT: without permission

NgochoaiT: actually I did do it while I was in school

AstridH: I like your thinking...

BjB : lots of web 2.0 tools being developed to do videos and digital stories

MidgeF: Most students know how to make videos.. but not for school

JoniaJ: You could build a classroom video and book section on things they are interested in

BjB : problem is that you should start with a script...and that takes time. But it's great for language arts/ELD

MidgeF: Video making is fairly easy on a PC or a Mac but teachers haven't learned that as yet

CarolynP: combining the two concept - how about students interviewing each other on their funniest experience

BjB : good idea, Carolyn

AstridH: Thank you for the ideas

BjB : we have 10 minutes left...anything you want to discuss?

NgochoaiT: yes, it is very integrative

BjB : I recommend that you take some time and explore the resources in this group room

AstridH: Do you know of any great scripts that are simple and meaningful?

MidgeF: How many of you have watched The War?

JerLu: what is the easiest way to make videos on a PC/MAC?

BjB : are you familiar with Readers Theatre, Astrid?

AstridH: no.

BjB . o O (act out simple picture book stories)

JoniaJ: I love readers theatre but it's not always done in the classroom

MidgeF: On a PC you can make movies from still images with Photo Story and it is a free app

BjB gets a url for readers theater

AstridH: oh, that sounds good

JerLu: thanks Midge

MidgeF: Mac people widely use iMovie

BjB : <http://www.aaronshep.com/rt/RTE.html>

AstridH: thank you!

BjB: <http://www.teachingheart.net/readers theater.htm>

BjB: <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/langrt.htm>

NgochoaiT: yes readers theater is very fun for the children

NgochoaiT: but you must discuss voice before you begin

MidgeF: I made a movie as part of my Master's work and posted it at YouTube but I made it with movieMaker

BjB: http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=172

BjB stops hurling urls

MidgeF: fling away

BjB . o O (anything on readwritethink is good)

AstridH: I will check them out. thank you.

JonaiJ: Thanks

JerLu: is movieMaker a software I purchase?

BjB: and Aaron Shepard is the guru of readers theatre

JonaiJ: No. It's Windows Movie Maker and it's supposed to come with your computer

MidgeF: I like this idea which fits with this chat

JonaiJ: You can download it too I think

MidgeF: http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=171

JerLu: ok. Thanks, Jonia and Midge

NgochoaiT: thanks for the site

BjB: yes, perfect, Midge. Thanks

MidgeF: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/video.html>

MidgeF: Haven't checked links in a while...

JerLu: Ohhhh...this is a great site, Thanks!

BjB : Midge's tutorials are great

MidgeF: blush...I am semi-famous

AstridH: That's a very nifty idea to help kids make real/life connections with content.

BjB . o O (Midge is doing a session on Thanksgiving resources on October 23)

BjB . o O (mark your calendars ;-)

AstridH: will do!

MidgeF: Nope BJ that's November

MidgeF: Google in October

BjB : oh...drat....well, at least I got the October date correct ;-)

AstridH: will do anyway (both)

MidgeF: on my main page is a list of dates

MidgeF: <http://www.midgefrazel.net>

SusanR . o O (checks the calendar for Midge's Google presentation)

JerLu: LOL it took me awhile to finally get to this spot (definitely new to ti). I'll certainly try to get there!

MidgeF: It's the second of two...

BjB nods...it's coming back to me now, Midge ;-)

MidgeF: LOL BJB is always so perfect.. I am pleased

JerLu: LOL

BjB : ok, kiddos....it's about that time....

BjB : any last comments, questions?

MidgeF: Imperfection is wonderful

JoniaJ: Nope. Arigato

NgochoaiT: thank you

JerLu: Thanks. I enjoyed it and learned a lot.

JerLu: Bye all.

AstridH: I learned a lot, thank you for being so inviting and sharing your wealth of knowledge.

MidgeF: I am taking my fat can back now.. Nice to meet all of you

BjB: Storytelling will meet next on November 14

JoniaJ: Thanks BJ

MidgeF: I am staying up past my bedtime

BjB laughs...Midge, you are too much!

BjB hugs

AstridH: Till then, good night.

BjB: Thanks, everyone for joining the discussion

BjB waves goodnight

JoniaJ: Bon nuit all

MidgeF: Thanks!

SusanR: Thanks Midge

CarolynP: thank you all this was my first time and was very interesting!

BjB smiles. Glad you enjoyed.

BjB waves goodnight