

Frames Project Ideas—Language Arts

Frames is an engaging animation and digital storytelling tool students can use to build reading comprehension, literary analysis, research, and writing skills.

Reading Comprehension

Retelling

The American School for the Deaf is looking to bring young adult novels to life for their students. Your responsibility is to choose your favorite novel and create a short animation retelling the story using only visuals, with no sound and limited text. The goal is to create an animation that will focus students' attention on the actions of the characters to highlight the impact and importance of gestures and expression.

Point of View

Many students have read or seen *Wicked*, the story of *The Wizard of Oz* as told by Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West. *Wicked* effectively demonstrates how the narrator's point of view affects how a reader feels about events in a narrative. In this project, students analyze a scene from a story and retell the events as they appear from the perspective of another character.

Elements

A local media company is compiling a series of animated mysteries based on the works of famous American writers and poets. They are currently accepting submissions based on the work of Edgar Allan Poe. Choose one of Poe's works, such as "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Raven", or "The Tell-Tale Heart," and create an animation that summarizes the basic elements and identifies the emotions evoked by the work.

Literature and Literary Analysis

Genres

The school librarian is asking for students to help create a collection of videos to promote books in the library. Your class has volunteered to create videos that explore the different genres in literature. Create an animation to be placed on a kiosk in the library that promotes a specific genre.

Script Writing

Producers from a popular television talk show want to expand their demographics by including a literary segment in each episode. They are requesting audition tapes depicting interviews with characters from well-known novels. Create an animated interview with a character from your favorite novel, including questions about events in the novel as well as insight from your character about current events and other topics.

Author's Persona

The A&E Channel plans to add a podcast section to their web site showcasing influential writers and poets from the 19th century. They would like the first episode to be about Oscar Wilde's public persona during his American lecture tour in 1882. Take time to study articles, both that promote and discredit him, as well as images used to advertise this tour. Create a podcast that examines a caricature from the lecture tour along with another image you have found, and explain how the images characterize Wilde.

Adaptation

The public library in your city is starting a month-long campaign highlighting books that have been adapted into movies. Your school has been asked to help by the local public library to review young adult novels that have been made into movies. Analyze the differences between the print and film versions of a book of your choice, and consider how the adaptation from book to movie affected the story. Which was better, the print version or the movie? Why? Create an animated movie trailer for the city library to promote the book you selected, and explain why a viewer should read the book as well as see the film.

Video Poetry

The National Poetry Council has decided to broadcast short poems set to music and pictures to introduce TV viewers to poetry. Due to positive initial response, they need help building their collection of televised poetry. Choose a favorite poem and analyze. Explore the verse, meter, and imagery, and choose pictures and music that will help convey the author's meaning.

Media Literacy

Theme

Youth Rock TV is launching a new educational series on how songwriters develop themes with their music. As one of their youth interns, you've been assigned to contribute by exploring Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire". This song's lyrics include references to people, places and events spanning four decades. Research and categorize events mentioned in the song and find images to help illustrate their historical relevance. Create a new animated video about the song to educate viewers on the themes and events the lyrics retell.

Fair Use/Copyright

Your school is having issues with students and teachers understanding fair use and copyright. Who owns what you compose? Who controls what happens with the words, images, music, sounds, and videos you create? What rights do you have to use other people's compositions? Create a PSA to show at a school assembly that will explain this important topic to students, staff, and community members.



