

1. ArtisanCam Picture Book Maker-

<http://www.artisancam.org.uk/flashapps/picturebookmaker/picturebookmaker.php?PHPSESSID=cba2b50a15700462b92b17052c9bf55d>

This is a fantastic resource for K-2 teachers and students. It allows students to create their very own online picture book. It allows up to 6 blank pages with a front and back cover. Students can select from 8 background pictures, 4 animal pictures, and 19 object pictures to place onto the pages. You can also adjust the sizes of the objects and characters. To enter text, you simply click "Write" and a pencil appears allowing you to insert a text box wherever you want on the pages. I really like the font they use, which is good because you cannot change the style or the size of the font. Since it would be very easy for K-2 students to use but it has limited pictures, I give this web tool a 4/6.

I believe ArtisanCam Picture Book Maker would support the situated learning approach because students would learn how to write a story from the teacher and then learn how to publish a book using the Picture Book Maker. Two ways I would use this in my classroom: 1) Have students write a short story on paper and then let them "publish" their story in a picture book using this web tool or 2) Read a published picture book and let students recreate the story in their own version using the picture book maker or create an alternate ending. Once finished, you can email or print the book for parents, relatives, or friends.

(Reference: Situation Learning.

<https://online.ksu.edu/Templating/courseHomePage/index.jsp?courseId=8341>)

This would be a motivational tool for students to learn the basic elements of a story and apply their knowledge. Therefore, I give it a 6/6.

Overall rating: 10/12

2. Glogster - <http://www.glogster.com/>

Glogster is a fun, interactive, and collaborative tool that could be used by teachers and students to present information. It's basically an online poster that you can add video, pictures, text, graphics, and sound to. There are hundreds of different options for presentation, and it could be used for personal sharing or professional sharing in a classroom. There are so many options and so many different things you can do, it is a little bit overwhelming. I would say this tool would be appropriate for ages 12+ or grades 7-12. You have to create a (free) account in order to save and share your work online. If you're a teacher, you have the option of subscribing to an upgraded account, which allows you more options in managing your students' glogs and presenting information. You have the option of publishing your glog so anyone online can view it, or you can keep it private. Due to having to pay to have the "upgraded" services, I have to give it a 5/6.

Glogster is a great place to share many different videos, pictures, and text without having to navigate through several webpages since they are all located on one poster page. Ideas for use in the classroom 1) Assign a group of students a topic, such as "segregation in the 1950s", and allow them to create a glogster highlighting issues and events 2) Have students pretend they are newspaper reporters and create an "online newspaper page" that is interactive and

informative about a current topic. There are so many different uses for teaching and learning using a glogster for both students and teachers that I give it a 6/6.

Overall rating: 11/12

3. KidBlog - <http://kidblog.org/home.php>

This is a blogging website created specifically for younger students, elementary to middle school; I would use it with 3rd-8th grade students. It is very teacher-friendly and easy to set up an account (it's free!). A teacher sets up her class and then can add students by giving them a username and password. Students do not even need an email address, which is nice. It has privacy settings that allow the creator to limit those who can view posts and comments to only those with a username or password, or just the teacher. There is also a "post-approval" option that allows the teacher to prevent any obscene or inappropriate posts by students. Tabs at the top of the webpage make it simple to navigate through. The possibilities are endless and because it is so kid friendly and teacher friendly, I rate this 6/6.

KidBlog supports a community of practice since students can "engage in joint activities and discussions, help each other, and share information through the blogging and comment feature." (Reference: Community of Practice.

<https://online.ksu.edu/templating/courseHomePage/index.jsp?courseId=8341>)

Two ways this could be used with students: 1) Teacher (or students) could post weekly discussion questions about the book students are reading in class and students could respond or 2) Parents or students could use it to post questions about homework, upcoming events, or discuss projects with teacher and/or each

other. I like that KidBlog gives younger students a chance to engage in a protective online learning environment and therefore, I give a 6/6 for this section.

Overall rating: 12/12