Suggested Apps to Support Literacy

Book Creator for Ipad - £4.99

Book Creator is a simple tool for creating awesome digital books. Create your own teaching resources or have your students take the reins. Combine text, images, audio and video to create:

- Interactive stories
- Digital portfolios
- Research journals
- Poetry books
- Science reports
- Instruction manuals
- 'About me' books
- Comic adventures

Complete the Sentence for Kids

Aimed at children aged seven to thirteen. The app involves children choosing the correct word to complete a sentence from three possibilities, with questions covering tenses, male/female gender, singular/plural words, participles, degrees of comparison, adjectives, verbs, and more. There's lots of positive reinforcement, with a cheerful crocodile character who dances when the child gets an answer right, and makes funny faces if they're wrong. There are five levels of increasing difficulty, with 200 sentences per level. To progress to the next level, the child has to get at least seven out of 10 answers right. Level one is free to access, but you can unlock all five levels for £1.99.

The Dadwavers App - £2.49

Created by The Literacy Shed this is a tool that can be used by teachers and students to help with their writing. The app provides a word bank, over 70 model sentences and a model text for each of the following genres: Adventure, Fairy Tales, Fantasy, Ghostly, Mystery, Myths and Legends and Sci Fi.

The model sentences are broken down into 8 sections:

> Description; Action; Dialogue; Where; Adverb; Verb, Estimation of time, Rhetorical Questions, Simile or Metaphors

DADWAVERS - helps us remember these.

Dragon Egg ELA £3.99

This taps into the idea that children learn better when it's fun, with a games-based approach to teaching punctuation, grammar and vocabulary concepts. In the app, the child is responsible for their baby dragon egg, and needs to provide it with food, fun and learning by taking it to Dragon School. There, they are challenged with a series of quizzes, each testing a particular concept such as commas, colons and semicolons, apostrophes and quotation marks. They earn gold for answering questions correctly, which can be spent on clothing and feeding their egg, and playing mini games.

The basic version of the app provides free access to the punctuation suite of questions. You can unlock other quizzes, such as grammar and vocabulary, for £1.99 each, or the entire package for £3.99, where children can practice skills such as finding synonyms, using prefixes and suffixes and changing tenses.

Grammar Express: Tenses £4.99

One important area of grammar for primary school children to master is verb tenses and how they operate. This app, ideal for children in upper KS2, will give their understanding of tenses a good workout.

Grammar Express: Tenses includes notes explaining how each English tense works, including the various forms of present, past and future tense, irregular verbs, and the verb 'be.' These notes are quite technical, so be prepared to help children read through them. They can then test their understanding with comprehensive 50-question quizzes, which require them to identify the tense being used, or choose the correct tense of a verb to complete a sentence. They can choose whether to be timed or not.

At the end of each test, children can review their answers and see which ones they got wrong. The app includes over 1000 examples of using tenses, and over 750 questions, with a progress meter for children to see how they are doing. There are also Grammar Express apps for parts of speech, prepositions, nouns, and more.

The Lists for Writers app by Thinkamingo £2.99

https://thinkamingo.com/lists-for-writers/ Are you stuck in a rut? Do you have writer's block? Need a quick plot idea for that short story writing assignment that's due tomorrow? **Lists for Writers** is here to help! *What is it?* Lists for Writers is exactly that – lists for writers. We've compiled a variety of lists to help writers, both young and old, come up with brainstorming ideas.

Mr Thorne Does Phonics Safari £1.99

Welcome to Mr Thorne Does Phonics: Safari.

The phonics app from Mr Thorne and the 18th educational app overall since the hugely successful Mr Thorne Does Phonics video series on Youtube. This app has been created by Mr Thorne, a current UK primary teacher making it relevant and useful to children, parents, teachers, trainee teachers and anyone learning to read English. The app features 4 games to

help with sound recognition, word recognition, phoneme to grapheme correspondence and grapheme to phoneme correspondence. For ages 3 to 8 but can be used with older children.

Mr Thorne's Grammar School £3.99

The app features 20 aspects of English grammar, ranging from capital letters to parts of speech, synonyms and antonyms and homophones. For each grammar concept, there are four types of quiz to test your child's knowledge: Missing Words, Odd One Out, Word Hunt and Spelling. There's also an overall reading test designed to help your child revisit all the skills they've learned.

As a child completes the exercises, they collect points towards grammar awards, from Beginner to World Class. Also check out Mr Thorne does phonics, Mr Thorne's spell book, Mr Thorne's phonics flash cards, Mr Thorne's reading comprehension.

Phonics Hero

https://www.phonicshero.com/

It uses a synthetic phonics approach. It takes children through six steps from knowing the sounds, reading words with these sounds, spelling words, reading camera words (high frequency or irregular, spelling camera words, sentence reading. Children do a test at the start so that they start at a suitable level. There is a free 7 day trial offered.

Puppet Pals App

This app comes in a free or 'directors cut' version which is £3.99.

In the free version children can choose from 8 characters and three backdrops. They are then given a stage where they can create stories and move characters around, before recording their stories. When these are played back it creates a seamless story. This creative app is a great opportunity to work with an adult or friends/siblings to create different scene and story lines. A wonderful opportunity to develop early storytelling and speaking skills. Play is open ended and limited only by children's imagination. The paid version includes the option of putting children's pictures in to the apps - even greater for sharing and sense of self and personalisation.

The Reading Realm App

https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/app/

The Reading Realm offers support, guidance, inspiration and a wealth of resources to use and adapt in your class. There are discussion prompts, each linked to a range of reading skills. There are also interactive spelling, word and grammar games linked to each passage and extract. Children will also be offered book recommendations, have the chance to review the passages they have read and to take part in weekly reading challenges. The discussion prompts are there to give ideas for you to explore with their classes – there are no right or wrong answers; these are simply meant to facilitate book talk and offer a starting point for open, honest, authentic dialogue. The Reading Realm focuses on reading for pleasure and enjoyment, debate, thoughtful conversation and giving the children the opportunity to lead any discussions. The app will certainly be a wonderful addition in supporting children during

guided reading, whole class reading, one to one reading, research and independent reading time. The app provides focus, depth, a wealth of rich and varied texts and the space and time for children to consider, reflect, learn and enjoy. £2.99 to download but prices available for school use by contacting Ian Eagleton at ian@thereadingrealm.co.uk.

Spellodrome
https://uk.spellodrome.com
Spellodrome encourages the development of critical spelling awareness. Visual, Phonological, Morphemic and Etymological. Schools can use their own word lists for children to then try an array of games, activities and challenges. A free trial is available. A 12 month subscription for one child is £39 with a 20% discount on 2 or more students.

Squeebles Punctuation £2.99
Designed in conjunction with UK teachers. Aimed at children aged 5 to 11, there are a variety of punctuation topics, across several difficulty levels, which allow children to practise their punctuation skills in a fun, interactive environment. The app contains a rewards system that will keep children motivated and wanting to work hard. Squeebles Punctuation has no in-app purchases, no ads and no internet links.

The Story Machines
Created by Alan Peat an Educational Consultant and Publisher who has been an LEA adviser for English and a G and T Co-ordinator.
The Science Fiction Story Machine £1.49
 https://alanpeat.com/product/the-science-fiction-story-machine/
It helps both pupils and busy classroom teachers to plan Science Fiction stories (over a million combinations are possible…and that's no exaggeration!).

The machine has 8 parts:
> Opening; Main character/s; Other character/s; Setting; Dilemma; Random Language Feature; Objects; Ending

Pupils 'spin' each of the eight parts of the machine (up to three times) to reveal a HUGE range of genre-appropriate ideas.
When ALL eight parts have been 'spun' the story machine collates all of the ideas into one printable sheet which can be used as a stimulus for a science fiction story.
It's NOT prescriptive – pupils can include as many of the ideas as they wish but they don't have to include all of them. Whether they include a few or every one they certainly will be learning a great deal about the genre.

Also available *The myths and legends story machine* and *Fairytales story machine*
There are a range of other apps on literacy areas available. https://alanpeat.com/apps/

Vocab Lab App
A Free resource from Vocabulary ninja https://www.vocabularyninja.co.uk/   The app provides 100 commonly overused words and offers over 600 possible alternatives.

Wordshark
https://www.wordshark.co.uk/ Wordshark provides a fun and effective solution for students learning to read and spell, whether they find spelling easy or difficult. The program combines carefully developed games and structured content to bring positive results for all students. It is suitable for pupils with dyslexia. This is now available as an online resource. A free trial is available but subscription costs £360 for 30 students per year, £450 for 100 students.

National Literacy Trust Review of Apps for children up to age 5
http://literacyapps.literacytrust.org.uk/category/all-apps/
This can be search by age, features of learning (speaking, reading, writing, listening and attention and understanding. Very clear, useful reviews for parents and educators.

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