

Reading Workshop on the Web

Summary: Technology and the Internet offer new, rich and innovative ways for students to engage with books and each other. In an article for *The Reading Teacher*, two professors discuss concrete methods for using these opportunities to create a “Reading Workshop 2.0” that embraces the digital age.

Practical Applications

The authors offer suggestions in four main areas:

- **Reading**
 - In addition to print books, children can gain from reading on e-readers such as Kindles or Nooks, or even iPads. These types of devices not only provide students with the ability to change font size, hide different amounts of text, etc., but also to access online dictionaries and other resources. Also, this is a good way for students to access non-fiction text such as children’s newspapers and magazines.
- **Sharing**
 - Students can catalog, review and share what they are reading via free sites such as Goodreads.com, Shelfari.com and LibraryThing.com. These sites go beyond the normal reading journal in that students can highlight key sections of text or easily see books in a similar genre they may want to pursue
 - With sites like these, students can share with students from around the nation and the globe and see what they are reading. Sites like www.uclass.org exist to foster these classroom-to-classroom connections.
- **Discussing**
 - In addition to the above sites, technology such as Skype, FaceTime and iChat provide the opportunity for students to connect with other students to discuss the books they are reading. Many sites like Goodreads.com allow for the joining of online discussion groups (which can be done anonymously).
 - The Internet also provides access to author’s websites as well as review sites like Childrenslit.com which can provide a rich source of additional information
- **Analyzing**
 - There are many electronic tools that can be used to aid in students’ analysis of books, including video-sharing sites like Youtube or Schooltube and programs like PowerPoint, Wordle.com (a word cloud-creation site), Glogster.com (a poster-creation site), etc.

Conclusion and Citation

Technology provides a fantastic opportunity not to necessarily discard the traditional methods of reading instruction, but to integrate them and enhance them with new innovations that meet students in the new digital age in which they live.

Serafini, F. & Youngs, S. “Reading Workshop 2.0: Children’s Literature in the Digital Age” *The Reading Teacher* 66.5 (Feb. 2013), pp. 401-404. <http://bit.ly/14PwCPw> (subscription only).