

Learning through... storytelling!

Storytelling supports learning in so many ways! We have learned a lot about what kind of learning happens when children make their own narratives. Using the [Exploratorium's Learning Dimension Framework](#) as an observational tool, here are some of the learning themes you can expect to see in these activities:

Initiative

After a child has made a puppet, or drawn a picture of a setting, their story almost immediately starts to build in their mind. We see a lot of:

- Goal setting for stories and planning the steps necessary to create it
- Actively seeking or giving feedback to each other about stories, props, or characters
- Persisting towards a goal, even when frustrated with technology or materials

Social Scaffolding

Stories, especially interactive digital ones, are better and more successful when working with a partner. You will regularly see:

- Interacting with each other's work through play or working together
- Taking inspiration or "copying" from strategies that work for another person
- "Remixing" on each other's ideas in retellings or rehearsals of stories

Engagement

When provided the open ended opportunity to create narratives, kids are very engaged. We regularly see:

- Creative play, inspired by made objects
- Drawn, written or acted narratives inspired by materials and creations
- Emotions such as excitement, pride, and joy
- Continued and sustained play and making even after the first puppet, play, or story is made



Digital Storytelling Facilitation Guide

Storytelling is a core practice at the Bubbler. We support storytelling with youth in many different ways, striving to meet kids where they are and in ways that interest them. Here are some of our digital tools and practices we use to support narrative creation and play with kids.

- Early elementary to teens
- Medium Facilitation needs
- 1 - 2 hours
- Can be organized for drop-in or scheduled programming
- Small to medium sized workshops work best

Materials in this kit:

- Ipad
- Green Screen Rig
- Book easels
- Dry erase markers
- Dry erase boards
- Comic/Storyboard templates
- Thin tipped markers & pens
- Copy paper
- Markers
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Various art supplies for puppet making (feathers, google eyes, etc)
- Props and other materials (play dough, green sheets, etc.

Things to know:

There are so many ways to tell stories

This is a mix and match activity. There are lots of entry points for kids whether they love to draw, or if they are delighted (or too shy!) to get in front of the camera. By making puppets or using props rather than drawings for stop motion, you tailor an activity to your students.

Be flexible!

Some of your kids will want to act, others will want to draw, others still will want to write their story. They may also start one and abandon it for another. Or want to work in pairs or alone. Think about how to accommodate many different strengths.

Take the time

Stories are often not written in 1 sitting. If you have time to spread steps over many days or sessions that is ideal. Kids may work on one story the whole time or many different smaller stories, but they will always be building on narrative skills.

Inspirational texts



Kitten's first full moon
by Kevin Henkes

Wonderful examples of comic frames and how to use them to show action, perspective etc.



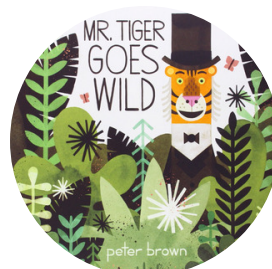
Journey
by Aaron Becker

Amazing background illustrations for green screens



Chalk
by Bill Thompson

Amazing background illustrations for green screens



Mr. Tiger Goes Wild
by Peter Brown

Amazing background illustrations for green screens

Digital Storytelling!

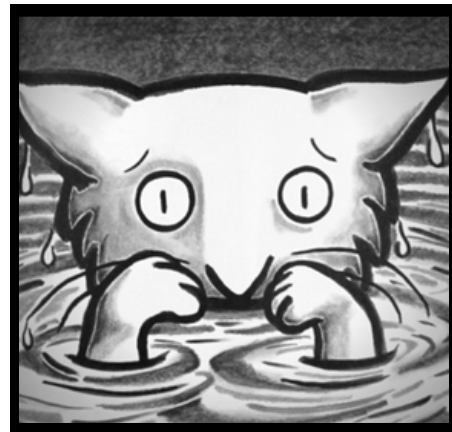
Connect to comics

Comics are a fun way to engage kids who love to draw or who love super heroes in storytelling. Comics can be done on paper with pre-created frames, or digitally with several apps. Comics can also be an excellent planning tool for a digital project.

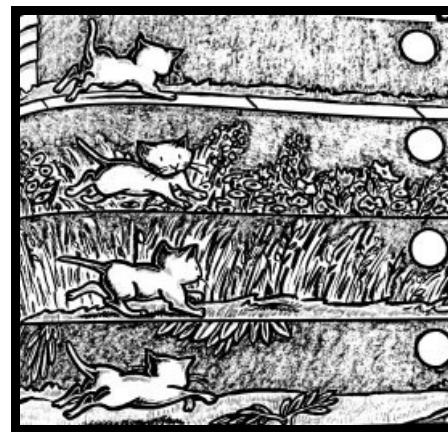
Best Practices

- Provide templates ([see ours at Madisonbubbler.org](http://Madisonbubbler.org)) and a variety of drawing materials
- Walk older students through Comic Concepts like:

Close Ups



Actions Frames



(These examples and others in Kevin Henkes' Kitten's First Full Moon)

Free Comic Apps



Comic Page Creator (Google & iOS)

A simple app that allows you to use your own photos for comic backgrounds and easily change character expressions and looks.



Seedly Comic Studio (Google & iOS)

Insert yourself into your own comics! Take photos, add masks or capes, sound effect bubbles, and dialogue boxes.



Toontastic 3D animator (Google & iOS)

Take a photo of your face to put onto your 3D avatar. Record your voice (and your friend's voices) telling stories in funny scenery and walk your avatar around the screen.

Stop Motion Animation



Stop Motion Studio for iOS



iMovie for iOS

Green Screen Videos



Veescape for iOS



Stop Motion animation is a great way to make your illustrations come to life. Use a comic frame to plan your movie or just jump into the action!

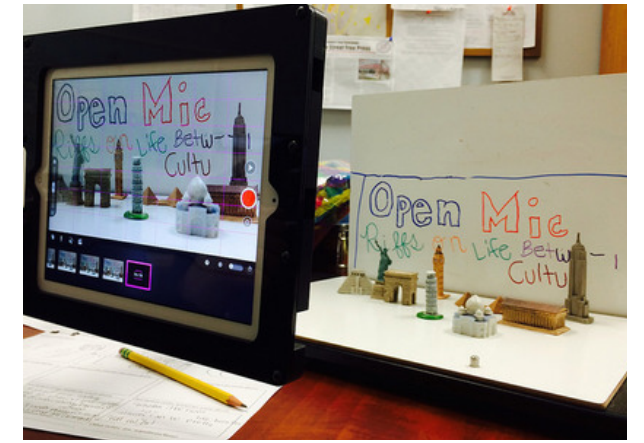
Best Practices:

For shorter sessions or larger groups:

- Consult the Bubbler's Stop Motion Studio instructions available on Madisonbubbler.org
- Stay in the 2D realm and draw recreatable figures and backgrounds on dry erase boards to make animations "the old fashioned way"
- Have plenty of erasers and colors of markers on hand!
- Use library book stands to hold your iPad steady as you take photos or move your figures

With more time or older students:

- Use props like recycled toys, play dough, or action figures to move around in your movie.
- Have students create their own backgrounds by drawing, making collages, or finding and printing image
- Add sound effects, music, or spoken dialogue by exporting your animation into iMovie to continue editing!



Using a green screen to allow your story to take place in any setting! Using the app Veescape you can use any image for a background that is in your camera roll - your own photo, downloaded images, or pics of your own drawings!

With Veescape you can also turn any colorful wall into your green screen (even if it isn't green!). Or use an inexpensive fabric screen or a paint a wall with green screen paint for a permanent studio.

Best Practices:

- Have many options for engagement. Encourage kids to make puppets or other characters if they are nervous to get in front of the camera themselves.
- Use props! Green fabric can be used to make it look like you are a floating head or wearing Harry Potter's Invisibility Cloak.
- Make a music video! By recording your green screen video, then editing your movie in iMovie, you can lip sync along to your favorite song.
- Create your own setting by drawing or collaging a picture, snapping a photo and uploading into Veescape as your background (avoid the color green in your picture!)
- See the Bubbler's Veescape instructions at Madisonbubbler.org!

