



# Technology in Action Guide

## Elementary English Language Arts



### Practice Standards Connections

#### READING

Key ideas & details  
Craft & structure  
Integration of knowledge & ideas  
Range of reading & level of text complexity

#### LANGUAGE

Conventions of standard English  
Knowledge of language  
Vocabulary acquisition & use

#### WRITING

Text types & purpose  
Production & distribution of writing  
Research to build & present knowledge  
Range of writing

#### SPEAKING & LISTENING

Comprehension & collaboration  
Presentation of knowledge & ideas



### Reading Tools



**NewsELA** has news articles that can be searched by topic and then printed in different Lexile levels. The same article on Lions can be printed in Lexile level 450 through 950 so that all students can read the content in a level that is comfortable for them and then be able to participate in a project or conversation on the subject of the article. Educators can also create text sets to assign to a class, create quizzes and include writing assignments.  
<https://newsela.com/>



**ReadWorks Digital** is the partner resource to ReadWorks.org platform that offers reading comprehension support. The resource works on Windows, Macbooks, Chromebooks and iOS devices. Included on the website are Nonfiction and literary articles, Question sets, Vocabulary support, Paired Texts, Step Reads, Audio versions of articles, and an Article-A-Day™. <http://digital.readworks.org/>



**EPIC!** has FREE elementary level eBooks!!!! Educators can create a free account with 36 students each. Students can check out books and read them on iOS or Android devices, ChromeBooks or any internet browser. Early Readers, Chapter Books, Non-Fiction, Read-to-Me Audio, and more. Educators need to sign up at the link provided here and choose the "get started" button within the picture. This is not the standard sign up. You will receive an email saying you have an educators account. If you receive an email that says "trial", call them to change to educator's account.  
<https://www.getepic.com/educators>



**Storyline Online** is a website that incorporates the idea that reading to children has been repeatedly shown to improve their reading, writing and communication skills, logical thinking, concentration and general academic aptitude, as well as inspire a love of reading. The SAG-AFTRA Foundation records well-known actors reading children's books (James Earl Jones reading To Be A Drum) and makes graphically dynamic videos so that children around the world can be read to with just the click of a Storyline Online video book image. New books are added periodically. The offer alternative players if your school blocks YouTube, just select the "players" button on the top left of the page to choose. <http://www.storylineonline.net/>



**Natural Readers** is a text to speech online platform that converts any written text into spoken words. This web free version allows unlimited usage of the "free voices", supports PDF, Docx, RTF and Txt documents. Users can also Copy/Paste text into the box and select the play button at the top. There are 18 English (American and UK) voices, 8 Spanish, plus many more on the FREE platform. There are also 14 different "speeds" that can be set.  
<http://bit.ly/2glkC1l>



**Learn Out Loud** is a platform that has free audio and video titles of literature in contemporary, classics, literary history, drama, poetry, and short stories to name a few. Listen to the Scarlet Letter or the Chronicles of Narnia read from the voice of an actor or the author themselves will give a new voice to the story. Most of the files can be downloaded and played later, all can be streamed.  
<http://www.learnoutloud.com/Free-Audio-Video/Literature>



### Language Tools



**Character Scrapbook** - interactive platform students can use to create a detailed account of characters from stories or books. users can choose "person" or "animal" when starting the building process. The person choice allows changes to hair, eyes, nose, mouth, and clothes. On the opposite page there are six categories for users to complete about the character.- Things I know, words to describe, details on appearance, personality traits, challenges faced, and accomplishments. Each category can collect 10 items of text. No login is required to use and printing of the completed book is available. (Must enable flash) <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/scrapbook/>



**Vocabulary.com** this is a smart dictionary with an adaptive learning game that will have students mastering new words in no time. Educators can sign up for a free account and create as many classes as they need. The platform has ready made vocabulary lists from literature, historical documents, speeches, test prep, and news. educators can edit those lists or create lists to study. The free version has limited tracking and statistics, but educators are able to monitor how the students are doing and what words they are struggling with. Schools and districts have the option to pay for an EDUCATOR EDITION. <https://www.vocabulary.com/>

## Writing Tools



**Little Bird Tales** is a digital storytelling and lesson creation site intended primarily for kids in Pre K - 6th grade. Users can create stories, reports, interviews, podcasts, interactive lessons, etc. using their own photos, drawings, jpg images, text, and voice. The tales and completed lessons will playback in a slideshow style format, with audio (if recorded). Educators have a free account and can share the created books via email or as a "public" book. No downloads of the created book is available unless the account is a paid account. Currently the cost is \$24.99/ year for 1 educators and 20 students. <https://littlebirdtales.com/>



**Storybird** is an online writing platform that educators can create a class account and manage students where student emails are not required. Students can create stories/books using artwork/graphics provided by artists curated from Storybird. Books can either be simple "picture" books (K-5) to Long form Chapter books (5-9). Storybird does have a monetary component with the ability to purchase the books that the students have created. This is also the only way to "print" off the work that has been created by the students. PDF printing currently cost \$1.99 per story or by "credits" earned by parents purchasing books. (\$12.99 and up) <https://storybird.com/>



**WriteReader** is an ebook creator for students that haven't even started writing yet. Students insert a picture, either by taking a photo with a tablet or webcam, type how they think the words are written and then the "adult" type under their words the correct words. Students can also record themselves saying the words on each page. These books can be created online, or using an iOS / Android device. Ebooks can be shared via sending the link in an email. The books are hosted online and can be marked as private library. <https://writereader.com/>



**Rhyme Zone** is a simple platform that allows users to input a word or phrase, select search and then get a return words or phrases that rhyme or nearly rhyme. There are also options for synonyms, antonyms, homophones and many other choices. There are other advanced features available also. No login is required to use this platform. <http://www.rhymezone.com/?loc=bar>



**Pobble 365** is a Picture a Day story starter with additional resources. The pictures are magnificent and thought provoking and come with activities that can be either shared on a projector or downloaded in the provided PDF's. Educators can also browse previous days photos and content if they are looking for a specific topic or concept connection. Below each photo there are sections with activities. <http://www.pobble365.com/>



## Speaking and Listening Tools



**Next Vista for Learning** provides a library of free videos made by and for teachers and students everywhere. All content is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution. There are over 1800 videos on the website. Students can check on the latest "video challenge" to get ideas to create an entry and join the community. <http://www.nextvista.org/>



**Padlet** is a simple way to create and collaborate. It works like a sheet of paper where users can put anything (images, videos, documents, text) anywhere, from any device (pcs, tablets, phones), together with anyone. \*\*New free accounts only have 3 boards, but can be redone to a new board. <https://padlet.com>



**School Tube** is a video platform for students and teachers to upload video creations. School Tube offers suggested educational websites that houses content for classrooms. This platform provides opportunities for students to share video work with an "authentic audience" in a controlled privacy environment. Many schools share daily news broadcasts and PSA videos. <http://www.schooltube.com/>



**Haiku Deck** is an online presentation slide creator that works on all platforms, There is also a ChromeBook and iPad app. Everyone can have a free account, however all slide decks created on the free account are public and can be seen and are searchable, so caution to what information the students are posting. Educators can create paid accounts that are private and have more options, currently the cost is \$5/mo. <https://www.haikudeck.com/>



**edublogs** allows for educators to create a class account and control the postings of the students. Students are also not required to have email accounts. \*\*\*\*\*UPDATE 2/2/2017 EduBlogs is now complete FREE\*\*\*\* All accounts now have complete access to all resources including more space, templates, teacher controls, privacy controls...etc. This makes EduBlogs a GOTO platform for classroom blogging sites for early elementary through high school! <http://edublogs.org/>



**Blabberize** is a platform that can be used to present information in a whimsical way. Whether it is telling a story that a student wrote in English class or retelling a tale of war from 1812 from a llama? or maybe a group of sheep? Students can take any photo, "cut" around the mouth, record their voice reading or saying anything and then Blabberize will do the rest. The platform will sync the cutout to match with the words being spoken and "talk" when played back. All videos can be saved and shared either embedded or to a hard drive/portable memory device. <http://blabberize.com/>

## Even MORE Resources

To find more resources and the latest up-to-date technology to support technology integration, please visit [www.ilclassroomtech.weebly.com](http://www.ilclassroomtech.weebly.com).

- ◆ Assessment tools
- ◆ Audio/video tools
- ◆ Content area support
- ◆ Digital portfolios
- ◆ Computer science
- ◆ Learning management systems
- ◆ Mobile apps
- ◆ Research tools
- ◆ Social Emotional Learning
- ◆ Technology terms

## Technology in Action—Elementary English Language Arts

The screenshot shows the 'Tech for Teachers' website. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with categories: Home, Assessment, Instruction, Differentiated Instruction, Learning to Create, Microsoft, Google Apps, Open Educational Resources, Presentation/Visual Arts, Research Tools, Social Emotional Learning, Research Tools, Technology Terms, and Resources. The main content area features a large blue header with the text 'Tech FOR TEACHERS' and a 'Welcome!' message. The message states: 'The Illinois Department of Education Tech for Teachers website is designed to connect classroom teachers with a variety of resources and ideas to support the integration of technology into their instruction. Educators have a wide range of digital materials and tools to choose from. The purpose of this site is to provide a central location for those who do not have the time to investigate the many excellent tools currently available. All of the resources reviewed on this website are free to access or they have a free component for educators. Some may have an optional available at a cost. All platforms are K-12 unless there is a specific grade level within the platform description. Reviews are accurate as of the review dates otherwise specified in the descriptions. Please provide feedback regarding items listed to the email at the bottom of each page in the comment will automatically change. The resources listed here do not constitute an endorsement or favoring by the Illinois State Board of Education.' At the bottom, there is a search bar and a note: 'Note: To find resources on this site, Technology can be used for so many different purposes that it can be difficult to find a tool even the narrow listed on available. As you will see there is a search box located on EACH webpage to assist with finding items that could be listed in multiple locations. The search box will return items from the website that match the words entered. If you are looking for "teacher" items that will return everything that matches the word "teacher" on the website, regardless of the page.'