



# Digital storytelling for the development of productive and collaborative skills

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# What is story telling?

Tell me a fact and I'll learn  
Tell me a truth and I'll believe  
Tell me a story and I'll  
remember it forever



**"Storytelling is the conveying of events in words, and images, often by improvisation or embellishment"**

# Why do people engage in storytelling?



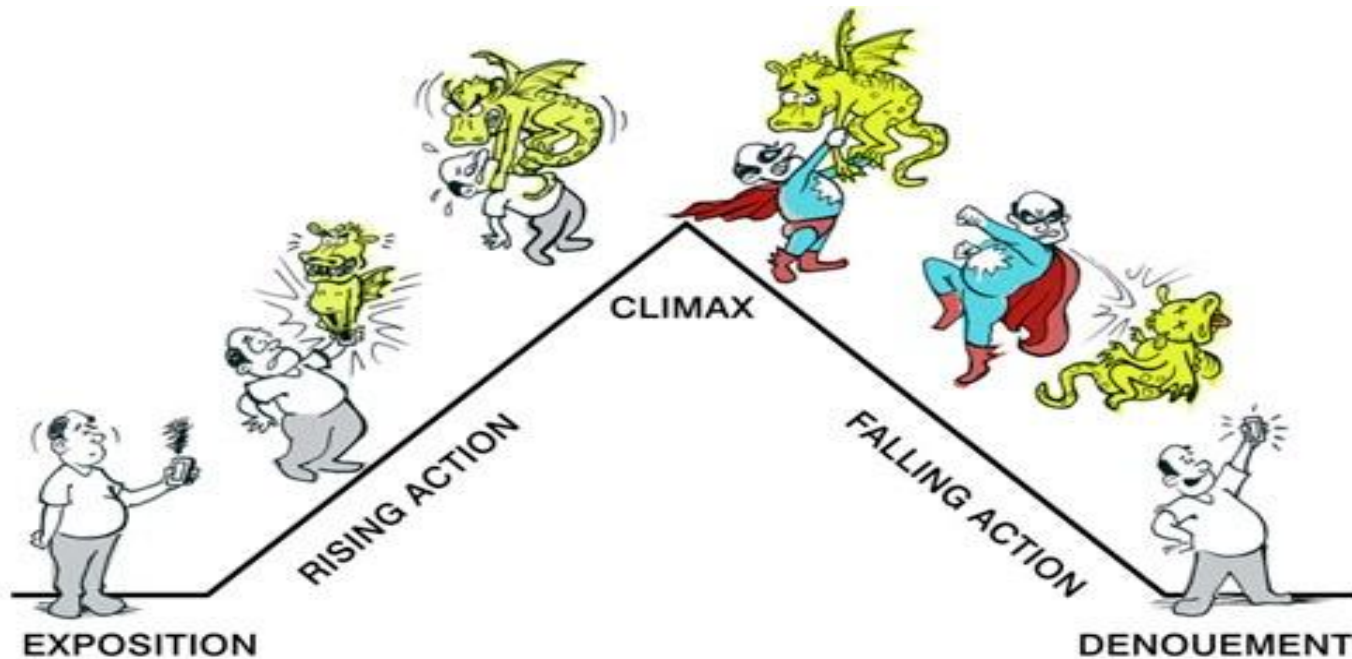
- stories traditionally transmit knowledge, traditions, beliefs, cultural norms and ethics
- stories use metaphors and hidden messages that help us to understand difficult concepts and themes
- stories provide a channel for conveying a deeper message based on emotion

# Storytelling in education



- storytelling is inextricably connected to learning;
- composing a story is a process of meaning-making;
- stories help us visualise, process and remember information;
- stories can motivate an audience toward a learning goal;
- the contextualised meanings conveyed through stories make learning more effective;
- organizing information into a format with a beginning, middle and ending can work for many topics;
- stories are ideal for **attitudinal training** with the audience identifying themselves with the story characters.

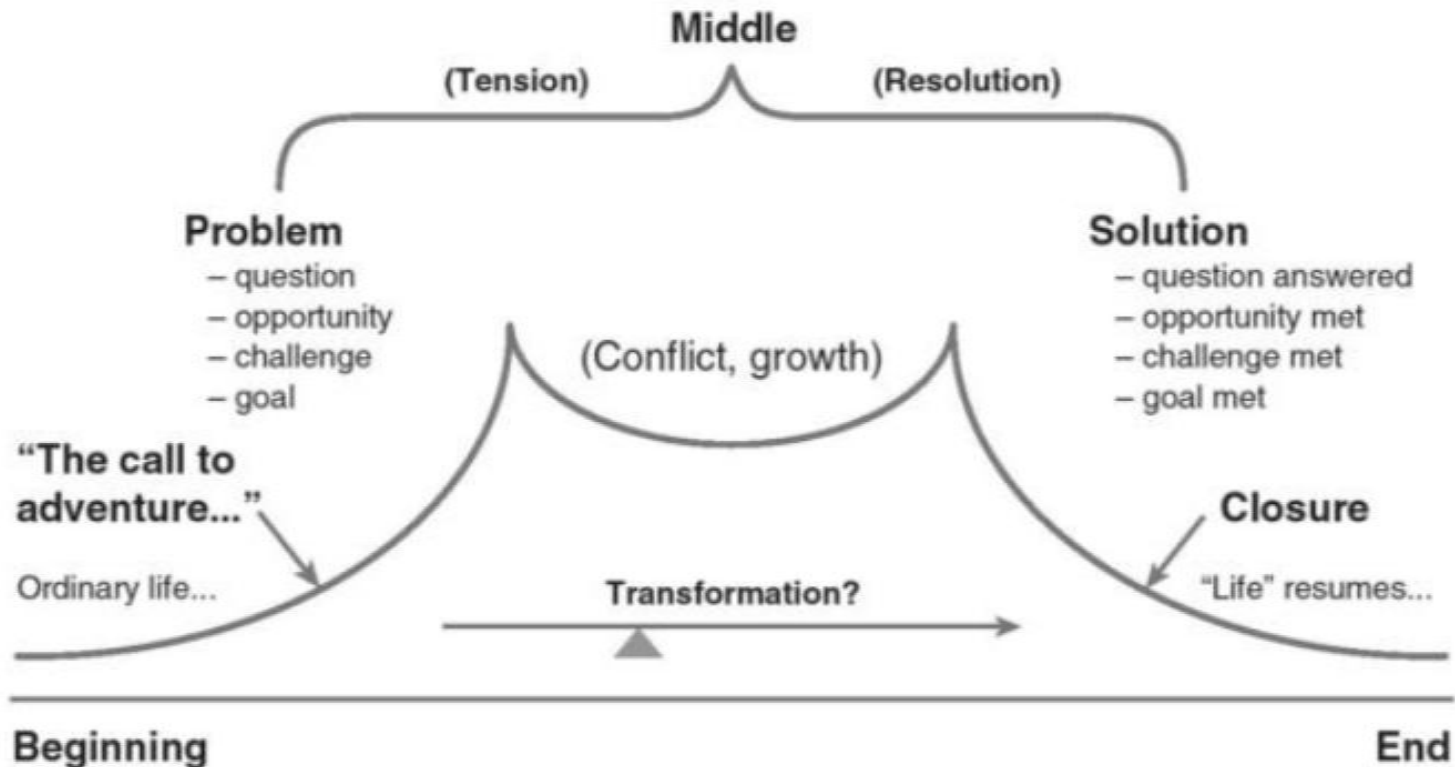
# The 5 elements of the story



1. Read the 5 elements of the story [here](#)
2. View Freytag's Pyramid of the plot structure [here](#).
3. View an example of a story spine [here](#).
4. Read further on the story/narrative structure [here](#) and [here](#)

# The 5 elements of the story explained

Figure 5.3 Annotated Visual Portrait of a Story (VPS)



SOURCE: Adapted by Ohler (2001), from Dillingham, B. (2001). *Visual portrait of a story: Teaching storytelling* [School handout]. Juneau, AK.

# What kind of story shall we write? (1)

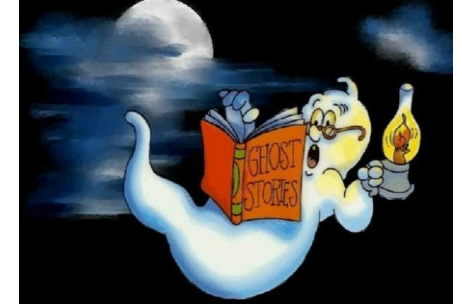


- story about a famous person, monument, a specific character?
- story about an event, an achievement, an adventure?
- story about a place?
- a personal story about love, an experience, a transformation?



# What kind of story shall we write?

## (2)

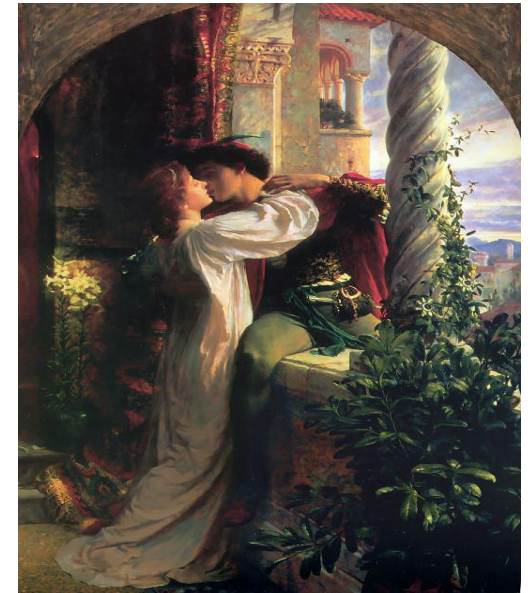


- personal, autobiographical story, memoir?
- family story about relations, generations, etc.?
- personal narration of thoughts, feelings, aspirations, etc;
- myth, legend, story about the past, the present or the future;
- argumentative story, story that affect or shape others;
- beyond words story, reflecting our own views on a subject;
- docudrama, story that brings ALIVE a highly fact-based, insightful experience;
- moral story;
- story about the future, science fiction story.



# Audience transformation: types

- **physical, kinaesthetic** (develops in strength, endurance);
- **personal reflection** (realises inner powers and possibilities);
- **emotional** (develops in maturity, self-conscience);
- **moral** (understands right and wrong);
- **psychological** (develops self-awareness);
- **social** (develops responsibility);
- **creative** (develops critical thinking);
- **intellectual** (develops new thinking).



# Digital Storytelling: an outline

- ✓ digital storytelling was created out of the work of Joe Lambert and Dana Atchley at the Centre for Digital Storytelling at U.C. Berkeley in 1993;
- ✓ a “digital story” is any narrative that is “told” using digital media;
- ✓ digital storytelling is the art of telling stories combined with multimedia, including graphics, audio, video, and Web publishing;
- ✓ digital stories usually contain some mixture of computer-based images, text, recorded audio narration, video clips, and/or music;
- ✓ digital stories are actually personal narratives which make learning a real life experience.

# Digital stories are not only stories

The topics used in digital storytelling range from personal tales to the recounting of historical events, from exploring life in one's own community to the search for life in other corners of the universe.

## Types of digital stories

- digital documentaries,
- computer-based narratives,
- digital essays,
- electronic memoirs,
- interactive storytelling

# The 7 elements of Digital Storytelling

- point of view;
- dramatic question;
- emotional Content
- voice
- the Soundtrack
- economy
- pacing

View the 7 elements explained in brief [here](#)



# The essential elements explained

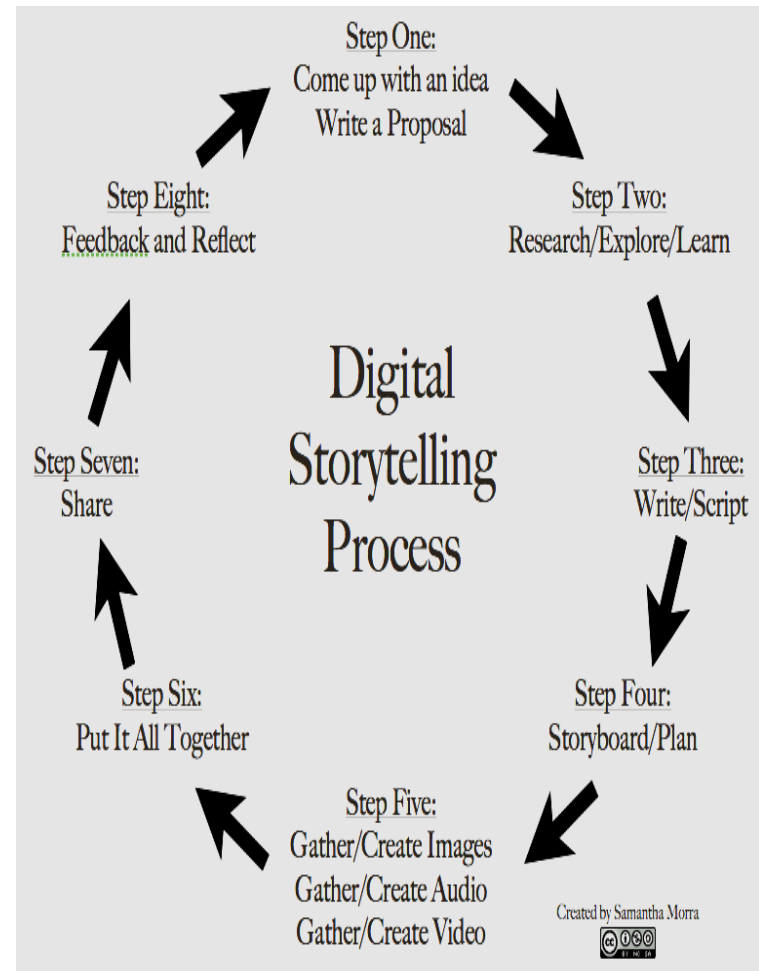
|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Point of view</b>     | Stories teach lessons about life. What is the main point of the story? Do we make it clear? Do we narrate in 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> person? What is the perspective of the writer?  |
| <b>Dramatic question</b> | It is a key question that keeps the viewers' attention and will be answered by the end of the story.   |
| <b>Emotional content</b> | Serious issues, like love and loneliness, death and loss, acceptance and rejection come alive in a personal way, hold our emotions and attention and connect us with the story.  |
| <b>Voice</b>             | Our voice is powerful. Using our own voice or the voice of our students in digital stories personalises the story and helps the audience understand the context.   |
| <b>Sound - music</b>     | Appropriate music and sound effects can embellish and add depth to the visual information.   |
| <b>Economy</b>           | Using just enough content (images and other multimedia) to tell the story without overloading the viewer.  |
| <b>Pacing</b>            | It is the rythm of the story, how slowly or quickly it progresses. A good story will move along at a comfortable pace. Not too fast not too slow. Every now and then, the story has to stop or pause while you have a chance to think about things and then it picks up again. |

# The process of digital storytelling



# The process of digital storytelling

- A digital story typically begins with a **script**. The storyteller then **assembles** all the necessary media to enhance and enrich the ideas and emotions in that script, including **music or other audio effects, images, animations or video, and other electronic elements**. The storyteller **pieces together** and **edits** the digital story in one of various file formats. Digital stories let students express themselves not only with their own **words** but also in their own **voices**, fostering a sense of individuality and of “owning” their creations.





# Steps to create a digital story

1. decide on the type of story;
2. write the script;
3. collect the assets;
4. create the storyboard;
5. make a draft of the story;
6. edit and finalize the story;
7. publish and share the story;



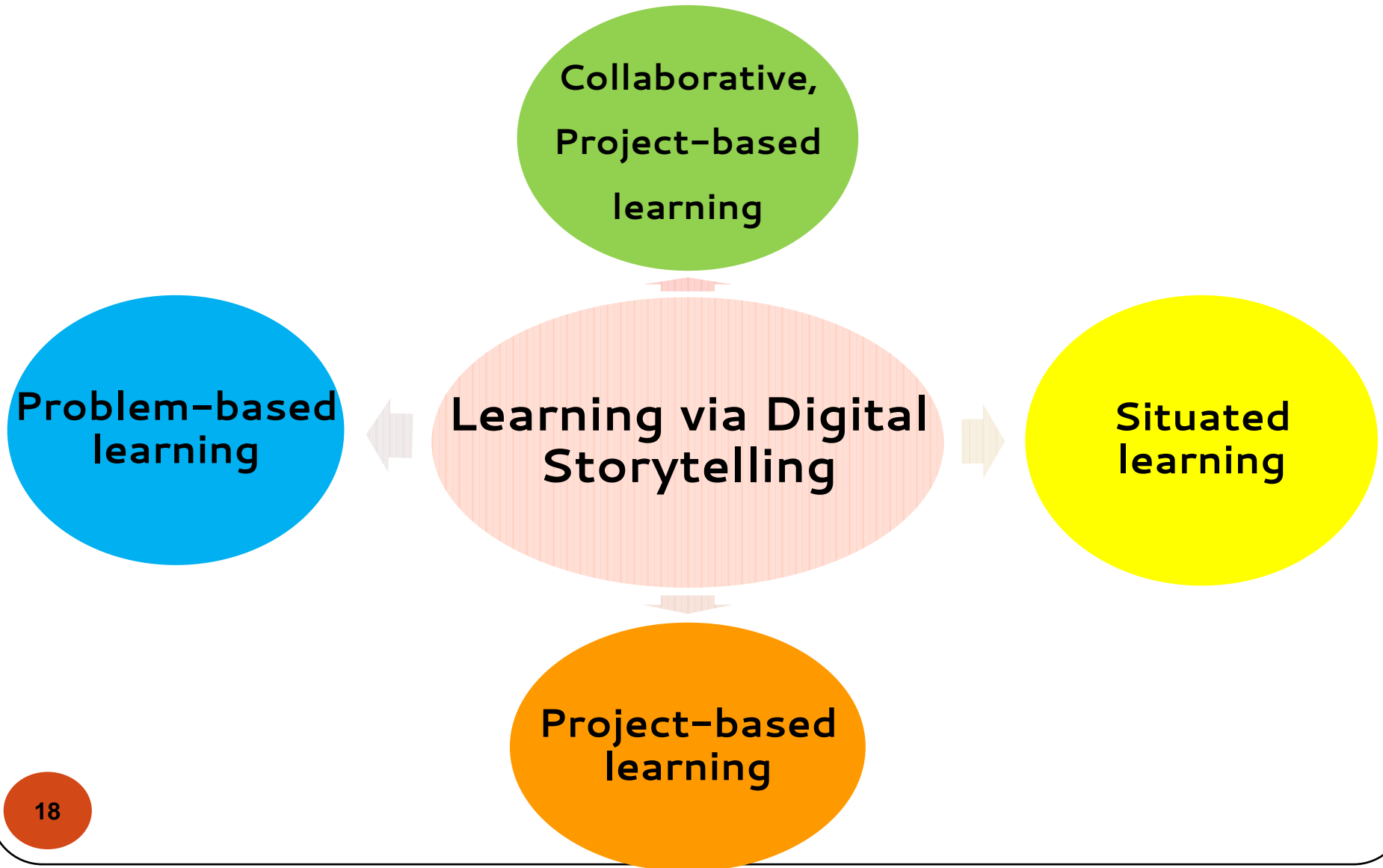
# What sort of material to collect

- pictures, photos, collage;
- self-recordings, various musical pieces, audio interviews, oral narrations, sound effects;
- videos, animations;

● **YOUR IMAGINATION!**



# Learning approaches fostered by Digital Storytelling



# Digital Storytelling for skills development

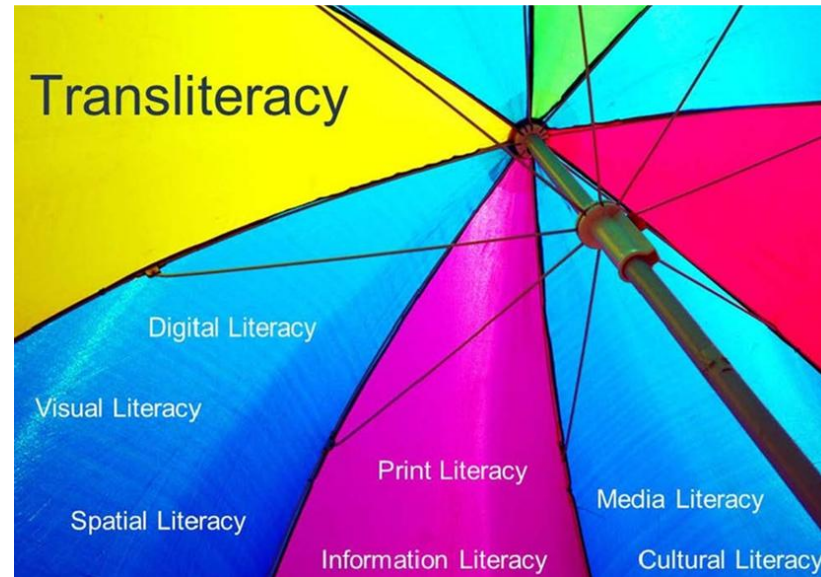
- writing skills;
- speaking skills;
- listening skills;
- communicating skills;
- collaborating skills;
- digital literacy skills;
- presentation skills;
- problem-solving skills.



# Digital Storytelling is teaching, not playing with ICT tools

- sharing examples of Digital Stories creates expectations and sets models to the students;
- **the focus is on WRITING, not using technology. The written script is the foundation of the digital story, so it needs practice and shared editing.**
- just like writing, assembling the components of the story needs **good organization**;
- students need to **get familiarised with the resources** they will need to create their story;
- the process of writing and creating needs a considerable amount of **time**. Students need to **plan** ahead to achieve **good results** within the set time limits.

# Becoming transliterate storytellers



- **Transliteracy** is THE essential skill for creating stories that connect with audiences and yield the desired results.
- That means we are continuously growing our ability to tell stories that **utilise all media tools and platforms** including print, video, audio and interactive social networks.

# Examples of good practice

1. Fee Fi Fo Fum...I Smell the Story of a Scottish Man: a Greek prize-awarded digital story project. View it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o-uZ1HvVwg>
2. <http://anatolia.edu.glogster.com/england>: A Glog on Britain.
3. Alice in Euroland and other sample projects using Glogster. View them at <http://anatolia.edu.glogster.com/glogs>
4. William Shakespeare as a Glogster story. View it at <http://www.curriculumbits.com/prodimages/details/english/william-shakespeare.html>
5. The unknown children of the Holocaust: a sample digital story. View it at [http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/view\\_story.cfm?vid=409&otherid=featured&d\\_title=Featured%20Digital%20Stories](http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/view_story.cfm?vid=409&otherid=featured&d_title=Featured%20Digital%20Stories)
5. Δώρα από τη χώρα των παραμυθιών: ψηφιακό παραμύθι. View it at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvnZ\\_7rE85A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvnZ_7rE85A)



# More sophisticated digital stories

1. <http://www.rockfordsrockopera.com/home>

1. <http://www.inanimatealice.com/index.html>

