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Resource List Project (Grades 3-5)

ePals Global Community.(2013). ePals Global Community. Retrieved 15 October 2013 from: http://www.epals.com/

Summary:

Through the use of the ePals Global Community, my students have begun working on a project initiated by another classroom in the United States on the topic of Literature Circles. Students in my class are expected to work collaboratively in small groups and are responsible for conveying information learned with other groups in the class. Three out of the four language domains will be addressed when completing this project including reading comprehension, creative writing, and language communication skills. The outcome of this project will involve students creating their own book reviews to convey their ideas about the book they read. This will provide other students with feedback on books in the classroom library as well as other pieces of literature.

This project will provide a meaningful and successful cross-cultural learning experience through the use of various books that provide ethnic and cultural diversity for students to establish and create meaningful connections to a text of their choice. Students can compare their text to books that other classmates have picked and review the relationships between books. By working cooperatively in small groups, the literature circles will help to create a classroom environment of collaboration, cultural diversity, and awareness through literature. In addition, Literature Circles will also advance students' reading skills by promoting books that are culturally responsive and establishing connections to the text that students have read. Literature Circles will further advance students' skills in writing by having students reflect and evaluate a story and create an authentic response that will review critical components of the text.

Ipad Application Resources for English Language Learners:

1.) <u>ESL Reading</u>

Lightning Company Ltd. (2013). ESL Reading (Version 1.3.1) [Mobile
   application software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: Free (costs for levels range from $0.99 to $5.99).

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

In this Ipad application, ESL Reading provides learners with stories based upon their reading level. The application provides the option of students either reading the story independently or having the story read to them. There are small tasks that help the students check their listening comprehension skills. ESL Reading is developmentally appropriate for English Language Learners since it tiers the levels of passages based upon their WIDA proficiency levels into low, medium, and high beginners and intermediates. Since the application is provided in twenty three different languages, this would aid families when using the application. However, families would need to know their child's reading proficiency level in order to purchase the appropriate reading package for their child.

2.) <u>Collin's Big Cat: Story Creator</u>

Harper Collins Publishers Limited. (2012). Collin's Big Cat: Story Creator (Version 1.0)
   [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: Free

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Entering-Emerging, Developing-Expanding

Collin's Big Cat: Story Creator is an application designed to develop reading and writing skills for students. The skills that students develop from reading the story can be transferred to writing a story where students are given the opportunity to create their own book using characters and other elements from the story. This application is beneficial to English Language Learners since it provides picture support for the learners and uses animation techniques to aid in story comprehension. At the end of the story, there is also a comprehension quiz to assess what students can recall from the story. In order to aid

families in using this application, there is guidance provided in using this application with a focus on developing reading, writing, and communication skills. A disadvantage for families using this application is that directions are only is provided in the English language.

Resources for Teachers:

Harper Collins Publishers Limited. (2013). Collin's Big Cat: IPad Apps for Interactive
        Reading. Retrieved from collinsbigcat.com/apps.

Within this resource website for teachers, there are additional support for student learning as well as assessment materials for teachers.

3.) <u>Even Monsters Get Sick</u>

Busy Bee Studios. (2012). Even Monsters Get Sick (Version 1.3) [Mobile
        application software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $2.99

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

Even Monsters Get Sick is an iPad application that has received much attention including the Parent's Choice Gold Award and was a Kirkus Review pick for "Best of 2012." This application is a storybook in which students can have a choice of either reading independently or having a professional read to them. Within this book, there are many interactive pages and animations throughout the story, which makes this application engaging for English Language Learners. In addition, this application can aid family members since it promotes positive social interaction skills in relation to WIDA Standard 1.

4.) <u>Storydice</u>

Thinkamingo Inc. (2012). Storydice (Version 1.4) [Mobile application software].
        Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $1.99

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

Storydice is an application that focuses on writing. Within this application there are writing prompts for journal writing and free writing. These prompt ideas can be focused

around story elements that include ideas for plot, characters, and setting. This application is also useful for collaborative storytelling and creating short stories within a group setting. Because the application is user friendly and there is not much reading involved, students will be able to access the content on this application through the use of picture support and will allow families who speak another language access to the content. Within the homepage, (http://itunes.apple.com), there are various lesson plans and games for both families and teachers. The site also explains how to create questions for various levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.

5.) <u>Scribble Press</u>.

Scribble Press, Inc. (2013). Scribble Press (Version 2.0.4) [Mobile application software].
        Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $3.99

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

This ipad application focuses on writing and drawing tools and is the winner of a Parent's Choice Award of the Top 25 Apps for Kids. Students using the application are able to write and create their own book or use over fifty story templates that the application has provided to them. Students are able to download their books to their iBooks library to read them at any time. This application is essential for English Language Learners because it provides authenticity to their writing while allowing students to use pictures to as a visual aid to guide their writing and ideas. The application will aid families by promoting interaction amongst family members and across cultures as well as allow students to share their stories and experiences with family members from around the world.

Resources for Teachers:

Scribble Press, Inc. (2013). Scribble Press: Imagine, Create, and Publish. Retrieved
    from www.scribblepress.com

This site includes ways in which this application can be used in the classroom.

6.) <u>The Land of Me—Storytime</u>

Penguin Books. (2012). The Land of Me—Storytime (Version 0.0.4) [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $2.99

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

This reading and writing application has students make decisions about the outcome of the story in which there are twenty seven outcomes to choose from. Students also use symbols and word to create their own hero and storyline with animal performers. The Land of Me—Storytime is useful for English Language Learners since it enriches the development of language and early literacy. Families will be able to access this application since it is available in sixteen different languages.

7.) iDiary for Kids

Tipitap. (2012). iDiary for Kids: Journaling Platform for Writing and Drawing (Version 2.0) [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $1.99 (iDiary for Kids Lite: Journaling Platform for Writing and Drawing is free)

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

The objective of this journaling application is for students to improve their writing skills by typing, drawing, or writing (using fingers or a stylus). For students encountering difficulties, there are writing voice prompts to guide them through the writing process. Students will be able to keep a record of their past entries to reread and reflect. As stated in the application description provided, iDiary is beneficial for English Language Learners because it "promotes self-discovery, independence, and writing skills as well as expression, self-confidence, and creativity which produces a positive learning environment within the classroom. The application also fosters family engagement since students can share their journal entries with family members by showcasing them for everyone to see. Teachers also have the ability to email or post entries to social media feeds for a more interactive experience.

8.) Sentence Builder

Mobile Education Store LLC. (2013). Sentence Builder(Version 1.9) [Mobile application

software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $5.99

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Entering-Emerging, Developing-Expanding

Sentence Builder focuses on constructing grammatically correct sentences using connector words that make up over eighty percent of the English language. The application includes three levels of play with sixty animations and audio clips. There is also a feature for optional correct sentence audio reinforcement. This application is useful for English Language Learners since it provides support using over one hundred distinct pictures to build sentences around and aims to improve grammar skills. Families and teachers can use this application to track student progress since the application provides statistics from the child to monitor progress to support writing.

Resources for Teachers:

Education.com (2013). Building Sentences Worksheets and Printables. Retrieved from
    www.education.com/worksheets/building-sentences

This website provides additional practice for students to work on sentence building.

9.) Exceller Apps for ESL: Reading

Exceller Software Corporation.(2013). Exceller Apps for ESL: Reading (Version 1.3)
    [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: $0.99

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Developing-Expanding

Exceller Apps for ESL: Reading focuses on improving reading skills for English Language learners. It allows for practice in reading comprehension for given topics and passages to be read aloud. Students are allowed to reread the reading passages and/or reading lessons as many times as they want to when answering questions to the exercises that follow the lesson. Culture is embedded in this application within the content of the questions to aid families to support their child in learning. The application also provides instant feedback with a score for students to monitor their progress which will assist teachers and family members when assessing their progress with this program.

Resources for Teachers:

Exceller Software Corporation. (2012). Exceller Apps for ESL: Reading. Retrieved from
    www.exceller.com/reading-comprehension.html

This resource provides teachers and family members with additional information about the application as well as other applications. There is also a contact page where one can contact the company with any questions or concerns.

10.)   Toontastic

Launchpad Toys.(2013). Toontastic (Version 2.5.0) [Mobile application software].
     Retrieved from http://itunes.apple.com

Price of Application: Free

Grade Level Span: Grades 3-5

WIDA Proficiency Level: Entering-Emerging, Developing-Expanding

This ipad application allows students to draw, animate, and share cartoons while allowing them to learn and develop storytelling skills. Students will learn the various elements of storytelling by creating a story of their own, similar to a graphic novel. Since there are over seven million cartoons created in over two hundred countries, this application aids family in the use of cultural diversity within its characters. Toontastic also fosters collaboration by allowing students to share stories amongst family and friends.

 Resources for Teachers:

Launchpad Toys. (2013).Toontastic—Play, Create, Learn on the IPad!. Retrieved from
     launchpadtoys.com/toontastic

This website provides both parent and teacher guides to assist with implementation of the application as well as contact information, news, and learning goals.