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TESL 507
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Apps for ELLs Project (Revised)
K-12

1. K12 Timed Reading Comprehension Practice Lite

Seller: K12, Inc.

Updated: Aug 14 2013

Version: 1.0.2

Compatibility: iOS 5.0 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<http://itunes.apple.com>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: K-12

WIDA Level: 1-5

Annotation: With this app, students can improve reading fluency by reading short stories that are tiered by grade level. The app includes a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories; there are five short stories to read per grade level. The app tracks student performance by recording words per minute as students read aloud. The app is good for ELLs who want to improve reading fluency and comprehension. It provides audio support to improve listening and pronunciation skills. As the app is also available in English, Spanish, German, and Northern Sami, some students could continue to develop L1 reading fluency skills at home.

2. Toontastic

Seller: Launchpad Toys

Updated: November 6, 2013

Version: 2.5.1

Compatibility: iOS 5.1 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/toontastic/id404693282>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: K-12

WIDA Level: 1-5

Annotation: With Toontastic, students learn storytelling skills through use of a storytelling arc. Students can use their imagination and skills to create their own stories and then illustrate them. This app is good for all students but is especially nice for ELLs as they can save their stories to share with their families at home.

3. Book Creator

Updated: November 5, 2013

Version: 3.0.1

Seller: Dan Amos

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Compatibility: iOS 6.0 or later

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-for-ipad/id442378070>

Cost: \$4.99

Grade Level: K-12

WIDA Level: 1-5

Annotation: The Book Creator app allows students to create books that include audio, images, and text. When books are completed, students can export them to iBooks, creating a library of their own work for future reference. This app would be good for ELLs because they can retell stories to demonstrate reading comprehension or they create new ones as they learn the art of storytelling. Stories could be personalized to each student's experience. In addition, students can create stories in any language which would allow them to strengthen L1 skills.

4. Reflection While Reading

Seller: Lakeside A/S

Updated: May 29 2012

Version: 1

Compatibility: iOS 4.0 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<http://itunes.apple.com>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: K-12

WIDA Level: 3-5

Annotation: Areas of focus with the Reflection While Reading app include reading comprehension and reflection. When using the Reflection While Reading app, students read a short passage and are then guided to reflect upon what they've just read.

5. Little Fox Animated Stories

Seller: Little Fox Inc.

Updated: May 2, 2013

Version: 1.2.2

Compatibility: iOS 5.1 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-for-ipad/id442378070>

Cost: Free for 200 stories. \$19.99/mo. for a monthly subscription to over 2,500 stories.

Grade Level: K-12

WIDA Level: 1-5

Annotation: Designed to encourage interest in Reading, Little Fox is an app that includes 200 free, animated stories for readers. The app also includes 30 animated songs for students who have a musical learning style. A new free story is added daily. As stories include audio, the app would be especially good for ELLs, allowing them to develop reading and listening skills simultaneously. Additionally, as there are a variety of stories ranging from children's' books to classics such as *Black Beauty* and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, this app would be appropriate for ELLs of all ages.

Resources for Teachers, Students, and Families: <http://www.littlefox.net/>

6. Read Along Library

Seller: Realm Computers (Pty.) Ltd.

Updated: Jan. 8, 2013

Version: 2.04

Compatibility: iOS 4.3 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/read-along-library/id541576953?mt=8>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: K-5

WIDA Level: 2+

Annotation: The Read Along Library app includes 75 stories target to students ages 0-8 years old. With this app, students can read stories while audio of the text plays, resulting in the simultaneous development of listening and reading proficiency. Though the stories might be “young” for older readers, this app would be good for ELLs because stories are available in both English and Spanish. Spanish-speaking ELLs might enjoying reading the stories at home with their parents, which would further extend learning skills.

7. Kids Reading Comprehension

Seller: Angela Reed

Updated: September 21, 2012

Version: 1.3

Compatibility: iOS 4.2 or later; compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

Retrieved from iTunes

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/kids-reading-comprehension/id510875415?my=8>

Cost: \$0.99

Grade Level: 2-12

WIDA Level: 3+

Annotation: Kids Reading Comprehension is an interactive app designed to develop reading comprehension skills. A variety of fiction and nonfiction passages are included with the app. With the app, students read short passages and then answer follow up questions based on what they’ve just read. The app tracks student progress and allows teachers to challenge students by “covering” text that has been read before students answer questions. The app would be good for ELLs of all ages as the passages include a variety of genre including short factual texts about topics such as the moon and the solar system.

8. MeeGenius

Seller: MeeGenius, Inc.

Updated: October 21, 2013

Version: 5.2.5

Compatibility: iOS 5.1 or later; compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/meegenius-read-along-library/id364734296?mt=8>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: PreK-3

WIDA Level: 1-3

Annotation: MeeGenius is an app that includes a library of illustrated e-books. Each book features read-along narration and word highlighting. The app's audio can be paused, allowing students to read the story aloud at their own speed. Though this app is designed for English speakers, it would be good for younger ELLs because it includes audio, imagery, and vocabulary building opportunities.

Resource for Teachers: <https://sites.google.com/site/meegenius11/classroom-use>

Resource for Teachers, Students, and Families: The MeeGenius facebook page offers free books to teachers, students, and families and also includes links to lesson plans for the stories included in the app: <https://www.facebook.com/meegenius>

9. Bluster

Seller: McGraw-Hill Education Group

Updated: January 31, 2013

Version: 1.2

Compatibility: iOS 5.0 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bluster!/id416160693>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: 4-8

WIDA Level: 2-3

Annotation: Bluster is a word matching vocabulary game by book publisher McGraw Hill. With Bluster, students can practice over 800 vocabulary words in a game-like format. This app would be good for ELLs because it allows them to practice rhyming words, prefixes and suffixes, synonyms, homophones and adjectives. It is useful for reading and writing skill development. Students may enjoy playing this vocabulary game with a friend or classmate as it allows for competition between two players.

Resources for Teachers: The California Learning Resource Network list the ELA standards to which the app could be linked: <http://www.clrn.org/weblinks/details.cfm?id=6264>

10. One More Story

Seller: One More Story, Inc.

Updated: February 13, 2013

Version: 1.4

Compatibility: iOS 4.0 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/one-more-story/id538507555?mt=8>

Cost: Free, but weekly to monthly subscription required to access full app

Grade Level: K-5

WIDA Level: 1-4

Annotation: One More Story is an app that allows readers to listen to audio recordings of children's stories while reading along with highlighted text. If students want to practice reading aloud, they can disable the audio and read aloud. Developing readers may enjoy the function that allows them to click on a word in the text to hear it

pronounced. This app would be good for ELLs not only because it develops reading comprehension skills, but also because it is available in the following languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Turkish. The app is great for most WIDA levels but stories may be too young for older students. Students may enjoy sharing the stories at home in their L1 with their parents and siblings. Stories included are culturally relevant and relatable for ELLs and include topics such as Korean New Year, Latino Festivals, and African Safaris.

Resources for Teachers: The app website categorizes the stories by reading level and grade. It also links the stories to benchmarks which would make it helpful for teachers trying to link the app to state Reading standards : <http://www.onemorestory.com/index.html>.

11. Shakespeare in Bits

Seller: Mindconnex Learning Limited

Updated: July 8, 2013

Version: 2.1.0

Compatibility: iOS 6.0 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shakespeare-in-bits-romeo/id370803660?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: 7-12

WIDA Level: 4+

Annotation: The Shakespeare in Bits app allows students to read the works of Shakespeare (often assigned in grades 7-12) in manageable chunks. The app includes animations, definitions, and notes for comprehension and stories can be listened to for a Read Aloud activity. This app would be good for ELLs who are reading at a higher proficiency level in the regular English classroom but who may need additional supports.

Resources for Teachers, Students, and Families: *The Shakespeare in Bits* facebook page offers ideas for study and additional reading series: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shakespeare-In-Bits/254232564177>

12. Maxjournal

Seller: bigbluecouch, LLC

Updated: August 25, 2011

Version: 1.62

Compatibility: iOS 4.2 or later

Retrieved from iTunes

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/maxjournal-for-ipad/id364907090?mt=8>

Cost: Free

Grade Level: 1-12

WIDA Level: 1-5

Annotation: Maxjournal is an app that allows students to journal their daily experiences and add photos; it's like a virtual scrapbook. This Writing activity app app

would be good for use in an ESL classroom for all of the students to reflect and write about what they are learning, or used as an extension activity at home to encourage writing outside of school. Because the journal entries can be created individually, this app is good for students at all proficiency levels. Beginning ELLs may just journal with photos and add labels. This app is available in English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Resources for Teachers and Students: <http://chapinala.wikispaces.com/Maxjournal>