# A Selection of Digital Resources for the English Classroom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For writing</th>
<th>Brief description</th>
<th>Stage 4 Outcomes</th>
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| **Lightning Bug**  
EN4-4B, EN4-5C |
| **Storybird**  
[http://www.storybird.com](http://www.storybird.com)  | • Great site for generating ideas for stories, and helping students with their narrative writing.  
• Lovely evocative images and easy navigation. | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-4B, EN4-5C |
| **The Hero Factory**  
[http://cpbherofactory.com/](http://cpbherofactory.com/)  | • Students can create their own superhero, comic book cover, comic strips, character profiles, Hero Facebook page, and lots more. | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-4B, EN4-5C  
EN4-8D |
| **Hatch's Plot Bank**  
[http://www.angelfire.com/](http://www.angelfire.com/)  | • A great site for assisting students to develop ideas for stories and scripts. There are more than 2000 scenarios! | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-4B, EN4-5C |
| **The Brainstormer**  
[http://www.distractionbeast.com/brainstormer.swg](http://www.distractionbeast.com/brainstormer.swg)  | • Includes a random generator to spark ideas for creative thinking and writing  
• Helpful for brainstorming ideas in groups, pairs or individually | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-4B, EN4-5C |
| **Benetton advertisement site**<br>http://production.investis.com/ben_en/image_gallery/campaigns/?branch_id=109 | • Useful for stimulus in issues discussion and pre-writing  
• Useful for developing point of view, argument, expository writing  
• Can be used for creative writing — e.g. write in role of one of the people/objects in the photo | EN4-3B, EN4-7D EN4-8D |
| **Art and photographic sites**<br>http://www.uelsmann.net<br>http://www.photographymuseum.com/mutter/scottmutterNewGallery.html | • Imaginative and creative writing — speak for the image, the tree  
• Useful for stimulus on 'constructing' 'realities' — 'what is real, what is truth? Compare to constructed identities on, for example, MySpace and Facebook. Deliberate selection and manipulation of material, ordered and presented in particular ways for a particular purpose  
• Useful for exploring the CRAFT of 'writing' — processes of selection and representation in images and words | EN4-5C, EN4-46C EN4-7D, EN4-8D |
| **Vivian Maier**<br>www.vivianmaier.com | • Large range of superb photographs — useful for stimulus, writing starts, debates, drama activities etc. | EN4-5C, EN4-46C EN4-7D, EN4-8D |
| **Found Objects**<br>www.community.livejournal.com/found_objects/ | • A quirky and thought-provoking site with images and stimulus for writing and other forms of creating and representing | EN4-1A, EN4-2A EN4-4B, EN4-5C EN4-6C |
| **Banksy**<br>http://www.banksy.co.uk/menu.html | • Very evocative graffiti on this site — a great source of stimulus for a range of focus areas in English. Could be useful for teaching persuasive writing, exploring propaganda, censorship etc. | EN4-1A, EN4-2A EN4-4B, EN4-5C EN4-8D |
| For creating poetry | Some great ideas here for integrating visual and poetic texts | EN41A, EN4-2A  
EN45C, EN4-6C |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Digital Poetry and Images  
http://www.elco.k12.pa.us/online_home_work/O%27Neill/Digital/Entrypage.html | • Some great ideas here for integrating visual and poetic texts | EN41A, EN4-2A  
EN45C, EN4-6C |
| Poetry and Games – eg, acronyms, acrostic poems, haiku  
http://www.readwritethink.org/MATERIALS/ACROSTIC/ | • Some interactive sites to create short forms of poetry | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-3B, EN4-4B  
EN4-5C |
| Poetry Just for Kids (older ones too)  
http://www.vrml.k12.la.us/2nd/more/poetrykids2.htm | • Lots of interactive opportunities here for creating poetry | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-3B, EN4-4B  
EN4-5C |
| The Poetry Foundation  
http://www.poetryfoundation.org/features/videolanding | • Poets reading their work, clips of discussion about poetry and an evocative video by Michael Rosen on the importance of poetry and literature generally in young people’s lives | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-3B, EN4-4B  
EN4-5C, EN4-8D |
| Webquests and choose your own adventure (CYOA) | Choose your own adventure sites provide resources to engage students in higher order thinking, responding and creating | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-5C, EN4-6C  
EN4-8D, EN4-9E |
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<tr>
<th>Webquest maker</th>
<th>Webquests for literature</th>
<th>Roald Dahl webquest and others</th>
<th>Interactive Shakespeare sites</th>
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<tr>
<td>• This site provides templates and models to create your own webquest (for teachers and students)</td>
<td>• This site offers a wide range of webquests suitable for primary and secondary students</td>
<td>• Students can create their own webquests as well as engage in a whole range of others’ webquests</td>
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<td>Shakespeare Insult site:</td>
<td>Sonnet Shakeup site:</td>
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<td>• Students can have a lot of fun with this insult generator. It can be used as the basis for engagement with Shakespeare, drama, role-play and improvisation</td>
<td>• An interactive site that scaffolds students into creating sonnets</td>
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<td>• Enjoyable way of extending vocabulary and generating understandings of the origins of common words and sayings</td>
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<td>• Also see the Folger Shakespeare site (below) that has many strategies for linking Shakespeare to contemporary contexts and media (rap music, other music, and more)</td>
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| Folger Shakespeare Library: http://www.folger.edu/index_sa.cfm?specaudid=2 | • Excellent for teacher resources, interactive tasks for students and group performance templates and scaffolds  
• Graphic and cartoon templates for many of the plays | EN4-2A, EN4-3B  
EN4-4B, EN4-5C |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Digital Storytelling | • Very helpful hub site for resources on digital storytelling  
• Can be used in conjunction with activity based on the poem “Where I’m From” – creating your own digital story. See http://blog.transylvaniaandutch.com/2009/08/poetry-copy-change-where-im-from-george.html and http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-3B, EN4-5C  
EN4-7D, EN4-9E |
| Creating digital stories: http://www.photobus.co.uk/index.php?id=2 | • There are lots of resources here for making digital stories and some really engaging examples/models of digital stories | EN4-1A, EN4-2A  
EN4-3B, EN4-5C  
EN4-7D, EN4-9E |
| BBC Digital Story Site: http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/storytelling-grid | • These are only a handful of the many sites that offer avenues for publishing students’ work  
• Teachers and students can create their own sites for publishing student work, or sharing ideas (eg. through platforms such as | |
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<th>ish.html</th>
<th>Wordpress. Easy to set up and maintain</th>
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