APPS For English

Puppet Pals HD



Price: Free



This is fun and simple animation app. For free, you are provided with a limited collection of 'puppets' or cartoon characters and some backdrops. You can then act out scenes, move them around, record audio, generally get creative! The completed scene can then be exported to your camera roll to be used as part of a film in another app, such as Imovie or Vintagio, etc. If you are willing to buy the Director's Pass (£1.99) you

can access all the options, including a range of characters and settings and the chance to use your own photographs as backdrops. You can also use images of yourself and crop the outlines to create puppets of yourself! So, lots to rave about and loads of options!

Dropwords



Price: Free



This is a twist on the classic 'Boggle' game. Form words from letters adjacent or diagonal to each other. As the word is formed the letters disappear and a new letters drop into each column. How many words can you make in two minutes? What is the longest word you can make? Pretty addictive and you can set children playing against each other for a bit of Literacy competition!

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore



Price: £2.99



What a cracking experience it is interacting in this way with a storybook! The children in my class were absolutely enchanted by this app and were desperate to have a go themselves. The story itself is great and the app uses lots of gestures available on the ipad to interact with it in a variety of ways: spin the house, make the wind blow, colour the sky, even write a message in the books or your name in a bowl of cereal! This really

does set the standard for interactive books!

The Opposites



Price: £1.99



This is a well thought-out app. It's a simple idea: tap on the the two words which are opposites! It gets tougher though! Before you know it, even the whizziest child will be challenged! It includes a dictionary feature which provides a simple explanation of each word. We like how it provides a strong context for children who are developing their phonics strategies.

Sir Charlie Stinky Socks and the Really BIG Adventure



Price: £2.99



This is a well-known children's picture book brought successfully to the tablet computer. We love the options available: the fully narrated story or the option to read it yourself; just touch a word to have it read to you – great for supporting early reading. It also has a variety of interactions as you work through each page. There is plenty to explore here and it's really motivating! The book also has pictures to colour which you

can save to your images by using the ipad's screen-capture option. Check out the free 'lite' option first before your spend £2.99 on the main app. Don't be too put off by the price – it's still cheaper than a hard copy of the book!

LetterReflex



Price: £1.99



This is an app aimed at helping children to overcome letter reversals, a common problem when they confuse b and d or p and q. Initial levels involve a kinaesthetic tilting activity where you roll a ball around the tablet to the correct letter. 'Flip it' then allows them to practice forming the correct letters – using visual skills to flip letters to make the correct one.

Comic Life



Price: £2.99



This is a resource we've used for a while on our school networks. It's popular with the children and has lots of great features. It provides a real alternative to standard storyboards when writing stories and brings a really motivational slant to creating narratives. The app brings this resource to the iPad which is great news! There are other valid alternatives available but this is one we know well and would recommend!

Cinderella – Nosy Crow animated picture book



Price: £3.99



This is a delightful and multi-award winning app. Enjoy the story with its great illustrations and interactive animations. The app maximises all the iPad's features including the front camera to include the reader in the scenes! You can choose from a variety of reading options – UK or American text, read along or read to yourself. The child narrator is great too! It's pricey but the great reviews it has from happy customers

speak for themselves!

Marvin = eBooks + Intelligence



Price: Free



Marvin is an eBook reader with a host of extra features. It 'reads' the book with you and can locate characters in the book, show where they first appeared in the text and even build summaries. You can pin websites, videos and articles to the book you are reading. This certainly has a lot of potential for older children and adults and we have barely touched the surface so far. However, what we really like are the features it has

for dyslexia, such as bottom-heavy fonts, warmth and tint effects, and options to customise the text to suit the individual reader.

Book Creator



Price: £2.99



An excellent app for the classroom and at home! Your children can create their own ibooks with text, images and even sounds and video. This app is what the ipad is all about. Too many apps mimic resources we already have and don't offer anything new. This one motivates pupils to become writers and illustrators. They can then publish to ibooks or the icloud, etc. Images can be found from the internet, or photgraphs taken

from the ipad itself, or even pictures created by the child in another ipad app. It comes together amazingly quick and the children love it!

Toy Story Read Along



Price: Free



Disney do a few of these read along books and this is their free one – that's why we got it! There are a whole host of features included: a narrator, highlighted read along text, opportunites to paint and export pictures, sing-along songs and games to play! That is plenty to keep them amused and keep up with their flitting attention spans!

ABC Mysteriez Hidden Letters







Our children love this app. All the letters of the alphabet are hidden away within super detailed images. There is a sense of competition with a timer ticking away as they seek all the letters. It is great for visual discrimination, developing their eye for detail. We have linked to the free versions on both the App Store and Google Play, but additional levels can be purchased.

Lego Super Heroes Movie Maker



Price: Free



Children (and their teachers!) love stop-animation. Wallace and Gromit, Morph, Shaun the Sheep – all great examples of animation. There are lots of examples of animation software available for PC's and school networks but this app is a great, value-for-money start to stop animation. Plan a story, create an artistic backdrop, set up your lego characters in the first scene and then start taking lots of individual frames using the

ipad camera, moving the characters just a little each time. Then add music and captions and play it back as a movie! This a great way to bring story-writing to life!

Collins Big Cat – Around The World



Price: Free



This is another great animated book for young readers by Collins. Children have several options: have the story read to them, read the story themselves, adapt the images to create their own story. They can write their own text or record their narrative. They also have opportunities to add speech bubbles and thought bubbles. It can be used as a starting point in lessons, with SEN groups or with younger children to bring reading to life

and create interactive books. There are a few available – all worth having on your tablet!

PopWords!



Price: Free



A classic wordfinder app. As you make words from adjoining letters they 'pop' and new letters fall into the spaces. There are a variety of options and you can build up from practising to timed challenges. This is a popular game based loosely on the old 'Boggle' game. It's one of many similar games available in the App Store. We tried a few and liked this one the best!

Mr. Thorne's Spellbook



Price: £1.99



This app has recently been recommended to us and we like it. The spellbook is one of several apps by Mr. Thorne who has whole range of Youtube videos and teaching apps available. The focus is very much on testing pupils' spelling and use of phonics, rather than explicit teaching but we feel it makes good use of rewards and praise as children are successful on each letter sound. It covers the whole range of intial letters and blends

and is useful for all children working through this level of reading and spelling. It is important that children don't use this in isolation because they need an adult to support them with difficulties and to deal with any areas they may struggle with. Feedback from teachers also point out that some words given do not have the sounds not taught, if you are following the letters and sound phases. However, as part of an intervention group task, this app could be great! There is also a Spellbook 2 available for KS2 pupils.