

# **WHAT'S TO READ?**

## **Locating, Analyzing, and Adapting Literacy Materials for Emergent Readers**

**Dr. Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite**

[www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)

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**ASHA Disclaimer:**  
**Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite**

- **Relevant Financial Relationships:** Caroline Musselwhite is the owner of AAC Intervention and receives compensation as such. During her presentation she will be referencing her company and actual case studies. She has authored many books and software items and receives royalties and or consulting fees for these publications through her company, Don Johnston Inc. and the Attainment Company. She has consulted with other companies including AbleNet, Assistiveware, and Panther Technologies. She has consulted with nonprofit groups such as FAST and Angelman Syndrome Association.
  
- **Relevant Nonfinancial Relationships:** Caroline Musselwhite is a founding member, Executive Board Member, and Board of Directors Member of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).

# Goals of Independent Reading: Emergent Readers

- Support in learning about book handling and print knowledge (front, back, turning pages, print holds meaning)
- Developing a love of reading
- Gaining exposure to a wide range of book types

# Did You Know?

Hatch (2009) found that:

Students with severe disabilities showed measureable gains in just 6 weeks when given the chance to read from a wide collection of materials that were:

- Interesting
- Age- and ability-appropriate

This was true even before these students were able to read or understand printed words

Hatch, P. (2009). Wide text exposure for adolescents with moderate to severe intellectual disability. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

# Before / During / After

- **Before:**

- Find out what interests your students
- Be sure you have set up bookshelves with age- and ability-appropriate texts, whether print or digital
- Support students in accessing texts

- **During:**

- Leave students alone to explore / read!

- **After:**

- Have an informal conversation about the books – NO TESTING!!! NO book reports!

# Choosing Reading Topics

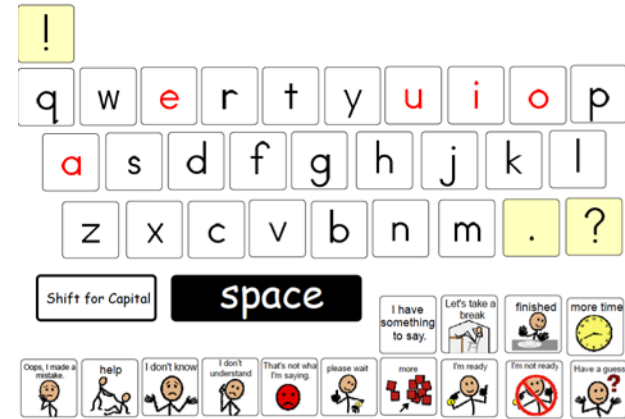
## Using AAC Devices!

- Students went to 'animals'
  - Go to categories & let them pick the animal
- Student says 'sports' – open sports page so s/he can pick
- Student goes to favorites page and says 'rollercoasters'

# Choosing Reading Topics

## Using the Alphabet!

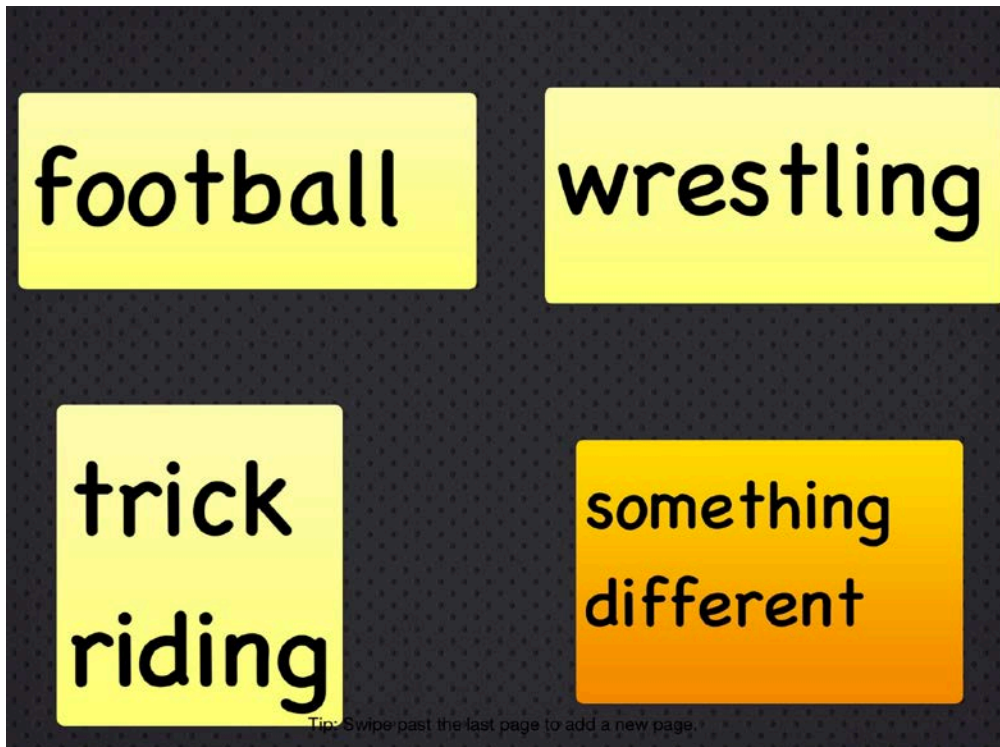
- Student found the first letter (R for rollercoaster) on his alphabet board
- For online books, enter the letter R to search



# What If Students Don't Initiate Topics?

## Choicemaking

- Several choices
- Include 'something different'

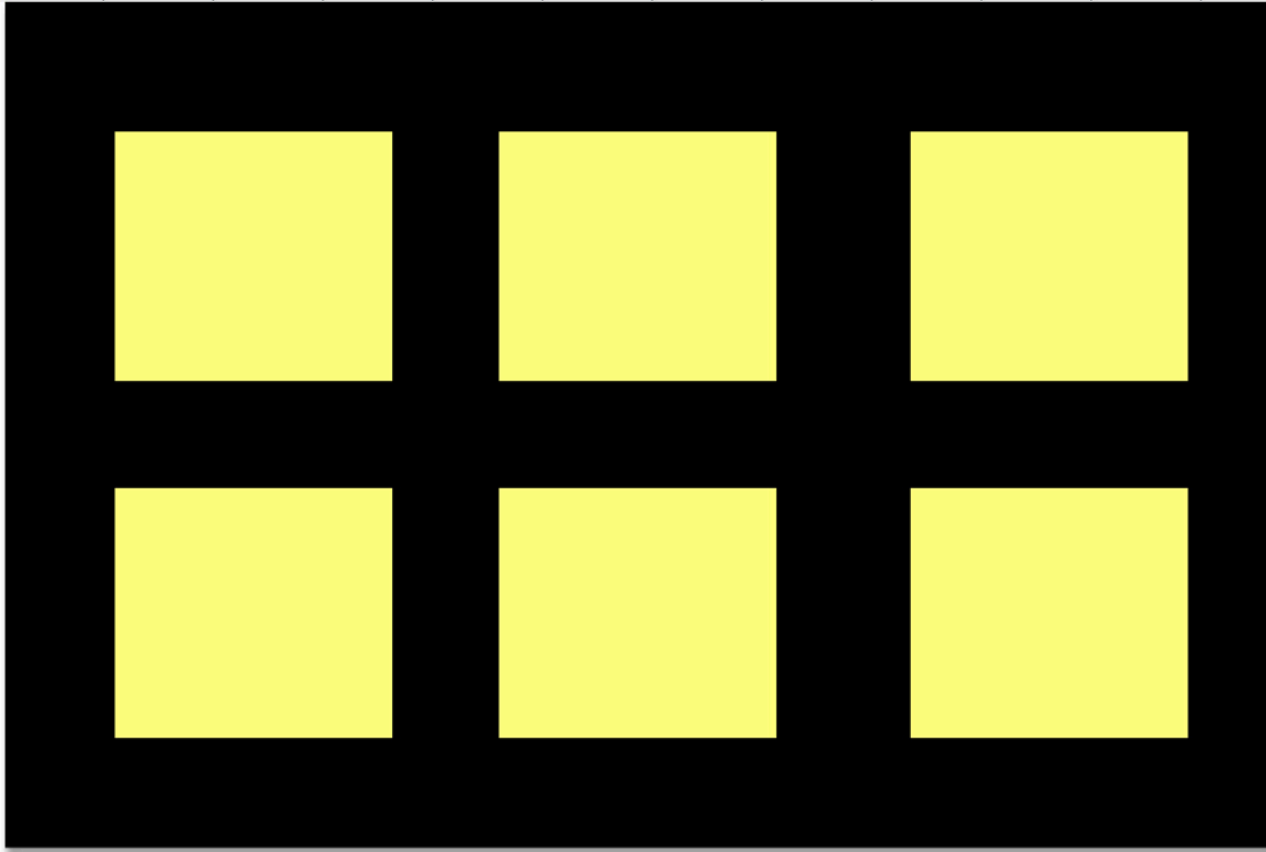


*Sticky app*



# What If Students Don't Initiate Topics?

Choicemaking: Use Wipe Off Post-It Board



# Problem-Solving Motor Access

## Choicemaking Access

- Book cover pics in album (LT or on iPad)
- Partner assisted scanning
- Switches
- Eye Gaze



*Sticky app*



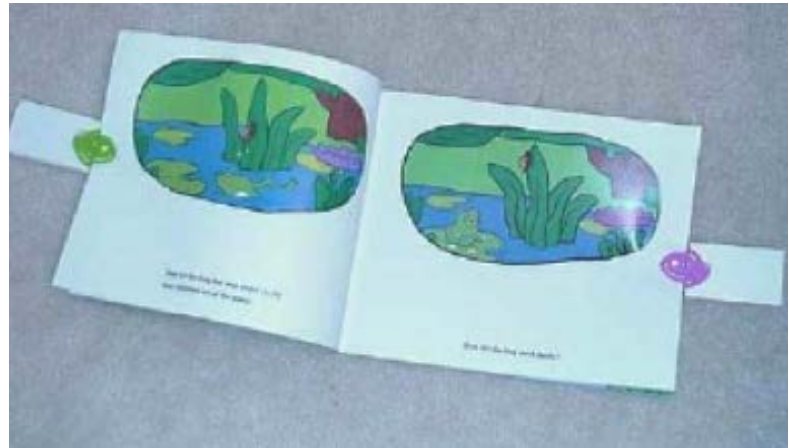
## But My Students Don't Have the Skills Required for Book Handling!

- There is a huge growth in electronic books
- Try to find books with a '**bookshelf**' so that students can choose their own books
- Many sites and apps now have '**favorites**' so:
  - Adults can pre-select age- and ability-appropriate books
  - Students can go back to books they love

# Problem-Solving Motor Access

## Print Book Access

- Adapted light tech books (page 'fluffers')
- Book easels can really help!



# Access Tools:

## Computer Switch Interfaces



- Switch Interfaces: Need one with multiple switch ports
- USB Switch Interfaces: plug in & go!
  - Don Johnston Switch Interface ([www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com))
  - Ablenet Hitch Switch Interface ([www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com))
  - Quizworks Switch Interface ([www.quizworks.com](http://www.quizworks.com))
- Reprogrammable Switch Interfaces
  - RJ Cooper ([www.rjcooper.com](http://www.rjcooper.com))
  - Crick Software, ([www.cricksoft.com](http://www.cricksoft.com))



*Slide from Dr. Gretchen Hanser*

# Your New Best Friends: Commonly Used Key Equivalents for Books

- Right arrow
- Left arrow
- Space
- Enter
- 2, 3
- Click



## Students Who Use Switches CAN Access Books on the iPad Using “Recipes”

- “Recipes” feature built into iOS 9 (and above) in Switch Control
- Can program multiple switches

- Can customize a switch to do:

- Tap Middle of Screen
- Right to Left Swipe
- Left to Right Swipe
- OR Custom Gesture



**APPLICATOR**

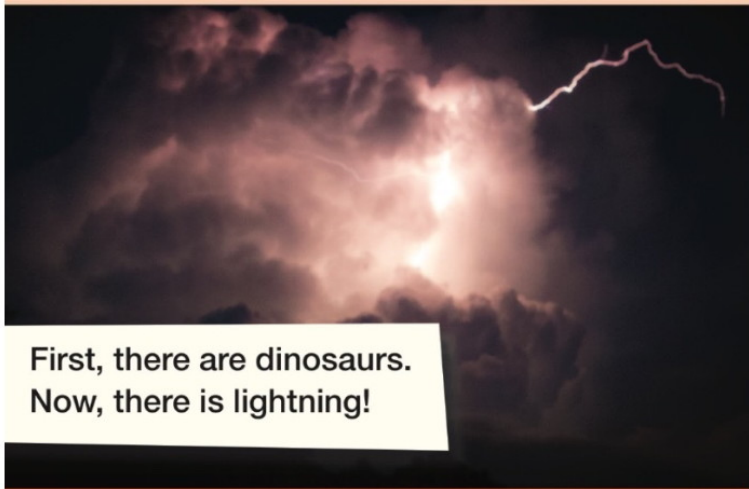
Inclusive Technology  
[www.inclusivetlc.com](http://www.inclusivetlc.com)



**Blue2™**

Ablenet  
[www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)

- To setup for iPad books-just need to have consistent location of book buttons



First, there are dinosaurs.  
Now, there is lightning!



The lightning hits the water.  
The lightning explodes into fire!

# Switches?

## No Problem!

- Download single page text version
- Use iPad switch interface
- Recipe = Turn Pages

Recipes for Switch Control  
Tip # 2, 2016

[www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)



# Did you know . . .

- 'good' 1st grade teachers have more than 1500 books in their **classroom** libraries!

## So What??



# Finding Texts

- Grade Level Texts

- Located Texts / Easier

- Text Summaries

- Text Simplification

# Start with Tarheel Reader!

## Energy

Mrs. Russell's Class



## Types of Energy

murp6019



# **TAR HEEL READER: GET A BOOK-NOW!**

from University Of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

- Developed by Gary Bishop & Karen Erickson
- Free resource for easy, easy, easy books
- Appropriate for beginning readers, especially those who are older
- Accessible via switches and Intellikeys
- Authoring tool for teachers

**[www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org)**

# Not Enough Information? Combine Stories!

## 13 Colonies

C Rosenberger



## The 13 Colonies

nelsonjh84



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## 13 Colonies

C Rosenberger & nelsonjh84



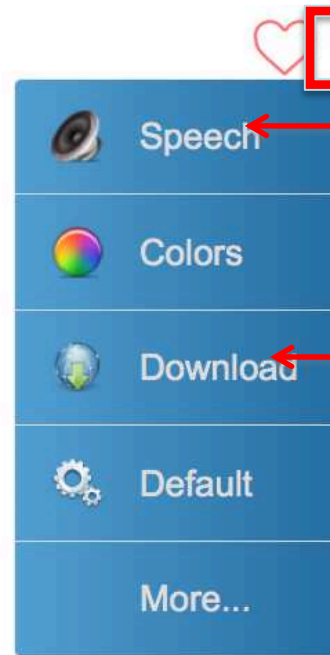
Stories combined by Dr. Caroline Musselwhite

# Make A Talking Book!

Go to [www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org) and pick a book

## Treasure and Pirates

DLM



Open Settings

Click Speech

-Choose voice

Click Download

-Choose e-pub

-Open in iBooks

-Stored in 'Books'  
Folder

# Make A Talking Book!

Go to [www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org) and pick a book



Open Settings



Click Speech

-Choose voice



Click Colors

-Choose a color  
for background

-Choose a Color  
for the Text

# Or, Download as PPT and Make It Talk!

Go to [www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org) and pick a book



Open Settings

Click

Download



- Download as a  
PPT



# Fashion A-Z

rainierw

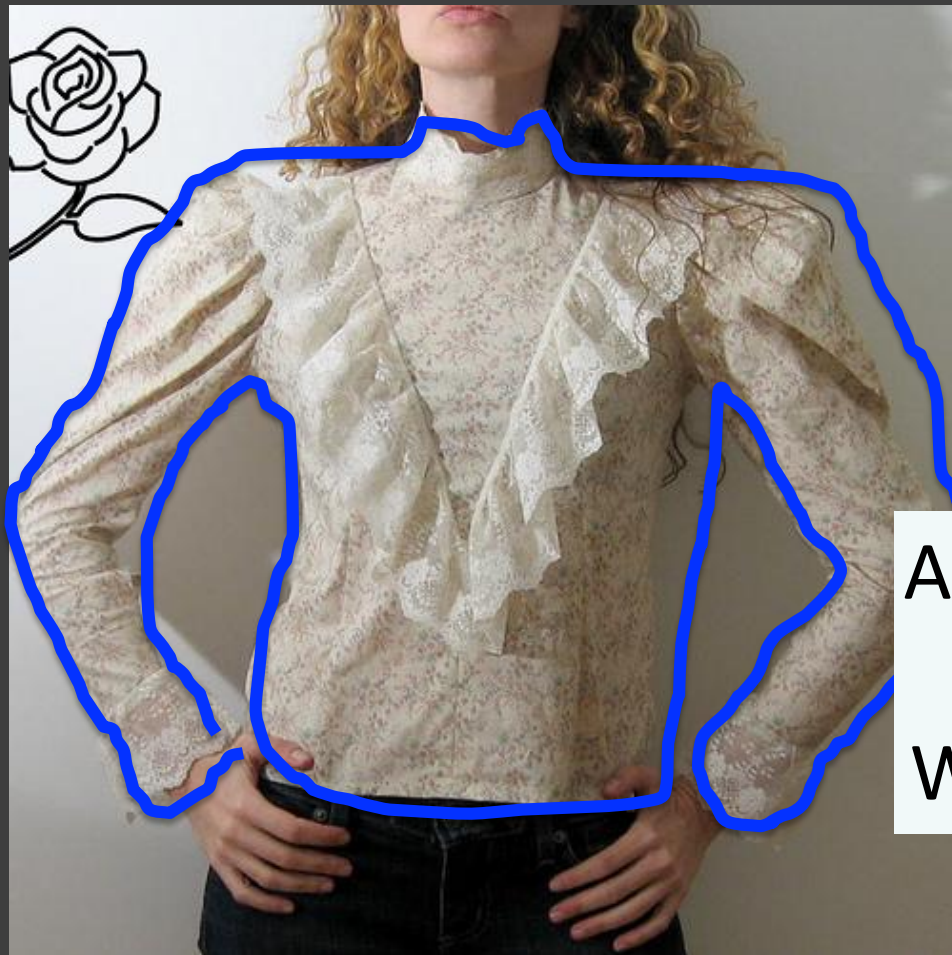
Bold Transitions  
(ex: box)

Color  
background  
• Gray behind  
images  
• Yellow behind  
text



Augmenting  
Input  
With shape

**A is for accessories.**



Augmenting  
Input  
With outlines

**B is for blouse.**

## Save Your Faves – Topic Related!

### American Bison by Ben SLES

Ben



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### Pioneers to the West

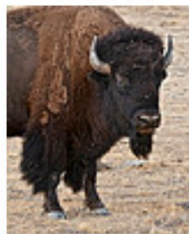
Jessica Forste



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### Buffalo

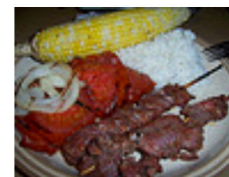
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### Early American Food

scarlettwiseoutcenter



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### American Indian Homes

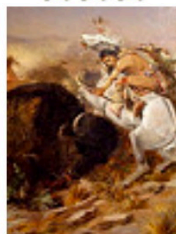
Amy G



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### American Indian Food

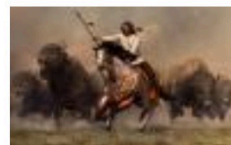
Amy G



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### American History: Horse & Buffalo

Mr. Kay



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# Tarheel Reader

# Collections in Tarheel Reader

5 Senses

A.R.T.

About Hatchet

*chapter summaries*

About Me Books

*Basic fiction about basic emotions.*

Africa

Alphabet Books

*This is a collection of 26 alphabet books, one for each letter of the alphabet.*

Amos & Boris Collection

*Exemplar texts supports for Amos & Boris by William Steig*

Animals

ARE Equals Unit 1: Back to School

Guess what else is on Tarheel Reader?  
*Simplified Texts for Common Core !!!*

- Simplified Texts Based on Exemplar Book List in Common Core Standards, K-11
- More Information Available From Dynamic Learning Maps  
<http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/unc/texts/index.html>
- Thanks to the Center for Literacy & Disability Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

# **To Kill a Mockingbird**

**Harper Lee**

# Because of Winn-Dixie Chapter 1-4

## sageny





# Located Texts: Easier Versions Tarheel Reader

**Lord of  
The Flies**

[www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org)



## Book Bridge

- Created engaging, picture supported chapter summaries
  - *Hatchet*, *Shiloh*, *Tuck Everlasting*, etc.
- Placed summaries at Tarheel Reader (ex: About Hatchet)

### About Hatchet: Chapter 1 maureend



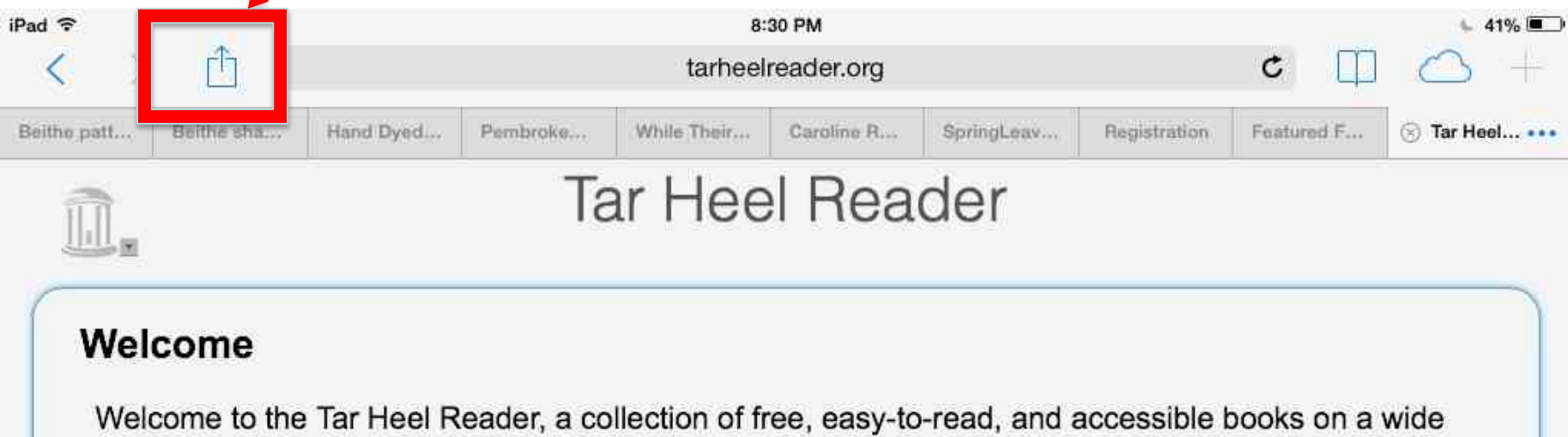
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The next day, Brian saw tracks by the lake. It looked like an animal had buried something.

# MAKE A SHORTCUT FOR YOUR IPAD HOME PAGE! EASY AS 1 – 2 – 3!

1. Go to Safari & navigate to tarheel reader
2. Click 'share' then choose 'Add to home screen'
3. Find your shortcut and start reading!




Caroline Musselwhite on THR

# Pictello and Tarheel Reader

Import Tarheel Reader  
Books into Pictello

<https://www.assistiveware.com/tar-heel-reader-pictello-converter>


Use Pictello as your reader  
when you are off-line

 AssistiveWare®

Home Products Innovations Training & Support Community About News

Home > Tar Heel Reader to Pictello converter

### Tar Heel Reader to Pictello converter



Welcome to the Tar Heel Reader story converter!

Tar Heel Reader is a wonderful free source of books for emergent and beginning readers. It is now possible to convert a Tar Heel Reader book into a Pictello story and read it on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch!

Follow these quick and easy steps

1. Go to [tarheelreader.org](http://tarheelreader.org) and find a story you like
2. Copy the address of the book's title page – [Need help?](#)
3. **Paste the title page address below**
4. To receive an email with a link to the Pictello story, enter your email address below (optional):
5.

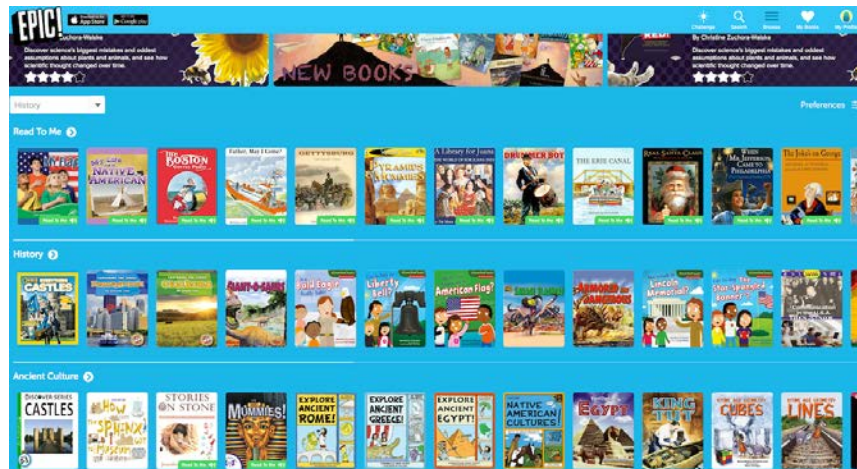
# Get Epic

- Off-the-shelf books (some are audio books)
- Great videos
- Ages / lexiles listed
- Also an app
- FREE for educators!

[www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com)

# Epic Books, Free for Educators! \$5/month for Others

- Has range of topics & genres
- Can set student preferences
- Switch accessible for page turning –use left & right arrows
- Has read aloud feature
  - Con: when read aloud is on - book goes by itself



# Itty-Bitty Bios are Fantastic!

my itty-bitty bio

Martin Luther  
King, Jr.



Include:

- Historical photos
- Interesting facts
- Engaging drawings
- Text-to-self connections



# Simplification: Plan A

Start with an existing PowerPoint with good graphics and themes:

- Too easy? e.g., Tarheel Reader
  - Download & add more information
- Too hard? e.g., Peet's Powerpoints
  - Download & simplify
  - Often can just take out entire bullet points

# Text Simplification

- **1. Breakdown Compound and Complex Sentences**
- Remove transition/connecting words and make them into 2 separate sentences. Example:

Fahrenheit 451	His hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatters and charcoal ruins of history.	Montag was in charge like the conductor of a symphony. He was burning important history books
On My Honor	A shiver convulsed Joel, though the sun was still bright and hot, and he began to move woodenly toward the spot where he had left his clothes.	Joel shivered. He walked to the place where he left his clothes.

*Adapted from Dr. Gretchen Hanser*

## ● 2. Watch the Pronoun Use

- Try not to have too many pronouns where it may not be confusing who/what it might be referring to. Make sure that the pronoun has what it is referring to right before it or in the preceding sentence. When using character names/dialogue, try to not have too many: he, she, they, we. Use them but sparingly—try to use the actual name while not making it so mechanical. This might make it easier to follow the conversation.
- Short Example:
- **Unsimplified:** Maybe Tony could still be saved if he got help.
- **Simplified:** Maybe Tony could be saved if Joel got help.

*Ideas from Dr. Gretchen Hanser*

### ● 3. Simplify Vocabulary Words

- Keep some rich vocabulary words to explain and teach. But, will want to keep it in balance to allow time for teaching all of the other text concepts/connections. When simplifying vocabulary words, also consider the vocabulary on the  $\Delta\Delta C$  device. Example:

#### Text Simplification

Fahrenheit 451	Whistling, he let the escalator <u>waft</u> him into the still night air	Whistling, Montag let the escalator <u>carry</u> him into the still night air
On My Honor	Joel fell over and vomited again.	Joel fell over. He threw up again.

*Adapted from Dr. Gretchen Hanser*

# Text Simplification: Snap&Read

- Universal - works across all platforms
- Great for on-the-fly simplification (e.g., online articles)
- Reads aloud in high-quality voice
- Simplifies vocabulary – NOT grade leveled



[www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)

# Text Simplification: Rewordify

- Substitute 'easier' vocabulary
- You can sign up or just use the Demo
- *Note:* other good stuff at this site!

"You don't care about me," said Caesar. "You only care about the power of Rome. You only want Rome to keep you on your (seat of power of a king or queen)!"

"And you want the riches of Egypt!"

Cleopatra answered. "You know that our riches can pay your soldiers."

Caesar smiled. "My queen, you are young, but you are wise," he said.

"And you are old, but you are powerful!" Cleopatra replied. "Maybe we can work together, mighty Caesar."

<https://rewordify.com/>

- 4. Consider the Student's Background Knowledge

- Clarify concepts/terms that students may not have the background knowledge to understand. For example, a student who has never ridden a bike before may not know the name "Schwinn." Try to clarify when possible. Example:
- ***Unsimplified:*** Tony said, "I get dibs on the Schwinn!"
- ***Simplified:*** Tony said, "I want the Schwinn **bike!**"

## ● 5. Clarify Figurative Language

- Example: Figurative language such as ‘taking in the scene’ may be difficult, and should be simplified.

### *Fahrenheit 451*

With the <u>brass nozzle in his fists</u> , with this <u>great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world</u> . . .	Montag walked down the street <u>holding the metal firehouse nozzle while poisonous gasoline shot out of the hose.</u>
Joel gave Tony a high five, <u>taking in his friend's face</u> as he did.	Joel gave Tony a high five. <u>Joel looked closely at Tony's face.</u>

### *On My Honor*

*Adapted from Dr. Gretchen Hanser*



## ● 6. Support Dialogue Sections

Example: *Lord of the Flies*

<u><b>ORIGINAL TEXT</b></u>	<u><b>SIMPLIFIED TEXT</b></u>
<p>"Him with the shell."</p> <p>"Ralph! Ralph!"</p> <p>"Let him be chief with the trumpet-thing."</p> <p>Ralph raised a hand for silence.</p> <p>"All right. Who wants Jack for chief?"</p> <p>With dreary obedience the choir raised their hands.</p> <p>"Who wants me?"</p>	<p>"Him with the shell."</p> <p>"Ralph! Ralph!" many boys called.</p> <p>"Let him be chief with the trumpet-thing."</p> <p>Ralph raised a hand for silence.</p> <p>"All right. Who wants Jack for chief?"</p> <p>The choir seemed sad and doomed to support their leader.</p> <p>They all raised their hands.</p> <p>"Who wants me?" asked Ralph.</p>

## ● 7. Delete Extraneous Information

● Example:

- ***Unsimplified***: It took only about ten minutes to reach the edge of town. On their way past the school, Tony stuck out his tongue in the direction of the sixth grade classroom where they had spent last year. Joel, deciding he might as well get into the spirit of the day, followed suit, though he liked school well enough.
- ***Simplified***: It took ten minutes to reach the edge of town. The boys rode past their school. Tony stuck out his tongue at the school. Joel did the same, even though he liked school.

# Great Story App Sets . . .

- Inexpensive or free
- Include a bookshelf for student choice
- Offer silent & readaloud options
- Animations & sound effects are okay, but may detract for some students

# I Like Books



- 37 picture books for younger kids
- Natural voice (childish)
- Can click on words to hear them

\$1.99





# FarFaria: Read Along Kids Books

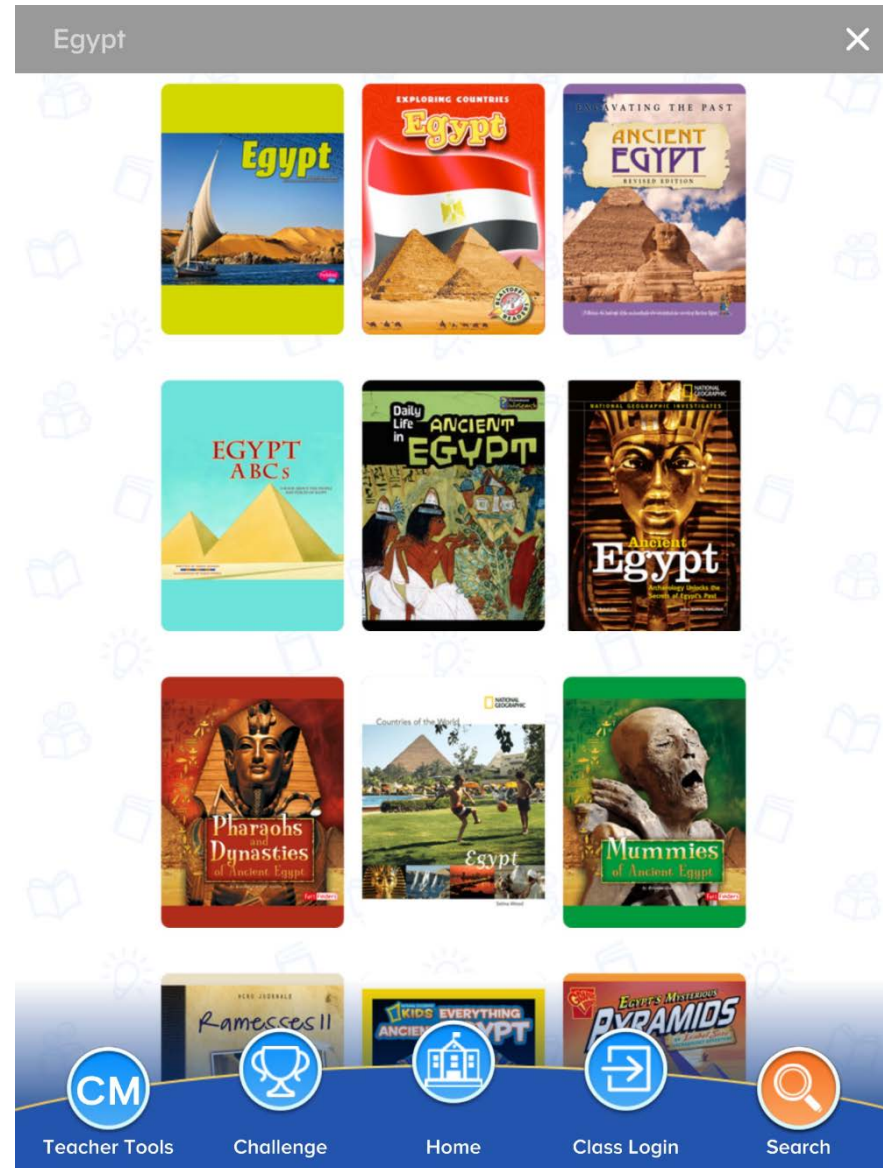
- Subscription
- But you can read one free book a day (from a choice of 3)
- Mostly younger students
- Some stories are engaging & respectful for older students





# Reading IQ

- **FREE for teachers!!**
- Otherwise, subscription
- 5000 + Books!
- Includes National Geographic Kids Stories!
- ABC Mouse Library!



# Oceanhouse Media

- Great kids books – singles & bundles



Dr. Seuss



Little Critter



The Berenstain  
Bears



Favorites



Smithsonian  
Institution



Byron Barton



Once Upon a Potty



Five Little  
Monkeys



Tacky the Penguin



Elmer the  
Patchwork  
Elephant



Kidwick Books



Rudolph the Red-  
Nosed Reindeer



# Oceanhouse Media: Smithsonian

## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION APPS



It's  
Tyrannosaurus  
Rex



Triceratops  
Gets Lost



Pteranodon  
Soars



Saber-Tooth  
Trap



Mosasaurus:  
Mighty Ruler  
of the Sea



Velociraptor:  
Small and  
Speedy



Woolly  
Mammoth In  
Trouble



Is  
Apatosaurus  
Okay?



Busy Day for  
Stegosaurus



Ankylosaurus  
Fights Back



Penguin's  
Family



Polar Bear  
Horizon



Red Fox at  
Hickory Lane



Alphabet of  
Space



Alphabet of  
Dinosaurs



Otter on His  
Own



Ladybug at  
Orchard  
Avenue



Alligator at  
Saw Grass  
Road



# New Kid on the Block

## Interactive Poems by Jack Prelutsky

- GREAT vocabulary support!
- \$4.99



### When Tillie Ate the Chili



When Tillie ate the chili,  
she erupted from her seat,  
she gulped a quart of water,  
and fled screaming down the street,

### THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK



POEMS BY JACK PRELUTSKY



POETRY  
FUN

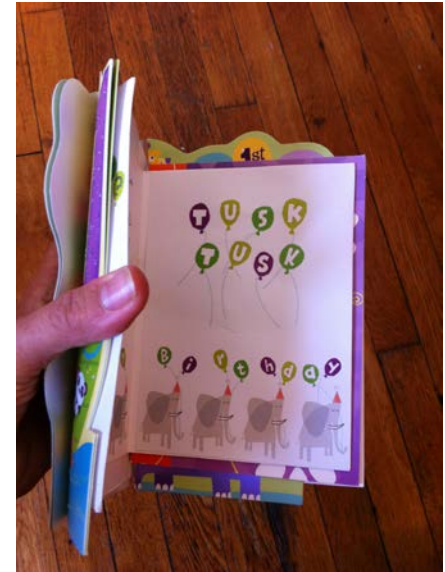
# IN THE BUDGET BOOKS



Box Books



Board Book Makeover

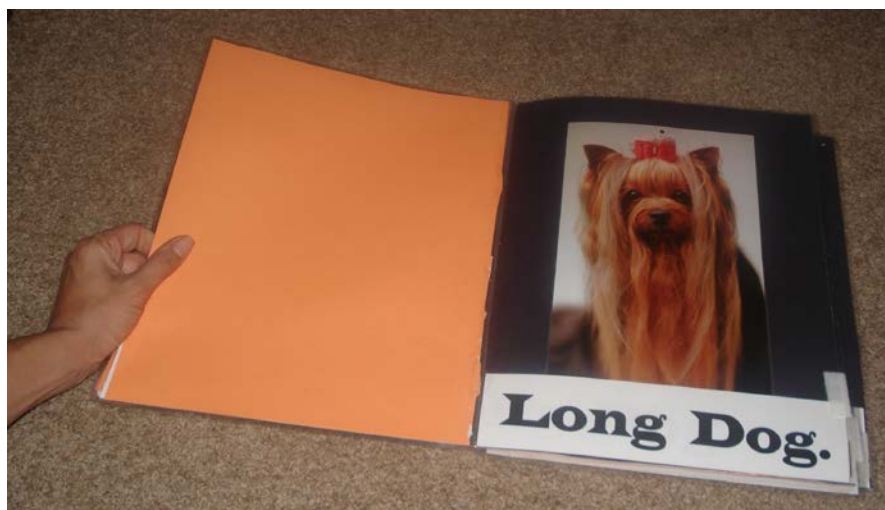


Holiday Card  
Books



Ziplock Baggie Books

## Calendar Books



See tip: January, 2012  
[www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)



# Making Books For Younger Students

WHY??

- Engages students
- Authentic writing
- Reading / writing link
- ‘Lang Experience’ for the 00’s!
- Puts the **fun** back in **fun**ctional’

# HOW??

- ‘Project’ approach
- Use ‘pattern books’ such as:  
*Making Big Books with Children*
- See ideas at:  
[www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)  
Tip: Making Big Books

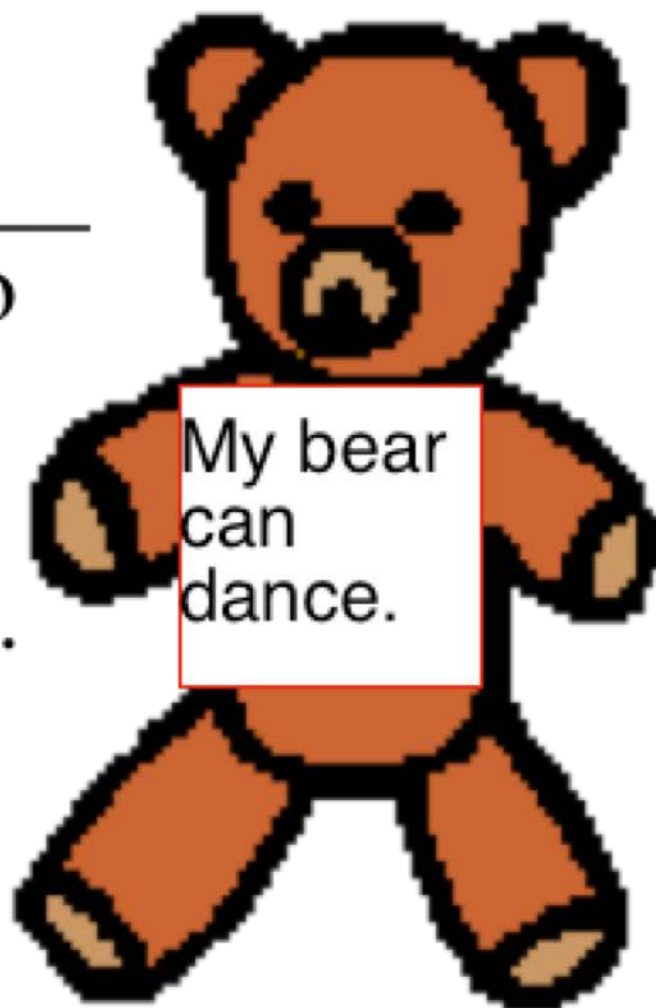
# Sample

## Flap Book:

My bear can \_\_\_\_\_

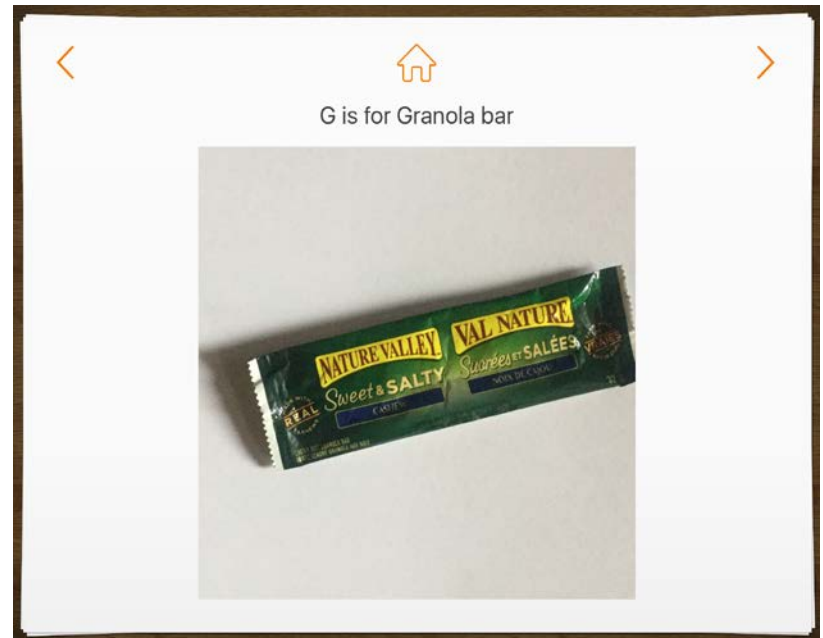
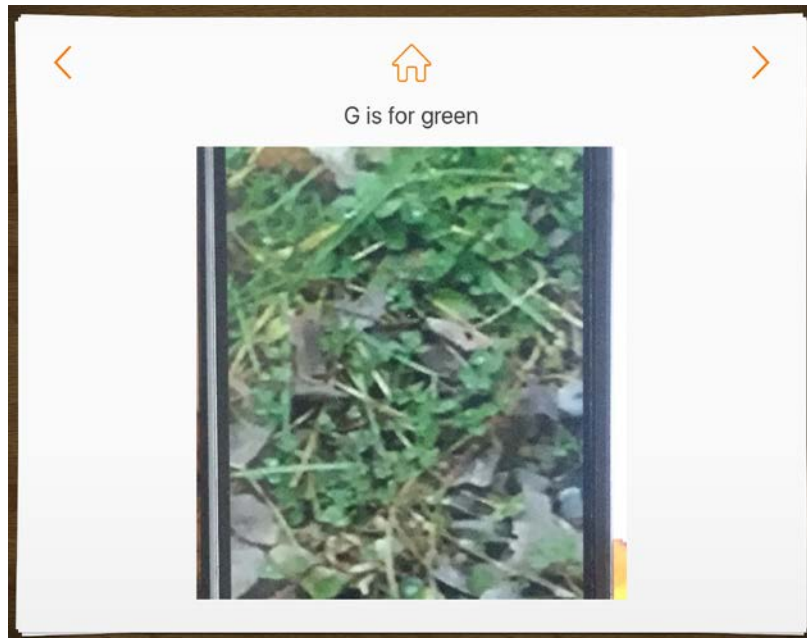
My bear likes to  
eat \_\_\_\_\_

My bear has  
\_\_\_\_\_ fur, etc.



My bear  
can  
dance.

# Pictello at Camp – Pick a Letter & Do a Scavenger Hunt!







Kid in Story App, \$6.99



# Make Student PowerPoint Photo Albums with Picture Captions

## ***PowerPoint Tips:***

- Insert Photos: Crop pics & decrease file size
- Change Background Color: Goto Format – Slide Background
- Insert Videos & Set to play automatically
- Add Transitions to give more visual feedback
- Set PowerPoint to loop: Set Up Show: Loop Continuously until “Esc”

# Fun Verb Book!

From Learning to Work

[www.attainmentcompany.com](http://www.attainmentcompany.com)

Firehouse PowerPoint Books  
By Caroline Musselwhite & the AZ Crew

- From [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)
- All About Fire Fighters
- Fire Fighters
- Fire Alarm
- What's in the Firehouse (noun book)

SEPTEMBER - 2006

**Fire House Stories**



Get out your lights and sirens! Hot off the press! Here are some more simple stories. These were written by teachers & therapists at Buckeye Elementary School in Arizona on a Friday afternoon after a long week! (And they are still wonderful... proves what a combination of determination, imagination, collaboration, and inspiration will do!) **Enjoy!!**

**September 2006**

# **Writing Simple Stories...In a N.Y. Minute**

Musselwhite & Erickson, [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)

Tip of the Month, November, 2005

- Choose topics based on student interest
- Keep it SHORT, SHORT, SHORT
  - 6 words or less per page
- Have AAC student add sound effects/comments

# Tips for Structures

- Sentence Frames
  - (noun) in the (place), (at, on, up)
- Fun Use of Repeated Lines-but sparingly
- Use High Frequency Words
- Noun, Verb or Adjective Books

# Before / During / After

- **During:**

- Remember – leave kids alone to explore / read!

- **After:**

- Have an informal conversation about the books; Model: YOU LIKE THAT! THAT'S SAD; GOOD ONE; LOOKs SILLY
- **NO TESTING!!!**
  - **NO book reports!**