
Figure 5.2. Digital annotation and screencasting lesson.

Digital Annotation and Screencasting Lesson**Standards**

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Rationale

To read and comprehend complex literary texts (R.10), students must be able to read closely, determining what the text says explicitly, and to cite specific textual evidence when speaking about the text (R.1). This work involves interpreting words and phrases and determining meanings (R.4). For digital texts, this work can be accomplished using digital tools.

Goals

Students will be able to use digital tools to annotate a passage and to reflect on their reading.

Formative Assessment

Individual screencast of close reading of assigned passage from *The Secret Life of Bees*

Materials

- Laptop with digital tools installed and projector
- Thinking about Reading handout (Figure 5.3)
- JPEG of *The Secret Life of Bees* passage

Lesson Plan

1. Have students answer the introductory questions on the handout and share responses with the class to arrive at appropriate definitions. Discuss why individuals might want to create screencasts or screenshots. What are the typical contexts in which students see these types of digital texts?
2. Ask students to consider how these digital tools might be useful in annotating texts and reflecting on their reading. Base this conversation in the knowledge they have gained about annotating print texts.
3. Share sample screencast that demonstrates digital annotation and reflection.
4. Model the annotation (with screencasting) with the whole class using the sample passage from *The Secret Life of Bees*.
5. Review the steps outlined on the handout and the resources suggested for completing the assignment. Extension/Differentiation: Note the tools for iPad. (These will not be demonstrated in class but will be noted for those students who want to learn them on their own.)
6. Have students respond to the reflection question and share their responses.

Permission is granted for classroom use.

Figure 5.3. Handout on thinking about reading.

Thinking about Reading

Overview

What is a screenshot?

How is a screencast different from a screenshot?

Annotating on the Computer

How do I annotate a passage from a novel?

To annotate on the computer:

1. Take a picture of your passage (or scan it) and transfer it to your computer. You can do this by taking the picture with your phone and emailing it to yourself. Don't forget to rotate the image if you need to do so before you send it.
2. Install the Chrome plug in for Awesome Screenshot.
3. Open the picture that you sent to your email. Click on the Awesome Screenshot extension so that you can annotate the text.
4. Open a new tab and start Screencast-o-matic. Begin recording. You can pause the recording by clicking the button in the lower left corner.
5. Switch back to the tab with the picture of your text, start the screencast recording, and begin annotating.
6. Save the recording by uploading to Youtube.

See Dr. Turner's sample at: <http://youtu.be/f3Xhnavs52U>

Notes

How can I use digital tools to help me think about my reading? What other apps or websites do you know about that might be useful?

Materials Needed

To complete the screencast, you need:

- A picture or scan of your assigned passage from *Secret Life of Bees*
- A computer or iPad with a microphone
- An annotation program
- A screencasting program

Resources

For computer (demonstrated in class and video)

Screencast-o-matic

<http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/>

Awesome Screenshot

<http://awesomescreenshot.com/>

For Ipad (not demonstrated in class)

Educreations

<http://www.educreations.com/>

Skitch

<http://evernote.com/skitch/>