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Digital Tools 4 Students: Overview of digital tools in learning



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TOPIC LIST



1. Circular Economy explained



2. Preparing for DST



3. Digital Tools 4 Teachers



4. Digital Tools 4 Students



5. Telling Stories about Circular Economy



6. Developing Skills



7. Implementing DST in Schools



8. Initiating Competences for the Future



**BY THE END OF
THIS SECTION
YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO...**

- 1.** Identify the benefits of using particular digital tools for learning.
- 2.** Understand how particular digital tools can enhance learning process.
- 3.** Identify different types of digital tools and resources that can be prepared using those tools.
- 4.** Apply digital tools in your daily life to improve productivity when learning.

OVERVIEW

In today's learning environment, digital tools are indispensable for enhancing learning experiences. They simplify complex tasks, Foster creativity and make learning more interesting, for instance, through digital storytelling. As digital storytelling means using technology to tell stories, we must know which tools we can use. We can tell digital stories in various ways, for instance through images, videos or even social media. It's like a narrative presented more engagingly and interestingly.

Digital storytelling is a highly effective way of learning not only because of the teachers' contribution and creation of digital stories but also because stories are created by students themselves. That is why students need a set of tools they can use to make the whole process of creation quicker, easier and more effective. Tools that require good expertise or too many steps to follow may be boring for students and discouraging at the same time. Therefore, four intuitive tools are the focus of this material.

HOW ARE DIGITAL TOOLS USEFUL FOR STUDENTS?









Digital tools empower students to learn more efficiently, collaborate effectively, and develop essential skills for future success. They make education more engaging and accessible, shaping well-rounded, tech-savvy learners of the 21st century.

Benefit	Example
Digital tools like search engines, e-books or online libraries provide instant access to information	Google Scholar , Storyboard That , Global Digital Library
Apps and tools help students manage their time and tasks effectively	Google Calendar , Todoist
Digital tools make learning more interactive and engaging through multimedia content	Book Creator , Canva , Storyboard That , Prezi , Quizlet
Students can explore creativity and build skills using digital tools	Canva , Prezi , Storyboard That , Book Creator

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS USE DIGITAL TOOLS?

Students should use digital tools because they offer numerous advantages that enhance learning, foster creativity and prepare them for the demands of a digital world. Here's why:

-  Improved Learning Outcomes: Digital tools provide access to diverse resources and make complex topics easier to understand through multimedia formats
-  Enhanced Engagement: Interactive exercises, and visually appealing content keep students motivated.
-  Collaboration Opportunities: Digital tools enable students to work together seamlessly, regardless of location.
-  Development of Essential 21st-Century Skills: Using digital tools prepares students for future careers by teaching them critical tech skills and digital communication.
-  Self-Paced Learning: Students can learn at their own pace, revisiting topics as needed to ensure thorough understanding.
-  Making Learning More Fun: Children find digital tools engaging, exciting and fun. Video, audio, images, colour - students find it fun! Those who have fun learning retain new information and have greater success in their learning.

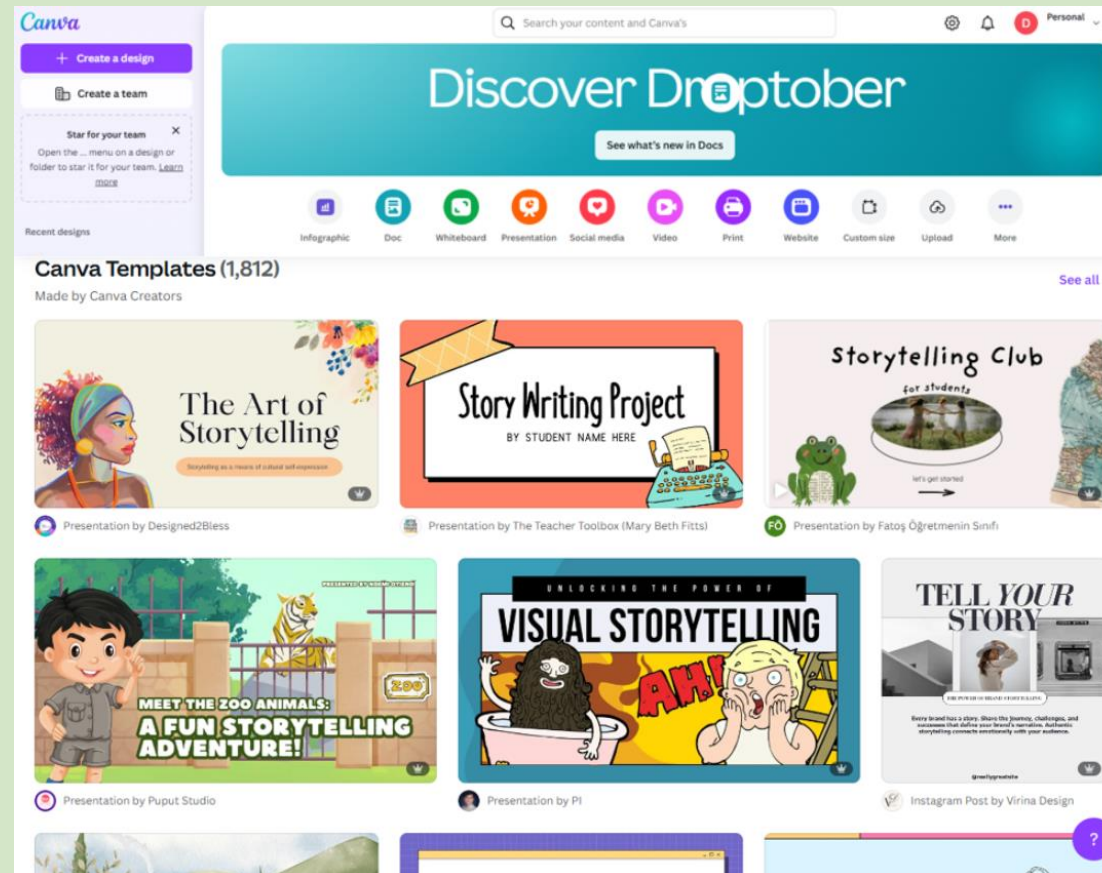
CANVA



What is Canva?

Canva is a free-to-use online graphic design tool that lets you design visual materials without the need for graphic design skills. There are various templates to choose from. From social media posts, videos, presentations, posters and art to drawings and other.

There are two versions of plans – the free version and the premium version. There are multiple free images and AI features provided even in the free version of the tool. Canva can be used via a web browser, a mobile app or a desktop app.



Source: [Canva](https://www.canva.com)



CANVA



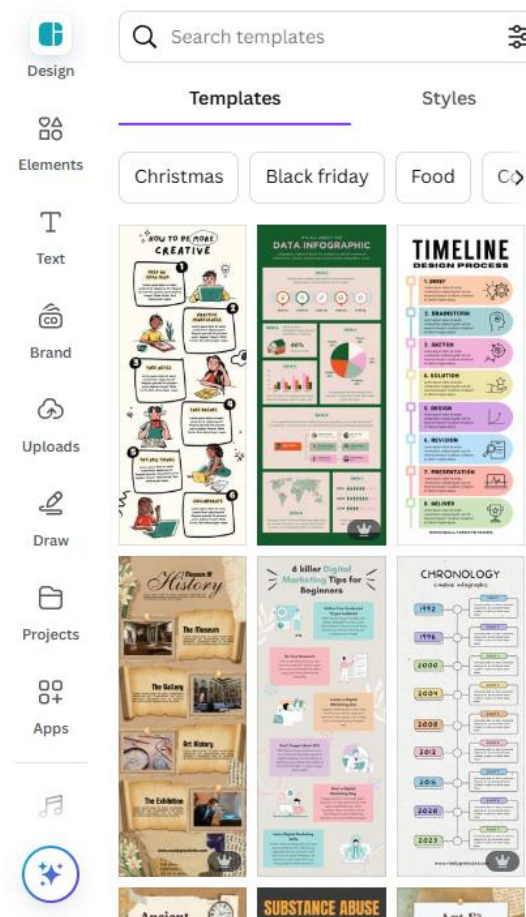
What can be found?

Its helpful menu bar enables you to navigate the tool easily and find everything you need.

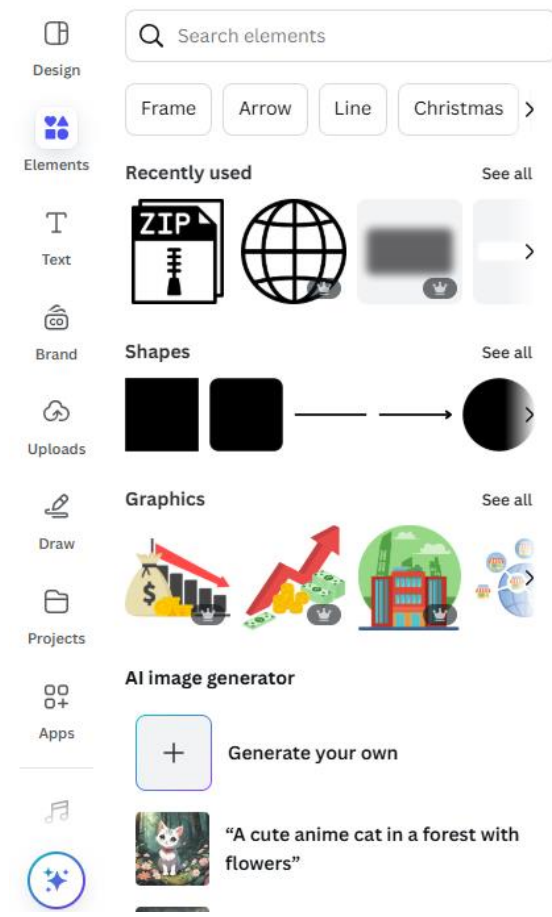
The first section provides you with various pre-designed templates that you can use for your designs.

Next, you can find any elements that you need, like photos, videos and graphics that you can use.

Other sections allow you to create textual elements, upload your own images, videos or music, draw and even use numerous AI tools to enhance your designs.



Source: [Canva](https://www.canva.com)



Source: [Canva](https://www.canva.com)



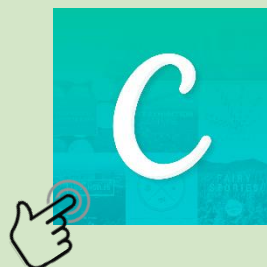
CANVA



Canva Design School

If you want to explore more Canva features, you can make use of Canva Design School which provides some courses on designs, guides you through all of its functions and you can even watch some tutorials.

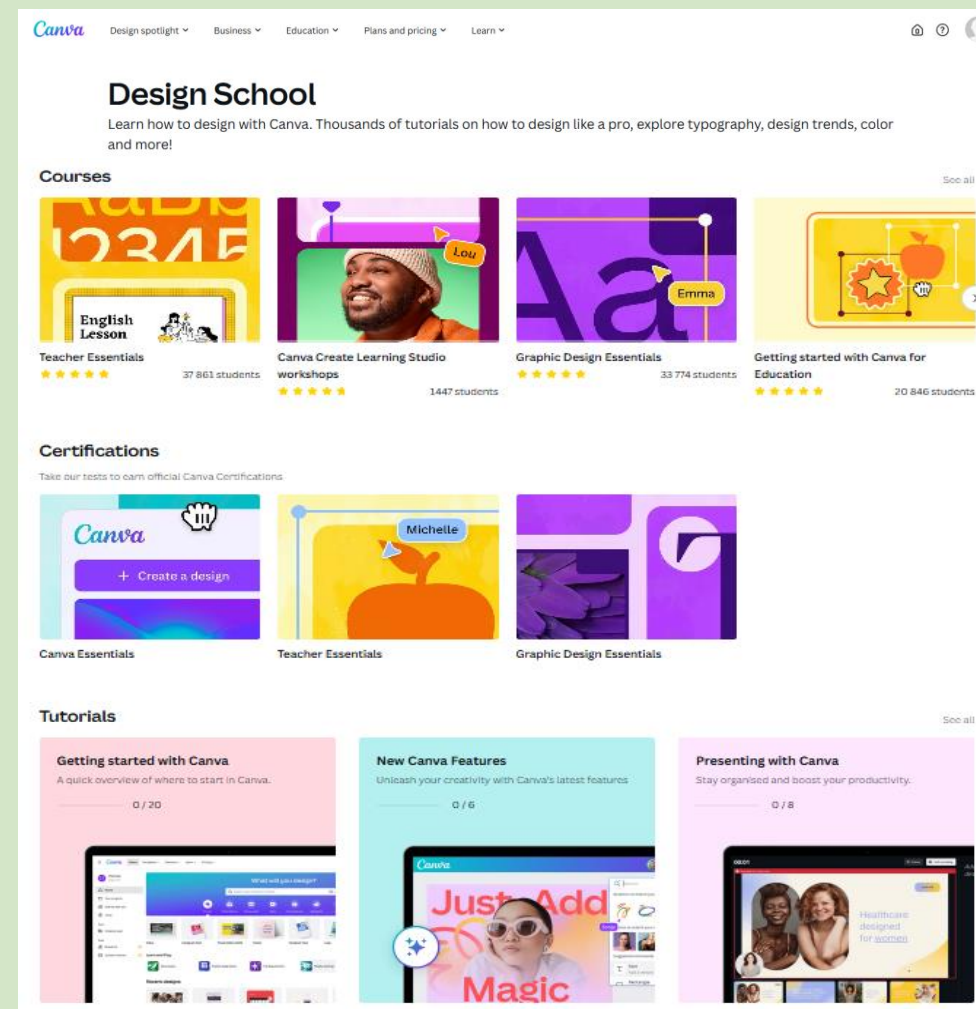
To access Canva and Canva Design School you can click the icons below.



Canva



Canva Design School



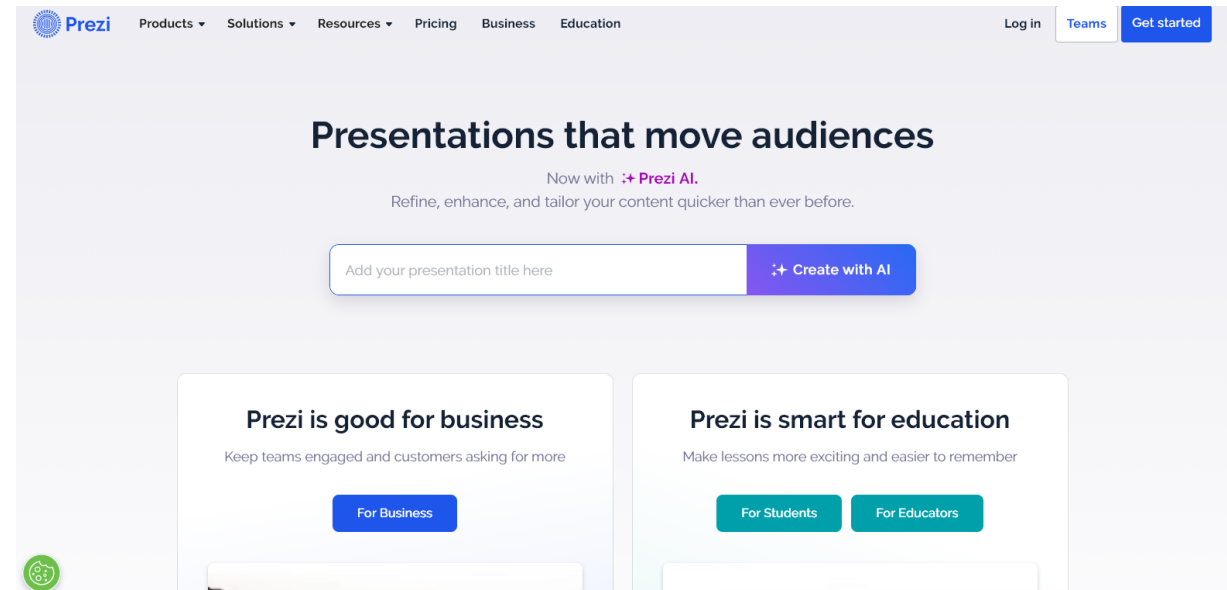
Source: [Canva](https://www.canva.com/design-school/)

PREZI



What is Prezi?

Prezi is an online tool for creating original presentations. It offers some unique features that distinguish it from other tools like Microsoft PowerPoint. It has become more popular in schools and is used by both students and teachers. Prezi uses a 'canvas-based' approach rather than the standard 'slide' approach. Therefore, your presentation moves around and zooms in and out – you can choose how you would like it to look.



Source: [Prezi](https://prezi.com)



How to start?

Before creating a presentation in Prezi, you have to create your account. If you agree that your presentations are public, Prezi is completely free.

To create a new presentation you can choose from various pre-designed templates, but it is also possible to create your presentation from scratch. You can include your own pictures, videos and background music, or use pictures and shapes provided by Prezi.

An advantage is that you can access and share your presentations via a mobile app available for Android and IOS.

No need to start from scratch

Jumpstart with these quick, simple ways to create your most impressive presentations ever.

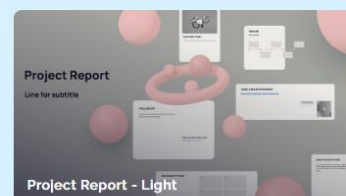
AI

General

Science

History

Reports



Source: [Prezi](https://prezi.com/)



If you need some help...

Prezi provides some guidance on creating resources and your account management.

You can access any necessary aids by clicking the icons below.



Prezi



Prezi tutorials



Prezi Example

STORYBOARD THAT



What is Storyboard That?

Storyboard That is a digital storytelling tool that helps students communicate and learn. It enables creating of storyboards to tell a visually engaging story. Although it has some affordable plans, it has also a free version. It's like a comic book that can be transformed even into videos.

You can create your own designs or use ready-made templates and adjust them to your needs.

The tool can be used for class presentations and other class projects.



Source: [Storyboard That](https://storyboardthat.com)

STORYBOARD THAT

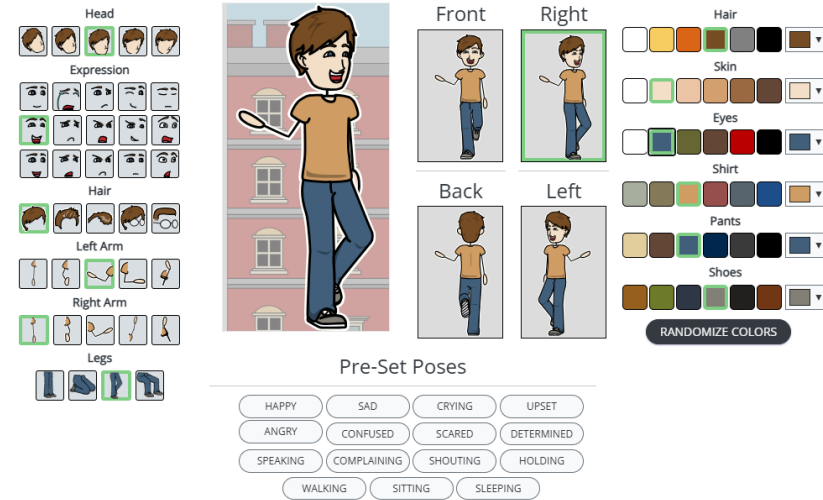


How to start?

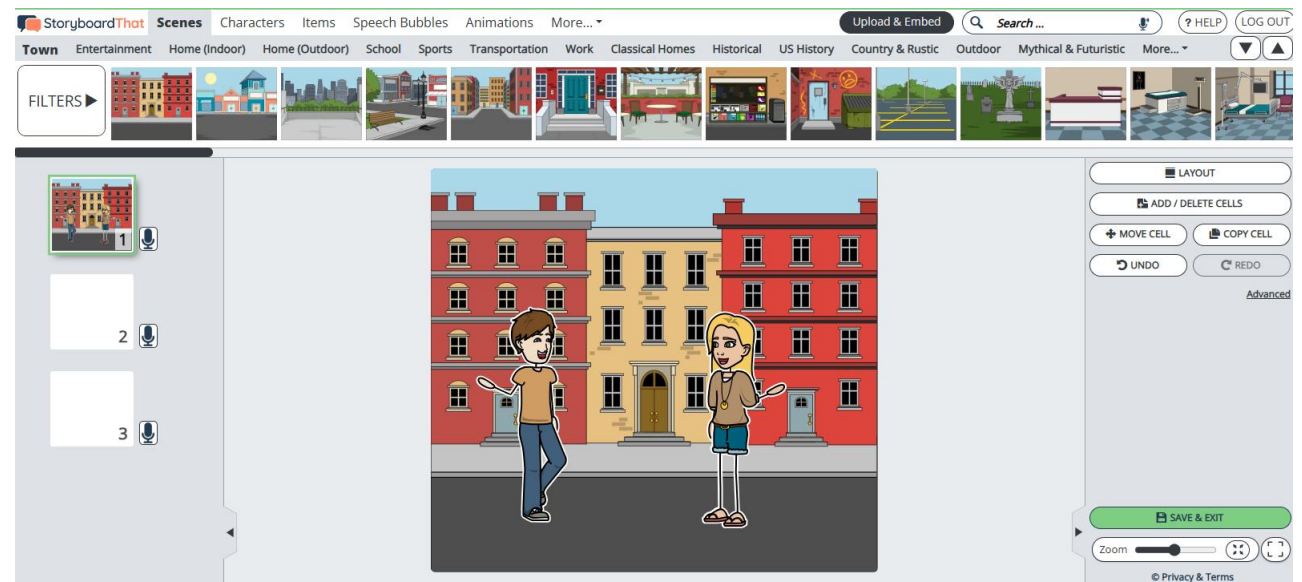
First, you have to create a free account. Create a new project, select from template categories and start creating.

You can change colours, add emotions to the characters and change their poses.

The tool itself is very intuitive so students shouldn't have any problems using it. What is useful, is that projects can be exported as , for instance, Microsoft PowerPoint presentations.



Source: [Storyboard That](https://storyboardthat.com)



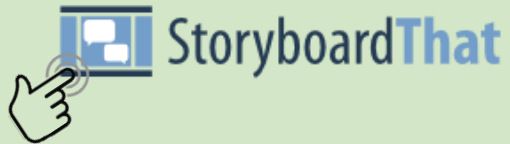
Source: [Storyboard That](https://storyboardthat.com)

STORYBOARD THAT



Help with designs...

Storyboard That is easily accessible through the website browser. If somebody needs any help, there is a section on the website that offers additional guidance from basics to more advanced design operations.



Storyboard That



Storyboard That
Help Centre



Getting Started Video

BOOK CREATOR



What is Book Creator?

Book Creator is a digital tool that enables students to create digital books on various topics. It helps enhance student engagement through story creation by generating their content. They can draw, upload images, videos, audio files or use other online resources.

It is also a good solution for student projects and collaboration as it enables real-time collaboration for a few students to work together on one book.

All you have to do is create your free account and sign in as a student. Then, you have to create your library and start making a new book.

The screenshot shows the Book Creator website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Book Creator logo, a search bar, and buttons for "Create a FREE account" and "Log in". Below the navigation bar, there are links for "FOR TEACHERS", "SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS", "FEATURES", and "PRICING". The main section features a large "Love Learning" headline with a tagline: "Book Creator is the simplest, most inclusive way to create content in the classroom." Below this, there are three colored boxes: "For students" (orange) with a "Sign in" button, "For teachers" (blue) with a "Learn more" button and a "Create a free account" link, and "For schools" (black) with a "Learn more" button and a "Get a quote" link. The bottom section is a grid of six light blue boxes, each with an icon and a description of a feature: 1. A font icon with "50 hand-picked fonts to choose from". 2. A photo icon with "Add images or take your own photos". 3. A video/music icon with "Drop in video or music, or even record your voice". 4. A pen icon with "Use the pen tool to draw or annotate". 5. An "Ideas" icon with "Use shapes, icons, arrows and emojis to express your ideas". 6. A book layout icon with "Portrait, square, or landscape book layouts".

Source: [Book Creator](#)

BOOK CREATOR



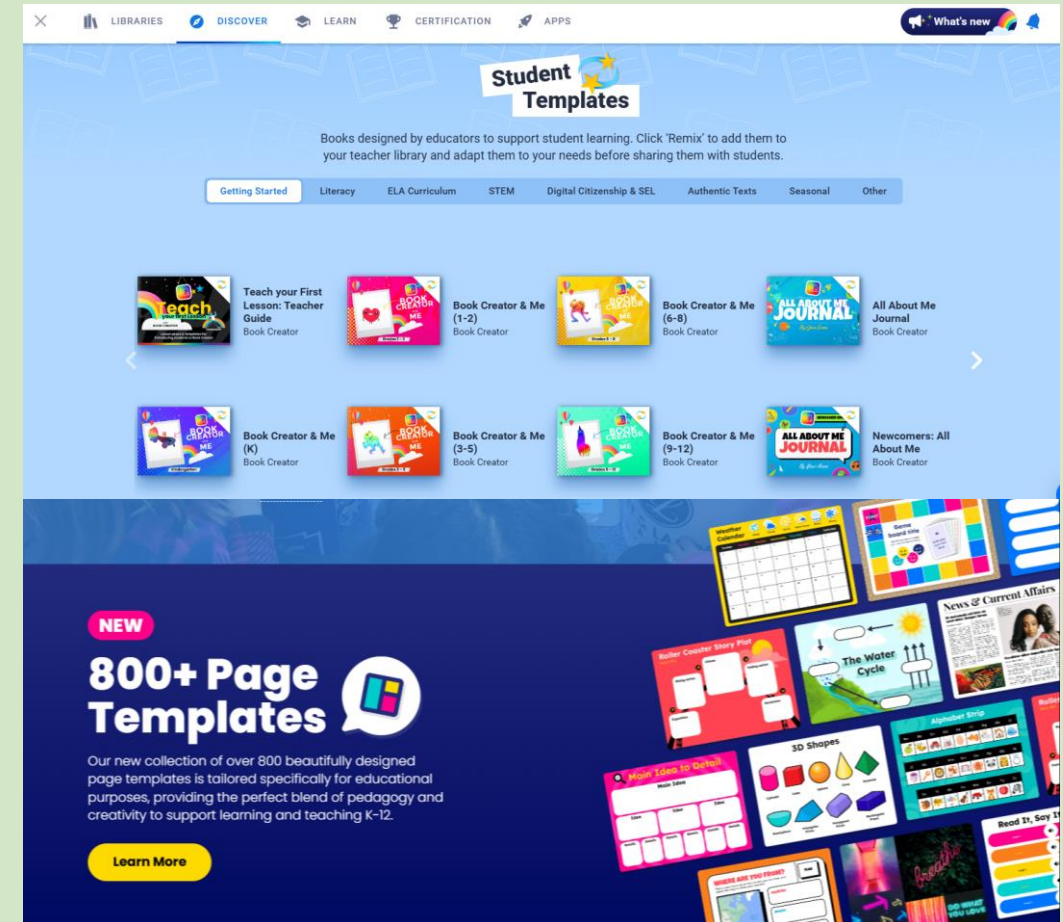
What can you create with your free account?

You can create 40 books with all the functions except for real-time collaboration (to unlock this function, you have to choose a premium program - \$12/month).

Books can be read by Read To Me Function making it accessible for people with reading problems, poor vision or other disabilities.

Book Creator offers various categories of books like history, science, creative arts, English/Language Arts and others.

Created books can be downloaded and shared on, for instance, social media.



Source: [Book Creator](https://www.bookcreator.com/)

BOOK CREATOR



Getting to know the tool

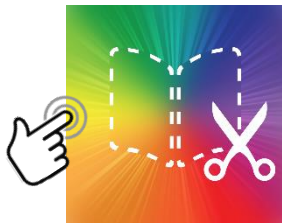
Book Creator has undoubtedly many functions, and while it is an intuitive tool, some help or initial guidance would be helpful.

Book Creator offers some videos showing how to use various functions. The videos can be found on their website and their YouTube channel.

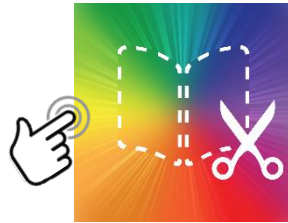
Click on the icons below to get familiar with the tool.



Book Creator



Book Example 1



Book Example 2



Book Creator
and Classroom



Introductory
Video



Real-time
Collaboration

USEFUL CONCEPTS

- 1. Multimedia Integration**
The use of various digital media formats (videos, audio, images and text) to create engaging narratives. Tools like Canva make it easy for students to combine these elements together.
- 2. Interactive Storyboarding**
A digital approach to planning and organizing a story with the use of platforms such as Storyboard That. This helps to visualise narrative structure.

MULTIMEDIA INTEGRATION

Definition

Digital storytelling thrives on the seamless blending of diverse media types to create a dynamic narrative. Instead of relying solely on text, multimedia integration allows creators to enhance their stories with visuals, sounds, and interactivity. For example, a student creating an environmental narrative might include photographs of the environment, background music can refer to the sounds of nature.

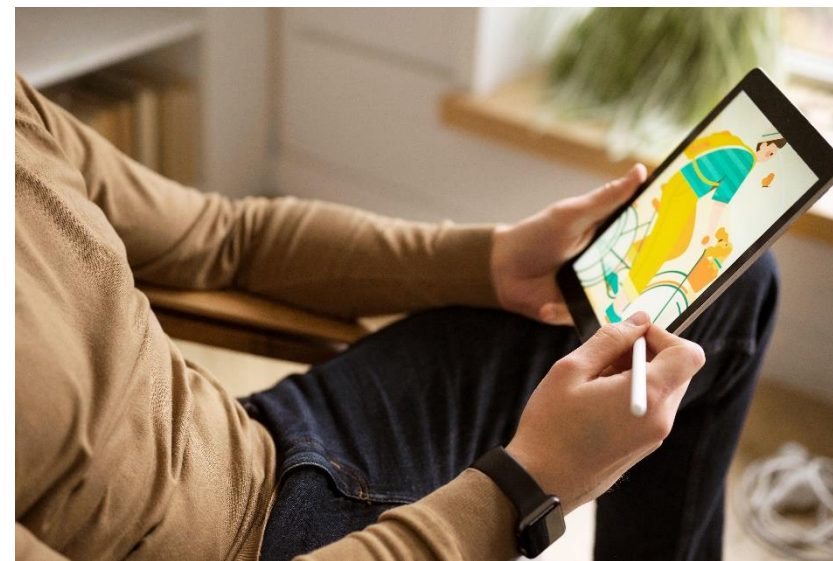


Source: [Freepik](#)

INTERACTIVE STORYBOARDING

Definition

Storyboarding is a crucial planning step in storytelling, providing a visual outline of the narrative's flow. Digital tools elevate this process by making it interactive and collaborative. With tools like Storyboard That, students can map out their stories scene by scene, add visual elements, and annotate key details. Storyboard That also promotes teamwork, as multiple users can contribute and refine the storyboard in real time.



Source: [Freepik](#)

PRACTICAL TIP #1



Issue

Difficulty in Designing a Visually Appealing content: Many students struggle with creating visually appealing layouts and designs due to a lack of design skills.

What to do...

Use pre-designed templates available in tools. Most of them offer user-friendly interfaces with drag-and-drop features and customizable templates tailored for storytelling. Select a template that matches your narrative tone and customize fonts, colours, and visuals to suit your theme.

PRACTICAL TIP #2



Issue

Lack of High-Quality Media: Incorporating visuals and audio that align with your story can be challenging, especially when sourcing media that is both high-quality and free to use.

What to do...

Use free media libraries such as Unsplash, Pexels and Pixabay for high-resolution images and videos. For audio, websites like Free Music Archive or Pixabay Music offer free background tracks. There are also plenty of free media on Canva. Make sure to credit the creators appropriately if required.

CHECK WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

01. I know how particular digital tools enhance learning efficiency by offering accessible solutions for complex tasks.
02. I know how I can use particular digital tools to enhance my learning process and make it more interesting.
03. I know what kind of digital tools are available and what I can create using them.
04. I know how to apply digital tools in my daily life to improve my productivity and learning routine.



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