This is a preview. The number of pages is limited. Some pages are omitted.
TechnoToon is available for PowerPoint and Slides.
https://www.technokids.com/store/elementary-school/technotoon/digital-storytelling.aspx

TECHNOToon

Teacher Guide

Lessons for Elementary Students: Grades 3-8

Technology Course for PowerPoint

Animate a digital story.

Inspire writers to use their imaginations for storytelling.

In this course, students create a digital story in the style of a cartoon or animated comic strip using Microsoft PowerPoint. To start, they learn about writing conventions and watch sample stories as a source of inspiration. Students then apply their creativity to construct their story with text boxes, images, callouts, starbursts, and shapes. Transitions are inserted between slides to divide the scenes. Animation is applied to objects to sequence the timing of events. Upon completion, the digital story is shared with peers. Challenging extension activities support learning with optional assignments such as picture editing, advanced animation techniques, or print options. Discover the fun your students can have with PowerPoint!

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Introduction

This section provides valuable information about teaching TechnoToon. It includes an overview of the course. In addition, there are ideas for implementation and technology integration.

For additional guidance, open the course in TechnoHub and select Get Started to access preparatory steps, resource list, and scheduling timetable.

TechnoToon Overview

TechnoToon Course Outline

Technology Integration Ideas

TechnoToon Overview

Inspire writers to use their imaginations for storytelling.

In this course, students create a digital story in the style of a cartoon or animated comic strip using Microsoft PowerPoint. To start, they learn about writing conventions and watch sample stories as a source of inspiration. Students then apply their creativity to construct their story with text boxes, images, callouts, starbursts, and shapes. Transitions are inserted between slides to divide the scenes. Animation is applied to objects to sequence the timing of events. Upon completion, the digital story is shared with peers. Challenging extension activities support learning with optional assignments such as picture editing, advanced animation techniques, or print options. Discover the fun your students can have with PowerPoint!

Students complete the following tasks:

- In Session 1, students become digital storytellers. They explore the genre by examining how elements such as text boxes, callouts, shapes, and basic images are combined to tell a narrative. To inspire their creativity, they view sample cartoons created using Microsoft PowerPoint. These include "What is It?", "My Dream", and "Super Dog". Each of these examples offers a distinct and innovative approach to digital storytelling."
- In Session 2, students develop a plan for their digital story. They sketch their ideas into a storyboard to arrange the sequence of events. An optional activity offers suggestions for characters, settings, and plots. Once prepared, students use Microsoft PowerPoint to craft their front cover. By experimenting with background options including color, gradient fills, textures, and patterns, they discover how to create a cartoon aesthetic. Following this, they explore formatting options to produce a title with a text box featuring a unique outline and shape effect. These graphic design skills will be applied in upcoming sessions to illustrate each scene in their story.
- In Session 3, students begin by introducing the story to viewers. They create a slide with a text box that describes what is happening. They select an online picture for their slide background, setting the scene for their narrative. Suggestions are provided to help them search for an ideal image. Next, they then choose their main character, who will use a callout to speak. An optional activity explains how to save a picture from the Internet to find a specific clipart for their character in the story.
- In Session 4, students illustrate each scene in their story. To start, they learn how to arrange object order and group shapes. They apply these graphic design techniques to combine WordArt with shapes to depict sounds like splat, whoosh, thud, or ka-pow. This makes their cartoon look authentic. As an optional activity, students can further their understanding of picture editing by exploring advanced styling, rotation, and cropping features.
- In Session 5, students animate each scene in their story. First, they apply transitions between slides to divide the action between each strip of the comic. Then, students animate individual slide objects to sequence storytelling. They are guided with animation tips. An optional activity introduces advanced animation techniques, such as combining entrance, emphasis, and exit effects, as well as adjusting the order and timing of events.

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- In Session 6, students present their digital story to an audience. To prepare, they use a checklist to review the content, design, and animation. After completing revisions, students set their cartoon to play automatically. They then participate in a toon-a-thon, where the entire class watches each other's cartoons. Optional activities explain how to print the slides for assembly as a comic book and convert the file to a video.

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TechnoToon Course Outline

Purpose: Engage in digital storytelling. Produce a cartoon or animated comic strip that tells a story using text, imagery, and animation.

Objectives: (see Appendix A: Skill Summary)

- examine digital stories
- select and organize story ideas
- produce an original digital story
- revise a story to improve quality
- publish a digital story to share with others
- insert new slides and select layout
- format slide background for story backdrop
- express ideas using text and shapes
- illustrate events with images and objects
- divide story action by applying transitions
- animate slide objects to sequence events
- set a digital story to play automatically

Preparation:

- Install Microsoft 365
- Share *Toon* folder with students
- Download Flashcards and Tool Summary from TechnoHub (optional)

Materials:

- Assessment: Digital Story Checklist, Peer Editing Checklist, TechnoToon Skill Summary, Digital Story Marking Sheet
- PowerPoint Samples: What is It; My Dream, Super Dog, Connection, PSA, Biography
- Parent Letter and Certificate (optional)
- Flashcards and Tool Summary (optional)
- Toon folder:
  - Videos: What is It; My Dream, Super Dog
  - Cartoon1 and Cartoon 2 (optional)
  - Organize Story Ideas.pdf (optional)

Summary of Activities:

- Learn about digital storytelling, cartoons, and comic strips. Complete storyboard panels.
- View sample digital stories as a source of inspiration. Answer questions about their content.
- Use a planning sheet to draft story ideas. Organize events into panels.
- Make a title slide. Format text and text boxes. Apply a slide background.
- Set the scene. Create a slide with a picture background. Include a text box, character, and callout.
- Create the remaining scenes. Include a starburst with text to emphasize an action.
- Add transitions to divide scenes. Animate objects to control the timing of events and enhance story.
- Complete a digital story checklist. Make revisions.
- Share a digital story.

Extension Activities:

- Generate a Story Idea: Select a character, setting, and plot to generate a storyline.
- Use Images from Internet: Learn about copyright. Save a background or WordArt. Insert onto slide.
- Picture Editing Workshop: Crop, frame, and flip images.
- Animation Workshop: Practice animation techniques by making a short story.
- Print Your Comic: Print a handout with customized settings.
- Make a Video: Output the digital story as a movie file.

Assessment:

- Self-Evaluation (Digital Story Checklist)
- Peer-Evaluation (Peer Editing Checklist)
- Teacher Evaluation (TechnoToon Skill Summary, Digital Story Marking Sheet)

Notes:

- Digital storytelling is a language arts activity. Activities follow the stages of the writing process.
- The creative writing assignment can be kept simple. Use extension activities to challenge students with advanced skills.

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Technology Integration Ideas

Inspire reluctant writers with digital storytelling. The TechnoToon course integrates technology into language arts. Have your students use their imaginations to create a story that looks like a cartoon or animated comic strip. This is a fun creative writing activity that students will enjoy.

TechnoToon can be used as a creative writing unit, an option for a book report, or as part of a novel study. Here are a few ideas!

- *Write an Original Story:* Plan a story or simple scenario that has a beginning, middle, and end. Divide the action into panels. Use text boxes to describe the scene, callouts for characters to speak or think, and clip art to illustrate the action. *(see What Is It sample)*
- *Only a Dream:* Create a dream sequence that shows a series of imaginary scenes. This is an easy way to plan a digital story. *(see My Dream sample)*
- *Illustrate a Wacky Scene:* Have fun with a cliché or popular expression. Make a simple scene that explains what happens when pigs fly, there is a blue moon, or it starts raining cats and dogs.
- *Invent a Superhero:* Create a character and give them a name and superpower. Have the hero save the day! Take part in a rescue mission, engage in an epic battle with a powerful foe, stop a crook, or retrieve a lost item. *(see Super Dog sample)*
- *Tell a Joke:* Make people laugh! Use one slide to make a silly scene, two slides to show before and after clips, or several slides to tell a knock-knock joke.
- *Transform a Popular Story:* Remake a nursery rhyme or fairy tale into a cartoon. Swap the characters, adjust the story line, or rewrite the ending to create a modern twist on an old favorite.
- *Retell a Story:* Summarize the main parts of a story. Sequence the key events using slides as scenes. In the first scene introduce the characters and setting. The following slides illustrate the action.
- *Rewrite the Ending:* Produce an animated scene that illustrates a different ending. Include a slide that explains why this ending is better than that of the author.
- *Makeover a Realistic Story into a Cartoon:* Consider what a story would be like if the people were substituted for cartoon characters, the setting shifted to an imaginary place, but the plotline remained similar. Create a short, animated clip of the cartoon version.
- *Join the Action:* Insert yourself into the story. What advice would you share? How would you help? Recreate a scene from the story. Use a clip art character, photo, or web cam image to put yourself into the scene. Does your advice or behavior change the ending?
- *Form a Connection:* Reflect on the story. What connection do you have? Do you like the same things as the main character, have you shared a similar experience, or does the story remind you of something you have seen or read? Explain the connection and use evidence from the book or your life to support your ideas. *(see connection sample)*
- *Conduct a Character Analysis:* How does the character change as the story unfolds? Create a three-panel animated comic strip. In the first panel introduce the character at the beginning of the story. Use callouts and textboxes to show their mood, describe their character traits, and explain their role within the story. In the second panel illustrate an important event that causes a change or growth within the character. In the final panel show the character at the end of the story. How are they different?

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Great news! You can integrate the use of cartoons or animated comic strips into health, social studies, history, or science. These are excellent ideas to encourage your students to transfer their skills.

- *Design a Public Service Announcement:* Raise awareness about an important issue. Educate the public about safety, nutritious eating, or school initiative. Make a simple cartoon strip that highlights important information. *(see PSA sample)*
- *Report the Facts:* Create an animated series called *Did You Know?* Each slide includes facts about a topic.
- *Explain How-To:* Present steps in a sequenced logical manner. Write instructions to demonstrate how to complete a task.
- *Produce an Animated Biography:* Report about a famous person. Summarize important details, significant events, and explain how they contributed to society. Use photographs or clip art, combined with callouts, and/or starbursts to create a first-person account. *(see biography sample)*
- *Highlight a Historical Moment:* Reveal what historical figures were thinking at the time a famous photo was taken. Add callouts or think bubbles to show dialog or express a thought.
- *Recap Historical Events:* Organize events into an animated timeline. Select several key moments and explain their historical importance.

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Session 1
Become a Digital Storyteller

In this session, students become digital storytellers. They explore the genre by examining how elements such as text boxes, callouts, shapes, and basic images are combined to tell a narrative. To inspire their creativity, they view sample cartoons created using Microsoft PowerPoint. These include "What is It?", "My Dream", and "Super Dog". Each of these examples offers a distinct and innovative approach to digital storytelling."

Assignment 1: Digital Storytelling, Cartoons, & Comic Strips

Assignment 2: View Sample Digital Stories

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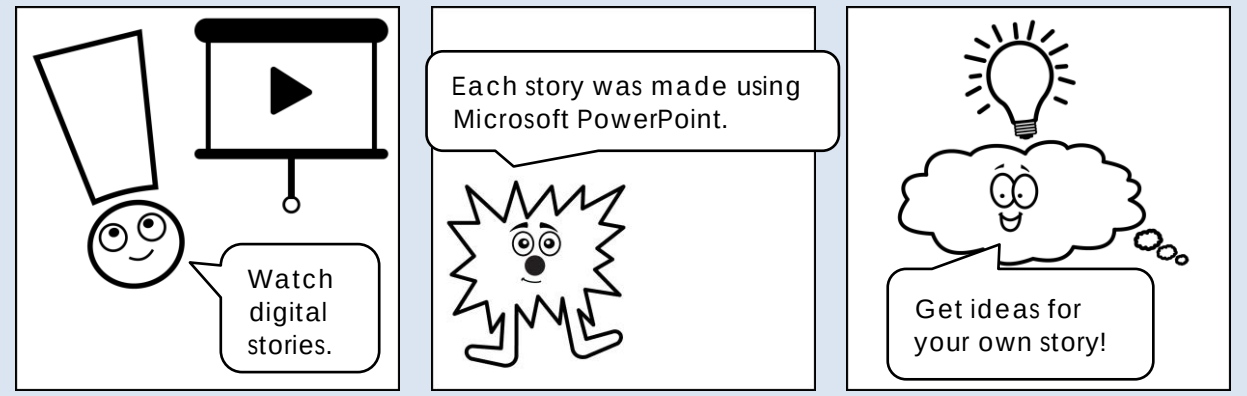
SAMPLE

Assignment 2 View Sample Digital Stories



Study Digital Stories

▷ Open the *Toon* folder.
View each sample and answer the questions.

1. You can create a simple digital story using Microsoft PowerPoint with only a few images. Watch *What Is It.*

Finish the story differently. What else could have been in the box?

2. Making a digital story is fun because you can use your imagination. With only a few images and simple animation you can make a story come to life. Watch *My Dream.*

What other things could you dream about that would make you happy?

3. In a digital story, characters can be made to move and talk. Callouts help to tell the story. Watch *Super Dog.*

What character could you use for a super hero? What would be their super power?

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SAMPLE

Session 2
Plan a Digital Story

In this session, students develop a plan for their digital story. They sketch their ideas into a storyboard to arrange the sequence of events. An optional activity offers suggestions for characters, settings, and plots. Once prepared, students use Microsoft PowerPoint to craft their front cover. By experimenting with background options including color, gradient fills, textures, and patterns, they discover how to create a cartoon aesthetic. Following this, they explore formatting options to produce a title with a text box featuring a unique outline and shape effect. These graphic design skills will be applied in upcoming sessions to illustrate each scene in their story.

Assignment 3: Organize Story Ideas for the Digital Story

Assignment 4: Make the Title Slide

Session 2 Extension Activity: Generate a Story Idea

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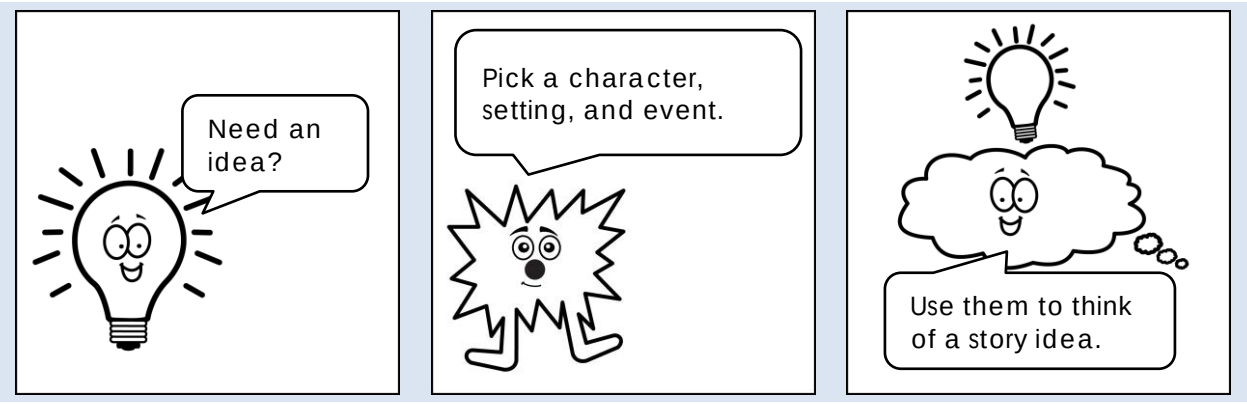
SAMPLE

Session 2 Extension Activity: Generate a Story Idea



My Story Idea:

Character	Setting	Event
alien or monster	jungle or woods	holiday
dinosaur	ocean	curse or spell
robot	planet	explosion
pirate	tomb	top secret mission
superhero or villain	temple or pyramid	robbery
unicorn	cave	disappearance
genius	castle	escape
mummy	parallel universe	time travel
witch or wizard	desert	discovery
spy	north pole	kidnapping
vampire	mountain	party
knight	maze	cure or virus

Spark your imagination! Pick an adjective to describe your character or setting.

brave	ugly	lazy	invisible	mythical
jolly	charmed	weird	shrinking	frozen
evil	cryptic	far away	talking	spooky

Need more ideas? Pick a gadget or object to include in your story.

doomsday ray	teleporter	freeze machine	relic or amulet	serum
wand	scroll	mask	spaceship	sword or dagger

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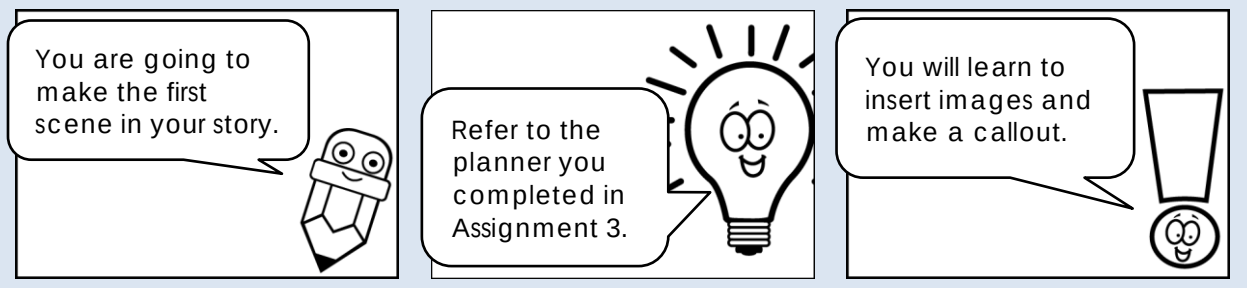
Session 3
Set the Scene

In this session, students begin by introducing the story to viewers. They create a slide with a text box that describes what is happening. They select an online picture for their slide background, setting the scene for their narrative. Suggestions are provided to help them search for an ideal image. Next, they then choose their main character, who will use a callout to speak. An optional activity explains how to save a picture from the Internet to find a specific clipart for their character in the story.

Assignment 5: Set the Scene

Session 3 Extension Activity: Use Images from the Internet

Assignment 5 Set the Scene



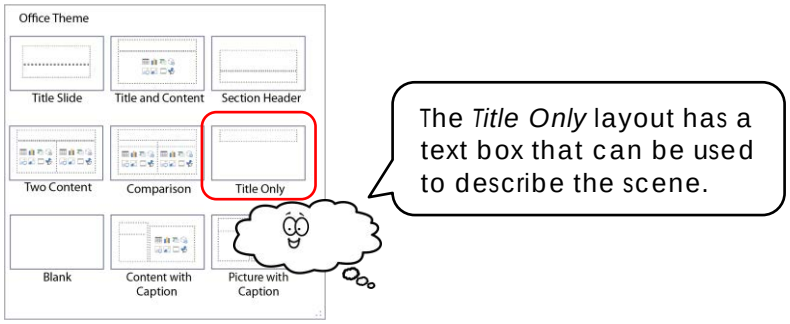
Open the Digital Story in PowerPoint

Add a New Slide and Apply a Layout

- Select the thumbnail of the first slide in the slide pane.

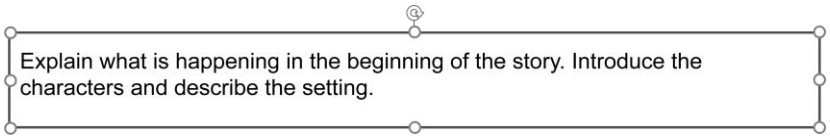
- Click the *New Slide* arrow.

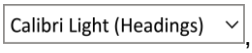
- Pick *Title Only*.



Introduce the Story Using a Text Box

- Type inside the text box:



- Format the font 

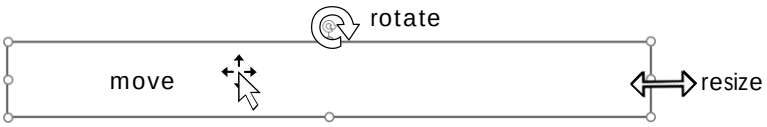
, size

, style
, or color of text.
- From the Home tab, pick an alignment option.
- From the Shape Format tab, set a text box style

, fill , outline , or effect .

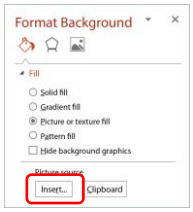
Resize, Move, or Rotate a Text Box

- Select the text box.
  Edit the shape and position of the text box:
  - Click and drag a handle IN or OUT to resize it.
  - Click and drag on the border of the text box to move it.
  - Click on the rotate handle and turn the mouse to change the angle.



Add a Picture as the Slide Background

- Click the *Design* tab. Click *Format Background.*
- Select *Picture or texture fill*. Click *Insert*. Insert...



- Pick *Online Pictures.*
- In the search box, type background. Press ENTER.
- Refine the search using the Filter options.

- Find a picture you like. Click on it and then click *Insert.*
- Close the *Format Background* pane.

Search Word Tips: Use these words or combine them with a search word to find a background. Make the word plural to change the search results.				
gradient	fabric	pattern	paper	texture
wall	wood	background	wallpaper	abstract
design	scene	scenery	nature	fantasy
landscape	scape	painting	art	summer
dark or light	night	colorful	free	stock
watercolor	presentation	sketch	vector	drawing

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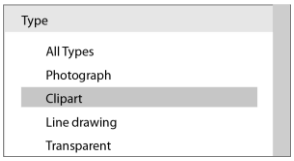
Insert Character

- From the Insert tab, click *Pictures.* Pick *Online Pictures.*
- In the search box, type search word. Press ENTER.
- Click *Filter.* Select *Clipart* to find cartoon images.



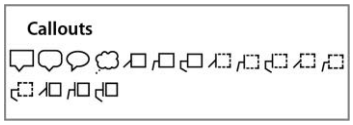
- Click on a character you like. Click *Insert*.

If your character has a colored background, from the Picture Format tab, click *Color* . Click *Set Transparent Color* . Click the colored background.

- Use your skills to resize and move the character.

Draw a Callout to Make the Character Speak or Think

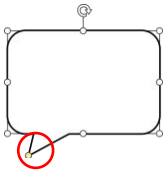
- From the Insert tab, click *Shapes.*
  From the *Callouts* category pick a shape.



- Click and drag to draw a callout.
- Click inside the callout. Type what the character is saying or thinking.

What is your character saying or thinking?

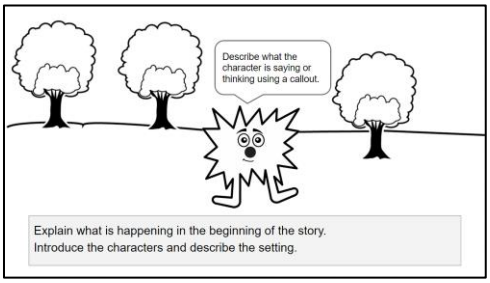
- Rest the mouse over the yellow handle.
  Drag it to change the direction of the tail.



- Use your skills to resize and place the callout.
- Click the *Shape Format* tab. Apply a style, fill, outline, or effect.

Use Skills to Complete the Slide

- ▷ Complete the first scene in your story.
- ▷ Use text boxes and callouts to explain what is happening.



- ▷ Use your skills to create the scene.

Story Making Tips:

- ✓ Any shape can have text added.
- ✓ Use Pictures and pick Online Pictures to add objects to the scene.
- ✓ Use the text box to describe the action.
- ✓ Show your scene to a friend. Is there enough information to understand what is happening?
- ✓ Copy (CTRL + C) and paste (CTRL + V) objects to quickly make a scene.

Save and Close PowerPoint

Complete Session 3 Extension Activity to learn how to save pictures from the Internet to use in your cartoon.

This is a preview of the teacher guide.
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SAMPLE

Session 6
Share the Digital Story

In this session, students present their digital story to an audience. To prepare, they use a checklist to review the content, design, and animation. After completing revisions, students set their cartoon to play automatically. They then participate in a toon-a-thon, where the entire class watches each other's cartoons. Optional activities explain how to print the slides for assembly as a comic book and convert the file to a video.

Assignment 8: Digital Story Checklist

Assignment 9: Share Your Digital Story

Session 6 Extension Activity 1: Print Your Comic

Session 6 Extension Activity 2: Make a Video

This is a preview of the teacher guide.
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SAMPLE

Be a Peer Editor (Optional)

Watch a digital story.
Complete the checklist.

Story Quality	✓
The title attracts attention and tells about the story.	
The scenes combine to create a story that is interesting and makes sense.	
Content and Design	✓
The images used for the characters are suitable for the story.	
Text boxes are used to describe the action.	
Callouts are used to express what the character is saying or thinking.	
Objects such as starbursts and WordArt emphasize the story action.	
Slide backgrounds provide a fitting backdrop for a scene.	
Animations and Transitions	✓
Transitions divide the scenes.	
Animations suit the object and enhance the story telling.	
The animations are sequenced in a logical order.	

Comments – List one thing you liked about the digital story.

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This is a preview of the teacher guide.
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SAMPLE

Appendices

Refer to the appendices for additional resources:

Appendix A: Assessment Tools

TechnoToon Skill Summary

Digital Story Marking Sheet

Appendix B: Contact Information

This is a preview of the teacher guide.
Pages have been omitted.

SAMPLE

Digital Story Marking Sheet

Story Quality
• The title attracts attention and tells about the story. • The scenes combine to create an interesting story that makes sense. • All scenes are created in the style of a cartoon or comic strip. • Story idea is original. • Story is free of spelling and grammar errors. /10
Content and Design
• The images used for the characters are suitable for the story. • Text boxes are used to describe the action. • Callouts are used to express what the character is saying or thinking. • Objects such as starbursts or WordArt emphasize the story action. • Slide backgrounds provide a fitting backdrop for each scene. /10
Animations and Transitions
• Transitions divide the scenes and add interest. • Animations suit the object and enhance the story telling. • Animations are sequenced in a logical order. • The speed of animation is timed appropriately. • Animation is creative. /5
Comments: /25

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RESOURCE

This course includes a sample of a completed project.
Teachers can use this resource for demonstration purposes or as a source of inspiration.

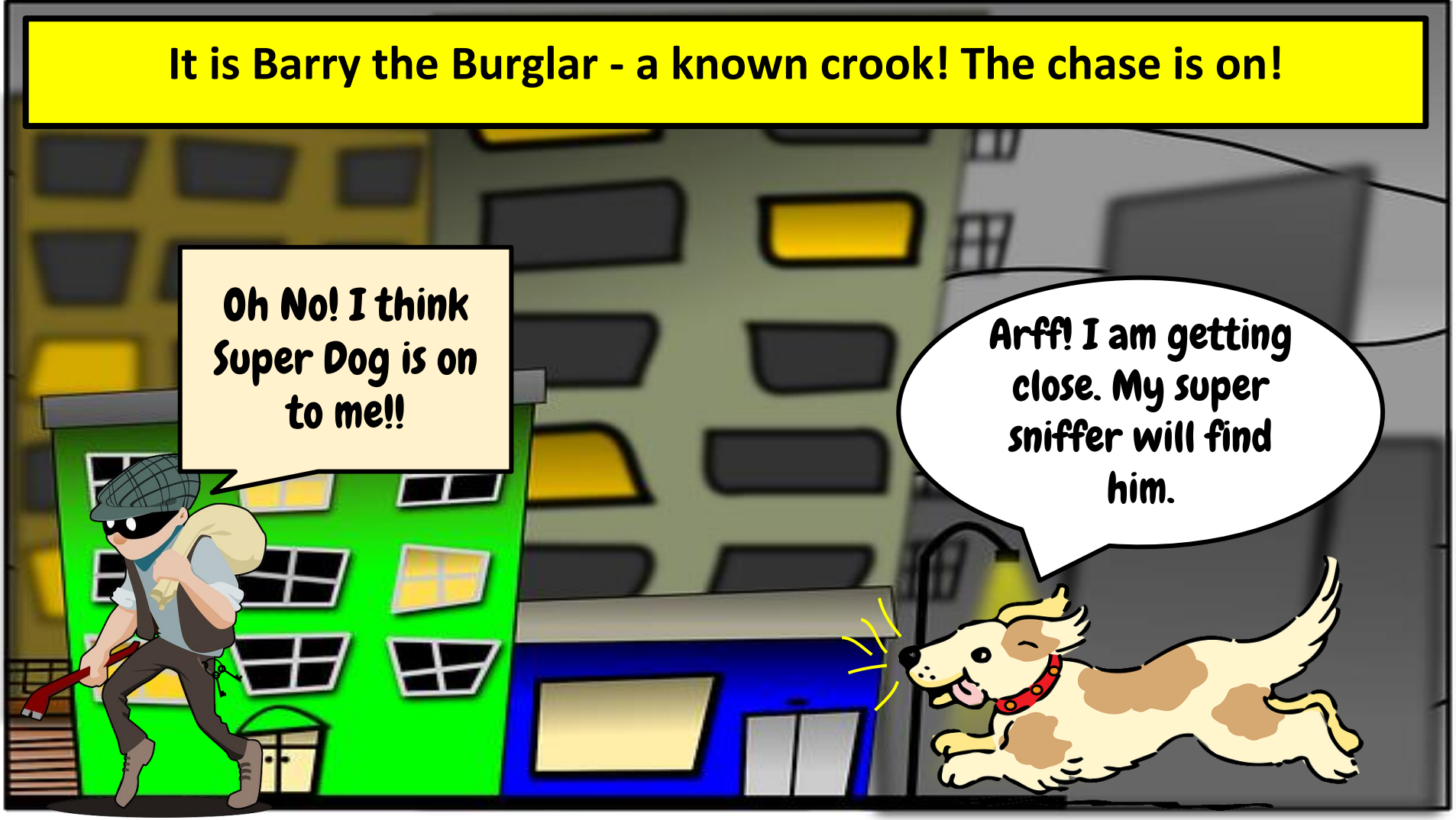
Super Dog Saves the Day!

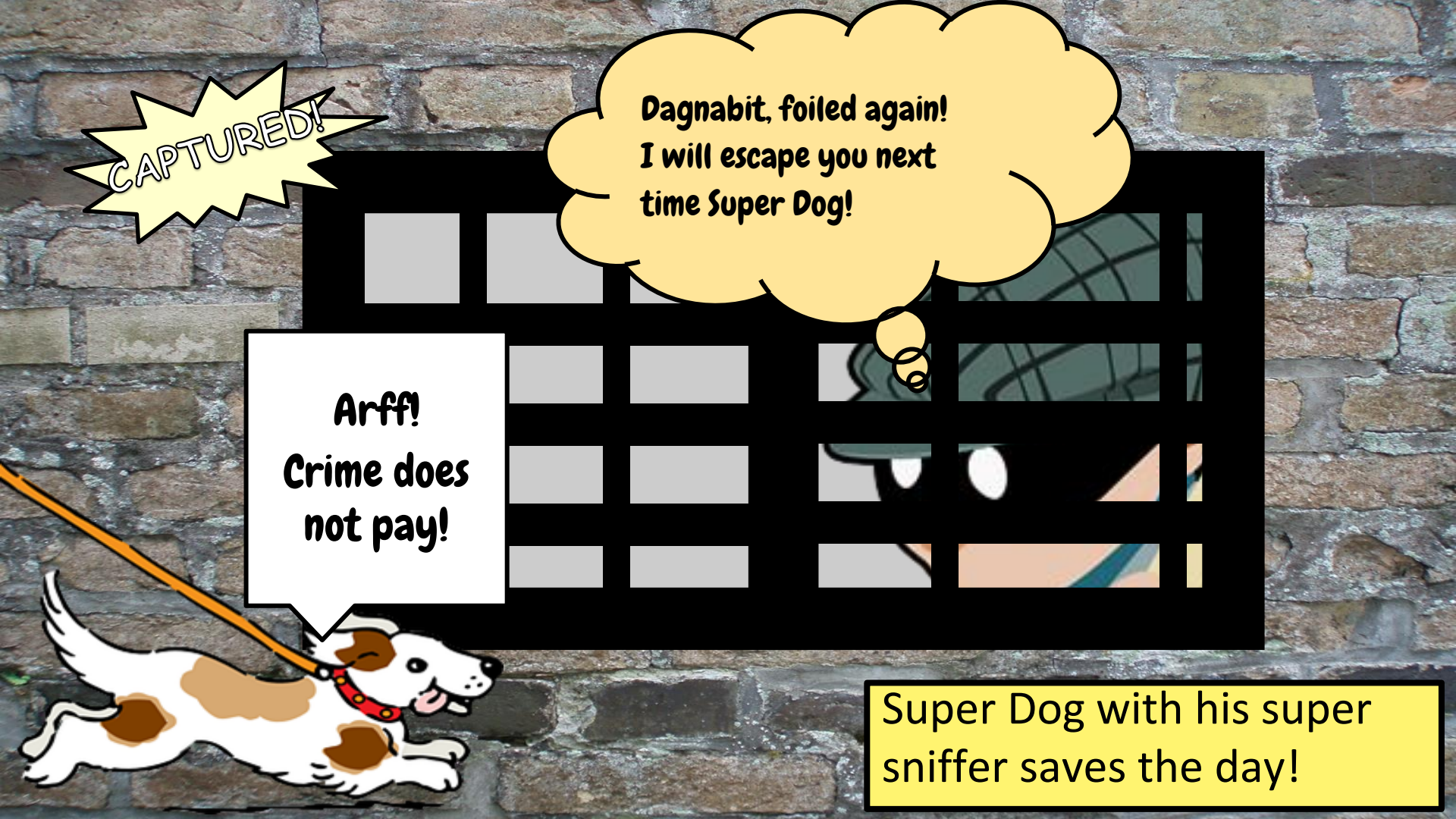
by Super Hero

The bank in TechnoVille has just been robbed!

Arff. Never fear! Super Dog is on the case. My super sniffer thinks he went that-a-way!

Mu-ha-ha that was so easy! They will never catch me.


It is Barry the Burglar - a known crook! The chase is on!
Oh No! I think Super Dog is on to me!!
Arff! I am getting close. My super sniffer will find him.



Super Dog with his super sniffer saves the day!