STORYLABS

Bringing Reading to World Language Classrooms

We did it!

This is easy!

I'm good at this!

More stories, please!

"Picking up word meanings by reading is 10 times faster than intensive vocabulary instruction."

—Stephen Krashen (1993). *The Power of Reading*, p. 15, citing a study by Nagy, Herman and Anderson

Storylabs is a reading platform built specifically for language learners.

- Engage with illustrated, interactive, read & listen stories
- Start your classroom library using:
  - Storylabs' ready-to go reading program
  - Illustrated templates in the self-publishing system
  - Digital distribution of your content across devices
- Easy Accountability!   Students interact with, read and listen to content while the Storylabs system logs their time.

Ask about our FREE story illustrations and templates!

www.storylabs.online

I'm Brooke Stephens, a Spanish teacher and the co-founder of Storylabs. Storylabs digital delivery system has the ability to bring reading to all levels and languages with our ready-to-go library, story templates and digital self-publishing system.

"There is overwhelming research showing that recreational reading in a second language is a *powerful* means of improving grammar, vocabulary, spelling and writing ability — and it is far more efficient and far more *pleasant* than traditional instruction."

Stephen Krashen, PhD

Why has Storylabs built a **reading** platform specifically for language learners? To paraphrase the linguist Dr. Stephen Krashen, reading is a more pleasant and powerful way to improve in grammar, vocabulary, spelling and writing ability.

"Picking up word meanings by reading is 10 times faster than intensive vocabulary instruction."

Stephen Krashen PhD

Reading is also more efficient. Dr. Krashen has said it's ten times faster. To help bring reading into classrooms Storylabs has resolved two major roadblocks.

How do I build a classroom library?

Will they like it?

Will they understand it?

Can they do it?

The first roadblock is providing a library of stories that are engaging, comprehensible, and appropriately leveled. We'll show you how our program supports confident readers from beginners on up.

Slide 1

Did they read it?

How long?

When?

What questions did they have?

Did they like it?

The second roadblock is accountability. We'll show you how our system tracks student interaction with any story or file you upload, facilitating reports and follow-up.

Slide 2

Free Story Templates

Template:
Illustrated Story
Sentence Spreadsheet
Storyboard
Glossary

Caperucita Roja

Little Red Riding Hood

I'm going to start with our latest beginner story, Little Red Riding Hood. We have Spanish and English ready, plus a template for those who want to translate into more languages. Our template includes:
1) A document preloaded with illustrations.
2) A one-sentence-per-cell spreadsheet,
3) A printable storyboard, and
4) A glossary to help teachers prepare students with the optional 3-structures-per-week approach.

Slide 3

STORYLABS   My Books   Enter a Class Code   Log out   Help

Beginner Level Template:

Little Red Riding Hood

Illustrations
Simple story
Cannot copy text for translation
Text-to-speech
Supporting Activities
Tracks Time
Journal

Caperucita Roja

Select Chapter
Caperucita Roja
Vocabulary

☐ Storyboard
☐ Learn
☐ Read
☐ Games
☐ Glossary

Caperucita Roja recoge unas flores pero no nota al lobo.

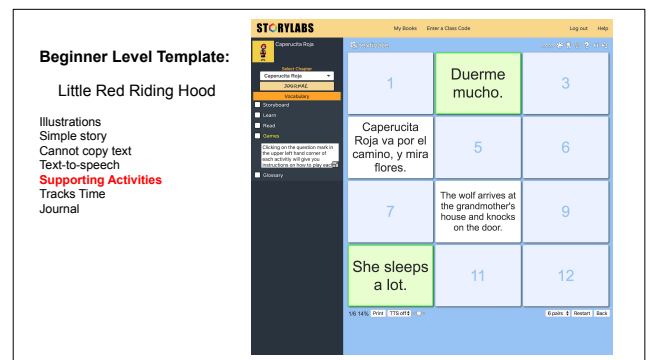El lobo le pregunta a Caperucita Roja: "¿A dónde vas?"
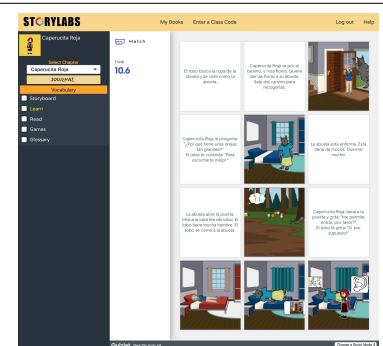
Storylabs' key features include
1. Illustrations
2. Text that cannot be copied and pasted into a translator;
3. A play button allowing students to listen and read for better pronunciation and comprehension; and
4. Supporting the story with links to games, cultural resources and classroom activities.

Slide 4

STORYLABS   My Books   Enter a Class Code   Log out   Help

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Text-to-speech
Supporting Activities
Tracks Time
Journal

Caperucita Roja

Select Chapter
Caperucita Roja
Vocabulary

☐ Storyboard
☐ Learn
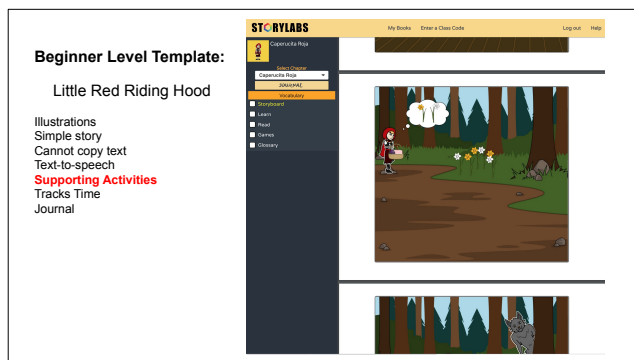☐ Read
☐ Games
☐ Glossary

Match

Time
10.6

Outside supporting activities can be linked directly into the platform. The above activity is a Quizlet matching game where illustrations are paired with sentences from the story. The time races as students read and read to move higher in the rankings.

Beginner Level Template:

Little Red Riding Hood

Illustrations
Simple story
Cannot copy text
Text-to-speech
Supporting Activities
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Journal

This soccer game from Textivate can be played independently, in pairs or used with the whole class. You can see how students need comprehension of both vocabulary and grammar to win.

Beginner Level Template:

Little Red Riding Hood

Illustrations
Simple story
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This is another example of how a memory game is a simple and effective way to keep students reading.

Beginner Level Template:

Little Red Riding Hood

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Storyboards provide printable illustrations that can be used in activities and conversation; this is very helpful for my classes where I don't have any digital support in the classroom. In this scene teachers could ask what would make *the students* leave the path. Illustrations provide shared context and comprehensible conversation around studied structures.

Storylabs maximizes tech effectiveness by centering it around story. These are some of the learning apps we like to use. Linking in outside apps lets teachers track student time without logging in to multiple sites for reports. Boomalang is a personal favorite because I get native speaker feedback on my written stories before I upload them for student use. It's fabulous for personal development.
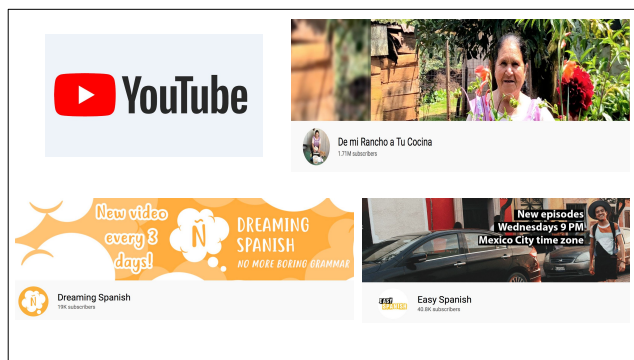
Sharing your favorite cultural resources through Storylabs brings a new level of satisfaction because teachers can see which resources students access and gives students a sense of progress as they check them off and keep comments in their e-journals.

In the progress report teachers can monitor time spent and view journal entries. This function has enabled me to flip my classroom. This is especially crucial considering the fact that I see 95 of my elementary students for only **35** minutes a week.
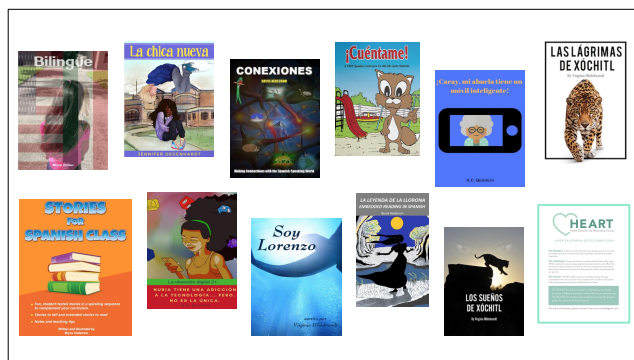

Little Red Riding Hood was an example of a beginner story. These are some of the 50 plus higher level stories we have waiting in our library, ranging from Level 1 to 3, from 3rd grade on up. These novels can guide your learning for the year or be a great FVR resource.

If you don't see your language or level in our library then use our publishing system. Create a Google doc; download it as an ePub, then drop it into your book. Students can read and listen to it on their desktops or mobile devices.

Storylabs allows for private, classroom distribution of any procured or purchased PDF files teachers own. I used to keep these files in messy binders. Now my students have easy access and I can track their favorites.
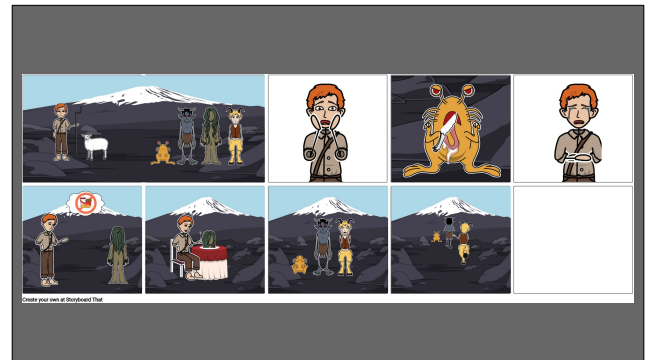
One of the most effective and engaging parts of personalized publishing is uploading students' stories. I've seen even the most unruly class become completely engaged while they await the next illustration of a classmate's story. This story was written by one of my fifth grade students two weeks ago.

Storylabs brings reading to classrooms by providing digital libraries that can pleasantly and powerfully grow student confidence and fluency.