

Fanfiction & Language Learning: Implications for the Classroom

Below are references and links to materials introduced during my talk as part of the March 7, 2018 webinar on “Technology in Language Acquisition and Pedagogy” offered by TESOL International Association's CALL (Computer-Assisted Language Learning) and AL (Applied Linguistics) Interest Sections.

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The Blogging Hobbit

Blob-based collaborative role-play fanfiction in which students write a missing moment from JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Each student is responsible for writing from the perspective of one character from *The Hobbit*. This kind of story-telling requires careful attention to speech style and storyline.

Resources:

[Instructions for The Blogging Hobbit](#)

A Study in Sherlock

Collaborative mystery writing based upon Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes mysteries and characters but with a twist. Students have two main options which allow them to explore the characters and mysteries in different contexts:

1. Retell a Sherlock Holmes mystery or tell an original mystery but in an alternate universe
2. Tell an original Sherlock Holmes mystery in the original context.

Resources:

[Instructions for A Study in Sherlock](#)

[A Study in Sherlock fanfiction written by students at Malmö University in 2016](#)

The Potter Project

Collaborative fanfiction writing based on JK Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in which students are asked to pick from one of four common fanfiction genres or tropes.

1. Alternate POV: Draco Malfoy and the Philosopher's Stone
2. Prequel or Sequel: It's Not Over Until I Say It's Over
3. Missing Moment: Meanwhile, In Hufflepuff House
4. Alternate Universe: When Harry Met Pippi

Resources:

[Instructions and Rubric for The Potter Project](#)

[The Potter Project fanfiction written by students at Malmö University in 2017](#)

FanTALES

Fanfiction for the Teaching and Application of Languages through E-Stories (FanTALES) is a European project co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme. Its goal is to develop training materials and resources to support the use of interactive multilingual digital storytelling in European classrooms and beyond.

If you are interested in training materials on teaching with fanfiction and more information about FanTALES, please visit <https://www.fantales.eu> and sign up for more information.

Forthcoming Resources:

1. **Learning by doing modules** for teachers and teacher trainers to help them develop their own materials, including modules on teaching with fanfiction, interactive storytelling, and multilingualism. (**Expected Fall 2018**)
2. **Example activities** to support learning through doing. For instance – short form fanfiction activities to warm up. (**Expected Fall 2018**)
3. **An editable database of source texts** (e.g. books, movies, TV shows, digital games) that high school/upper secondary school English language learners already read or watch in English and which can serve as a bridge to teaching with interactive digital storytelling. (**Expected Fall 2018**)
4. **Instructional videos** for self study or for use in teacher training classes on teaching with fan fiction, interactive storytelling, and multilingualism. (**Expected Spring 2019**)

References

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