

## **New Media Resources for Content Creation – Apps & Evaluation Tips**

New media formats, like apps and eBooks have brought major format changes for content aimed at children along with a sea change in the way content is created in the first place. Apps that let ordinary tablet users create eBook content began to explode onto the app scene within a year of the iPad's release in 2010, however not all platforms for storytelling are created equally. This is especially true of apps aimed at children, so it's important to **consider the developmental needs of the target audience** for any app. In addition, when evaluating content creation apps for kids, consider the following criteria:

- 1. Ease of Use (age of user especially important)**
- 2. Features, Flexibility, Settings (camera, microphone, video options, etc.)**
- 3. In-App Content Options (images, sound, animation, templates, etc.)**
- 4. Sharability: Type of Self-Publishing Available & Options for Sharing**
- 5. Privacy Protections for Under 13 (COPPA)**
- 6. Advertising, Purchases, Subscriptions (hidden costs)**

### ***Examples of Good Apps for Content Creation for Children:***

#### **General Book Creation:**

Story Creator Pro (\$1.99) or FREE version: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id545369477?mt=8>

Book Creator Full (\$4.99) or FREE version: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id661166101?mt=8> also available on Google-Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.redjumper.bookcreator&hl=en>

My Story – Book Maker for Kids (\$3.99) - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id449232368?mt=8>

Kid in Story Book Maker (\$6.99) - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id594403164?mt=8>

OnceAppon - A good night story maker for kids – Review by LittleeLit:

(<http://littleelit.com/2014/07/09/onceappon-a-good-night-story-maker-by-emily-lloyd/>) - FREE:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id646602071?mt=8>

8 FREE “Collins Big Cat” Book Apps with Story Creator: <http://digital-storytime.com/index.php?search=collins%20big%20cat>

StoryiesAlive (allows readers to rewrite book with existing illustrations) – 6 books FREE w/in-app purchase:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id494174227?mt=8>

#### **Comics:**

Strip Designer (\$2.99) - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id314780738?mt=8>

Big Nate Comix By U! (\$2.99) - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id483623408?mt=8>

Superhero Comic Book Maker – by Duck Duck Moose (\$1.99) -  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id547117153?mt=8>

#### **Puppets:**

Toontastic – School Edition (recommended - \$9.99) – or FREE:  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id404693282?mt=8>

Sock Puppets (Complete \$3.99) or FREE: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id394504903?mt=8>

Also check this website at Listly for new apps for story creation – they list over 50 at this time and the list is updated daily based on crowd-sourced voting: <http://list.ly/list/2EY-book-creator-apps-for-the-ipad>



## App Discovery Treasure Hunt

Using app resource sites or any other sources, find the best app(s) you can for each of the following questions or categories. You can determine quality by downloading apps yourself, finding trusted reviews or strong consumer ratings.

*For apps you download and evaluate yourself, it can be useful to keep the following questions in mind:*

1. *Why do you like the app? What do you think is high quality about it specifically?*
2. *How is the app appropriate for the audience or use intended?*
3. *What do you know about the author/developer or background behind the app?*
4. *How did you discover the app? What criteria should you use to evaluate it?*
5. *How would you explain the value of this app to a caregiver or teacher?*
6. *How could this app support early literacy (if applicable)?*

Find a storybook app for a toddler or preschool storytime.

Find an app version of a favorite storytime book in print.

Find an app you would recommend for middle grade or young adult readers.

Find a spelling app for sight words.

Find a math app for 4<sup>th</sup> grade or higher.

Find an app with common core resources or alignment information for teachers.

Find an app that recognizes handwriting (to teach letter formation).

Find an app with features you would warn a parent about (e.g. in-app purchases, social media or other links, content concerns, etc.) and describe concern.

Find an app based on a classic children's book that is true to the original story (i.e. the print story retold in digital with only light enhancements).

Find an app that is based on a classic children's book but has transmedia qualities (i.e. not just the print story in digital form, something extends the story or it might be entirely another genre, like a game or entertainment app).

Find an app you would **consider** recommending for a baby storytime or for use by caregivers with a young child (under age two).

What is the most interesting or exciting app you've discovered so far? What's the most surprising thing