Writing has been a powerful way of communication since ancient times. It may serve various purposes: to educate, to entertain and to stir imagination. This innate desire to invent and share stories characterizes us as human beings.

The digital era, we are currently living in, has been influencing the process of writing on many levels. It allows teachers to use engaging modern technology. The process of creative writing and storytelling becomes more appealing to students thanks to applications Web 2.0 and use of new technologies.

Digital storytelling can be defined as the use of digital tools to record audio, graphic images and videos in order to create stories. Moreover, those digital tools promote collaboration/social learning, allow quick online publication and are easy to access . For our students who are “digital natives” technology plays a significant role in their life, thus they acquire it intuitively. It is vital that teachers know the potential of Web 2.0 applications in order to boost students’ language learning motivation, their linguistic skills and imagination. Teaching creative writing and storytelling with the use of Web 2.0 applications allows students to acquire English in meaningful and pleasurable context meeting requirements to build 21 century literacy skills (US Department of Education,2010; IRA, 2009). Alexander and Levine (2008) define Web 2.0 storytelling as: “the telling of stories using web 2.0 tools, technologies, and strategies”. (p.42).

During workshops on creative writing/storytelling and applications Web 2.0 that took place in Poland in May 2017, the participants were shown a PowerPoint presentation as a lead-in. After that, both students and teachers were introduced to various Web 2.0 tools.

**Exercise 1**

***Into the storytelling mood***  (15 minutes)

The participants were working in pairs using <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/> .They were to choose the story starters theme first and then spinning the virtual wheel to elicit the pieces of information to be included in their story. Lastly, they are creating their story (they can do it orally or in a written form, or both).

**Exercise 2**

***Creating comic strips or animation*** (15/20 minutes)

This task can be done in pairs or individually. First, before writing, we have analyzed various story ideas, to be inspired: <https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/story-ideas/>. Then, the participants’ task was to write 9 panels comic strips <https://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix/>. The comic strips could be printed or emailed after the work has been done.

For those who preferred an animation option we have suggested using really simple yet funny online tool called Dvolver moviemaker <http://www.dvolver.com/moviemaker/make.html> .

 It allows to create animation in just 6 steps (choosing background, characters, one of four plots, music and finally writing some dialogues). There is an option to email the video.

***Exercise 3***

***Creating a story !*** (60 minutes)

The participants were working in pairs using <https://storybird.com/>. Their task was to write a story on the basis of a set of illustrations from storybird resources.

 \*\*\*Storybird is a wonderful online tool that stirs imagination and creativity with mesmerizing illustrations. Students can choose from 3 writing forms: a picture book, a long form chapter book or poetry. The application provides professional artworks that students choose from and write their stories around them.

Those colourful illustrations stimulate students’ imagination and make writing process natural and enjoyable. Moreover, the books can be published and other readers can post their comments. Teachers can set up their students email accounts creating their own class library!

***Exercise 4***

***Polishing the writing!***  (10 minutes)

The participants were working with 5 pages of their stories and online writing editor <http://www.hemingwayapp.com/> . They have uploaded them into the application in order to polish the text in terms of sentence complexity and readability, as well as to check the word count.

More interesting online tools and applications connected with creative writing/storytelling FOR STUDENTS can be found here:

<https://padlet.com/ewaalicja/z0zdjmtdlbkg>

More interesting online tools and applications connected with creative writing/storytelling FOR TEACHERS can be found here:

<https://padlet.com/ewaalicja/ew3e55odpqf5>