INTERFACE

LESSON PLAN 64: ARTWORK WITH WORDS

Objective: Use words to create different types of images

Age range: 5-12

64

Forget lists and tables. If you're looking for an enjoyable and interesting way to get students exploring words, there are a number of tools available that allow you to create images from text. Try these out and have some fun making artwork with words.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer, Internet access.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

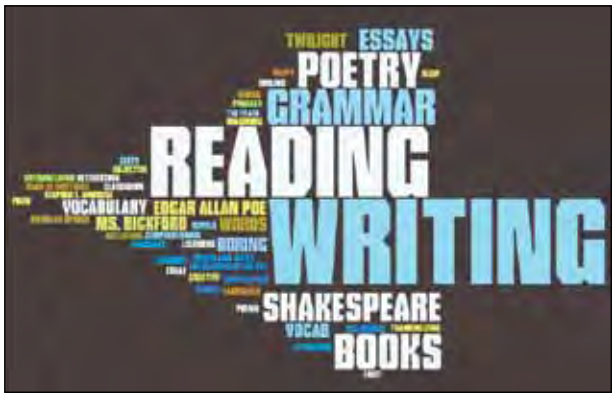
Literacy, spelling, art and design, statistics, computer use.

METHOD

Most of these tools are very simple to use. Just type in the words or phrases you want to use to create your image, and they automatically do the rest.

1. Wordle (wordle.net)

This is probably the most well-known tool for generating 'word clouds' from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak the image with different fonts, layouts, and colour schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use, print, save and share.



2. WordSift (wordsift.com)

Similar to Wordle, WordSift produces a word cloud from a text but it's more functional and less visual – simply lines of text. Just cut and paste any text into WordSift and you can quickly identify the most important/used words.

3. Neoformix

This developer boasts a number of great word-image tools. Unfortunately, there's no built-in save or print function, however you can capture any image you create by using 'print screen'.

Big Small (fizurl.com/bigsmall) – generate large text that is made up of words rendered in a smaller font.

Word Hearts (fizurl.com/wordhearts) – fill a heart shape with any words you like. Enter some words separated by commas in the text box and press the 'Enter' key. You can also choose one of three fonts or change the colours.

Text Snowflake Creator (fizurl.com/snowflake) – create snowflake-like graphics from a few words or phrases. Enter your words, choose the rotation, distances, shapes, and colours.

4. Tagxedo (tagxedo.com)

This is a great application for creating customised word clouds, turning the words into great-looking images. You can choose from pre-set colours, themes and shapes, or create your own.

WHAT DO YOU USE?

Have you tried and liked any other tools that do this sort of thing? Let us know and we'll spread the word!

OR … send us your 'word images' and we'll publish the best ones!

comment@interfacemagazine.co.nz

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