Get 'appy with Talk for Writing

By Talk for Writing expert, Maria Richards

When Apple first introduced the iPad, it was as a consumer tablet for the masses – not as an educational tool. However, its versatility, functionality and ease of use has meant that it has very quickly developed into an essential tool for the classroom practitioner.

Served with a multitude of apps, the iPad supports learning in every curriculum area and Talk for Writing is no exception. There is, indeed, an app for everything. At the last count there were over a million apps available in the App Store, with around half of those specifically designed for the iPad. There are over 65,000 apps directly marketed as educational, with countless others being used for educational purposes, even though they are non-educational apps.

And herein lies an issue. For every app you discover, you can bet that there are at least 10 more out there that do the same, or a similar thing. It is very hard to keep up with the constantly increasing number of apps available and so the whole process can become overwhelming. Therefore, you need to find your favourites, use them well and then slowly add to your armoury.

So with that in mind, this article will explore a number of apps that lend themselves to the Talk for Writing process and ethos. Focusing on the Top 5 (as decided by me) in a number of categories, these apps will hopefully get you started on your iPad and Talk for Writing journey!

Hopefully this list can whet your 'app'etite and now you can get truly 'appy' with Talk for Writing!

Top 5 apps for inventing stories

Puppet Pals

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/puppet-pals-hd/id342076546?mt=8

Create your own unique stories with animation and audio. Pick your actors and backdrops and make a story!

Story Wheel

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/story-wheel/id437068725?mt=8

Let your imagination run wild – create your own unique story with Story Wheel!

Story Dice

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/story-dice/id525351988?mt=8

A creative tool to prompt ideas for plot, character and setting. This idea generator can be used effectively for both written and oral storytelling.

Toontastic

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/toontastic/id404693282?mt=8

Toontastic is a creative storytelling app that enables kids to draw, animate, and share their own cartoons.

Mad Libs

https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/mad-libs/id326885152?mt=8

Fill in the blanks to make a silly story!

Top 4 apps for writing inspiration

Lists for Writers

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lists-for-writers-ideas-for/id506577862?mt=8

Helpful to both novice and expert writers alike, this app delivers list after list of prompts and ideas for your brainstorming sessions: names, character traits, plot lines, occupations, obsessions, action verbs, and much more!

Story Starters – Ideas for Writing

https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/story-starters-ideas-for-writing/id479485957?mt=8

Featuring an ever-updating list of thought-provoking and interesting pictures from around the world, to provide you the spark you need to write that next story.

Ideas for Writing

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ideas-for-writing/id529876147

With "iDeas for Writing", you will always carry with you a whole writing workshop with creative triggers and exercises to get your imagination flowing.

Shake-a-Phrase

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shake-phrase-fun-words-sentences/id436414534

Shake-a-Phrase is a fun language app for creative writing prompts, vocabulary and parts of speech practice.

Top 5 apps for publishing writing

Book Creator

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-for-ipad/id442378070?mt=8

The simple way to create your own beautiful iBooks, right on the iPad.

Comic Life

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/comic-life/id432537882

Everything you need at your fingertips to create brilliant comic strips – for any genre.

Picturebook

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/picturebook/id429810668

Create and share your very own illustrated stories in a few simple steps!

PixnTell

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pixntell/id532075424?mt=8

PixnTell adds your voice to your pictures and creates a personalised video.

Doodle Tales

https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/doodle-tales/id496517430?mt=8

Doodle tales allows you to be creative by making your own pictures (Doodles) and stories (Tales).

Top 5 apps for character work

Name dice

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/name-dice-random-names-for/id536266573?mt=8

Name Dice is a tool for writers to create interesting fictional character names.

Morfo

https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/morfo/id418900007?mt=8

Create a character from any photograph.

Tellagami

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tellagami/id572737805?mt=8

Tellagami is a mobile app that lets you create and share a quick animated message called a Gami. A Gami can be a fun way to tell a story or design a new character and show what they are like.

Character Creations

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/character-creations-free/id513238155

Let your imagination go wild and create over 1 million different character combinations.

Create a Monster

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/create-a-monster-hd/id432225480?mt=8

Create your very own monster character!

Top 5 Apps for Non Fiction (planning, publishing, organising content)

Popplet lite

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/popplet-lite/id364738549?mt=8

With Popplet lite you can capture your ideas and sort them visually – quickly and easily.

Explain Everything

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/explain-everything/id431493086?mt=8

An easy-to-use design, screencasting and interactive whiteboard tool that lets you annotate, animate, narrate, import and export almost anything to and from almost anywhere.

Sock Puppets

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sock-puppets/id394504903

Sock Puppets lets you create your own lip-synched videos. This is great for planning and presenting discussion texts.

Pic Collage

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pic-collage/id448639966?mt=8

PicCollage allows you to create amazing collages using your photos – great for presenting information or telling stories.

iBrainstorm

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ibrainstorm/id382252825

Capturing and sharing your inner most creative genius – a great app for sorting and gathering information and facts.

Top 5 Apps for Poetry

Poems By Heart

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/poems-by-heart-from-penguin/id577789325?mt=8

Poems By Heart from Penguin Classics celebrates classic poetry and challenges you to memorise perennial favourites by master wordsmiths.

If Poems

https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/if-poems/id474446630?mt=8

iF Poems is an acclaimed poetry app with 270 classic poems and audio readings.

Instant Poetry

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-poetry-hd/id353592334?mt=8

Have fun creating your own beautiful, passionate and romantic poetry, with your own pictures as backgrounds!

Poetry Creator

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/poetry-creator-verses-poetry/id371925480

This app puts a fresh spin on a cherished classic: refrigerator magnet poetry.

Visual Poetry

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/visual-poetry-word-collage/id364299857?mt=8

Make beautiful text collages with Visual Poetry. Type your text or phrase and watch it instantly arranged as a mosaic in a variety of shapes and styles