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Wordless Scenes Repository
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Project Description:

Initially, this project was going to include hand-drawn illustrations that did not contain any text so that they could be used in any language classroom. However, because of time constraints and differing cultural nuances of scenes, an alternative method was used.

I chose to use Pixton (www.pixton.com) to create some comics that could be used in classrooms but shifted the focus to creating a user-guide and teaching suggestions for other teachers to customize the use of this tool in their classrooms.

Created comics and guide are available at <http://celta.msu.edu/faculty/fellowships/>.

Outcomes:

I presented this tool at a lunch and learn in Spring 2017. The workshop was attended by teachers from various language programs at Michigan State University. The second half of the workshop was hands-on and all attendees were able to log in and work with manipulating their own comics within 30 minutes of their initial log-on.

My hope is that teachers will use this tool as they see fit in their classrooms. Depending upon the use in classrooms, using this tool can be a way that students are more engaged in the material as they are able to create their own comics both inside and outside of class. Advanced use of the tool allows for audio file uploads in addition to text in any language (when using Unicode as the font). The tool can be used across the four skills but it lends itself more readily to reading and writing with text or speaking and listening without text as a picture narrative task.

Additionally, the popularity of graphic novels can be exploited with this tool and serve as a way of engaging students with a genre they may already be familiar with or a way to introduce them to that style of writing.

The guidebook is to help first-time users create their first comics and give suggestions on how to use the tool in their classroom. More extensive user guides are available online, as are some adaptable lesson plans from content courses. The content course lesson plans may be most appropriate for K-12 ESL or language teachers using an integrated instruction model.

Impact:

The founder, Jared Shaw, mentioned that the paid version can be offered for free for in-service teachers (email him if you are interested- jared.shaw@pixton-3.intercom-mail.com). This could help MA TESOL or undergraduate TESOL minors, education majors, or other students interested in teaching to use the tool while in school. He was easy to engage with through their help support and welcome inquiries from teachers at other schools and contexts.

Additionally, teachers can work together to create a set of comics to accompany their curriculum or projects they use in their classrooms. Because the comics are publicly available after publishing, collaboration between students or teachers can be cumulative and not restricted to institutional web hosting constraints.

While it is most likely that Michigan State language instructors will use this tool in their classroom, I hope that other CeLTA enthusiasts and current students at Michigan State will use the tool in their own language teaching or education.