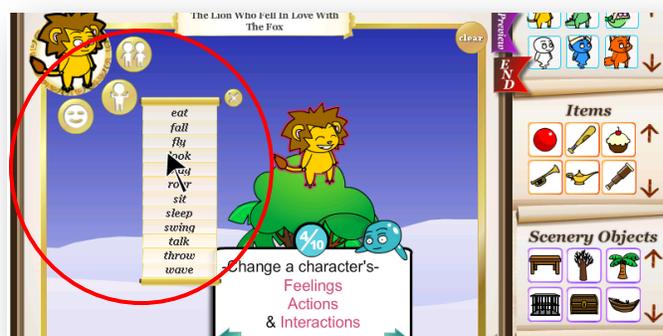# http://www.clpgh.org/kids/storymaker/embed.cfm

Website Description: This website is affiliated with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and it allows the creator to visually create a storybook that can be viewed online or printed as a PDF. Once the story is complete, it will be stored on the website for one month. Students can access the story by entering a numeric code (magic number) assigned at the time of creation.

Ways to use this website:

1. Creative Writing Elementary: Students who are starting creative writing will find this program to be a fun way to start, especially for visual and interactive learners.
2. Students begin name the story and choose characters, items, scenery and settings:

As well as the character's feelings and interactions

3. The program will create sentences for their story as they manipulate the characters on the screen. Students can see their characters animated when they turn the pages of their story. A text box is provided at the bottom of each page for writing the story. As characters are added to the story the software provides an opportunity for students to change a characters feelings, actions or interactions. There is also a small character on the bottom right of the screen that provides guiding questions for students to help with the development of their stories

4. Once the story is finished, students can print them, preview them and store them on the website for easy access to create a classroom library of student created works.

Standards Correlations: This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but a sampling of state and national standards that the site may be used for.

AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner
4.1.8 Use creative and artistic formats to express personal learning.
4.3.1 Participate in the social exchange of ideas, both electronically and in person.
NDE Nebraska Standards Language Arts K – 2
LA 0-2.2.1 Writing Process: Students will use writing to communicate.
LA 0-2.2.1, Writing Process: Students will apply the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit and publish writing using correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and other standard conventions appropriate for grade level.
LA 0-2.2.2, Writing Genres: Student will write for a variety of purposes and audiences in multiple genres.

Curricular Connections:

Creative Writing Elementary: Students just starting to formulate sentences, and learn the dynamics of basic writing skills.

Grade 1 – Towards the second half of first grade this could be a great activity for whole group instruction on an interactive whiteboard. The teacher can work with students by going through the process of developing a short story using images. Students can participate by using the interactive whiteboard to add items or text to the story.

Technology/Multiple Literacies: This is an excellent lesson for the computer lab.

Grades 2-3 - Students can work in one or two sessions to complete a short story. Students or teachers may record the access code (magic number) for each student's story. This will allow the students to present their stories to the class on an interactive whiteboard at a later date. If time is limited the stories can be printed out immediately

Reading: Students have the opportunity to browse other students' works.
Art: Students could use this to add or create illustrations based on the program's initial illustrations created.

ELL/ESL: This site offers rich opportunities for ELL/ESL students to build vocabulary skills, add to background knowledge and become active participants in the learning process.

Embedded Librarian Tips: Embedded librarianship means working with students, teachers, and the community 24/7by making rich resources on real-world issues available and meaningful for patrons. It is enhancing information literacy and technology instruction by becoming an essential partner in teaching students. My storybook is a tool that helps initial readers and writers create and share their work with others.

1. Link the site on your library web page and let students independently create stories.
2. Using your interactive whiteboard or projector, use the magic number (numeric code assigned to completed stories) and have students share their creations. Print out student stories, laminate them and place in your library (AASL 4.3.1).
3. This site is also a great way to teach students about adding details to a story. Teach about main character, setting, theme, plot, and more! Create a story with the class and model how adding details to a story makes it better (LA 0-2.2.1, AASL 4.1.8).
4. Students have the opportunity to publish their work and share with an audience other than their classmates and teachers (LA 0-2.2.2). These types of activities contribute to a student motivation and enjoyment of writing
5. Students that may have frustrations with subject may find site to aid and scaffold.
6. Interactive tool that mixes entertainment with creative writing

Potential Pitfalls
1. Security: Posting names of locations and students on the story could be accessed by outsiders.
2. "Falling in Love" motivation for characters may cause concern
3. Animations for characters disappear once story is published, they turn to still frame.

.