# Re-purposing Technology Lesson Plan
## TE 831: Teaching School Subject Matter with Technology

**Summary Box**

**Lesson title:** Writing/Blogging about Dr. Seuss-inspired Poems

**Prepared by:** Alison Grojean

**Subject area:** Literacy

**Technologies used:** Google Blogger, Pics4Learning.com

**Length of lesson:** Four 30-40 min. periods

**Suggested grade level:** I will teach this in 3$^{rd}$ grade, but it can be adapted for any grade (secondary teachers could change the inspiring author).

**Lesson Objectives:** *What should the students be able to do in this lesson?*
- Students will be able to (SWBAT) implement the knowledge they have gained about writing poetry to create an original poem.
- SWBAT recall their knowledge of Dr. Seuss's writing style to write their poems.
- SWBAT use Google Blogger and Pics4Learning.com to post poems, related pictures, and comments.

**Student NETS Standards Alignment:**
- Student NETS 1 – Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.  Students:
  - o   a – apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, and processes.
  - o   b – create original works as a means of personal or group expression.

- Student NETS 2 – Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Students:
  - o   a – interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.

- Student NETS 5 – Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:
  - o   a – advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
  - o   b – exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.

- Student NETS 6 – Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students:
  - o   a – understand and use technology systems.
  - o   b – select and use applications effectively and productively.

**Materials:**
- Any Dr. Seuss books students want to refer to
- Writing notebooks and pencils
- Computers for students
- Pics4Learning photo sharing site: http://www.pics4learning.com/

- Google Blogger:
  https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=blogger&continue=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.blogger.com%2Floginz%3Fd%3D%252Fhome%26a%3DADD_SERVICE_FLAG&passive=true&alinsu=0&aplinsu=0&alwf=true&ltmpl=start&skipvpage=true&rm=false&showra=1&fpui=2&naui=8#s01

**Lesson Procedure:**
*Prep:*
- Create a Google account and a blog especially for the class; make sure the username and password are easy for students to remember so they can access it outside of school, if they wish.
- Write a Dr. Seuss-like poem and post it to the blog; add a creative or silly picture from Pics4Learning.com to illustrate the poem (complete with photo credits).

*Beginning:*
- Share a Dr. Seuss story with class (http://www.seussdude.com/list-books.html); engage them by encouraging their participation in the rhyming parts and the parts they know.
- Tell students they will get to be like Dr. Seuss by writing their own silly poems and then publish them for other students, parents, family, friends, etc. to see.
- Show class blog with my example and read it:
  http://thirdgradedrseussblog.blogspot.com/2011/03/spring-is-coming_16.html

*Middle:*
- 1st class period: Remind students of poetry elements from a previous unit and briefly discuss Dr. Seuss elements (rhyming, silly or made-up words); write poems.
- 2nd class period: Introduce Google Blogger on computers; instruct students how to log in and make a post (students will then need most of the time for typing).
- 3rd class period: Introduce Pics4Learning.com; show how to search for and then post pictures on blog posts (may need to remind students how to log in to blog); emphasize the importance of digital citizenship/giving credit to others' work; demonstrate labeling pictures with credits; allow remainder of time for picture posting.
- 4th class period: Demonstrate how to post a comment on the blog; discuss what a quality comment would be (i.e., 2- 3 complete sentences; what you like about that person's poem and why; not just "I like your poem…good job"); give students about 10-15 min. to post.

*End:*
- Class discussion (to wrap up 4th class period): Why do you think it is important for us to share our work this way? Why could this be a better way to share information, rather than everyone reading their work aloud to the class?
- Invite students to continue reading and commenting on the blog at home and invite parents to comment on them as well.
- Teacher reads each student's post and comment to make sure they followed directions; also inform parents, principal, etc. about blogs so they can comment.

*Extension:*
- Expand the use of a class blog—use it for a broader topic. You could use it for social studies as a way for students to get involved in current events. Students could discuss/ debate (by commenting on each other's entries) various events happening at school, in the community, state, country, or internationally. Many teachers like to use magazines like *Time for Kids* or *Weekly Reader* to find out about current events that appeal to students. Either combine these resources with the blog, or subscribe to RSS feeds of various kids' magazines' sites for students to use as resources.