Love the Book You Are In

Find out how to take a student's love of reading to the next level! Learn how to expand their understanding of a novel or picture book with audio, video, a presentation and even a reflection piece. By adding these simple elements, students will discover more about their book than ever!

[Presentation Link](#)

Welcome (0:00-0:30): Welcome everyone! Today you will find out how to take a student's love of reading to the next level! Learn how to expand their understanding of a novel or picture book with audio, video, a presentation and even a reflection piece. By adding these simple elements, students will discover more about their book than ever!

Slide 1 (0:30-0:35): Love the Book You are In, by Sarah Orebaugh.

Slide 2 (0:35-1:10): Today we are going to learn how to amp up your reading instruction by instilling a love of learning in your students. If your students are in a reading rut, these digital tools can help take their love of reading to a whole new level. In this presentation we will cover an audio tool called Voki, a video tool called Wideo, a presentation tool called Genially and a reflection tool called Flipgrid.

Slide 3 (1:10-1:45): Here is a little bit about me. My name is Sarah Orebaugh. This is my first semester in graduate school at Old Dominion University. I am striving towards my MLIS degree in hopes of taking over the LMS job at my current school. I have been teaching for 18 year now, all in Virginia Beach. I have always been passionate about children reading and now I hope to enhance my teaching skills with this next step in my career.

Slide 4 (1:45-2:30): I'd like to read you this quote from Jackie Kennedy, "There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." Do you agree? I experienced this with my own children. My daughters love of reading and books opened their eyes to new experiences and people. Books like Undefeated, Sulwe and Last Stop on Market Street, to name a few, helped them to see a world that is outside of their norm.

Slide 5 (2:30-2:40): The first digital tool I'd like to share with you is an audio tool called Voki.

Slide 6 (2:40-3:30): Here you can see a screenshot of just one of the many things that Voki can do for you and your students. This simple audio tool is not only free to use for educators, but students as well. Instead of just a boring, one note recording, Voki lets you choose voices, animation, backgrounds and colors to enhance any project. Here you can see I chose to have a cat at a pagoda.

However, the possibilities are endless. Voki is simple to use, even for an elementary student.

Slide 7 (3:30-5:15): On this slide I'd like to share with you the strengths of this tool. While there are many, let's discuss the top three. For starters, Voki is completely free. While you have options to pay for premium use, which includes different characters, backgrounds and animation, the free version is perfect for your classroom needs. Students and teachers will be able to create fun and exciting audio projects with the free version. The second thing I love about Voki is that there are so many options to choose from. Characters range from real people like Lady Gaga and Shaq, to animals of every variety. They also have different backgrounds to choose from. Some backgrounds are animated but some are photographs of real and exciting places. Want your character to be in the mountains? Voki has a background for that! You can also choose different voices for your characters. Something that students might find entertaining and silly. The last perk I appreciated about Voki is that as an educator, you have the option to go further with this website. If you so desire, teachers can upgrade to be able to manage a classroom through Voki. You can assign lessons and projects through this website. As you can see, there are many reasons to use this audio tool!

Slide 8 (5:15-6:45): Now let's discuss the limitations of this program. While it is wonderful, nothing is perfect! As I found while creating with Voki, some of the limitations of the free version can be frustrating. Some of the characters that young children might find exciting are not available to them. When I chose to use a dalmatian, I found out when I tried to record that the character was not available to me. I know that some students might find this off putting. Because of this, some people might be tempted to upgrade their membership. This would be a lot to ask of a teacher and especially students and families. Finally, speaking of the upgrades, if you do not use the paid version, you will not be able to save your work to your Chromebook or laptop. However, thankfully it will let you grab a link that you can easily place in a GoogleDoc for later use, as I did many times! Although Voki does have some serious limitations for the free version, I still feel that the free version has all an elementary student would need for classroom projects.

Slide 9 (6:45-8:30): I want to share with you some of the ways that you can use this audio tool in your classroom, specifically an elementary classroom. I teach 3rd grade, so most of my ideas are geared around a 3rd grader. However, you'll find that you can use these in most elementary classrooms to fit with your curriculum. The first idea is to use Voki to explain the setting of their fiction story. For instance, if my story is set in the woods, I can find a background to match that would help me explain the setting. Here you can see that I used a little dwarf to mimic what it might look like for a student to discuss the setting of <u>Snow White</u>. Another idea is to use Voki to introduce their character and dive deep into their character traits. Because of the many choices in Voki, students could easily find a

character that either matches perfectly or at least is similar. This simple project can be used to enhance your character unit. A third idea would be to use this to retell traditional stories like <u>Little Red Riding Hood</u>. In Voki's toolbox, there are several traditional characters to choose from. This would be an easy way for students to retell a story using keywords such as beginning, middle and end.

Slide 10 (8:30-9:45): The last idea for a classroom is directly linked to a 3rd grade SOL in which students will read and demonstrate comprehension of a fictional text. Students can use Voki for a book report on their favorite book. This would be something that they can use to enhance their written report. They can use silly characters and backgrounds to grab the attention of their audience. To make it even more meaningful, teachers can send the link home to parents so that students can share their report with their families. How invaluable is that!? Click the link to watch a very brief example. (Link will take 15 seconds).

Slide 11 (9:45-3:00): Now that you have heard all about Voki, please take the next 3 minutes to turn to three people that you are sitting near. Discuss some other ideas that you might have to use Voki in your classroom. Are there other subject areas that you might find beneficial? If so, how could you use this tool to enhance those subjects as well?

Slide 12 (13:00-13:10): The next tool I would like to share with you is a video tool called Wideo.

Slide 13 (13:10-14:15): When I first discovered Wideo I had so much fun with it! It's another free resource that is just waiting to be explored. Wideo allows you to make videos and presentations with several different templates, or if you are really tech savvy, from scratch! As you can see with this screenshot of their homepage, Wideo offers many different types of videos that you can start with.

Slide 14 (14:15-16:00): As with Voki, I'd like to share some of the amazing features of this digital tool. Just like all of the applications that I will be showing you today, Wideo is also free. We love free! Not only is it free, but it is also easy to use. There are so many pre-made templates in Wideo that you can truly do anything. These templates are packed with animation, icons, transitions, backgrounds and anything else that a newbie might be nervous about doing on their own. You have the freedom to change anything that you want, but if you are satisfied with the template, all you have to add is your text! Speaking of newbies, if you are new to this website there are tutorials for you and your students to watch. This website will take you through a step by step process on how to get started with your first (or second or third!) Wideo. This is very helpful for teachers who might introduce this tool to their students but of course, students always need refreshers. This allows students to be more independent as they work through this process.

Slide 15 (16:00-17:45): Now we get to some of the struggles that I found with using Wideo. First off, I personally found that I had some frustrations as I made my first video. It was a lot of try and try again. While I feel that this is a great learning point for elementary students, I can see some children getting upset about having to return to the same slide over and over again to fix little issues. I do, however, feel that with more use, this website would be easier and easier to navigate. Another issue that I encountered is that if you are not using the paid version, you will not be able to download your project as an MP4. I felt that this was an issue across the board with many of the websites that I explored. However, Wideo allows you to save a link that you can share with others or put on a GoogleDoc to save that way. Finally, the last limitation is that although I truly feel that an elementary student could navigate this website, I will admit that it might be better used in a high school or even a workplace setting. Most of the templates are geared towards business presentations and marketing.

Slide 16 (17:45-19:30): Here are some additional ideas that I thought would be a great way of using Wideo in your classroom to enhance your students' love of learning. Wideo has templates for Units of Study. 3rd graders can use these templates to either introduce a unit like theme, OR they can use this video tool to explain a poetry unit at the culmination. This would be a great way to either find out what students already know or what they learned from your instruction. A second great option to use Wideo in the classroom would be to have students complete a book report with one of their many presentation templates. Students can retell novels like The Wild Robot using elements of fiction to show their understanding of the story. What a great way to share a book recommendation to their class, as well! Students can use Wideo to share what they've learned from a nonfiction book as well! 3rd graders can upload images and label different features of nonfiction that they find interesting in their books. They can also explain the purposes of these features as they share them.

Slide 17 (19:30-21:15): Here I showcase a different way to enhance your student's love of reading. Instead of having your class make a Wideo, you can create one to introduce a research project (or anything for that matter!). Third graders are expected to create an artifact using computing systems to model the behaviors associated with a concept. For example, animal adaptations are a great place to start. Using this link, you can see how students can get introduced to an upcoming project and find a new way to learn about it. This would come in very handy if you were teaching in a virtual setting. (Video is 1 minute long).

Slide 18 (21:15-24:30): Please take the next three minutes to speak about what you've learned about Wideo. How might students find this website beneficial in the classroom? What are some common frustrations that you foresee happening with your students? What can you do ahead of time to prevent those?

Slide 19 (24:30-24:45): The third tool I would like to share with you is a presentation tool called Genially. In fact, this presentation that I am sharing with you right now

was made through Genially! I found it so easy to use that I just had to share it with you.

Slide 20 (24:45-26:00): I agree with this snapshot of Genially's homepage is that you can create interactive contact that can "wow" a crowd. In this free (again!) online presentation tool, you can design templates that are animated and interactive to grab the attention of your audience and excite them about the content you are sharing. Genially has many templates to choose from that are easy to use, or you can start with a blank slate, as I have done, to make it unique and your own. Let's dive in!

Slide 21 (26:00-27:45): In working many hours with this website, I found that it had many positive points. One of the first things I noticed and used was that images from the Creative Commons, specifically Unsplash and Pixaby, are there for you at your fingertips. You can search images right in Genially's website to add fun and exciting content to your presentation. There are hundreds of images and many require no citing at all, a huge plus for young children! Another great thing about this website is that it allows you to embed links into your presentation. Students could link GoogleDocs, websites or any other content that enhances their project. Lastly, Genially allows you to collaborate with other students on one project. You can use teams to create a presentation on one template. This would be perfect for group work both in and out of the classroom. Another great resource in the event that virtual learning would need to take place. I could go on about the amazing things that Genially can do!

Slide 22 (27:45-29:30): With any great website, there are always downsides, especially if you are using a free version. As I mentioned before with Voki and Wideo, if you are not a paid member of Genially, you will not be able to directly save your presentation to your Chromebook or laptop. As your presenter, this was quite frightening for me when I was working on this! I was always nervous that somehow my work would not be saved. However, you can save your project as a link that you can continue to edit. Another way to get around this issue is to continue to work on your presentation without closing the website. I found that if I didn't close the presentation, it was always there for me the next day (fingers crossed!). Another issue I foresee in an elementary school setting is how many options Genially has. Many fonts, colors, templates and backgrounds can be overwhelming for a young student. As a teacher, it might be best to limit the options that they can choose their first time around. Another small complaint is that in your presentation, if you do not have the paid version, the Genially logo will always be present at the bottom left hand corner. While it doesn't bother me, I can see how it might be distracting to some.

Slide 23 (29:30-31:15): Here are some ideas that I think would work well in your classroom to pump up your students' love of reading. Third graders can put their book report (or any other GoogleDoc!) right into their presentation. Genially lets you like any website or document right into your slides. Essentially, the students

are able to use their presentation as a hyperdoc. It allows them to make a complete project. The second activity that a student could do with Genially is to use the presentation to compare and contrast two different characters in a book. Students can do this project individually or they can team up with a partner using the team aspect of this website. This would allow them to collaborate on this project. Students could also use this presentation tool to show their understanding of a book they read. They can think of creative ways to communicate the important events of their story. Students can use images and link websites to enhance their project. This would be another project in which students could have the opportunity to work with a partner or group of students. This could be done in the classroom or virtually, as well. Another great idea would be to collaborate with a class from another school. Students don't have to work in the same classroom or even grade level to create a Genially presentation together.

Slide 24 (31:15-33:00): Because giving oral presentations is a staple SOL in any grade level, Genially can aid in giving students a great and easy tool to accomplish this. Students can create oral presentations for Fiction books after a unit of study has been completed. For example, Theme or Character Traits can be expanded on through a Genially presentation. Students can work alone or in groups. Click on the link to browse my presentation on Genially. (Link to take 30 seconds)

Slide 25 (33:00-36:15): Now that I've shown you all of the amazing things that Genially can do, turn and talk for 3 minutes with your partners to get a feel for how this website can work for you. If you decided to let the students work in teams, what are some of the ground rules that you would set before? How else can you see your students using Genially in your classroom? Could you use it for another subject area?

Slide 26 (36:15-36:30): The last online tool I want to share with you is a reflection piece for children. Flipgrid is a way for children to respond to topics in their own way.

Slide 27 (36:30-38:00): This tool is one that I have used in my own classroom when we were learning virtually. It is a great reflection tool that is free to use for both you and your students. It allows teachers not only to hear a student's reflection on a question but to see them as well. This was very beneficial when we were in a virtual setting. As the videos accumulate, students are able to view their classmates' responses, prompting a feeling of community. In this online discussion format, students feel free to share their thoughts because of the casual nature of the website. Students are just required to record a video of themselves discussing their reflection, answer or perhaps showing a project that they have created at home or at school.

Slide 28 (38:00-39:45): Here are some amazing things about Flipgrid. One of the main things I love about this website is that it brings the class together. Whether you are in the classroom or at home, students can hear and see each other in a safe space. Teachers can post silly questions like "What is your favorite movie?" or more educational questions like "What is the main character's motivation in this book?". Either way, all students have an opportunity to share their thoughts without a specific format. Even children who find technology challenging will find this website easy to use. Another great thing about Flipgrid is the opportunity to make something called a Mixed Tape. In this setting, teachers can gather videos from any time of the year or any topic and put them all together. These videos can then be posted for all to see. This would make a great end of the year celebration! Lastly, there are no upgrades for this website. Yippee! It is free to use for all students and teachers. I have also found that many school districts are using Flipgrid so that it is easily accessible. For example, Flipgrid is common in Virginia Beach schools across the district. It is nice to finally find an online tool that doesn't require a purchase to use some of the more desirable features.

Slide 29 (39:45-41:00): Overall Flipgrid is great. However, there are a few drawbacks. The first is that there is a video time limit of ten minutes. While this might seem like plenty of time, long winded students might find this restrictive depending on how much they have to say. On the other hand, teachers can set their own time limit for responses so that students don't have the opportunity to continue to talk for more than, let's say, ninety seconds. Some students might find this helpful. They might take the time to practice or think about important points they want to make before they record their video. Some might see the sharing portion of Flipgrid as a drawback. While I find this great to build a community of learners, if a class has bullying issues or students who have privacy restrictions, this might become a problem. The last possible problem with this website is that Flipgrid has some fun emojis and backgrounds for the children to choose from. While this might be inviting, it could also be distracting. I could foresee my students getting more excited about choosing their emoji than focusing on the reflection question. However, this issue could be easily solved with a few simple rules when first introducing this website.

Slide 30 (41:00-42:30): A few great ideas for Flipgrid that you can use in your classroom are that children are able to respond to each other on this website. Once you post a discussion topic and the students start submitting their videos, children can start to see each other's. This might be particularly beneficial for a student who is unsure of themselves. This feature could help them get an idea of what is expected of them before they start their own. Another simple and easy way to get children's love of reading back on track is to post a topic about the conflict and resolution of a story that you are reading in class. This is an easy way for you to spot check student's understanding of the story. Students could also use Flipgrid to share a video of themselves showing different features of nonfiction in a book that they are reading. Third graders could show the book,

point out the features of nonfiction (such as a photograph, caption or a table of contents) and explain the purpose of those features.

Slide 31 (42:30-44:00): Since 3rd graders are constantly asked to demonstrate their understanding of fiction, nonfiction and poetry, Flipgrid gives them an easy platform to give a book review, retell a story or just to share their favorite part of a book they read. Click on the link to respond to a simple topic question that was posted. (Link to take 1 minute).

Slide 32 (44:00-47:15): Now that you have heard about all four amazing tools, talk with your partners about which one of them you would like to try first. Which one do you think your students would be most excited about?

Slide 33 (47:15-48:00): Now it's your turn to get out there and try something! I hope that you will walk away from this presentation feeling invigorated about how you can get your students out of a reading rut. Let us never fail to try every year to instill a love of reading and learning in our students. Thank you.