



Volume 31  
March 2009

# Tech-Talk

*Dixon-Style*

Stowers' Technology Newsletter

Created by  
SAD, ET



## REMINDER

If you need any help with these tools, please stop by the lab.

### Web 2.0 Tool

#### Tikatok.com

Tikatok™ is where kids channel their imagination into stories – and publish those stories into books for you to share and treasure with friends and family

Making books, sharing them online, and participating in book clubs is free. The students' parents or teachers are only charged when they order a printed book.

Tikatok works hard to protect student privacy. We only use nicknames on the site so you can share your book with other kids around the world without having to give out your real name.

Students have to register with a parent. We are required to get your parent's approval by law, but also because it is a good idea. We collect an

important piece of personal information from you – your name – and allow you to make and share books with other kids online. Your parents need to let us know that this is OK, and to help us keep the site safe.

### What is a StorySpark™ ?

StorySparks were created by Tikatok to help get you started. When you select a StorySpark and name your characters, the beginning of a story is magically typed into your book. Then you just have to type the rest of the story anyway you want. We also shows hints at the bottom of each page. But feel free to change anything you want!

### How does the Story Mixer work?

The Story Mixer is a different way of selecting your StorySpark. With the Story Mixer you pick topics from a list. Once you have picked one or two topics, select the StorySpark from the results that appear in the lower right. You can also remove a topic by clicking on it a second time.

You can always find all of the books that you've made in the section of the site called the "Bookshelf." Go to the Bookshelf, click the cover of the book you want to work on, and then click "Edit."

You can also find just the books that are not finished in your "Studio."

### How can I let other people see my book?

Your new book is hidden until you share it with others. Click on the book you wish to share to get to the book view page. From there, click the button that says "Share," and then "Change sharing permissions" from the menu.

### What happens when I share my book?

When you share your book with Anyone, it means that anyone who visits Tikatok will be able to see your book. You can also just share books with your Tikatok Friends or Family. Your parent will be notified whenever you share a book. On the public view of your book Tikatok removes your real name and the back cover to protect your privacy

Many other FAQs:

[http://www.tikatok.com/help/faq#faq\\_1](http://www.tikatok.com/help/faq#faq_1)

Website: <http://www.tikatok.com/>

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## Web 2.0 Tool

### Classroom Architect

**Ready for a new look?  
Let students use this tool to  
rearrange your classroom!**

For students, the classroom environment is very important. The size of the classroom and interior areas, the colors of the walls, the type of furniture and flooring, the amount of light, and the room arrangement all influence how students learn. Thoughtful arrangement of the indoor and outdoor environments will support your learning goals for students. This tool provides an opportunity for experimentation with the layout of your classroom without any heavy lifting!

**Website:** <http://classroom.4teachers.org/>

## Web 2.0 Tool

### Tooble

Find any video on YouTube.  
Download to your computer with one click.  
Watch anywhere at any time.



#### Browse

Search all of YouTube from within tooble. In one window, you can search like you would on YouTube.com, select a category of videos, or enter in a URL you already know. From there tooble will search all of YouTube to find your video, giving a list of content you can download straight to your computer. If you have an account with YouTube, you will be able to access your favorited videos from within tooble once you enter your username in tooble's preferences.



#### Download

With a single click of a button, tooble can easily download any video from YouTube. All you need to do is check the videos you want, hit the download button, and tooble takes care of the rest. With support for queuing, you can check as many videos as you like and tooble will download each of them simultaneously.



#### Convert

Immediately after download, tooble will seamlessly begin to convert the videos to the .mp4 format, which is playable almost anywhere. Instead of using separate tools to handle download and conversion, tooble uses one powerful utility to download and convert in one fell swoop. Additionally, tooble will allow you to control how your video is converted, with options to control the size and quality of your converted video.

Website: <http://tooble.tv/>

---until next week