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## The answer is YES! What is your question?

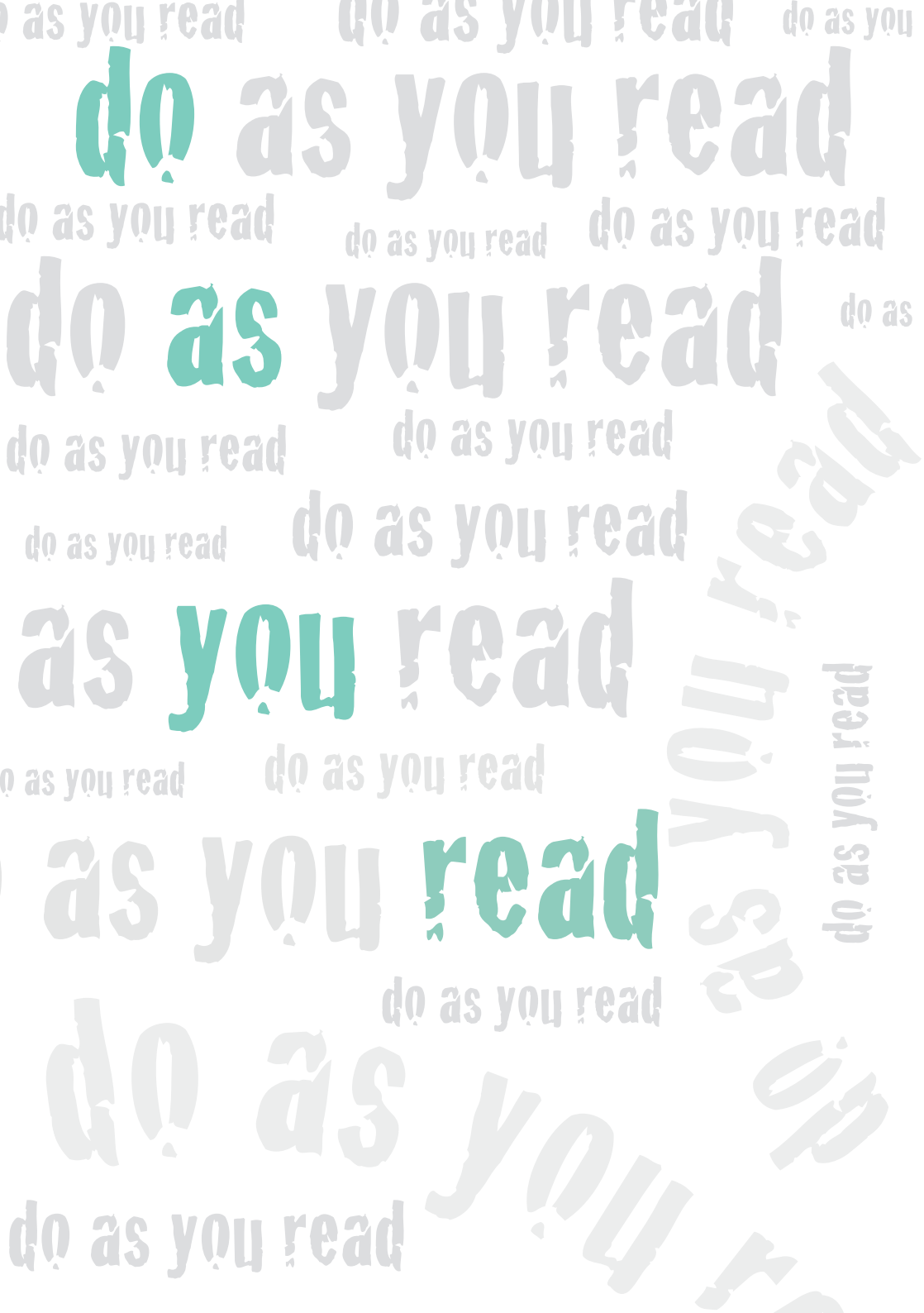
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# Introduction

*'21<sup>st</sup> century literacy is the set of abilities and skills where aural, visual and digital literacy overlap. These include the ability to understand the power of images and sounds, to recognize and use that power, to manipulate and transform digital media, to distribute them pervasively, and to easily adapt them to new forms.'*

*A Global Imperative, The New Media Consortium, 2005\**

**T**HE importance of designing learning experiences that take into account the need to help our students develop 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy skills is what has led us to write **Meeting Point**, an easy, step-by-step guide on the use of some digital tools in the language classroom. *Storyline 3* lends itself naturally to the use of digital tools since Daniel, one of the main characters, communicates with his friends and classmates through a blog.

In *Meeting Point* you will find some basic web tools to do digital projects linked to the course content. Each tool is introduced with a simple tutorial, followed by an example of a project based on the book's stories and activities.

Ready to start? Are you sitting in front of a computer? Is the Internet access OK? Remember this is a hands-on guide, and you will need to **do as you read**.



\* Retrieved from <http://www.nmc.org/publications/global-imperative>

# Why BLOG?

Many of you are probably asking yourselves this very question. Let's start by reading what some teachers and students say about using blogs.

*It's a place where I think, plan and reflect.*

*It forces me to read in order to gather the input I need for my output.*

*It's a place where I play with technology and ideas.*

*It's a place where I collaborate.*



*Because keeping a regular blog seems to encourage a degree of reflection and critical analysis in my students.*

*There is a shift in learning experiences in today's classrooms, from learning autonomously to learning collaboratively.*



*What do you think?*

*Do you think your students would like to blog?*

*What would it add to your class?*

## How do I get started?

*'The only way to learn how to blog is to do it. Luckily, it's pretty easy to get started. Once you have your blog, start writing! Find other blogs about topics you're interested in and start leaving comments on those blogs... Read blogs written by other teachers -and find blogs written by experts. Probably some of the authors of books you've enjoyed have blogs: read them! (...) And then once you feel that you understand blogging -at least to some extent- have a go at blogging with students, and fostering a learning network beyond your own.'*

### Blogging as a Tool for Reflection and Learning

Associate Professor Jill Walker Rettberg, University of Bergen (UiB)

[http://www.virclass.net/eped/ep\\_tmp/files/17842056574abc85cdf304e.pdf](http://www.virclass.net/eped/ep_tmp/files/17842056574abc85cdf304e.pdf)

*Care to build your own?*

## What **is** a class blog?

A class blog can become a space for you to communicate with your class, and for your students to participate by reading, listening, joining in discussions and publishing their own posts. Let's have a look at the definition of **blog** in Wikipedia.

A **blog** (a blend of the term **web log**) is a type of website or part of a website. Blogs are usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Most blogs are interactive, allowing visitors to leave comments and even message each other, and it is this interactivity that distinguishes them from other static websites.

do as you read <sup>7</sup>

# Where do we build our blogs?

There are many blogging platforms you can choose from. *Kidblog*, *Blogger* or *Wordpress* are but a few examples. In *Meeting Point*, we have chosen to exemplify with **Kidblog** because:



- › it is a **safe** and **simple** blogging platform suitable for primary school students
- › it allows teachers to **monitor** and control all publishing activity
- › it has advanced **privacy** features to ensure the students' safety
- › there is **no advertising** of any kind, and
- › it is **free**

## Kidblog is different.

Kidblog.org is built by teachers, for teachers, so students can get the most out of the blogging process.

Kidblog meets the need for a safe and simple blogging platform suitable for elementary and middle school students. Most importantly, Kidblog allows teachers to monitor and control all publishing activity within the classroom blogging community.

# How do I start my blog?

Ready to create your own?

Create a Class



Go to [www.kidblog.org](http://www.kidblog.org), click on **Click to Create a Class** and fill out the form to create your free account.

Have you entered all the required information? If so, click on **Create Class** and that's it. You've got your class blog!

Now let's personalize it. On the opening screen, click on the **Settings** tab. Under **General Settings** you can:

- › change the class name
- › set the time zone, and
- › choose a colour for the blog (**Class theme**)

Click on **Save changes** before scrolling down and moving on.

Who can visit your blog?

That's for you to decide! Check on **Privacy Settings** and **User Permissions** and go through the different options. When you are done, click on **Save changes** and move on. You are now ready to start using your class blog!

How about exploring your class blog before you register your students?

do as you read

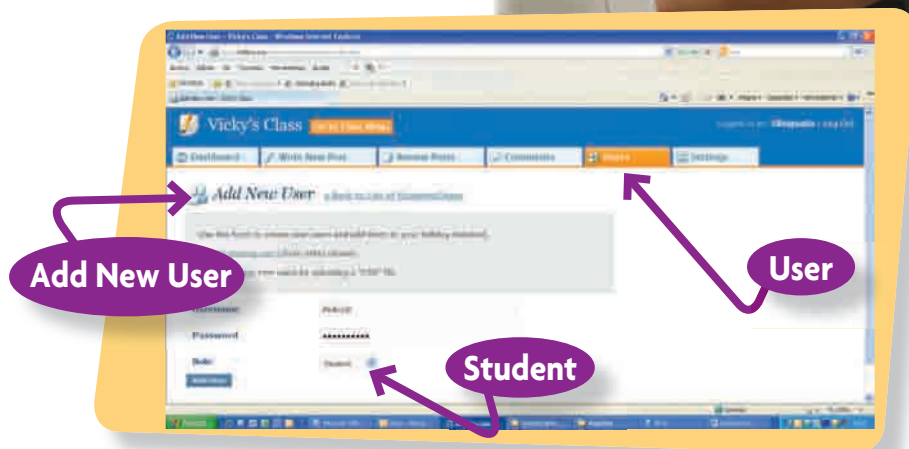
# Now, get your students blogging!

It's very easy.

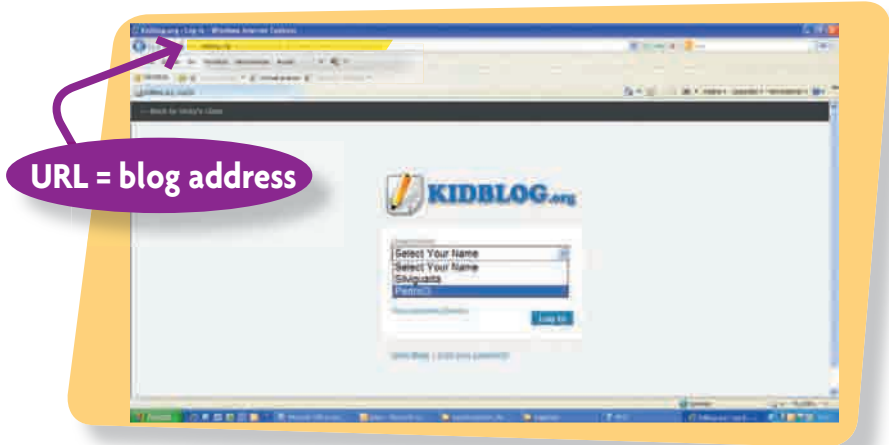
FIRST, create your students' accounts by clicking on the **USERS** tab and follow five easy steps:

- 1 Click on the **Add Users to this Class** button, followed by **Add New User**.
- 2 Choose a **Username** that students can easily identify. It can be the students' name, or their name plus their surname initial [Example: Pedro or PedroG].
- 3 Choose a **Password**. It's easier if you choose the same password for all students [Example: Storyline3].
- 4 Select the user **Role** from the menu:  
**Student**.
- 5 Finally, click on **Add User**.

First step done!



*In the Teacher's Companion you will find a model letter you can send to parents telling them about the blog and giving them the username and password details.*



NEXT, give your students the blog URL, which you can get after you click on **Go to Class Blogs** [Example: <http://kidblog.org/VickysClass2/>]

Once students access the blog, they should:

- 1 click **Log in** at the top right,
- 2 select their name from the menu (remember you have already added them to the class),
- 3 and finally, enter the password you created for them.

*Now you and your students are ready  
to start using the blog.*

*If you have access to a computer at school or if there is a computer lab, you may want to go through the registration process with the whole class.*

# The answer is YES!

## What is your question?

Can I get copies of exercises from Storyline?

**YES!** In the *Storyline* Companion Website there is a selection of images for you to use. Go to <http://www.pearsonlongman.com.ar/storyline/> and click on **Teachers**. Then, click on **Resources** on the left hand menu, select the exercise you want from the **Tool Kit** tab and download it to your computer.

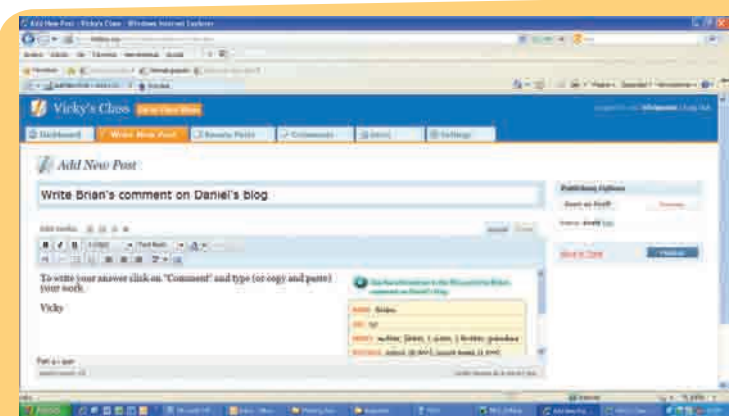


Here are some examples of images in the Tool Kit.



Can I post an exercise from the Pupil's Book?

**YES!** And this represents a great opportunity to get students really motivated and doing some collaborative work. No doubt they will find writing a blog entry on an actual blog, for example, much more engaging than writing a blog entry in their copybooks.



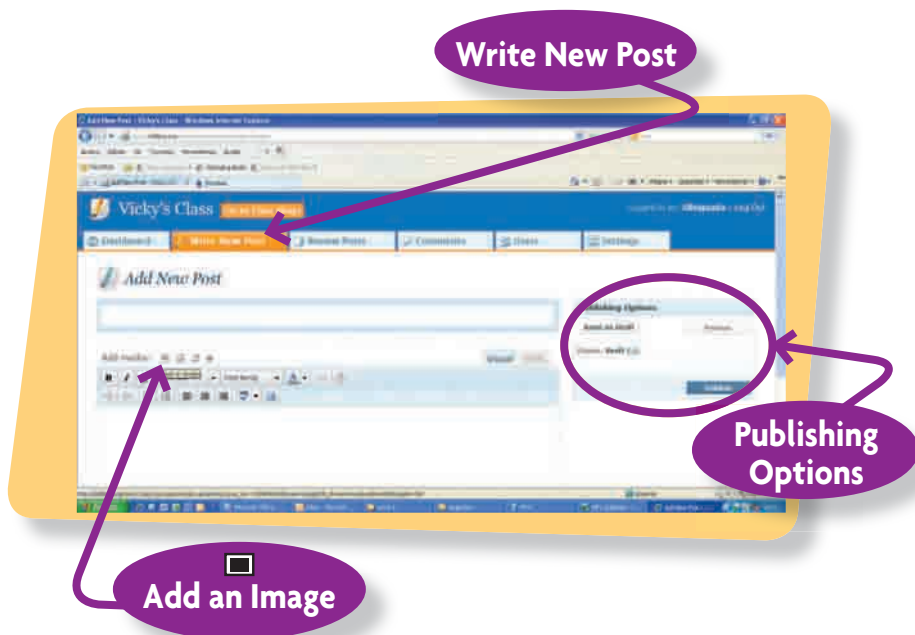
do as you read

The answer is YES!  
What is your question?

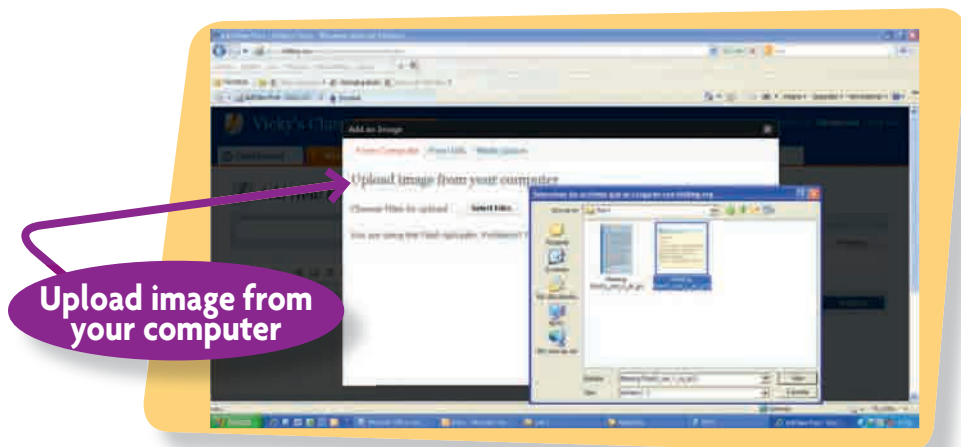
Is it easy to do?

**YES!** Go to your Kidblog Dashboard and click on the **Write New Post** tab. Then, click on the **Add an Image** button.

Once your post is written, go to the **Publishing Options** window on the right. There you can choose to **Preview**, **Save as Draft** or **Publish**.



A new window will open. Click on the **From Computer** tab, then on **Select files**, choose the exercise to upload, and click on **Insert into Post**.



You will be automatically re-directed to the **Write New Post** window again, where you will see the image already inserted in the post.

*You are now ready to write the instructions for your students.*

And how about my students?  
Is it easy for them to write their answers?

**YES!** They should scroll down to the **Leave a Comment** box under the blog post and type the answer. They can also work on a word processor and then "Copy and Paste" to this comment box.

To post it, they should click on **Submit Comment**.

*You may want to register yourself as student and follow the above instructions just to check how simple it is before you give your students their first task.*

# Postings in Storyline 3

## What kinds of postings can we make?

How about starting by getting a general feel for what you and your students can do?

Go to <http://kidblog.org/VickysClass2/> and have a browse around at the postings.

Now, have a look at the web tools suggested. For each one, you will find a reference to exercises in *Storyline 3* where you can apply them.



## Blog writing

In Units 1, 2, 3 and 8, there are plenty of opportunities to have students write in the class blog. Here's a list of the recommended exercises:

### 1 We live in the Milky Way

- Exercise 8, page 9
- Exercise 4, page 13



4 Use the information in the file and write Brian's comment on Daniel's blog.

NAME:	Brian
AGE:	10
FAMILY:	mother, father, 1 sister, 1 brother, grandma
ROUTINE:	school (8 AM), lunch home (1 PM).
Afternoon:	football ✓, TV ✓, music X, homework ✓, Dinner (9 PM).
FAVOURITE SUBJECT:	PE and Language ☺☺, arts ☺

### 2 I can see Mars!

- Exercise 4, page 21



- Exercise 8 c), page 86
- Exercise 12, page 87

c) Now, write your riddle!

## 3 Daniel likes reading UFO stories

- Exercise 14, page 27
- Exercise 4, page 29

14 a) Complete.  
Imagine it's 1950 and you meet Sue, Joe's sister. Complete her personal file.

b) Now, write about Sue.

4 Complete. Then, write.

Imagine you are Emily. Complete the file for the strange creature. Then, write an entry for Daniel's blog.

## 8 The UFO went up and up

- Exercises 2 and 3, page 71

2 Write back to Tati.

Imagine you answer Tati's message. What are her friends doing? What do they want to tell Tati?

## Postings in Storyline 3

### Digital books

In unit 4, we will use the tool called **Bookr**, with which students will be able to write and publish their own digital books.

#### 4 Some friends from planet Omega

Based on the 'Can we count...?' section on page 35, students can make a digital book about food and drink, the environment or parts of the body. This project can be done individually, in small groups or as a collaborative class project.

Access the **Bookr** application at <http://www.pimpampum.net/bookr> and write the title and the author for your photobook. To look for images, write a key word in the **Tag** box. The keywords can be generic (food) or more specific (rice).



To add more pages, click +

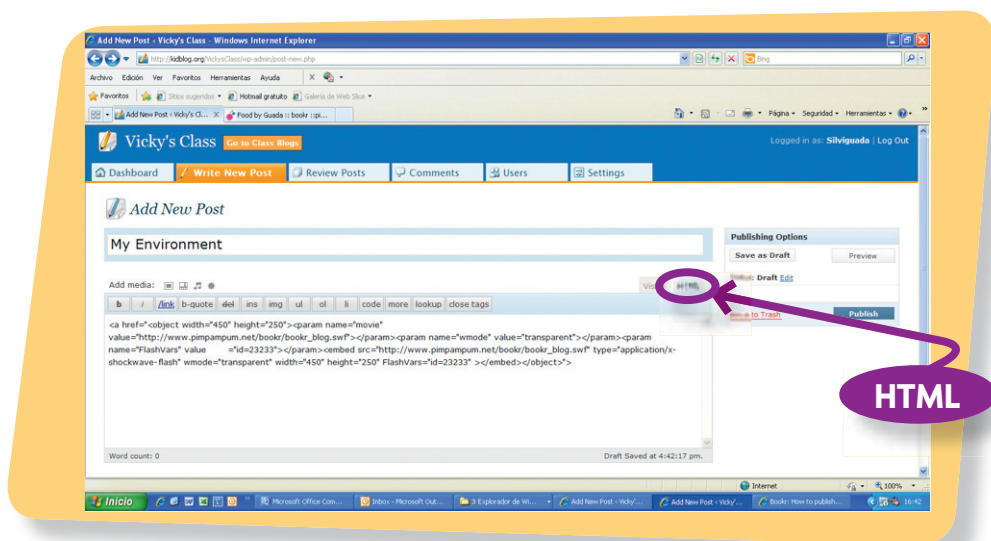


Do not complete the User box

Finally, click on **Go!** If you chose food, for example, the keyword “Food” and a strip of pictures will appear on the screen. Choose a picture for the cover and click on it. Do the same with each page. You can also add text below the pictures.

When the book is ready, click on **Publish this book!** and then on **Blog this book.** You’ll be able to post the book directly on your blog or give your students the link to access the digital book in *Bookr*.

Note: if you choose the first option, make sure to paste the URL on the **HTML** window of your post.



do as you read

To see an example of a digital book posted on a class blog, go to <http://kidblog.org/VickysClass2/>.

## Postings in Storyline 3

### **Digital posters**

In Units 5, 6 and 7 students can create their interactive posters with **Glogster**.



To create a Glogster poster, access Glogster at <http://edu.glogster.com/register>. On the registration screen, fill in the necessary information and click on **Sign up**. You will be automatically directed to the **Dashboard**.

Click on **CREATE NEW GLOG**. You're now ready to create a new glog (digital poster)!

You'll see the *Glogster* editor, which you can use to add the following elements and edit them: graphics, text, images, video, sound and data (e.g. word documents, presentations, pdf documents, etc). You can also change the poster background or the screen background (wall). To make changes to the elements in your poster, (i.e. text, images, etc), navigate through the different options of each menu.

To add images, click on the **Image** tab of the menu. You'll be able to:

- **upload** images from your own computer,
- **link** to use online images, e.g. from *Google*,
- **grab** a part of your screen.

You can then add a frame to the selected images and there's your new glog!

Once your glog is ready, click on **SAVE OR PUBLISH**. A new window will open. Choose the glog category and write any tags (key words) to help others find the glog later. It is advisable to save the glog as private.

Then, on the **Add New Post** screen in your blog page, click on the **HTML** tab, paste the embed code and click on **Publish**.

*Can you see your poster?  
Do you like it?*

Here's a list of the recommended exercises:

## 5 Empanadas for a special family

› Exercise 7, page 43

## 6 Would you like chocolate biscuits?

› Exercises 16 and 17, page 53

## 7 They visited Tixit's UFO

› Exercises 10 and 11, page 59



## *A speaking avatar!*

Tongue-twisters can be a lot of fun! We'll introduce students to the use of **Voki**, a tool that allows them to create their speaking characters.


### Storyline Mags 1 & 2

Based on the tongue twisters on pages 39 and 72 of the Pupil's Book, students can create a speaking avatar. They can do so with a tool called **Voki**, which allows users to create a character that can speak.

Type your text and choose a voice.

Record your own voice.

Access **Voki** at <http://www.voki.com>, click on **Register** (top right corner of the page) and go over the registration process. Now you're ready to click on **Create a New Voki**.

Customize your character and give it a voice. If you have a microphone, you can record your own voice by clicking on the mike icon. If you don't, you can click on , type your text and choose the language and voice for your avatar. You are now ready to **Publish** your character.

A new window will open. To post the character on the class blog, copy the embed code. On your blog page, create a new post, click on the **HTML** tab, paste the embed code and click on **Publish**.

*Do you like your voki? How does it sound?*



Remember you can visit <http://kidblog.org/VickysClass2/>  
and check examples of all these beauties!