

On-line Tools in the Classroom

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1. Kahoot

<http://kahoot.com>

Description: This tool helps teachers create fun, interactive, competitive quizzes for students. These can be used as refreshers, reviews for a test, or even as a form of informal assessment after a lesson. I like this tool a lot because it's just fun! I don't think I've ever met anyone who has participated in a Kahoot and didn't enjoy it.

How I would use it: I would use it for all the purposes mentioned above. I would probably prepare it as a tool for quick and informal assessment following a short lesson, or maybe at the end of the week following a small unit. Here is an example I made based on The Boy Who Cried Wolf:

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/k/72e9b5a2-1c18-47d3-96e3-3f9228c6b783>

2. Bouncy Balls

<https://bouncyballs.org/>

Description: This tool is a visual noise monitor. It connects to your microphone and displays a black screen with an option of bouncy balls, emojis, bubbles, or eyeballs (a fun option for Halloween time!). The teacher can control the number of balls (or other objects) displayed, as well as the sound sensitivity and noise level allowed. When the noise level gets a little much, the balls will start to bounce. When the noise level gets past what the teacher has set as okay, the balls will start flying all over the screen and a message will appear that tells the students to shush down, in some form or another.

When the noise dies down, the balls settle down as well.

How I would use it: I would use this as a classroom management tool to monitor noise level in the classroom. If noise level was an issue in my classroom a daily basis, I would use this as a tool to help students visually monitor themselves, rather than just having to give them verbal warnings all day. There could be consequences to the balls flying. I could also use it to monitor noise in one block of time where quiet is necessary. In addition, if I were teaching music in some way, I could use this tool as a way to study and visualize music.

3. Whichbook

<https://www.whichbook.net/>

Description: This website lets you enter a word, mood, subject, theme, character, setting, or anything else and it will bring up book recommendations which match that concept. It will let you continue to search related books to find one that meets your interest!

How I would use it: I would provide this tool to my students to as a way for them to find books that interest them. Then, I would do one big book order per year and let students' finds on this website help guide what I order. I would love to use this tool as a way to get reluctant or hesitant readers interested in reading—by finding books that will pique their interest!