

Click, Create and Teach: Making AI work in the English classroom

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1. AI and digital tools used

Padlet – Enables real-time collaboration through multimedia posts (text, images, audio, or video). Ideal for class discussions, portfolios, and story spines.

<https://ta.padlet.com/>

ChatGPT – Generates reading texts, dialogues, and differentiated tasks across CEFR levels. Useful for idea generation, prompt-based lesson design, and scaffolding speaking or writing tasks. Teachers should review and localize content for accuracy.

<https://chat.openai.com>

Canva – Supports design thinking and multimodal storytelling. Teachers and students can co-create digital posters, vocabulary cards, and narrated slides. Excellent for integrating visuals, sound, and text in AI-enhanced lessons.

<https://www.canva.com>

2) Story Spine Framework (Outline & Classroom Flow)

Framework Origin: *Kenn Adams, 1990; adapted for ELT storytelling.*

Story Spine Structure:

1. **Once upon a time...** (Setting and characters)
2. **And every day...** (Daily routine)
3. **But one day...** (Problem/conflict)
4. **Because of that...** (Action/reaction 1)
5. **Because of that...** (Action/reaction 2)
6. **Until finally...** (Resolution)
7. **And ever since then...** (Outcome/lesson)

Outline for ELT Use:

- **Pre-writing:** Brainstorm topic and vocabulary (Canva mind map or Padlet idea board).
- **Drafting:** Write each stage (ChatGPT supports sentence modeling).
- **Speaking:** Record narration (Canva or ScreenPal voice-over, 45–60 s).
- **Sharing:** Post to Padlet Gallery → Class stars/comments.
- **Reflecting:** Students complete self-check (clarity, structure, emotion, pronunciation).

3) Prompt template recipes

Template 1 – All-in-One 4-Skills Lesson Prompt

Prompt:

Create an English lesson for **[insert grade: Primary 1–3 or Middle School 4–7]** learners.

Topic: [insert topic, e.g., “My Family,” “The Environment,” “School Life,” “Festivals Around the World”]

Lesson Duration: [insert time, e.g., 45 minutes]

Include:

- Learning goals: 3 “I can...” statements
- Warm-up activity: short, fun, and age-appropriate
- Reading text (short and level-appropriate) + 3 comprehension questions
- Listening script + 3 questions
- Speaking task with sentence starters
- Writing task with a short model answer
- Homework or extension (creative, simple, and engaging)

Template 2 – Reading-Focused Prompt

Prompt:

Create a reading comprehension lesson for **[Primary 2 / Middle School 5]** students.

Topic: [insert topic]

Include:

- A short reading text (80–100 words for primary, 150–200 for middle school)
- 5 comprehension questions (literal, vocabulary, and opinion)
- 1 vocabulary activity (match, fill-in, or find synonyms)
- 1 short speaking or writing task for reflection
- Homework suggestion related to the text.

Template 3 – Listening-Focused Prompt

Prompt:

Create a listening activity for **[Primary 3 / Middle School 6]** learners about **[insert topic, e.g., “Weekend Fun,” “My Favorite Subject,” “Life in the Future”]**.

Include:

- A short, natural audio script (1 minute for primary, 2 minutes for middle school)
- 5 comprehension questions
- A pre-listening warm-up question
- A post-listening speaking or drawing task
- Homework idea (e.g., record a short voice note about their own weekend)

Template 4 – Speaking-Focused Prompt**Prompt:**

Create a speaking lesson for [Primary 3 / Middle School 7] learners on [insert topic, e.g., “Dream Jobs,” “Food and Culture,” “Helping Others”].

Include:

- A warm-up question
- 5 discussion or pair questions with sentence starters
- 1 mini speaking game or interview activity
- 1 pronunciation or fluency tip
- Homework: students record or write a short response

Template 5 – Writing-Focused Prompt**Prompt:**

Create a writing lesson for [Primary 2 / Middle School 5] on [insert topic, e.g., “My Favorite Place,” “A Special Day,” “My Pet,” “School Rules”].

Include:

- A short brainstorming or picture prompt
- A guided writing task (3–6 sentences)
- 3 useful words or phrases
- A model paragraph
- Homework task to rewrite, draw, or expand their story

Template 6 – Padlet Collaboration

“Design a **Padlet Venn Diagram** comparing [City vs. Countryside Transport] with 8 prompts and 10 sentence starters. Include a peer-comment routine (‘Two Stars and a Wish’) and 2 reflection questions.”

Template 7 – Story Spine Generator

“Generate a **6-line Story Spine** for [Festival or Community Theme] (A2/B1). Include 8 target words, a short 60-second narration script, and a 6-item checklist (content, vocabulary, accuracy, fluency, emotion, creativity).”

Template 8 – Writing Enhancement (for Canva/Padlet)

“Create a 100-word model paragraph on [topic] for [A2/B1] level. Add 5 key phrases and 2 connectors. Then design a short Canva layout (heading, image, quote box) for students to post on Padlet.”

4) Responsible & Ethical AI in Classrooms

1. **Transparency** – Credit AI contributions.
2. **Privacy** – No personal/school data in prompts.
3. **Accuracy** – Always verify AI-generated content.
4. **Fairness** – Discuss bias and inclusivity.
5. **Oversight** – Teacher monitors and curates outputs.

5) References

- Adams, K. (1990). *The story spine* [Workshop notes]. (Referenced in Ohler, 2013.)
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- Ohler, J. B. (2013). *Digital storytelling in the classroom: New media pathways to literacy, learning, and creativity* (2nd ed.). Corwin.
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