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## Ipad Initiatives In The Elementary Classroom Enhancing Literacy Instruction

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# PRIMETIME TECHNOLOGY

By

Vanessa Forsman

A capstone project submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Literacy Education

Hamline University

St. Paul, Minnesota

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## **Summary**

My research question guiding this website was: *How can the use of iPads in the elementary classroom enhance literacy instruction?* The project I chose was to create a website featuring different apps that can bring technology into the elementary classroom and enrich literacy instruction. Elementary teachers and educators will be able to explore whatever strand of literacy they are interested in adding technology to and will be able to find a variety of apps and ideas that will help them implement it into their classrooms. The website has different apps for different sections of literacy, example lessons, activities and blogs that will help teachers find apps that are right for their classrooms.

As I did my research for the literature review, it became even more clear that yes, we are in an advancing technology world and yes, literacy is one of the most important things we can teach our young learners (Forzani & Leu, 2012). Yokota & Teale (2014) helped provide knowledge on how blending the two can be a powerful thing. We shouldn't just be throwing away everything we know to replace it with technology but bringing some into the mix would be a good thing to prepare students for the future.

## **Description of Website**

This website was created with primary grades K-2 in mind. The website is intended to be a place for primary teachers to explore different areas of literacy using technology. The hope is through the website teachers will find something they can try right away in their classroom. Each section will have details about the app, benefits for the students and ideas for teachers to use the app in their classroom. Some of these apps are going to be great for center time and more

independent practice while others can be utilized for blending traditional curriculum, lessons and other activities with technology. At the bottom of many of the app pages you will find blogs that give even more details or activity ideas, sample lesson plans, unit guides, and/or planning sheets to help get teachers started.

I want this website to be an online resource educators can easily access and use. A big reason I chose to create a website is because of the accessibility for a wide range of people. The website will hopefully be a place teachers can go to find ways or ideas on how to bring technology into their literacy block. I also think this website can be a great resource for teachers who are interested in just beginning their technology journey in the classroom. I will have lesson ideas on how to use technology for different parts of a lesson which may be a great integration.

While there is a whole section of apps that are under the cross-curricular section, a lot of the other apps could be utilized in other subjects as well. Most of these apps are intended for literacy use but could easily be blended into other subject areas. Literacy is in every subject teachers teach which is why so many of these apps can be used in different curricular areas.

Throughout my research, I have learned a healthy balance of face-to-face teaching and teaching using technology is the best way to approach our quickly changing digital world. On the site along with apps to use in the classroom, you will find activities or lessons that include traditional teaching while incorporating technology as well. I fully believe children should still see, hear and touch real books and have many experiences with printed text. As our society changes into a more digital world, giving students the opportunity to also explore through digital text is important to consider. In the article Picture Books and the Digital World, Yokota and

Teale (2014) say they argue that both print and digital story experiences are necessary for children's early literacy development.

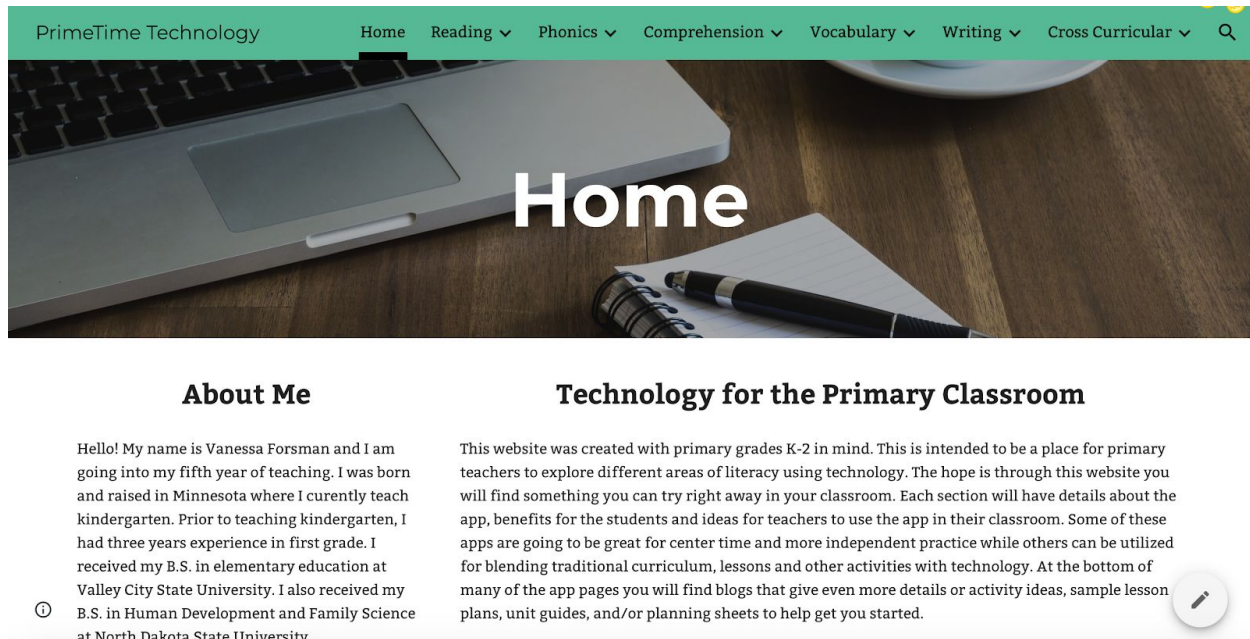
This website is made with the intention of giving teachers and educators motivation to help students succeed in the 21st century. New technology is coming out all the time and technology in the classroom is only becoming more popular. This website will be a place for teachers to feel at ease when thinking about technology in their own classrooms. I know from personal experience, it can be hard to change your ways and bring something new and unfamiliar into your teaching practices. With this website and all the resources within it, teachers should be able to easily pick something to try. There are so many different apps to choose from and I intend to keep adding more so the website stays relevant and up to date.

Keeping this website updated is an important goal of mine. As I've said many times, technology is continuing to grow so my website should also continue to grow with it. My hope is to reevaluate what apps are on my website and any apps I feel would be an addition to the site every so often. While using and experimenting with new apps in my own classroom, I hope to add quality apps that any teacher would find useful in their rooms. I also intend to continue researching apps myself. I know there are more quality apps out there right now that would be a great addition to my website. Overtime, the website will continue to grow and change to meet the needs of our fast changing world of technology.

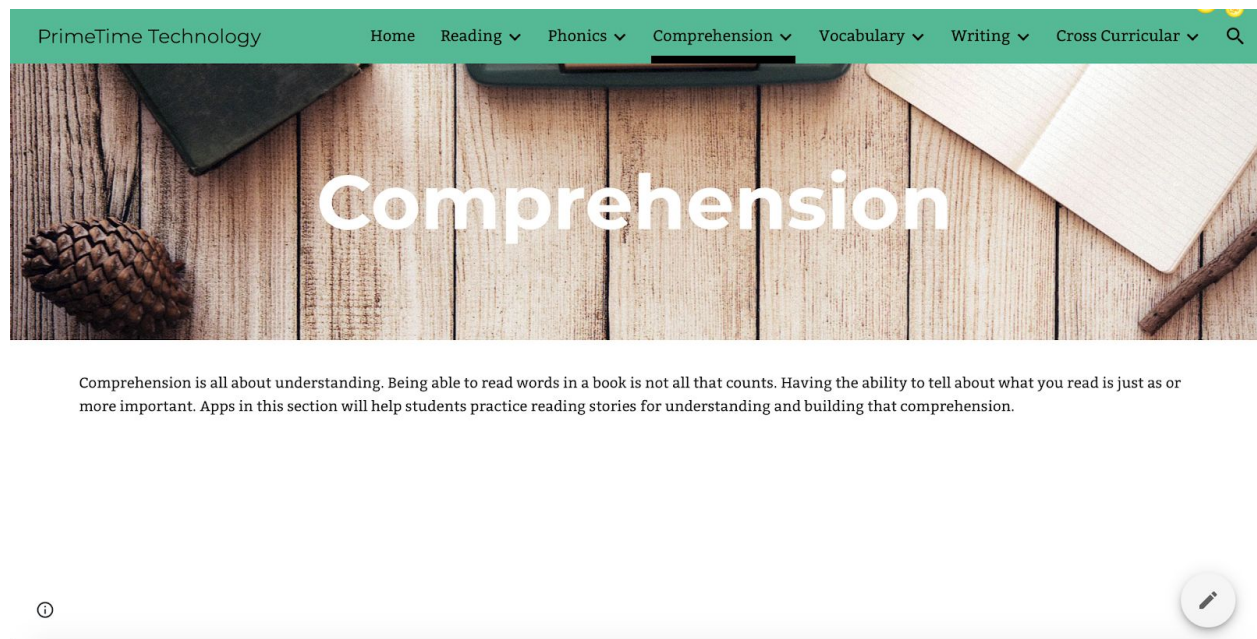
**Website link:** <https://sites.google.com/view/primetime-technology>

## Screenshots/Descriptions of the website

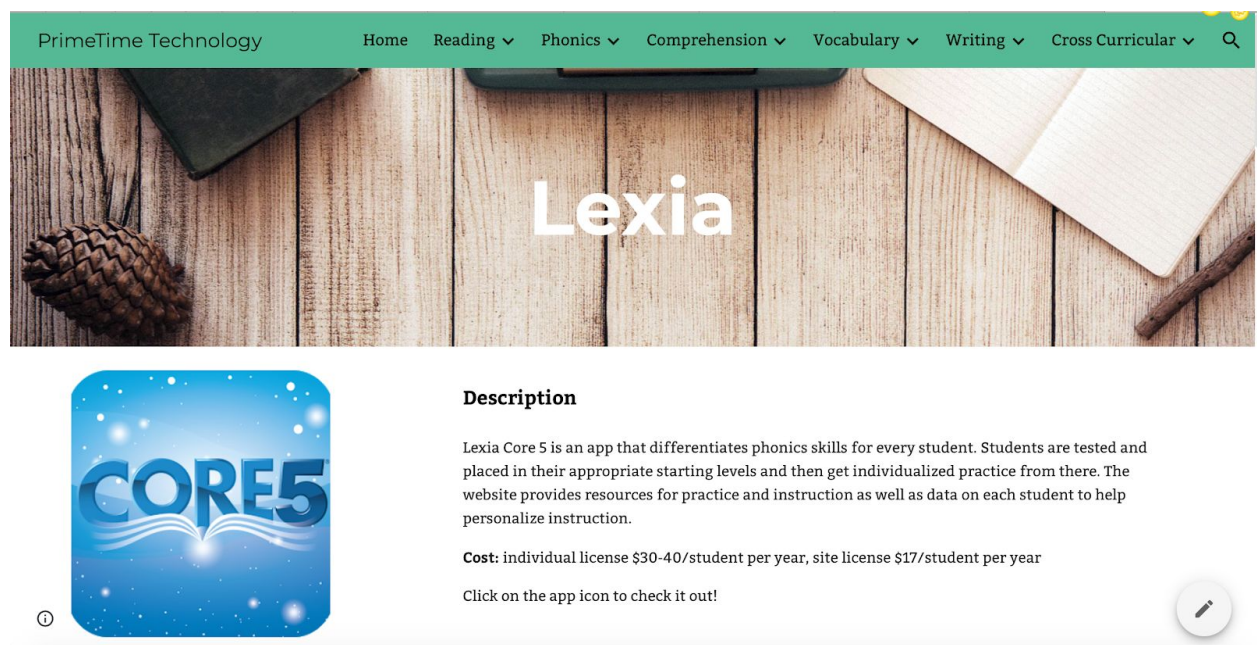
Home page: My homepage introduces myself and then talks about why and what the website is all about.



Section overview: Each section home page will have a description of the strand of literacy focused on and the type of apps you can expect to see when you explore that section.



Example app page: Each app page has a description of the app, details, how teachers and students will benefit and ideas/lessons on how to use it in your classroom.





### Details

Lexia is a great phonics resource you can use everyday with your kids. First, you make your account and get students set up. Then the first time students log in they will automatically be directed to take a placement test. Once placed at their starting level, they can start working on skills needed to continue their growth. Students will stay engaged with this app that runs like a game, all while learning and practicing new skills.

Available on: IOS, Google Play and computers



### Student Side

The student dashboard provides a great visual for students to see. When students use Lexia, they can see their individual goal, how many minutes they have worked this week and how many units they have completed. When students complete a level, the teacher will get the option to print a certificate of completion for that student.

### Teacher Side

The teacher side of Lexia is another wonderful place to explore and use. You can see a glimpse of student progress from your whole class, individual data reports, areas students need to work on. This app can be used everyday in your classroom. It keeps kids fully engaged during center time so you aren't worrying about whether kids are on task or not. With all the data given, you are able to create or use small group lessons as well as individualized instruction.

- Use Lexia as a center during guided reading.
- Look at data to individualize instruction for one-on-one time.
- On the website you can find worksheets for students to reinforce student skills.
- Lessons with step by step instructions are provided based on student needs, use to create small groups or for individual practice.



PrimeTime Technology
Home
Reading
Phonics
Comprehension
Vocabulary
Writing
Cross Curricular

	Grade Level of Material	Usage This Week			Progress This Week			Predictor
		Total Minutes	Target	Time Needed	Units Gained	Target		
1	K   L2	0	60	+60	0	12		
	2nd   L10	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a		
	1st   L8	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a		
2	K   L5	0	60	+60	0	12		
	K   L5	0	60	+60	0	12		
	K   L5	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a		
3	K   L5	0	60	+60	0	12		
	1st   L7	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a		
	K   L4	0	60	+60	0	12		
4	K   L2	0	60	+60	0	12		
	1st   L8	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a		
	K   L5	0	60	+60	0	12		

### Core5 Level 8 Activities

- 1st Grade material 52%
- [Silent E Construction](#) 50%
- [Long Vowel Teams](#) 60%
- [Two Syllable Words](#) 50%
- [Multiple Meaning Words 1](#) 50%
- [Sentence Comprehension 2](#) 50%

Skills Report

### Usage and Progress

	Usage	Units
Last Week	0m	0
Last Four Weeks	35m	3
This Year	34h 51m	460

% Weeks Meeting Usage This Year 97%

34 of 35 weeks

Usage Report Progress Report

### LEXIA CONNECTIONS

#### Lexia Suffixes

Lexia suffixes are word parts that come to the end of the word and help to change the meaning of the word or to form a new word.

Lexia Suffixes

- able
- ible
- ly
- ness
- ous
- tion
- ive
- ment
- er
- est
- er
- est
- er
- est

#### Description

This lesson is designed to give students repeated exposures and practice with high-frequency sight words, many of which do not follow phonic rules. Students often struggle to automatically recognize these words and read them accurately. Being able to read high-frequency words automatically is integral to becoming fluent readers.

#### TEACHER TIPS

This lesson can be adapted for use with any sight words that students struggle to recognize automatically. You can create a set of flash cards for each student, punch a hole in the corner of

PrimeTime Technology
Home
Reading
Phonics
Comprehension
Vocabulary
Writing
Cross Curricular

### Blending

Blending is the process of putting individual sounds together to form a word. This is a key skill for reading and writing.

Write the word from the sound cards and read it aloud. Then, write the word in the box.

ie oe ch n oa

p ay

- Writing utensil and something to write on for each student
- Index cards for individual student practice deck

## Blending Traditional with Technology

Lexia is an app that can be used in so many different ways. I use Lexia everyday as a literacy center but you can also do so much more. Lexia has lessons and activities that go with skills students are working on in the app. This makes it super easy to pull a small group or somebody 1-1 to reinforce a skill with a physical lesson and then have them continue to practice in the app. Below are examples of lessons given from Lexia to work on skills students also work on in the app.

Beginning Consonant Sounds GrK Sample Le...

Silent E Recognition Gr1 Sample Lesson

Suffixes Gr2 Sample Lesson

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