Lesson Abstract: This writing lesson will use the technology tool My StoryMaker. My StoryMaker is a website that allows individuals to create a story using characters, props and different settings. The creator of the story is able to design each page of the book and type in the story. The creator can add emotion and action to the characters so it becomes more interactive. Once the story is completed it can be printed out and folded to look like a real book! I have re-repurposed this technology for a whole class shared story lesson that will help students understand story elements. We will work together using the class projector to create our story using the My StoryMaker website. We will print our shared story out afterwards and make copies so each student is able to take home and read the story we created together. This lesson is a great way to teach story elements while at the same time allowing for a fun and collaborative way of learning in the classroom using the website My StoryMaker.

Lesson Objectives:
- Students will be able to identify the story elements: characters, setting, problem and solution.
- Students will be able to use story elements to write a creative story.

Student NETS Standards Alignment:
- Student NETS 1b- Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students create original works as a means of personal or group expression.

- Student NETS 5b- Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.
Materials:
2. Teacher computer with internet access
3. Classroom projector
4. My StoryMaker website projected for the class to see and help create the story
5. Chart paper and pens to brainstorm story element ideas
6. Printer to print the class shared story

Beginning
Teacher will read the story *Alexander and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day* by Judith Viorst. After reading I will introduce the story element words: characters, setting, problem and solution. Using the chart paper the students will help me fill out a storyboard with the following story elements in relation to the book we just read.
Questions I would ask:
- Who was the story about? This would be our main character!
- Where did the story happen? Was it at a park or at a house or lots of places?
- What problem did the main character have? How did he/she solve the problem?

Middle
Next I will tell the students that it is now our turn to create our own story but we are going to get to use a special technology tool. Using the teacher computer and classroom projector I will introduce the website My Storybook [http://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids/storymaker/embed.cfm](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/kids/storymaker/embed.cfm). In order for students to better understand how we will be using the computer and this website to make a story I will create a very short story for them called *The Rabbit Who Made Friends with the Dragon.*

After showing the class how I created my story picking the setting, characters, props and then typing my story out, I will print it so they can see how I was able to take my story from the screen to paper creating a book that I can keep and read.

Before beginning our shared class story on the computer we will create our own storyboard on the chart paper to help guide our thoughts.
We will now begin our shared class story. Students will be at their desks but will be able to see both the storyboard we created and the website My StoryMaker projected onto the wall. Together we will go through the steps of My StoryMaker to create our own story. I will be typing and I will call on students individually to come up and help pick out characters, props and actions on the computer.
- Making the book:
  - We will fill out the author page of our book: Written by Mrs. Puskala’s class. Now we can start to create our story.
  - Setting our goal- We will choose our main character from a list of animated characters.
  - What is your main character’s goal? - We will pick from a list of options our characters goal and props.
We then work through turning the pages in our interactive book and adding text (teacher types) and characters, items, scenery objects and settings from a list of options. When we have finished creating our book we can preview it, make necessary changes and then print it out.

**End**

Now that we have created a shared story together using My StoryMaker it will be added to our daily literacy centers as a technology option. I will demonstrate to students how they can find My StoryMaker bookmarked on the two classroom student computers. They may try to create their own story during centers.