ASTE 2019

**Using Timelines in Literature**

**Submitted by Laura Guest, ASD**

Session: Engaging Learners through Technology –Presented by Carrie Day

Carrie introduced so many good websites and tools, it will take a long time to sort through them and figure out which lessons I can use them or which ones to pass along to a teacher. One of the topics was on timelines. We often immediately think of the biographies and historical events in social studies, but she had us brainstorm other uses of a timeline—how it could be used in a math class—by creating a “when mathematicians came onto the scene”, science—scientific discoveries or life cycle and uses in literature. I would not have thought to use a timeline program to create a story sequence. Character development might work too.

Though several programs were described, the two applicable to elementary were tiki-toki.com timeline (best for grades 5 and up) and ReadWriteThink.Org. It is by far the easiest timeline program I have used. The direct link is <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline_2/> or search for timeline at their website. Work can be saved as a draft or finished product on your device to be opened at a later date. The Timeline can be printed and emailed as a PDF. Entering and editing information couldn’t be easier! Each event can contain an image as well as detailed descriptions that will only be seen if the timeline is printed.

To practice using the ReadWriteThink timeline program for story sequence, I used Mercer Mayer’s *There’s a Nightmare in my Closet*. The Label is print4ed in a larger font, the short description is on the timeline and the detailed notes are held for the printing option. I created a timeline with the first entry being an image of the book cover and eight events in the story. Younger students could use pictures supplied by the teacher to complete this task with minimal typing.

I cannot wait to share this tool with all of my teachers!

