

# Technology and Reading

How to...Create a wiki for collaborative storytelling



## Summary

This resource will show you how to create a wiki using Wikispaces. Wikispaces is a free site that enables you to create your own wiki without the need to verify your email address or download any software. A wiki is a form of website where users can collaborate by easily adding to and editing content. In this way, wikis can be used for collaborative storytelling.

**Please note that access to some Web 2.0 applications may be blocked within learning institutions or organisations.**

## Creating your wiki

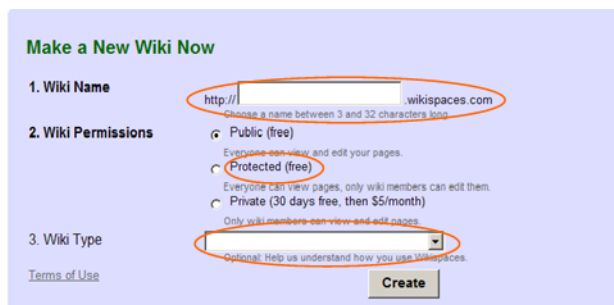
To create your wiki go to [wikispaces.com](http://wikispaces.com)

1. You will need to create a user account. Do this by filling in the “**Get Started box**” and then clicking on the “**Get Started button**”.



2. You will be asked to confirm your email address and once you have done this you will be taken to a page entitled “**Make a New Wiki**”.

You will need to decide on a name for your wiki and on a level of permission. If you are using this with a specific group it is best to choose “**protected**”, which means anybody can view your wiki but only your group members can edit it. You will also need to select wiki-type.



3. You can read the start guide on wikispaces.com but if you want to get started straight away, click on **“home”**. You will now be on your wiki homepage. Go to **“edit this page”** to begin.

### Adding and editing text on your home page

1. To get started, click on **“edit”** and add some text. Perhaps start by pasting in the start of a traditional fairytale\*. Once added, click on **“save”**.



2. You will see that the **“getting started”** information has been replaced by the new text you have entered.
3. Now click **“edit”** again and add to or change your original text in some way. Click **“save”**.
4. You will now be taken back to your homepage and will see that the text has been updated.

Go to [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org) and type something like Cinderella into the search box. Once you have clicked on the chosen e-book, opt for the **“Plaintext”**, Compression – **“none”**, then right-click on **“main site”**. The e-book will open and you could just copy and paste the first couple of paragraphs.

### Enabling other people to edit your wiki

Your space is currently protected. It can be seen by everyone, but only members can edit pages. You can invite others to be members of your wiki giving them the ability to add to and edit your wiki.

1. Click on the link **“Manage Wiki”** (on the right of your home page) and then click on **“Members”** (under the heading “People”).



2. Invite somebody to be a member of your space by entering their email address and clicking “**invite**”. They will then receive an email inviting them to join Wikispaces. They can then choose to be a member of your wiki.

You and other contributors can also comment on pages using the “**discussion**” link at the top of every page. This could be used to talk about where the story is going, why people chose to take it in the direction they did, or how they feel about writing and contributing – it might be their first experience of writing fiction.



# More ideas...

Encourage learners to write (compile) author biographies collectively. You could show them some examples from Wikipedia.

## Links

Take a look at Penguin's collaborative storytelling wiki at:  
[www.amillionpenguins.com](http://www.amillionpenguins.com)

Please note that this resource does not intend to recommend certain products, it rather presents options to explore when supporting and encouraging reading for pleasure.

## The Reading for Pleasure suite of materials:

- CPD modules: Reading for pleasure in a number of contexts
- Storytelling: CPD unit with lesson ideas
- Families, Learning and Storytelling: Using archives for community cohesion
- Take Your Partner: Engaging emergent adult readers
- Technology and Reading: How to use blogs, wikis, iPods and e-books to promote reading
- Putting two and 2 together: Creating a bridge between literacy and numeracy learning
- Resources for libraries: Guidance on how to engage families to read for pleasure