WIKISPACES / PB WORKS-**BASED TASKS**
'Seedcorn' storytelling

TARGET GROUP	Level: A2-C1, suitable for higher primary school grades and up
CONTEXT (Ex: in class, online etc.)	Virtual learning environment (distance learning) or blended learning (if the task is given as homework)
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Developing writing skills through collaborative and creative work.
TOOLS AND RESOURCES	A wiki tool (PB Works; Wikispaces, etc.)
CONTENT	STEPS: 1. Start a wiki page with the title of a story. You can also indicate the genre or style (e.g. fairy tale, science fiction). Start the first sentence but leave it unfinished (this is called a "seedcorn"). 2. Invite your students to continue the story with their own ideas and in their own style. Suggest a minimum number of sentences depending on the language level of your students. Encourage students to write directly into the wiki page. If they write in a word document first and then copy and paste into the wiki, the story might have moved on in the meantime, and their contribution might confuse the storyline. 3. Set a deadline when the story will be finished and the wiki closed. You can offer to correct language mistakes and ask students to look at "changes" in the wiki history to reflect on their errors.

ASSESSMENT

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' WORK	TEACHER SELF-EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY
Students can be evaluated according to: - Creativity - How good they blended their ideas into the story and followed the others'. - Grammar, orthography etc. - Richness in vocabulary choice	

ADDED VALUE
(Increase in value created by the use of the ICT tool)

- Students learn what true collaboration means: everyone has to coordinate their thoughts according to each other's ideas in writing a story.
- Collaboration of this sort reinforces organizational and time-management skills.
- Stoller (1997) notes that project-based instruction is advantageous because it is student-centred and may increase student motivation. Namely, the teacher's intervention throughout the completion of the task is minimal. Metaphorically, the teacher steers the task but does not orchestrate its development.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

All students should have their own computer and Internet access. This task is not suitable for classroom work as attempting to edit the same wikipages at the same time by multiple users' leads to lockdown. Only one user can make changes at any one time.

Source: Moodle (registration required)

Stoller, F. (1997). Project work: A means to promote language content. English Teaching Forum Online, 35(4), Retrieved April 8, 2006 from http://exchanges.state.gov/forum/vols/vol35/no4/p2.htm