

## Springboard from VIEWING to DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Finn Cragg's multimedia packs "*Caravan*" and "*Emu and the Flying Doctor*" include an engaging short 3D animated story, storyboards and stills, plus a folder on the DVD packed with hundreds of pictures and clips plus audio tracks from the animation - **that can be copied onto PC's and Macs without copyright restrictions** and freely manipulated, edited, mashed, remixed, and repurposed to create new digital texts - from electronic story books, comics and animatics to mini-movies and video clips.

**In today's digital environment teachers have to be mindful of using third party content without breaching copyright laws. Finn Cragg has overcome this issue; teachers and students can freely manipulate the rich bank of pics, audio and video without any legal or copyright concerns.**

### 10 Viewing QUESTIONS - Finn Cragg's Animation – Caravan or Emu

1. Make notes including ideas about the setting (place and time), characters and plot.
2. How does the lack of dialogue impact upon the narrative? Explain.
3. Is the narrative real or fantasy? Support your answer with at least 2 points.
4. Describe the characters including their appearance and behaviour. Are they stereotypes or different from the usual? Give details to support your opinion.
5. Speculate on the target audience and list three aspects of the text that would make it appeal to such an audience?
6. What is the role of music in the animation? Does it reflect the character's emotions and/or actions? Explain how?
7. Comment on the use of colour and lighting and how they affect the mood of the text.
8. Make notes on three different shot types and three different camera angles used. Comment on the effect of each of these on you as the viewer.
9. What possible meanings do you make from the animation? How might these meanings be influenced by your age, gender, where you live, your family life, the time and culture you live in, or your education?
10. What other meanings might viewers of different ages make of the text?

### What is Digital Storytelling?

Digital stories are a powerful way for storytellers to share their stories. Anyone with access to a computer can produce a digital story. Most digital stories are produced as a short film, with a personal or creative storyline, images, and a soundtrack or voice-over. The images most often used include digital photos, scanned artwork, digital art and design.

If you have a Microsoft Computer you can use freely available programmes like Power Point, Movie Maker or Photo Story 3. Apple Mac users can use iPhoto and iMovie. The best stories are those that have a personal, unusual or interesting storyline, great images, enriched narrative and powerful soundtrack.

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### **10 Steps to Create a Digital Story with FREELY available Microsoft's Photo Story 3 for Windows**

1. Plan your storyline - storyboard or make notes about the sequence of your ideas and gather the images you will use (scan or take digital photos of any not already in jpeg formats).
2. Set up a special folder and store all your pictures and images in the one location.
3. If you don't already have Photo Story 3 for Windows, go to the Microsoft Download Center and install all you need from there.
4. Once installed, open Photo Story 3. Begin new story ⇒ Import ⇒ locate and select your pictures ⇒ OK ⇒ Next (to select a group of pictures ⇒ hold CTRL down ⇒ select pictures ⇒ OK)
5. Drop and drag your pictures along the image strip to change the sequence, and edit the images using the screen prompts ⇒ Next
6. Add titles – here you can write your story and change the text font ⇒ Next
7. Write your voice-over notes, then record your narration (a microphone will be needed). You can also customise motion and add transitions by following the screen prompts under the image screen ⇒ Next
8. Add music from your own music library or create within Photo Story 3 from the bank of audio.
9. Use Paint to add blank screen for title page or pages where you have a lot of text ⇒ click on Fill with Colour (Paint pot) ⇒ select colour ⇒ click blank area ⇒ Save As e.g. yellow in My Pictures or the folder you have stored your other images.
10. Save as a project to allow for future editing as you go. Save as a movie to play through Window Media Player