Teaching & Learning: Plickers

1. **Description**

During the 2014-2015 school year, I decided to explore the technology tool called Plickers. Plickers is a simple tool that allows you to get formative data from your students by using special Plickers cards that you print and using a smartphone or tablet. I had purchased Plickers units created by another teacher on the TeachersPayTeachers website in the past. These units assessed students with their phonics skills and addition facts. I was impressed with how easily I could assess my students on skills by simply giving them a numbered Plickers card (each student had their own card) and scanning their card with an iPad. Their Plickers card was turned a certain way to show their answer to a multiple-choice question. I was inspired to create an assessment of my own on Plickers that questioned my students comprehension of a story we had been working on. The questions dealt with characters, setting, and the beginning, middle, and ending of the story.

2. **Impact**

Through my experiences and knowledge gained in the Instructional Technology program, I have been exposed to many new technologies and have been active with many technology blogs. I learned about this tool through a technology blog and being exposed to the sharing of these tools has made me a more informed professional.

Using Plickers has made an impact on my students, as well as on my teaching. My students have enjoyed using the Plickers cards and having me scan their answers. They think it’s fun! It makes it easy for me to see which students are understanding the concepts and which are not. I can see the results immediately. Since I teach Kindergarten, I can use this type of assessing instead of giving them a worksheet, which takes time to grade, or working with the student one-on-one, which takes even more time. When I simply need to see who is getting the concept and who isn’t, this is a wonderful tool to use. Creating the assessment took a little bit of time due to the fact that I was importing images for the characters and setting portions. For the beginning, middle, and ending part of the assessment, I used pictures from the book. However, I will be able to use this again each year with my students and the time invested will depend on the time of assessment you are creating.

3. **Intent**

I intend to use Plickers on a regular basis. It is an easy way to formatively assess students in a swift manner. I have shared my Plickers assessment with the staff in my building and I plan to develop training on Plickers for them, as well. It is one of the technology tools I
have placed on my technology website: [http://technology-tvps.weebly.com/](http://technology-tvps.weebly.com/) and I will definitely be creating more Plickers assessments in the future.

Example: A student has 1 card. The example shows the card turned 4 different ways.

![Plucker Answer Cards](image-url)

**Student 3**

A  B  C  D

**Student 4**

A  B  C  D

**Plucker Answer Cards**