Teaching & Learning: QR Codes

1. Description

I have been using QR codes to support teaching and learning in my classroom. QR (Quick Response) codes have many uses in the classroom. Once a QR code is generated, all the student needs is a computer or mobile device to scan the code and it can link to video, audio, pictures, or websites. I have 3 examples of how I have used them. #1 shows an example of book labels I place on books in my classroom. Each label has a QR code that when scanned, will take the student to an audio (and video) recording of the book being read aloud. The label also includes the book title and running time. (See image below of how a QR code would be attached to a book. I actually attach mine on the inside.) Another example in #1 are QR code sight word cards that I can hang around the room (or put on a ring) for students to scan and practice their sight words with. #2 shows how I attach a QR code to an assignment for students to listen to the directions and complete independently.

2. Impact

I absolutely love QR codes! There are so many great learning opportunities using them. The examples described above are just a few ways I have used them in my room. I have also used them when the students are learning about symbols of our country (with links to videos describing the symbols and their history), as well as in science when we are learning about living vs. nonliving (with links to describe whether the pictures show living or nonliving things). The students love using the iPads to scan the QR codes and work independently. We have also placed QR codes around the school for all-school activities, such as Right to Read week. I can record my students reading stories that they’ve written and create a QR code of the audio to attach to their writing. This is helpful for the students to listen to themselves read, for parents to hear how their child is reading, and for me to re-listen so I can focus on their fluency and decoding skills. I never imagined something so simple could make such a huge impact on my teaching and my student’s learning.

3. Intent

I intend to keep using QR codes for the uses I mentioned previously, as well as in many other ways that I am very excited about. I recently wrote a grant for iPods to use for my listening center. If I receive the iPods, I will be able to convert the audio CDs into QR codes that will be placed on the books in my listening center. Using the QR codes will make it simple for students to scan the code and hear the story that they want to listen to without having to scroll through a list of books on the ipods. I also intend to use QR codes more in my learning centers and for information for parents (such as homework directions for students or in newsletters). For next year’s Kindergarten Open House in February (for the upcoming Kindergarten students), I
plan to place QR codes around the school so that parents can scan them during their self-guided tour and learn more about our school, the rooms, and the activities that happen throughout the year.

An example of a book cover with a QR code on it. Simply scan the code and it will take you to a video of the author reading the story.