

# kar2ouche case study



**By Lisa Pittwood, a teacher at Ellesmere College, a Secondary MLD schools in Leicester**

Students in KS4 follow a course working towards a Certificate of Achievement in English. At Year 11, students study two Shakespeare texts, Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth. This year some of our current year 11 students have been introduced to Kar2ouche. We have programs for both Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet. Students were shown how to operate the program using the basic controls. It took about 30 minutes to show the students what to do.

From a busy teacher's point of view, I spent about an hour previously looking into the workings of the program and finding out how to operate it myself. An hour well spent. The program is extremely user friendly. Our students took to it quickly and were producing parts of the story within minutes. It was quite something to be able to look around the computer suite and see 8 students who very rarely are able to work independently, just working away on their own. Before they actually went to use Kar2ouche, we worked through the story, using books and videos and students picked 10 main events to produce in a very simple storyboard form. They then transferred these ideas onto Kar2ouche. The end task was to put their scenes into the correct order and write a short explanation of the scene. Not only did the students work out the basics of using the program but some of them also very quickly understood the techniques needed to make a short animation using their scenes and find other effects they could use to enhance their short production.

We probably used 4 computer lessons – (our lessons are 1hr 20mins) to produce the work. The students that worked with the program were all able to show their understanding of the plays at their own levels. The most valuable part of the work was the students using their thinking skills to see how they could interpret the parts of the story they had picked. This created discussion about the story and helped enhance their understanding of what they knew and helped them to explore more parts of the story than they would have picked up by just listening or watching a video.

The most telling part of their increase in knowledge was shown by a task the students were asked to do *after* using Kar2ouche, for a piece of coursework towards their English CoEA work. They were asked to retell the story of Romeo and Juliet in their own words. I have taught the course we teach for the past 3 years and the responses have never been so good. Students who can write fairly independently but usually need help with the structure of their writing, produced the most sequenced and structured responses I have ever seen them write and they asked for no help, discussed ideas and helped each other with some words they needed spelling.

They were extremely secure in their knowledge of the story and this really reflected on their writing skills. With their confidence increased that they knew what they were talking about, they also showed an increase in confidence with their writing skills. The only thing that I have done differently this year from last is to use Kar2ouche. Consequently the marks they were awarded for both the Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet work were higher compared to other pieces of work they submitted for their folder.

The students needed no extra motivation or encouragement to take part in the work, the program did that for me. They thoroughly enjoyed the courses and can't wait to use Kar2ouche again.

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