kar2ouche case study

By Mike Matejtschuk Head of English, Rory Phillips & Sue Hodgson, English Dept, John Mason School, Oxfordshire.

To provide an insight into the effectiveness of Kar2ouche in a classroom environment, three English teachers at John Mason School in Oxfordshire give their experiences of using the Macbeth content title.

Initial impressions of Kar2ouche

Historically, there has been little use of ICT within certain curriculum subjects such as English, due to a real lack of curriculum relevant software that would add to our existing teaching methods.

When we first saw Kar2ouche, the immediate thing that struck us was the potential it had for children to be able to shape what they can do and stimulate their creativity, rather than being told what to do in a rigid format.

We started using Kar2ouche, for the Macbeth KS3 set scenes. We thought that it might need a full lesson to get pupils familiar with using Kar2ouche, but it actually only took 10-15 minutes. Once they had started using Kar2ouche the class were immediately far more willing to immerse themselves in learning Macbeth. In all honesty, I think this was because they saw Kar2ouche as 'playing' and didn't realise they were actually learning at the same time.

Our best practices for using Kar2ouche

We found on the whole, that a group of 2-3 pupils around a computer was the most effective way of using Kar2ouche. This enabled groups to discuss their interpretation of Macbeth and work together in building storyboards.

The facility enabling pupils to record their own voices was very popular, and acted as an excellent tool for showing an understanding of a difficult text, and sharing that understanding with other pupils in the class.

Once storyboards had been built, we asked groups to present them to the rest of the class with the help of a whiteboard, explaining why they had done what they did. We found this built on the understanding and interpretation made by creating storyboards, and gave us good evidence of their oral communication skills.

The impact made by Kar2ouche

During the series of lessons in which Kar2ouche has been used to teach Macbeth, the pupils have stayed very focussed. Kar2ouche has undoubtedly acted as a powerful motivational tool.

Going forward, we see Kar2ouche as an essential tool for the school to use across the curriculum for a wide range of age groups, but from our own perspective in the English department we would have no hesitation in saying that Kar2ouche is comfortably the most useful tool we have ever seen for the study of literature.