“Digital James Dickey” Developing an App for the iPad based on a poem by James Dickey (grade level 11 & 12)

Deno P. Trakas  
Wofford College, trakasdp@wofford.edu

Ed Epps  
Spartanburg High School

Caroline Odell  
Wofford College

John E. Lane  
Wofford College

David A. Sykes  
Wofford College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/avdproject

Part of the Literature in English, North America Commons

Recommended Citation


This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Arthur Vining Davis High Impact Fellows at Digital Commons @ Wofford. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arthur Vining Davis High Impact Fellows Projects by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Wofford. For more information, please contact stonerps@wofford.edu.
High Impact Fellows Project Overview

Project Title, Course Name, Grade Level

“Digital James Dickey” Developing an App for the iPad based on a poem by James Dickey
(grade level 11 & 12)

Team Members

Student(s): Caroline Odell

High School Teacher: Ed Epps

Wofford Faculty: John Lane
Deno Trakas
David Sykes

Brief Description of Project (<150 words)

The purpose of our project was to create an app for the iPad based on a nature poem by James Dickey that could be used by a high school teacher in a classroom. The app includes a poem, video readings by the poet, perspectives (comment and literary criticisms) by a number of experts, biography, a gallery of photos, and a resources page. In fall of 2013 we will test the app in the high school classroom.

List of Materials Required and Costs, if Applicable

- iPad
- iPad Digital James Dickey app
The Digital Dickey Project:

Choose one Dickey poem:

The Vegetable King
The Heaven of Animals
On the Coosawattee
The Shark’s Parlor
Encounter in the Cage Country
For the Last Wolverine
Kudzu
(All from Poems ‘57–’67)

Read on screen, then answer four or five questions about the poem and the way it demonstrates Dickey’s interest in environmental themes and subjects.

Get Russ Bradley to video in fall. (bradleyrn@wofford.edu)
Outline for AVD Grant Project:
The James Dickey App: A Selection of Nature Poems

Project team:

John Lane, Wofford professor
Deno Trakas, Wofford professor
David Sykes, Wofford professor

Ed Epps, high school teacher
Caroline Odell, Wofford student

Description of Project:

Create an ipad-type app based on a selection of nature poems by James Dickey that can be tested by a high school teacher in a high school classroom.

Between now and next spring John Lane (Wofford environmental studies and English professor), Deno Trakas (a Wofford English professor and one of James Dickey’s former students), David Sykes (a Wofford computer science professor), and Caroline Odell Wofford (a Wofford computer science student) will work together to create content and write a program for an app that will be tested in the classroom of Edwin Epps, a Spartanburg High School AP English teacher.

We are gathering material to create a scaled down app similar to “The Wasteland” app available for ipad:

http://www.touchpress.com/titles/thewasteland/

We will collect:

1. Poems--select a number of James Dickey poems (maybe a dozen) with clear nature/environmental themes
2. Readings--offer both audio and video of James Dickey reading some of the poems with this material pulled from existing sources we’ve gathered.

3. Perspectives--videotape contemporary poets and critics reading and discussing various aspects of the poems.

4. Notes -annotations and references explaining and exploring the texts of the poems.

5. Manuscripts-scanned original facsimiles of James Dickey’s original mss.


7. Exercises-unique interactive ways (assignments, poetry exercises) in which students can engage actively with the material.

We have started working on the app with several full-blown meeting of our team.

We have chosen six poems and gathered material. In January Carolyn will learn to design an app in an independent study with Dr. Sykes.

In the spring we will prepare the alpha version of the app for limited testing, revise over the summer, and test a beta version in Ed Epp’s classroom in fall 2013.
Info on Costs for Required Curriculum Materials

This app will only be available through a site license owned by Wofford College. High schools can request use of the app in their classroom and it will be free for their uses in specific literature class rooms. The app will not be available any other way because of copyright restrictions.
Classroom Assessment

In fall 2014 Ed Epps will test the app in his Spartanburg High School classroom.

Deno Trakas also plans to use the app in his Wofford College Fall 2014 American Lit class.
Curriculum Units
Resources for Digital James Dickey


Clabough, Casey, “To Blend in the Place You're In, But With a Mind to Do Something: The Practice of Merging in James Dickey’s ‘To the White Sea.’” An essay about Dickey's novel *To the White Sea* and the process of merging with the landscape.


McClure, Nancye. “Outsider Artists: Walter Anderson and James Dickey.” (original source not found)

Princess Grace Kelly Reading Heaven of Animals. Audio Recording. An interesting cultural artifact, but she leaves out part of the poem.


Verburg, T. Larry, “Water Imagery in James Dickey's Deliverance.” (original source not found)