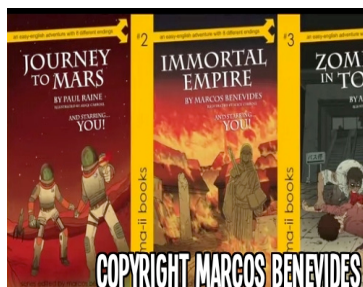


Multiple-path stories for English students

23rd September, 2013



A new project to help English learners with their reading skills may soon be under way, if the developers can reach their funding target. The proposed concept is a series of "multiple-path" story books in

which the reader can choose the direction of the story. Unlike conventional novels that are linear, multiple path stories provide the reader with options regarding where they want the story to go. It is the brainchild of teacher and author Marcos Benevides. He said: "The stories combine all the enjoyment of traditional 2nd-person multi-path stories with the accessible language that developing readers need, all in a high-quality package that appeals to adults as well as to adventurous kids."

The project hopes to receive funding from the Kickstarter.com website. This site is a new way to fund creative projects. Since its launch in 2009, 4.8 million people have pledged \$793 million, funding 48,000 creative projects. Thousands of creative projects are currently raising funds on Kickstarter. If successful, Mr Benevides' project will be one of the first, if not the first, English language teaching projects to get going using Kickstarter. Benevides said: "The plan is to launch the first three titles on January 1st, then one per month after that. By the end of 2014, we hope that the series will have become self-sustaining. If that happens, we will continue producing new titles indefinitely."

Source: *Kickstarter.com*

Writing

Compare and contrast the English skills of reading and listening.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

project / reading skills / funding / target / novels / brainchild / high quality / language / creative / launch / pledged / English teaching / self-sustaining / new titles / indefinitely

True / False

- A new reading skills project got under way last week. T / F
- The author determines the ending of the new "multiple-path" books. T / F
- The creator of the idea for the books is a teacher. T / F
- The author said the books are good for children and adults. T / F
- The author has applied to a bank to get funding for the project T / F
- People have promised nearly \$800 million for creative projects. T / F
- The author plans to release his first three titles on the first of June. T / F
- The author hopes to be able to produce new books indefinitely. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. project | a. promised |
| 2. conventional | b. idea |
| 3. brainchild | c. daredevil |
| 4. accessible | d. money |
| 5. adventurous | e. books |
| 6. funding | f. venture |
| 7. pledged | g. self-supporting |
| 8. get going | h. understandable |
| 9. titles | i. start |
| 10. self-sustaining | j. normal |

Discussion – Student A

- How important is reading to you (in English and your own language)?
- What problems do you have reading books in English?
- Would multiple-path stories encourage you to read more in English?
- What advice would you give to someone wanting to improve their reading skills?
- How important is it to read English books?
- Do you prefer reading stories in books or on iPads, Kindles, etc.?
- Which is better, the book or the movie of the book?
- What questions would you like to ask Marcos Benevides?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. A new project to help English learners | a. Kickstarter.com website |
| 2. be under | b. of the story |
| 3. the reader can choose the direction | c. to adults |
| 4. options regarding where they | d. become self-sustaining |
| 5. a high-quality package that appeals | e. funds |
| 6. receive funding from the | f. with their reading skills |
| 7. currently raising | g. indefinitely |
| 8. one of the first, | h. way |
| 9. we hope that the series will have | i. if not the first |
| 10. producing new titles | j. want the story to go |

Discussion – Student B

- What kinds of books do you like?
- What do you think of reading books in English?
- What do you think of the idea of multiple-path stories?
- Who is your favourite writer, and why?
- Are multiple-path stories better than conventional ones?
- What do you do to improve your reading skills?
- Which are better, biographies or fantasy stories?
- What kind of book would you like to write?

Spelling

- the eepsodvrel can reach their funding target
- tonnelvnacio novels
- the ncihialrbd of teacher and author Marcos
- iecaeslsqb language
- all in a high-quality pgkcaea
- rnuutsaeovd kids
- Since its aluhn in 2009
- people have dglepde \$793 million
- Thousands of creative projects are tlnyuercr raising funds
- If sscuelsufc,...
- become self-tinaisgsun
- producing new titles etfieldinni

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. b	4. h	5. c
6. d	7. a	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Biographies

You think biographies are the best books to read. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): encyclopedias, fantasy stories or manga.

Role B – Encyclopedias

You think encyclopedias are the best books to read. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): biographies, fantasy stories or manga.

Role C – Fantasy stories

You think fantasy stories are the best books to read. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): encyclopedias, biographies or manga.

Role D – Manga

You think manga are the best books to read. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): encyclopedias, fantasy stories or biographies.

Speaking - Genres

Rank these.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| • horror | • science fiction |
| • romance | • fantasy |
| • mystery | • biography |
| • action | • detective |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.