

# **Glog Oriented Adaptive Learning (GOAL): The Innovative Road Ahead for Teaching Literature**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The latest buzzword to capture the hearts of youth is 'Glogging'. Glog is a graphical blog that can be used for educational purposes and the teaching of literature can be made more exciting with the help of glogs. This is quite effective as it puts to use audio, image, graphics, and texts together and has a multisensory appeal. Glog is also one kind of drawing but made digitally which can be shared and improved from time to time. As a pre and post -activity, glog is wonderful as the students can be divided into groups and encouraged to make a poster on the given themes and then share it with others. Discussions can then be done in the classroom. It also helps in improving the LSRW skills. Thus, Glog orients and adapts the learner innovatively and encourages the teacher to be innovative to help learners learn in their way.

## **KEYWORDS**

Glog; Interactive; Glogster; Teaching literature.

## **Introduction**

Times are changing and technology is rapidly progressing with new inventions and outcomes every day. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is significant in terms of advancement and the skill to put one's resources is very much on display. Just a half a decade ago the people were caught with the new idea of blogging and it created quite a stir in all social circles with each and everyone hooked on to it. Of late it has become a fashion to have one's blogs and the teaching community uses it to enhance the learners' skills by putting them to educational use. It paved the way for learners to make them learn in their way. However, there are many more things and technological innovations which have boosted pedagogy, and teaching has not remained a routine, dull exercise but has become a game full of

activities and the learners' interaction is to the maximum. S/he has the chance to put one's creativity to use. Apart from blogging, the latest buzzword to capture the hearts of youth is 'Glogging'.

### **Definition:**

Glog is short for graphics or graphical blogs. Glog is the name used to describe a publicly accessible graphical blog. It is also an acronym for "Go Look on Google". *Glogster.com* is also one of those social networks which allow users to create free interactive posters or glogs. This came into effect in 2007 and later came to be used for educational purposes. Glogster Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a parent company based in the Czech Republic. It was launched two years ago with \$3 million in funding from Czech VC firm Tomcat Ventures and a target market of European teenagers. Patrik Prepsl, Co-

Founder of Glogster remarks. "Since we started Glogster in late 2007, our growth has skyrocketed all over the world. People who try Glogster get hooked. Unlike a scrapbook or collage that gets completed just a few times per year, some of our users create dozens of Glogs every day to express their emotions and they post their Glogs on other social sites like Facebook and MySpace." (Glogster). A part of Glogster, the Glogster EDU education project allows teachers and learners to use glogs as teaching aids.

#### **Advantages of Glogs:**

This is quite effective as it puts to use audio, image, graphics, and texts together and has a multisensory appeal. If we look back at our learning history, probably all of us would agree that the desire to draw, paint, and the sketch was quite appealing in the young days and the time spend in the drawing classes was a fun-filled exercise. The passion with which all of us waited for that class is still fresh. Glog is also one kind of drawing but made digitally which can be shared and improved from time to time. It is nothing but a poster that is interactive in nature and can talk, speak, exhibit and present. The user has the liberty to add as many images, texts, and graphics and even upload information from the NET directly onto the glog. It is a beautiful creation of a medley of thoughts, impressions, and views and presented in an aesthetic way that catches the attention easily and most importantly is very easy to learn. The best advantage is that the learner can also use one's photos and make them more appealing. The learner has the choice to add one's voice and play it on the glog. The way the entire glog is made and the options which are provided like wall display, images, etc. add to the effect and it lends colour to the creativity latent in the learners. A multimedia flash presentation can be developed through a glog.

#### **Glog and teaching of Literature:**

Glog can be used very effectively for teaching literature. It is important that before the text in question is introduced, the learner is made familiar with the background information, the era in which the text was written, the social condition, and also about the author, his family, parentage, and education. Nowadays, for example, the teaching of poems, plays, and novels has become so interesting because of the audio-video recordings which are available on YouTube. It can be made much more interesting by transferring it on the glog. For instance, the poems of Philip Larkin can be listened to in the poet's voice and the recitation rendered beautifully can be uploaded to the glog and it can be presented to the students. Many audio scripts can be made available on the glog. It makes the entire process of teaching dynamic and interactive. Very soon Glogster EDU 2.0 is expected to hit the scene and it is expected to revolutionise further the entire concept of teaching.

#### **Steps to create a Glog:**

It is very easy to set up a Glogster page.

1. The first step is to create an account with Glogster at <http://edu.glogster.com> which is free.
2. The second step is to click on the link in the email that the Glogster site sends. By doing this the account would be activated.
3. Thirdly the teacher can create individual logins for each of his/her students or can also allow the learners to use his/her personal login.

It is important that before allowing the learners to use it, the teacher should put to practice all the resources to make them familiar with the functions and then ask the learners.

Some of the functions which can be used are:

- a) The poster's background can be designed from the designs

- included in Glogster's Gallery *Wall* or even a new picture can be uploaded.
- b) Texts can be added to the embellished text boxes and hyperlinks can also be added from websites.
  - c) Graphics can be supplemented from the available list on the site.
  - d) Images can be added from one found on the internet or from the saved images on your computer and a webcam can also be used to add photos.
  - e) Videos can be uploaded by linking to a video from the internet or the saved videos on the computer and with a webcam record. Similarly, audio can be added.
4. Lastly, when a poster has been designed with all the possible options it is important to click on save and publish. Once a glog is saved, it is given a web address.
  5. Finally, a title is given to the glog and the choice has to be made between the option of making the poster public or private.

#### **Indian context, literature, and Glogs:**

As in most of the cases in the Indian context, all the teachers cannot enable the learners to make a glog in the classroom itself, the best idea is to assign seminar topics, and assignment themes for this. This would make the teaching of literature quite effective and stimulate further research. In the traditional classroom, the teacher uses merely the lecture mode to reach out to the students but with this before starting the text, the teacher can design one poster and intimate the students to go through it before attending the class. So, the students would know the text before they come to the class. The time of the class can be used for discussion and the learners' views and experiences and thoughts can be shared

with much more ease. The scene of undergraduate and postgraduate studies in India is such where it is observed that the learners are actually not reading much but just parroting the given notes from the so-called guides which they use for reference (pathetic!). It is high time, therefore, to motivate the students of literature to make use of their fascinated world of the internet and put their skills to use. As a post-activity, glog is wonderful as the students can be divided into groups and encouraged to make a poster on the given themes and then share it with others. The teacher can further motivate them by awarding the best glog of the month. This would help in sustaining the interest of the learners.

It has been observed that the students who are enrolled in professional courses are much more in tune with technology than the students of the Arts faculty and especially those in the Humanities stream. The time has come to give the learners a platform so that they become global in their vision and have a better understanding of issues. The teacher has to gear up for the future and invite the students to become "Gloggers" and help them grow, learn, orient, give, gain, engage, read and search. Language proficiency is a must and glogging can help the learners learn language through literature and also enjoy the literature itself. It helps in improving the LSRW skills of the learners as they listen to the audio while making posters, speak to record their views and add them to their glogs and read to include information, and then write their findings to give it a final touch.

#### **Conclusion:**

The teachers of English now have a new tool in their hands to help the learners learn through fun. Why not explore it and add value to the teaching? It is just a click away and the magnificent graphic blog is all set to transform the learners' perceptions of English literature.

All one needs to do is to give it a try; for it tries to succeed and the success of the English teacher is in meeting the needs of the students with fun and ease. So set the goal and help reach goals.

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