

Creative workshop “Creating a picture book for dyslexic children”

(Creating material for easy reading - for dyslexic students)

Description of activity:

The objective of this workshop is a digital Stribor's Forest picture book for dyslexic students. Each team make two pages of picture book adapted for dyslexic students. Stribor's Forest picture book is divided into four parts (introduction, rising action, climax and resolution), and each group draws two events and puts captions (the text excerpts are provided). The parts will then be put together to form a joint online picture book (eBook), which is the final product of this activity. This activity is useful and easily applicable in the classroom for students who have difficulty understanding the reading material. Students learn about events, characters, places and time of action in a fun and creative way, and recognize the moral of the story more easily. In this workshop, the emphasis is on individual approach, as well as on various methods and strategies teachers use to help students with difficulties so that they can achieve better results and be more successful in their work. It is also about sensitizing the community for a positive perception of their difficulties. Also, one of the incentives for the creation of the picture book is the play Stribor's Forest performed by the students of the Pušća Elementary School for the needs of this project. The play was performed by sixth graders and mentored by teachers Aleksandra Žmak and Marijana Pili. Although the play was performed in both Croatian and English, unfortunately we could not provide a recording of the play in English due to the epidemiological situation in which we suddenly found ourselves. However, we believe that the visual effect of the play will encourage students to create illustrations and general artistic expression.

Workshop leader: Marijana Pili (math teacher, OŠ Pušća)

Participants (in total): 32 students, 22 teachers

Lithuania 6 students, 2 teachers

Bulgaria 5 students, 4 teachers

Poland 6 students, 3 teachers

Romania 9 students, 8 teachers

Croatia 6 students, 5 teachers

Workshop instructions:

Each team has to make a part of a picture book for children with dyslexia.

Each country will get two pages of the text from a fairy tale called Stribor's forest.

Your task is to **adapt the text** according to the instructions you heard about in the presentation. The presentation is in Files so use it as a reminder. Or you can just read a document called *Text adjusting* with the instructions from the presentation.

You should also **draw a picture or a few pictures** depicting a certain scene or scenes.

The text should be written in Word document.

The drawings can be made by hand, using crayons, pencils, watercolours..., it's up to you. Just take a photo of your drawings and send it to us.

We will use our wheel again to assign pages to the teams and then it is up to each team to decide how to proceed. For example, students can draw and teachers can adapt the text or vice versa. Or each team member does a certain part of the task. It is up to you.

The goal is to make a joint picture eBook, which would be a final product of this online meeting.

ADJUSTING WRITTEN MATERIAL

- separate the paragraphs
- shorten the text
- use shorter and simplified sentences
- use simplified vocabulary
- use a sans-serif font, such as Arial, Verdana, Tahoma
- use a large font size
- line spacing should be 1,5 or double (2,0)
- align text to the left or centrally
- **bold** the key words (avoid underlining)
- circle the important parts of the text
- do not use more than two colours at the same time
- dark text on a pastel background works best (dark blue on cream); avoid white letters on a dark background