



Stationery Studio

Stationery Studio™
 Fablevision
 Tel: 888-240-3734
 In Massachusetts: 617-926-1231
www.fablevision.com/stationerystudio
 Macintosh 8.6–X
 Windows 98/2000/ME/XP
 \$69.95

Every great once in a while a software product for the classroom comes around that deserves instant recognition. Recognition because it comes from one of the most creative minds active today in software design for the classroom. Recognition because it marks the new teaming of this designer with a software company who is not afraid to try something a little different in order to reach all

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kinds of kids. But most of all recognition because it can be instantly and dynamically put to work in classrooms by both teachers

who are techno-savvy, as well as those who are just learning how to put technology to work in their classroom. But those are only three of the reasons that Stationery Studio by Dr. Peggy Healy Stearns and just released by Fablevision deserves instant accolades. The real genius of this software lies in its simplicity. Stationery Studio is exactly what its name implies. And just like Gutenberg

with his printing press, this software is revolutionary as it allows educators and students to customize 226 stationery borders and shapes to create millions of distinct pieces of writing paper to fuel the imagination of young writers.

Yeah, that’s right. It’s that simple. What this software does, with the help of your printer, is create papers with bright, eye-catching borders or in various shapes to inspire even the most hesitant young writers to pencil in their ideas. Teachers have known for years that writing prompts can help push kids to write. They have often labored long hours to make those prompts more visual by cutting out paper shape books or backgrounds or gluing on cut-outs to help incite young Hemmingways to get their words on paper. Now the computer can join in this campaign. Teachers can not only instantly create clever papers for children to inscribe, but also choose developmentally-appropriate primary and standard writing line styles, line widths, layouts, and handwriting fonts to add to the computer decorated papers. Even more options for printing these pages in multiple formats to suit student needs and instructional objectives adds to the flexibility of this title.

In my opinion, this is exactly the kind of software busy elementary teachers need and want RIGHT NOW! This PC-to-pencil approach

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recognizes that most writing in grades K to 5 still occurs off computer, but then offers the computer as a helpmate in creating an attractive and clever arsenal of writing activities and curricular projects. This promotes standards and fundamentals, but not at the cost of creativity. Quite a clever trick these days.

Besides a treasure trove of curriculum-based designs—everything from pets and fall leaves to frog and cat shaped papers—ideas for ready-to-go projects are also included on the CD. In addition, the book “Let’s Get Writing” by Dr. Peggy, which offers proven strategies for supporting

young writers as they create stories, poetry, letters, shape books, mini-books, etc., provides even more incentive. All these features make this package a bargain and best of all any elementary

teacher will instantly recognize its potential and be able to put it to work right out the box—no training necessary.

If you can only buy one piece of software for your elementary classroom this year, this should be it. Way to go Dr. Peggy, Peter Reynolds, and the Fablevision team!



Reviewed by Diane S. Kendall, a former middle school and high school teacher, textbook editor, and Teachers College, Columbia

University instructor who became fascinated with the home-school technology connection when her oldest child entered school. She is the author of numerous articles and books on technology and kids including *Computers and School Age Kids* (Ceridian, 2001) and *Computers and Young Children* (Ceridian, 2000). Diane has been a columnist on the Power to Learn site since 1997.

