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**FBM-SEREMBAN INTERNATIONAL**

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# **INNOVATION IN ACTION: TURNING IDEAS INTO REALITY**



## **Chapter 64**

# **HIPPOWONDERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

HIPPOWONDERS is an educational innovation designed to enhance story writing skills among upper primary students (Years 4 to 6). The goal is to make creative writing more engaging, structured, and accessible through the integration of physical and digital learning tools. The innovation features three key components: flashcards, a dedicated website, and a multi-level quiz. The flashcards, which focus on idioms and expressions, are used during face-to-face classroom sessions to enrich vocabulary and foster expressive language. The website acts as a central hub, containing story writing notes, links to a three-level online quiz, a Padlet space for students to upload their creative works, a Google Form for user feedback, and printable worksheet and flashcard templates for students who wish to use them independently. By combining traditional learning tools with interactive digital platforms, HIPPOWONDERS supports students in developing coherent story structures and imaginative content. This innovation not only promotes independent learning but also encourages peer sharing and reflection, ultimately nurturing confident and creative young writers.

**Key Words:** Engagement, Writing, Student, Technology, Flashcards

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Creative writing is essential in language education, nurturing imagination, critical thinking, and linguistic proficiency (Bingol, 2023). However, upper primary students often face challenges such as limited vocabulary, poor understanding of story structure, and low engagement levels. These obstacles hinder their ability to write effectively and express ideas fluently, impacting their confidence and creativity (Cosgun & Atay, 2021).

To address these issues, the HIPPOWONDERS innovation was developed to enhance story writing through innovative tools. Combining physical and digital resources, the innovation includes idiom flashcards for vocabulary building, an educational website with

writing guides and templates, and an online quiz system for structured learning. By promoting both teacher

led and independent learning, HIPPOWONDERS supports creative thinking, engages students, and fosters a lasting love for storytelling.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Creative writing remains a fundamental element of language education as it plays a crucial role in enhancing linguistic proficiency, critical thinking, and creative expression (Cosgun & Atay, 2021). It allows students to explore and articulate ideas in diverse ways, fostering both personal and intellectual growth. However, despite its significance, many students encounter obstacles in the creative writing process, including limited vocabulary, inadequate structural understanding, and a lack of sustained engagement (Bingol, 2023). These challenges can hinder students' ability to effectively express their ideas and achieve coherence in their writing. Building on these advancements, the HIPPOWONDERS innovation exemplifies an integrated approach to addressing the challenges in creative writing. By incorporating idiom flashcards, an educational website, and an online quiz system, HIPPOWONDERS aims to enrich students' vocabulary, improve structural understanding, and increase engagement in the writing process. This multi-faceted approach not only addresses the limitations faced by students but also makes creative writing an enjoyable and enriching experience. The combination of traditional and digital tools in this innovation underscores the importance of a balanced approach to teaching creative writing.

In conclusion, creative writing serves as a cornerstone of language education, yet it is not without its challenges. The HIPPOWONDERS innovation further reinforces these efforts by offering a comprehensive framework to support vocabulary development, structural coherence, and engagement in writing. These advancements demonstrate the evolving nature of language education, where creativity and critical thinking are continually nurtured to meet the demands of the modern educational landscape.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

This study utilized a mixed-method approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative techniques to address challenges in creative writing. The HIPPOWONDERS innovation comprised idiom flashcards for vocabulary development educational website offering resources like writing guides and interactive platforms, and an online quiz system with varying difficulty levels to enhance story structure comprehension.

The innovation was implemented in primary schools, focusing on students in Years 4 to 6. Teachers were trained to integrate the tools into classroom settings, while students independently engaged with the digital resources (Vygotsky, 1978). Quantitative data were analyzed statistically, while qualitative data were thematically coded. Ethical considerations included informed consent and data confidentiality, adhering to established research guidelines.

### 4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The HIPPOWONDERS innovation has proven effective in enhancing vocabulary usage, particularly idiomatic expressions and descriptive language, in writing. Table 1 shows that 20 pre-service teachers had a positive view of HIPPOWONDERS, using a 5-point scale (1 = lowest, 5 = highest) to rate student performance and the tool's effectiveness.

Before using HIPPOWONDERS, 60% of respondents rated students' writing at level 2 and 40% at level 3, indicating generally low to moderate proficiency. After implementation, 65% rated student performance at level 5 and 35% at level 4, reflecting a clear improvement in storytelling skills.

In terms of helpfulness, 80% rated HIPPOWONDERS a 5, and 15% a 4. Overall satisfaction was also high, with 80% selecting level 5 and 20% level 4. The tool's structured flashcards, online resources, and interactive quizzes effectively support creative writing development.

Respondent feedback highlighted improved creativity, critical thinking, grammar, and vocabulary. One respondent called it "an excellent teaching aid," while another praised its role in the learning process. In conclusion, HIPPOWONDERS fosters better writing skills, learner autonomy, and a collaborative digital space for young writers.

Table 1 Pre-service Teachers' Responses on the Feedback of HIPPOWONDERS

RESPONSE	1		2		3		4		5	
ITEMS	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Rate students' performance before using HIPPOWONDERS	2	0.0	12	60.0	6	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rate students' performance after using HIPPOWONDERS	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	35.0	13	65.0
How helpful is HIPPOWONDERS	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.0	3	15.0	16	80.0
Overall rate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	20.0	16	80.0

### 5. DESIGN DESCRIPTION

The HIPPOWONDERS innovation comprises three core components designed to create a comprehensive and engaging learning experience: a dedicated website, idiom flashcards, and a multi-level quiz system. Together, these tools address key challenges in creative writing, such as limited vocabulary, structural difficulties, and low engagement, while promoting both teacher-led and independent learning. The website (Figure 1) acts as the central hub for the innovation, offering a range of resources to support writing development. It features detailed writing guides, printable templates, and interactive elements like quizzes and a Padlet board. By combining accessibility with interactivity, the website encourages students to explore and refine their writing skills independently.

Idiom flashcards play a vital role in expanding students' vocabulary and introducing them to

expressive language forms, such as idiomatic expressions. These flashcards are used during face-to-face classroom sessions to foster linguistic creativity and enrich narrative content. The multi-level quiz system, enhanced with gamified features, offers structured challenges across three difficulty levels. Each quiz is designed to reinforce students' understanding of story structure, motivating them to apply their knowledge in creative ways. Additionally, feedback forms (Figure 2) are integrated into the system to evaluate its effectiveness and gather insights from pre-service teachers. This feedback loop ensures that HIPPOWONDERS remains adaptable and impactful, aligning with the needs of students and educators alike. Together, HIPPOWONDERS exemplifies the potential of educational innovations to make learning engaging, accessible, and transformative for young writers.



Figure 1: Main page of HIPPOWONDERS

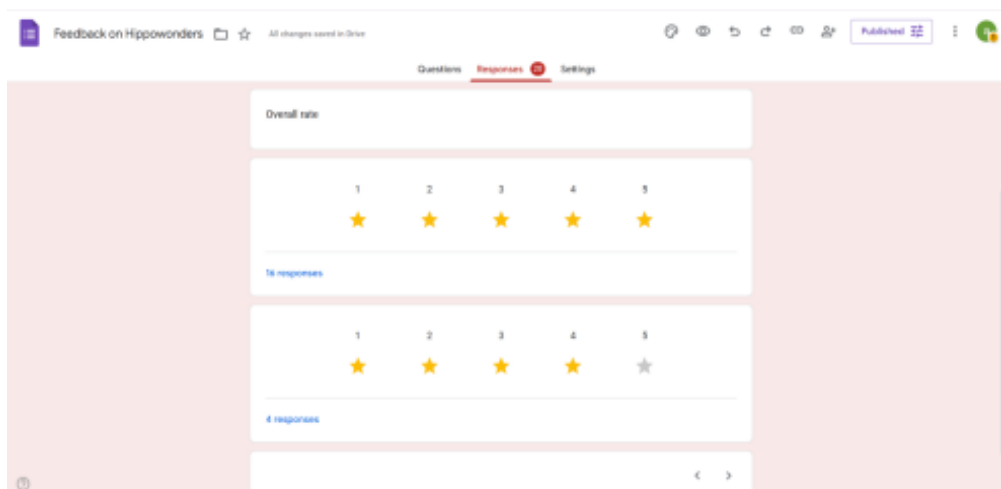


Figure 2: The responses and feedback

## 6. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

The HIPPOWONDERS innovation has proven to be highly effective in addressing the challenges faced by upper primary students in creative writing, particularly limited vocabulary, poor structural understanding, and low engagement. By integrating three core components: idiom flashcards, an educational website, and an online quiz system, this initiative successfully combines physical and digital tools to enhance learning outcomes. Students showed noticeable improvements in vocabulary usage, narrative organization, and creativity while the interactive nature of the resources kept them engaged and motivated. To further amplify the impact of HIPPOWONDERS expanding its implementation to more schools and age groups is recommended. This will allow a greater number of students from diverse educational backgrounds to benefit from the innovation.

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