I. SLAPASTORY.COM BASIC INFORMATION

1. What is Slapastory.com?
Slapastory.com is a self-defined short story competition website. It was designed as a social networking site for users to post, read, and comment on short stories posted up by many different users.

2. What does Slapastory.com do?

Slapastory.com provides an easy to use and functional web space for users to post short stories or personal thoughts on whatever they want to, and whatever is important to them. The website brings people together to share and appreciate other people’s writing in a friendly and supportive forum environment. Slapastory.com’s users can post stories of any subject matter they would like, based upon the website’s convenient genre system.

3. What can Slapastory.com members do with the site?

Slapastory.com users can:

- Post short stories online, either using their username, or anonymously.
- Comment on other users’ stories using the website’s comment feature.
- Browse stories based on theme, author, and popularity.
- View other user’s profile information.

4. Who uses Slapastory.com?

Anyone can set up a Slapastory.com account, share their stories, and read others’ stories. Slapastory.com is for anyone who likes to read or write.

II. HISTORY

1. Development

Slapastory.com was created by Ilia Mogilevsky and Peter Sbarski, and was launched in July of 2008 and hosted in Fremont, California. Ilia Mogilevsky, the founder, is a Web Developer and Software Engineer from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. He is the developer of not only Slapastory.com, but also several other Web2.0 resources, including fictionthis.com, an online, collaboratory book-writing site. Approximately 3 months after it was first released, on October 9, 2008, a second beta of the site was released in order to update its networking capabilities. This update featured more detailed profiles, more easily navigated pages, and connections between other social networking sites.

According to Ilia Mogilevsky, one of the co-creators of the website, his reason for creating Slapastory.com was because “I like reading stories, books (sometime I don't have time for both) and with my friends created fictionthis.com. This site had a brilliant idea but alas not much traffic. From that I got the idea for this - a "digg" like site for fictional/non-fictional writers with many categories and voting for the best story - which was unique at that time.”

Below is a graph of the unique user history of Slapastory.com, or in other words, how many people get on Slapastory.com per month who have not already been on before.
The estimated value of Slapastory.com is about $1000 currently. This value is determined by the number of advertisements from other companies on the website. It is estimated that, on average, the daily number of page views for the site are about 2136, and that number is slowly rising as Slapastory.com gains more notoriety.

2. How Slapastory.com Works

- It is completely free to register an account and use all of the features of Slapastory.com
- Becoming a member is quick and easy, and requires only a legitimate e-mail address, username, a password, and the user’s agreement to the terms and conditions of the website.

When you create an account, you may post a short biography and picture of yourself, but this is optional.
- Users can search for and contact other writers easily, making communication between users very simple, and also safe. Users can also browse a specific user’s stories.

- Posting stories is also very easy, below is a screenshot of the story submission screen:
If a writer would like to remain anonymous, then the site accommodates that writer's wishes by allowing all stories to be submitted anonymously during the submission process.

Stories are limited to 15,000 words per post. If a story that a writer wishes to enter into the site is more than this allotted word count, that user is welcomed to enter their story in parts. For example, for a story entitled “A Day in the Life,” the different parts of the story could be entered in as “A Day in the Life 1,” “A Day in the Life 2,” etc.

There are many different genres of stories that are submitted on Slapastory.com, and when a user submits their own story, they choose a genre that their story fits into.

One further category that a story can be under, in addition to the genre that is selected for it, is the “most popular” category. Stories that are rated high enough by the site's readers can be put into this “popular” category, and these popular stories are listed on the main page of the website.

Stories can be searched for on the website through several different specifications. Users are able to search for stories based on different authors, different genres, the popular category, and also the Newest Stories category, which shows all of the most recently submitted stories on the site.
3. Getting more out of Slapatory.com

In order to join Slapastory.com, a user must agree with the terms and conditions of the website, which are listed here:

- The content of the pages of this website is for your general information and use only. It is subject to change without notice.
- Neither we nor any third parties provide any warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy, timeliness, performance, completeness or suitability of the information and materials found or offered on this website for any particular purpose. You acknowledge that such information and materials may contain inaccuracies or errors and we expressly exclude liability for any such inaccuracies or errors to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- Your use of any information or materials on this website is entirely at your own risk, for which we shall not be liable. It shall be your own responsibility to ensure that any products, services or information available through this website meet your specific requirements.
- This website contains material which is owned by or licensed to us. This material includes, but is not limited to, the design, layout, look, appearance and graphics. Reproduction is prohibited other than in accordance with the copyright notice, which forms part of these terms and conditions.
- All trade marks reproduced in this website which are not the property of, or licensed to, the operator are acknowledged on the website.
- Unauthorised use of this website may give rise to a claim for damages and/or be a criminal offence.
- From time to time this website may also include links to other websites. These links are provided for your convenience to provide further information. They do not signify that we endorse the website(s). We have no responsibility for the content of the linked website(s).
- You may not create a link to this website from another website or document without slapastory’s prior written consent.
- Your use of this website and any dispute arising out of such use of the website is subject to the laws of Australia.
- When you post user content to the slapastory.com, you authorize and direct us to make such copies in order to facilitate the posting and storage of the User Content on the Site.
- By posting user content, you grant, and you represent and warrant that you have the right to grant, to slapastory.com an irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, transferable, fully paid, worldwide license (with the right to sublicense) to use, copy, publicly perform, publicly display, reformat, translate, excerpt (in whole or in part) and distribute such User Content for any purpose, commercial, advertising, or otherwise, on or in connection with the Site or the promotion thereof, to prepare derivative works of, or incorporate into other works, such User Content, and to grant and authorize sublicenses of the foregoing.
- Slapastory.com does not assert any ownership over your User Content; rather, as between us and you, subject to the rights granted to us in these Terms, you retain full ownership of all of your User Content and any intellectual property rights or other proprietary rights associated with your User Content.
Slapastory.com provides integration with several other web2.0 social networking sites such as Digg, Reddit, Twitter, and Facebook. Through these sites, users of Slapastory.com are able to share stories that they have posted with their friends. When a user chooses to share a story, they can provide a direct link to their story for their friends to use. Through this method, users can pseudo-publicize their works through these other websites, building their reader base. There is also a quick link on Slapastory.com to email your story to a friend. All of these sharing capabilities are streamlined and very simple to use.

Slapastory.com, more than being just a social writing website, can also be seen as a sort-of social networking site as well. Through posting their stories, and then also commenting on the stories of other users, users of the site can interact with and become acquainted with other writers who use the website. Readers can also keep track of other authors who write their favorite stories.

There are several websites that are rather similar to Slapastory.com. Three of these sites are Writing.com, Fanstory.com, and Oort-cloud.com.

Writing.com has a very similar premise to Slapastory.com, but has a significantly larger user base, at just under 800,000 active users. Like Slapastory.com, users on Writing.com can read other user’s stories, can comment on them, and can rate them as well. Writers.com is also offered for free, like Slapastory.com. Writing.Com, like SlapaStory is an online community for writers and readers of all interests and skill levels. Writing.com has a significantly higher user number with 783,487 members and 1,563,928 literary items created since inception; this community is bursting with activities, inspiration and creativity. Writing.com is much more complex than SlapaStory and many more details and options for its users. Unlike SlapaStory, Writing.com is not specifically a writing competition but does offer that to its users. Writing.com is offered free to everyone. Each membership includes an online writing portfolio, numerous writing tools, email services and the chance to meet and bond with fresh creative minds. Writing.com is a similar competitor. They are very similar but writers.com is not used as a competition where users vote on writing pieces. Users create portfolios and their work is linked back to their name, so there's no chance to post anonymously.

On this writing community all posts receive feedback from writers and readers. Feedback includes a detailed comment on the posted work and a rating. The site uses a six star ratings scale with “1” being the worst and “6” being the best. Writers are ranked based on the feedback they receive. Separate rankings are available for Poets, Novelists, Short Works (short stories and essays) and Script Writers (television and other forms of screenplays). Trophies are rewarded to the top five writers in each of the individual rankings at the end of the year. The site recognizes writing with “Recognized”, “All Time Best” and “Seal of Quality” levels. Each level is more difficult to receive with the final level determined by the Seal of Quality committee. The committee is made up of published authors and stand-out reviewers. They offer feedback to help writers get published. The site features free writing contests with cash prizes. Site members also have the ability to create their own contests to challenge other writers to write about a specific topic or a specific form of writing (such as writing using specific poetry format). Each day over 200 stories and poems are posted. Over 4,000 comments are written on the writing posted. Writers keep full copyright to their posted work. Fanstory.com also allows users to post, view, comment on, and rate other user’s stories. This site uses a six-star rating system, where one star is the lowest rating, and six is the highest. On this site, writers are involved in a kind of competition to get better and better ranks on their writing. A “Seal of Quality” committee selects writers who are eligible to ascend to the final ranking. Writers are also able on Fanstory.com to create contests for other users.

Oort-cloud.org is a website that is very similar to slapastory.com. It consists of four main parts: write, share, read, and respond. On this site, writers create an account and post stories they have written. Other users are then able to comment and vote on the story. Most applications on this site are the same as slapastory.com, except this site is more related to science-fiction writing. It was created by Richard Adler and Paul B. Hartzog in 2007 in order to create a place where people can share their passion for science-fiction and fantasy.

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Back to top

IV. REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS FOR SLAPASTORY.COM

Below are some lesson plans for different levels of education that could utilize Slapastory.com in the classroom. These lesson plans are split up for use for elementary school level, High School Level, and Collegiate Level classes. There are also ideas on how Slapastory.com can be used in the Business or Industry fields.
1. Elementary Education Uses

Fourth Grade Creative Writing Lesson Plan

Required Time: 3 Hours

Teachers will ask the students to work in groups of 4 to write a short adventure story. They will create an account on www.slapastory.com and post their story. As a group, the students must read 3 of the stories posted by their fellow classmates. They will complete an evaluation over the theme, plot, setting, characters, etc. This project will fall in the creative writing lesson of the class. Groups should spend around 30 minutes planning the story, 1-2 hours writing the story, and 45-60 minutes reading and evaluating other stories.

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Sixth Grade Science Lesson Plan (STEM)

Required Time: 2 Hours

The teacher will assign students into groups of 3 that will research a particular planet in the solar system. They will gather enough information to write a detailed summary about the planet. The teacher will ask groups to post their summaries on www.Slapastory.com so the entire class can read them. Each group will vote on which summary is the best, and the teacher will give the winning team 5 points extra credit.

Word Document PDF

Third Grade Volcano Lesson Plan (STEM)

Required Time: 2 Hours

In this lesson the teacher will be introducing students to volcanoes. He/she will discuss where volcanoes are located, why, and how erupt. After learning key terms and the necessary information students will be asked to complete a short essay or story about volcanoes using the 10 specified vocabulary words. The teacher will ask students to post their writing on a creative writing website, www.Slapastory.com. On this site students in the class will vote on which pieces of writing they like best. Once all the voting is complete, the pieces chosen will be compiled into a classroom book about volcanoes.

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2. Secondary Education Uses

9th Grade English Creative Writing Lesson Plan

Required Time: 3-4 Hours (Multiple Days Recommended)

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare is a piece of literature that the 9th grade curriculum covers. Teacher will have students compare the ending of the book to the ending in the modern movie of *Romeo and Juliet* (starring Leonardo Dicaprio) and the original version by Shakespeare. This lesson will test students' creativity when they have to brainstorm alternative endings to the play. Students will be asked to brainstorm alternative endings then proceed to publish the new stories on the website www.Slapastory.com. Teacher will have students in the class vote on the ending that they like best. Students will work individually on this assignment. This lesson will take about 2-3 hours and may be covered over several days if necessary.

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11th Grade English Novel Discussion Lesson Plan

Required Time: 45 Minutes

In this lesson, teachers will have students use their readings of “The Scarlett Letter” to make a posting on www.Slapastory.com. Students will be asked to pretend to be a member of society from the novel, explain what they witnessed during the day, how they felt about what they saw, etc. After creating their own entry, the teacher will ask students to comment on each other’s postings, expressing whether they agree, disagree, feel something needs to be done in the town, fell upset, etc. After reading the novel at home this lesson will take about 45 minutes.

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10th Grade Math Lesson Plan (STEM)

Required Time: 30 Minutes - 1 Hour

In this lesson, teachers will have students express how they have ever used math in their everyday lives using www.Slapastory.com. They will create short stories on Slapastory describing what the situation was, how they incorporated math into solving the problem, whether or not it worked, etc. By creating messages on Slapastory, students will be able to vote on which story they feel is the best, comment on each other’s stories, express on how they would solve problems differently, etc. This lesson will take about 15 minutes of discussion time, and anywhere from 15-45 minutes of individual student work.

Word Document PDF
3. Post-Secondary Education Uses

Post Secondary Science Lesson Plan (STEM)

Required Time: 45 Minutes

Lab reports are an important part of college science courses. In this lesson, teachers will have students use peer evaluation using www.Slapastory.com. By making comments on peer’s reports and using their own feedback to make improvements, students will be able to make corrections to their lab reports before turning in the final copy.

Post-Secondary Science Lesson Plan 2 (STEM)

Required Time: 1-2 Hours

In this lesson, teachers will ask students to analyze science fiction stories that have been posted on www.Slapastory.com. Teachers will ask students to select a story based on its relevance to a course topic and write a paper relating the story to that course topic using knowledge from course text, lectures, and readings. This lesson could serve as a course wrap up in which students must demonstrate their knowledge of course material in a creative way.

Post-Secondary Creative Writing Lesson Plan

Required Time: 2-3 Hours (Multiple Days Recommended)

Teachers will encourage students to use their creativity and exploration to write a short fiction story. This lesson will test students' creativity, grammar, spelling, and writing style. Students will brainstorm possible story ideas then proceed to publish their story on the website www.SlapaStory.com. Teachers will ask students to use their editing skills to review and edit their classmate’s works. Students will work individually on this assignment.

4. Business/Industry

Slapastory can be used several ways in the business industry.

1. Authors seeking to publicize their work can post it on Slapastory in order to get feedback.
2. Editors seeking to find writers to work with could search Slapastory for possibilities.
3. Professional writers could use Slapastory gain publicity and receive feedback for their work before publishing.

V. DEMONSTRATION OF EDUCATIONAL VALUE

Slapastory.com can be a great way for Students and teachers to interact with each other outside of the classroom. Both teachers and students would be able to access the site from both the school and from home. While there are several positives to Slapastory.com there are also several negatives as well.

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<th>Positive Criticism</th>
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<td>• Allows students to communicate with international writers.</td>
<td>• May allow for plagiarism since all writing is public and students can see others work.</td>
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<td>• Free outlet for writers to display work.</td>
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<td>• Peers can easily access other students works</td>
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<td>• Network for creative authors</td>
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In the setting of an English classroom, Slapastory.com can have many educational uses. Students can become members of the site very easily, and it is free to use. It can be used to give students practice with their writing skills. In fact, on some High School Library homepages, Slapastory.com is listed as a site where you can do just that. In the classroom, students would be able to post their papers and stories that they write for class online. If all of the students in a particular class share their Slapastory.com account names with each other, they would easily be able to make comments and evaluate their fellow students, and their teacher would be able to keep track of all of the different comments that were being made. This is an excellent example of peer review, and it could make the entire process of reviewing simple, fast, and easy.

Ilia Mogilevsky, one of the creators of Slapastory.com, had originally intended to offer this website for use in educational and writing competition settings. This has not been made, but may be done in the website’s future.
VI. HOW IS SLAPASTORY.COM USED INTERNATIONALLY?

Slapastory.com can be accessed from around the world, and can be used as a platform for authors. While it can be accessed in many different countries, Slapastory.com is currently only available in the English language. Ilia Mogilevsky, the site’s co-creator, notes that the original plans for the site included launching it in both French and in Russian, but these languages have not yet been added. While these languages could be added in the future, the site is currently only available in English.

While English is the only language that is available on Slapastory.com, different users from around the world can still view and post on the site. For example, if a writer in the United States posted a story, a user in Europe would be able to view, comment on, and rate that story. This website allows people from across the globe to communicate and share their common love for writing.

VII. REFERENCES

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