

**[Recording starts 0:00:00]**

KRISTEN:

*“There are over 80,000 education apps in the App Store right now and I try to download all of them onto my iPad because I thought more was better for my students, but it’s not.”*

VICKI:

*The Ten-minute Teacher podcast with Vicki Davis. Every weekday you’ll learn powerful practical ways to be a more remarkable teacher today.*

VICKI DAVIS Hello, remarkable educators. So in this first official episode with an interview, I’m kind of giving you a format for what we’ll typically do on Tuesdays for Tech Tool Tuesdays. So today we’re going to talk iPads with two of my favorite elementary – I’ve had – teacher experts, [Karen Lirenman](#) and [Kristen Wideen](#). I love their book [Innovate With iPad, Lessons to Transform Learning in the Classroom](#) and I’ll be telling you at the end of the show how you can enter to win this awesome book that we bought every single teacher in my school. It’s that good.

So let’s start off with you Karen, what is one of your favorite apps?

KAREN One of my favorite apps at the most basic level when I get iPads for the first time is PicCollage (<https://pic-collage.com/>). PicCollage, at the most basic level again, is making a collage. But it actually allows you to capture and document learning through images. In this day and age so much of what we do can be represented in images and it allows the kids to capture. For example, if they’re doing shapes in an environment, they can take their iPad camera, they can take photos around the classroom of various shapes and then they can collect them all together and make a collage about the shapes.

But another cool thing, though, is right within the app you can actually search images that will be cited within the app. So if you’re doing a research project on koalas, you can put in the word ‘koala’ and a whole bunch of different pictures will show up and then you can make a collage with koala.

**[0:02:00]**

Taking that app a bit further, though, it has grids and so you can put in a word family in the middle and the kids can find images to go with that word family or they can write various words that go with that word family.

My kids have used it to show different ways to make ten, and so they’ve used math manipulatives hand-on and then they’ve been able to create a collage that documents that different type of learning. So it’s really an open-ended app, you can use it in ways to help our environment, you can use image features and do the water cycle images through it. So it’s really open-ended app, it’s a free app, and it’s really easy to use for kids K12 – really, anyone can use it. So I would say *PicCollage* is my number one app when I’m just starting out and there’s so many things I can do with it. And it’s a really safe and easy entry level app.

VICKI DAVIS Cool. So Kristen, give us one of yours.

KRISTEN Okay. One of my favorite is Popplet (<http://popplet.com/>) Popplet is really the only mind-map app your students will ever need. This wonderful app allows young learners to record facts, you can research, generate ideas, and it documents and organizes their learning. So simply by touching and dragging their little – they’re called Popples, which is bubbles that are filled with – you can fill them with text, images or

even drawings. And then students can arrange their thoughts into the form of a Popplet. So the Popplet is a mind map. And then they can zoom in and out by pinching to create more or less room for their Popples. And once they've done their Popple they save it as a JPEG to their iPad's camera roll and they can easily access it in other apps or share it on the web.

VICKI DAVIS I know that app through one of my teachers from reading your book. She loves it and is so excited about it. So Karen, give us another one.

KAREN Another one I really like is Draw and Tell (<http://www.duckduckmoose.com/educational-iphone-itouch-apps-for-kids/draw-and-tell/>) and it's a simple drawing annotating creating app that's designed for young new learners. Its interface is really, really easy to use. So if you're looking for a paint brush, it's a paint brush. If you're looking for what I call a pencil can or a colored pencil, it's a colored pencil.

[0:04:00]

It also has stickers, and when you put the stickers onto the page, when we use the recording feature, which is another bonus of it, you can move the stickers around the screen. When you touch the screen as you're recording it actually has a built-in laser pointer, and so for the young learners they're not fiddling to find a pointer, they actually just have to touch their iPad and the little pointer will show up.

The cool thing is it can be used for creating your own [math], there's actually writing paper samples and so you can use it to write your own – you can do writing with it if you just have a stylus pen. And [it can actually do the] active writing but on an iPad. It's really easy to use, it's screen casting, it saves to your camera roll.

VICKI DAVIS So another one.

KRISTEN Okay. My absolute favorite app is Explain Everything (<https://explaineverything.com/>) which is a digital recordable whiteboard app and it lets students of any age document their learning by capturing photos, creating videos and designing presentations. And I have to say that my students create a lot of different artifacts, but the most meaningful are those in which the students can share their learning by using their voice so I can hear and see their thinking. And so Explain Everything is a great app as well because you can upload their work to Google Drive, Youtube, Dropbox, anything pretty much with the tap of a finger.

VICKI DAVIS Fantastic explainer videos! Karen, give us your last one.

KAREN And the last one that would make this list will be Book Creator (<http://bookcreator.com/>). And the most basic level of Book Creator is a book making app. So you can use it to document, create and share ideas and work samples in all content areas. People think of it as just a fiction book but kids can create. They can capture the inquiry projects along the way, they can use it as a math journal to collect their math samples over the course of the year. And again, [like Explain Everything and Draw and Tell so they can add their voices] towards annotating to show their thinking of what they're creating. And that's all built in. And it saves easily and shares easily and you can easily combine books with other students in the class.

VICKI DAVIS Wow. You covered so much. So Kristen, what do you think the biggest mistake teachers in schools make when they put it in iPad program?

[0:06:00]

KRISTEN Well, Vicki, I am one of the teachers that made this mistake because there are over **80,000 education apps in the app store right now** and I tried to download all of them onto my iPad **because I thought more was better for my students, but it's not.** Try and take a core set, maybe five or ten apps, and have those students know how you use those apps. We call it *app fluency*. Because once they know that app really well, then they don't have to think about how to use that app. It's about the content that's going into that app.

VICKI DAVIS That is so fantastic and we've covered so much. So educators we'll put links to all of these. But I cannot tell you how much I love their book, [Innovate With iPad](#). You can enter to win this book by going on the show on iTunes (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/10mt-10-minute-teacher-show/id1201263130>), look for Ten-minute Teacher and leave a review and just leave your Twitter handle or your Instagram handle or somehow we can reach you that you don't mind other people seeing. And we're going to put all these names in a hat and we're going to draw those out in 24 hours from when this show airs so you can win their book. But I highly recommend it again. It's *Innovate with iPad*.

And you should follow both of these teachers Karen Lirenman ([@KLirenman](#)) and Kristen Wideen ([@mrswideen](#)) on Twitter because they have so many fantastic ideas.

And thank you so much for listening to these first episodes of the 10-minute Teacher. I have a MakerBot Mini Replicator 3D printer (<http://cctea.ch/10MT-makerbot-mini>) in my classroom and I highly recommend it. Well, my friends at MakerBot have agreed to give away the same printer I have in my classroom to one lucky classroom teacher who listens to my new show The Ten-Minute Teacher. So to enter, go to iTunes and leave a review and leave your Twitter handle or your Instagram handle or some way that we can reach you between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup> 2017.

[0:08:00]

You must be a classroom teacher to win, so tell everybody at your school. Check the show notes for full details on this contest.

*Thank you for listening to the Ten-minute Teacher podcast. You can download the show notes and see the archive and at [www.coolcatteacher.com/podcast](http://www.coolcatteacher.com/podcast). Never stop learning!*

[End of Audio 0:08:34]

Listen to this show at [www.coolcatteacher.com/01-ipads-elementary-lirenman-wideen](http://www.coolcatteacher.com/01-ipads-elementary-lirenman-wideen)

*Transcription created by [tranzify.com](http://tranzify.com)*

*Some additional editing has been done to add grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors. Every attempt has been made to correct spelling. For permissions, please email [lisa@coolcatteacher.com](mailto:lisa@coolcatteacher.com)*