

# Technology Tools for Differentiating Instruction

By David Dockterman

Identifying the various needs of your learners and then differentiating your instruction to create multiple instructional paths can be a challenging task. Fortunately, technology can help. Here are some recommended software titles.

● *Thinking Reader*, a product in development at the Center for Applied Special Technologies (CAST), embeds reading and comprehension scaffolds into a digital version of a piece of core literature that the entire class is reading. The program uses text-to-speech to make the content accessible to struggling readers, and built-in strategy prompts help build comprehension. The program can be leveled to reflect growing abilities. Find out more at [www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org)

● *Inspiration*, a wonderful and easy-to-use graphic organizing tool, can help you review book content in a variety of modes that can support multiple learning styles. An outline of events or ideas, for instance, can also be displayed graphically.

Relationships can be shown in text or with boxes and circles. For example, the typical outline of Roald

Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* becomes a visually compelling graphic organizer at the touch of a button. Students, too, can use this flexible tool as a support for organizing their own thoughts and understanding.

Go to [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com)

● *TimeLiner* takes any sequenced information, puts it in the right order, and displays or prints it as a banner time line, a poster, a scrolling HTML document, or a multimedia slide show. The same data can be viewed in different ways, which, like *Inspiration*, gives you many avenues by which to reach your students at the touch of a button. The ability to annotate events in a time line with notes, images, movies, voice, and links to Web pages offers students multiple ways to express themselves. Some in your class may write paragraphs to display their understanding, while others may record their thoughts as attachments to the sequence of events in a chapter. Visit [www.tomsnyder.com](http://www.tomsnyder.com) ■

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