Highlighting Technology - Flickr Toys
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Flickr Toys is a free Web 2.0 program that allows the user to create items using photographs. If making movie posters, jigsaw puzzles, motivational posters, calendars, art work, or magazine covers is something that you think you might enjoy doing with your class, I suggest checking out the site at www.bighugelabs.com.

When reviewing a new technology tool, it is important to actually use the tool in the classroom to get a good idea of its advantages and flaws. To get a feel for this tool, I used it to create movie posters with the Grade 9 French class at North Battleford Comprehensive High School. I enjoyed using this program for a variety of reasons, namely that it is free and accessible from any computer with Internet access. I also liked that you can save it to your computer and then open it using other programs like Microsoft Word to add elements not available on the tool itself. For example, in the Grade 9 French class, the students were expected to add the proper accents on words, and Flickr Toys did not recognize the characters. This also highlights one of the flaws of the Flickr Toys Movie Poster program: the user is limited to what they can do with the poster. In addition, many of the students lost their work by hitting the "Back" button on the web browser, and not going back a page within the program itself. Despite this frustration, I would definitely use Flickr Toys again, this time further exploring its capabilities and uses in the classroom.