A Retrieved Reformation Ending Through ALICE Programming
Megan Carlson, 8th Grade Language Arts
Grover C Fields Middle School
New Bern, NC

Students will read the short story A Retrieved Reformation by O. Henry. This story is used as our opening fiction piece for the school year. Students will refresh their memories on elements of a story and the parts of a plot. A Retrieved Reformation has an incomplete ending where we are unsure whether Jimmy and Annabel stay together or call off their engagement. Students will create their own ending for A Retrieved Reformation where they will answer that plot question.

ALICE will allow students to present their ending to this story. Students will create a storyboard for their ending and create the dialogue to take place between the story’s characters.

Since this is our first story of the school year, I will provide students with a ready to edit Alice World which has A Retrieved Reformation scene. This will provide students with a friendly easy introduction to Alice. We will go over Alice concepts like “move,” “turn to face,” and “say”. Students who feel comfortable will be able to do more than these basic things but students who are unsure will have an unintimidating introduction to computer programming.

Common Core Standards
W.8.3—Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
W.8.3.A—Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
W.8.3.B—Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
W.8.3.C—Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.
W.8.3.D—Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
W.8.6—Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Previous Lessons
1) Reading of A Retrieved Reformation and textual analysis
2) Review of dialogue writing
3) Introduction to the basics of ALICE programming (move, turn to face, and say commands)
4) Storyboard/sequencing of event creation