

# Chapter 5


## Virtual Reality (VR) and AI Integration for Immersive Storytelling

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### ABSTRACT

*Storytelling has been an integral part of every culture and is one of the most fundamental methods of teaching the way of life. With the increase in academic complexity, storytelling as a significant pedagogy has taken a backseat, giving rise to the demand for change and modification in the existing system. With the advancement of technology, we are evolving in almost every field, be it education, health care, or finance. However, the growing emphasis on academic content has gradually diminished its educational role. As school curricula have become more content-heavy and teaching-focused, storytelling has been sidelined, leading to a widening gap in learning caused by this disconnection from narrative-based approaches. However, this gap can be bridged by integrating virtual reality tools and artificial intelligence. The present chapter highlights how using VR and AI in the classroom*

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*reshapes education and ensures positive learning outcomes. Moving further, the chapter will unfold how VR and AI can be powerful tools in inclusive education, thus meeting the needs of diverse groups.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The most powerful person in the world is the storyteller. The storyteller sets the vision, value, and agenda of an entire generation that is to come- Steve Jobs. (Joe Romm, 2018)*

Regardless of whether it begins with “Once upon a time...,” “A long time ago...,” or something different and surprising, narratives hold great significance. They have played a crucial role in motivating change, fostering advancement, and providing context for our experiences. Storytelling evolved across the globe through religious texts and scriptures, which served as manuals of moral instruction based on collective beliefs, considered essential guidelines for human existence on earth. Storyteller has the power to transform the world with their vision and mission, thus playing a vital role in societal development. Narratives have allowed cultures to pass down wisdom and history that resonates across generations, promulgating learning, creativity, and community building. Stories are recognized for their ability to influence human behavior and society, which is not limited to religious texts but is also found in secular works.

In complex life, people seek guidance, as the line between right and wrong is blurring, making the distinction between the two the trickiest task. Information overload is causing people to feel confused and frustrated. Storytelling can be used as an effective tool to regain their interest and involve them; storytelling, be it fictional or real, in the form of vlogs, is not new to us. In a complex environment, people tend to listen to whoever makes the most sense and feels most connected to. Many times, people learn many new things from vloggers’ experiences.

Since time immemorial, storytelling has evolved and adopted new realities. With the advancement of technology, virtual reality and augmented reality tools are now available, making information sharing easier and more realistic. This has given rise to a transformation from traditional storytelling methods to immersive storytelling, which involves a shift in the orientation of storytelling frameworks from passive consumption to active engagement.

The use of stories to instill moral values in young children is a common practice observed worldwide. The art of storytelling engages students' imaginations and enhances their overall learning experience. It empowers young minds to think, learn, and grow beyond the confines of a narrative. Story-based learning enables learners

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