



Using Audiobooks to enhance the teaching of reading in the classroom

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May 2018

What are audiobooks?

- Audiobooks are **recorded versions** of a full story
- Available for both children's books as well as adult novels/books.
- Makes for a **convenient** way of “reading” books when you’re short on time.
- Is highly **enjoyable**
- Many local libraries stock audiobooks. They can also be purchased online/from bookstores.

Why are audiobooks useful in the classroom?

- Children find them **fascinating**; rediscover the joy of reading
- Teaches children the correct pronunciation of words
- Frees up the teachers time in reading aloud to the class
- Provides an **opportunity for choice** for the children
- Is a good example of an **extension activity**
- Is **inclusionary**

How should audiobooks be used?

- From about **grade 2** and upward
- Must be used with **companion book**
- **Differentiated** learning spaces
- Post-reading activities such as discussions about books can be follow up activities.
- Can be used to enhance the listening skills of children.

What does the research say?

- Students **lose enthusiasm** for reading
- Students whose level of reading is **below grade-level**, struggle the most across the board.
- Audiobooks allow for **both group reading** as well as **individual** reading activities
- Audiobooks improve fluency and comprehension as learners become familiar with the “sound and sense” of stories being read out to them. (Carbo, 1996)
- Generating “renewed enthusiasm for reading will ensure enormous progress in all areas of schooling” (Krashen, 2003)
- Active engagement in reading (as provided by audiobooks) improves literacy levels of older children (Montgomery, 2009).

Resources for audiobooks

- LibriVox app (free, more than 15k titles of novels)
- Project Gutenberg (www.gutenberg.org)
- <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go> (free audiobooks in mp3 format, hosted by the Univ of Florida)
- http://www.kiddierecords.com/mgac/index_2.htm (not all are free, but some classics are)