

# LISTEN AND LEARN:

## A+ for Audiobooks

If you haven't tried incorporating Listening Library® audiobooks into your English Language Arts/Reading classroom instruction, now is the time!

Whether you teach struggling readers, gifted readers, or all the students in between, teaching with audiobooks is good instructional practice.

### LISTENING & READING CONNECTIONS

	READING	LISTENING
LANGUAGE BASED	✓	✓
VOCABULARY BASIS IS ORAL	✓	✓
INCLUDES COMMON SKILLS AND PROCESSES (SUCH AS NOTING DETAILS, MAKING INFERENCES, ETC.)	✓	✓
REQUIRES THE CONSTRUCTION OF MEANING	✓	✓

### SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LISTENING & READING

	READING	LISTENING
PROVIDES ADDITIONAL NONVERBAL CUES		✓
DEMONSTRATES A WIDER VARIATION IN SOUND PATTERNS		✓

#### WHAT IS LISTENING?

- ✓ The first language mode learned
- ✓ Fundamental to learning all the other language arts: Reading, Writing & Speaking
- ✓ The most used of all the language arts

- **85%** of what we learn, we learn by listening (Hoskisson & Tompkins, 1991)
- **45%** of the average day is spent listening (Hoskisson & Tompkins, 1991)
- **30%** of people are auditory learners (Carbo, Dunn & Dunn, 1986)



# USING AUDIOBOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM PROVIDES A MEDIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT

The spoken word gives students opportunities to experience lessons that are instructional, engaging, and rewarding.

## WHY AUDIOBOOKS MAKE THE GRADE:

### They increase...

- ✓ Appreciation for literary language and expand vocabulary, including pronunciation and semantics
- ✓ Understanding of correct pronunciation of English, dialects, and non-English words
- ✓ Attention spans and listening skills (main ideas, details, sequencing, predicting, etc.)
- ✓ Motivation and interest
- ✓ Exposure to a variety of genres (including “harder” classics)

### They provide...

- ✓ A level playing field for a wide range of learners and abilities
- ✓ A sense of intimacy and human connection

### They encourage...

- ✓ Higher level and critical thinking, interpretation, and imagination
- ✓ Interpretation of paralinguistic features (vocal qualities)

**Bonus:** When paired with matching text, audiobooks reinforce word, phonic, and syntactic knowledge.

## HAPPY LISTENING!



This audiobook report card was created with the assistance of Dr. Rose Brock, an assistant professor

in Library Science Department in the College of Education at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Brock's research interests focus on audiobooks as tools of literacy, and she is cofounder of the national literacy initiative *Guys Listen*, part of the *Guys Read* program.

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