Mobile Audiobooks, Literature & Listening Comprehension in EFL











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Introduction

- College students spend a great deal of time listening to and/or watching videos on their mobiles.
- Thousands of audiobooks in a variety of subjects are readily available as mobile apps.
- Audiobooks are available in many languages, for all ages.
- The are available in different forms: Audio only, audio & text, video (audio, motion pictures and music).
- Professional narrators.



Aims of Presentation

- To give examples of mobile audiobooks.
- To give advantages of using audiobooks.
- To show how to search for & select audiobooks.
- Instructional stages with audiobooks.
- Listening comprehension and literary appreciation skills that can be developed with audiobooks
- Effect of audiobooks on learning & attitudes
- Give recommendations



Why Use Audiobooks?

- Audiobooks can be used as extension activities or as a supplement to in-class instruction in ESL/EFL.
- They are free.
- Easy & quick to download & uninstall.
- Can be used anywhere, anytime & re-played many times.
- American or British accent.
- Can choose between: Audio only audio & text audio & motion pictures & music.
- Narrator reads with intonation & good expression
- Students can listen to the novel chapters one at a time.



Criteria for Selecting Audiobooks

- Use one book at a time.
- Audiobook should match students' proficiency level, familiarity with topic, students' interests.
- Length & difficulty level of audiobook
- Speed of the narrator.
- Mode of practice needed: Audio only Audio & text Audio & video.
- Look at user ratings and comments.
- Listen to audiobook before assigning it to students.

Examples of Audiobooks libraries

- Audiobook Search App
- Children's audiobooks
- Disney audiobooks (You Tube videos)
- Ossys audiobooks
- Short classic audiobooks
- English Audiobooks Librivox (audio & text)
- Audiobooks (2,800 classics audiobooks)







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Free Audiobooks Search



English Audio Books -Librivox

Instructional Phases

Pre-listening:

- Introduce the audiobook to be used.
- Tell the students how to download it.
- Give pre-questions that help the students focus on the story elements: theme, setting, plot, characters, style & tone ...etc.
- Post questions in an online discussion forum, blog or Facebook Page.
- Set a time limit or deadline for completing a task (1-2 weeks).



Listening Comprehension & Literary Appreciation Questions

- To identify the <u>theme</u> of the story:
 What is the whole story about?
- To identify the <u>setting</u>, ask:
 - > Where does the story take place?
 - > What is the time period?
- To identify the <u>characters</u>, ask:
 What are the main characters?



- To identify the plot, ask :
 - \succ What are the main events in the story?
 - \succ Are the events in chronological order?
 - \blacktriangleright What is the main conflict in the story?
- To identify the view point, ask:
 - Is it a subjective or objective point of view?
 - Is the protagonist narrating the story, or is it an observer of the events?
- Are the style and tone formal, informal, funny, sarcastic, sad?



Listening Stage

- > While listening to an audiobook, the students take notes.
- They post their responses to the questions in the online discussion forum, blog or Facebook page.
- They summarize the novel and post their summary in the forum.
- > They post comments on each other's responses.
- They discuss the elements of the novel under instructor's supervision.



Post-listening stage:

- Give feedback, comment on students' performance.
- > Provide guidance especially if audiobook is difficult.
- > Answer students' questions.
- Encourage students to try.
- Provide help with audiobook errors.



Instructor's Role

- A facilitator.
- helps the students search for & download audiobooks.
- follows the students up to make sure they are comprehending and able to follow of the audiobook.
- encourages students to suggest literature audiobooks of interest to them.
- Gives extra credit.



Effect of Using Lit Audibooks

Positive effects:

- Improved students' listening comprehension, lit appreciation and analysis skills.
- Increased student engagement in listening & lit analysis.
- Enjoyed audiobooks.
- Videos were the easiest. Pictures helped students understand.
- Audio only was the most difficult.



Challenges:

- Difficult to follow narrator (fast) & understand.
- Difficulty understanding accent.
- Difficulty listening to audio & following text especially at the beginning.



Recommendations

- Only one audiobook should be assigned at a time.
- Select simplified and short novels.
- Proceed gradually: Video => audio & text => audio only
- Proceed gradually: short stories => familiar children's stories
 => simplified novels => longer novels
- Students should not be left on their own & should never listen to an audiobook passively.
- Students who do not possess a smart phone, may search Google for another version of the same audiobook and listen to it on their laptop.



Audiobook Search App



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Examples of Audiobook Libraries



Searching for an audiobook Library

English Audio Books - Librivox

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Player View

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



Mowgli's Brothers

Back

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Now Rann the Kite bring That Mang the Bat se The herds are shut in t For loosed till dawr This is the hour of pri Talon and tush and c Oh, hear the call!-Gooc That keep the Jungle Night-Song in the Jungl

It was seven o'clock of a very warm evening in the Seeonee hills when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, yawned, and spread out his paws one after the

1 of 26

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20

→ Don Quixote bedtime story



➔ Heidi, Girl of the Alps bedtime story



You Tube videos

21



Audio short Stories

http://www.shortbreadstories.co.uk/story/browse/audio/#axzz3TY0VDpJN

Audio Short Stories – Listen to MP3 Shortbread > Audio Short Stories			rch Phrase
		Pa	ges: 123→
Short Story Title	Author	Length	Score
O Pearls Of Wisdom Audio Short Story	Linda Bond	708	81%
O The Sniper's Farewell audio short story	David Melville	1,523	80%
$oldsymbol{\Omega}$ On the Move: Under the Stack Audio short story	JP Creton	4,197	80%
O The Oak Door Audio short story	Georgina Simpson	2,240	80%
O Thunder in the Valley Part Two: Audio Short Story	Steve Oliver	2,346	80%
$oldsymbol{\Omega}$ Thunder in The Valley Part Three:The Audio short story	Steve Oliver	2,965	80%
$oldsymbol{\Omega}$ Thunder in the Valley Part One:The Audio short story	Steve Oliver	1,661	80%
O Holiday Butterflies AUDIO SHORT STORY	Linda Bond	2,158	80%
O The Lively Writers' Group AUDIO SHORT STORY	Tracey Goodwin	1,013	80%

Sample Short Stories with Audio & Text

About this Short Story



Written by Linda Bond



Narrated by Paul Jerricho

Rosa visits her grandma in her cottage in the woods. But is grandma all she seems?



"Yoo hoo! Grandma! It's only me!" Rosa called, bustling into the light and warmth of the only room in the small stone cottage.

"Mum's sent you some beef stew," she dumped her basket on the solid oak table, hung her red cloak on the back of the door and smoothed down her blue chequered school dress before busying herself by the huge iron bedstead on the far side of the room.

"Here, Grandma," crooned Rosa propping the old dear up on plumped pillows.

"You are so bony," she remarked. "Shall I get you some stew?"



Download Short Story



Listen to Short Story



The End... Thank You!

