



Tips for Teaching & Learning with **Audiobooks**

Learning Ally, formerly known as Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic®, is the recognized leader in providing tools and services to “level the playing field” for struggling readers and students with print disabilities. Educators in general, resource rooms, inclusion and self-contained classrooms have asked us about effective strategies for integrating audiobooks successfully in their classrooms.

We’ve developed these teaching tips to give you and your colleagues some practical, proven approaches that will help your students bridge the achievement gap, access the total curriculum and succeed!



Use audiobooks to teach and reinforce phonemic awareness and phonics skills:

Audiobooks provide auditory reinforcement for newly introduced letters and sounds. We suggest you provide students with both the audio and print versions of textbooks and literature. In introducing the lesson, connect the words with the letters and sounds you’re teaching. The print/audiobook combination works effectively in listening centers, whole class listening sessions and for students’ independent reading during free-choice reading times.



Integrate audiobooks at all grade levels across the curriculum:

Audiobooks give you great teaching flexibility. You can use them at the elementary, middle and high school levels with ease and simplicity. They also work well in any subject area in which students with print disabilities benefit from listening to learn. Listening while reading provides a multi-sensory reading experience and can eliminate some of the frustrations for students who have difficulties with text-only materials.

This chart will give you some specific integration insights:

GRADE RANGE	INTEGRATION INSIGHTS
ELEMENTARY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use audiobooks during teachers’ read-aloud sessions. Students get important auditory support and can practice independent reading. • Use audiobooks to augment the lessons and reinforce key concepts rather than simply “delivering” content.
MIDDLE SCHOOL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add audiobooks in the content areas, including math, science and social studies, when content is more dense, difficult or complex. • Use audiobooks paired with print textbooks to help students build background knowledge and understand concepts.
HIGH SCHOOL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use audiobooks to help students develop and strengthen their academic independence. • Encourage students to listen to reading assignments and take notes, as they would with text-only materials. • Help students develop test preparation strategies by repeating select audio sections and reviewing key points and concepts.



Use audiobooks to build students' critical thinking and listening skills:

Students at all ages and ability levels will benefit by practicing several different types of listening and learning skills.

- Provide a specific goal for listening: For example, ask your students to listen to pages 20-25 and write down the places the main character visits.
- Use a graphic organizer for students to complete during or after listening. Graphic organizers help students clarify and record their thoughts.
- Pair students to take turns summarizing what they've listened to. Regroup the class and have students report on their partner's summary.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

about Learning Ally's programs, membership, teacher training and other services, contact our Membership Specialists at 866-732-3585.



Use audiobooks to develop fluency and comprehension skills:

FLUENCY - Leading literacy experts report that listening to materials read aloud multiple times increases fluency. Listening and following along in the print version builds decoding skills and vocabulary that are essential for improving reading accuracy and rates:

- Provide students with opportunities to access audio textbooks and literature multiple times throughout the day.
- Suggest that parents purchase a Learning Ally individual membership for at-home use. Students can order the required textbooks for their classes and leisure reading. Added home use reinforces stronger fluency.

COMPREHENSION - Students with print disabilities often struggle when trying to attach meaning and understanding to the text they read. Audiobooks allow students to focus on the meaning rather than struggling with decoding. To help build comprehension:

- Give students specific questions to answer after listening, so they "listen with a purpose."
- Have students make predictions based on what they've listened to.
- Ask students to retell the story or concept to you after they've listened.



Make audiobooks a standard part of your classroom management approach:

Audiobooks fit flexibly into a wide range of instructional settings and approaches and they support a variety of activities and curriculum content.

This chart will give you some specific integration insights:

INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING	INTEGRATION INSIGHTS
WHOLE CLASS LISTENING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use audiobooks to introduce the entire class to a new piece of literature or nonfiction by playing the audio version for all students.
LISTENING CENTERS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an area in your classroom or library with the audio and print versions of text and trade books, your Learning Ally playback equipment and headphones. • Use listening centers for both assigned projects, and reward or leisure listening.
SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play an audiobook during small group reading or study sessions. • Replay text for students as needed and support others during listening to reinforce key concepts and skills. It's a great way to maximize teacher time and individualize instruction.
INDIVIDUAL STUDENT USE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio learners can access curriculum by listening at the same time as their peers. • Set up a listening or usage schedule with your audio learners to provide adequate reading and study time.