

Best Use of Sora in the Classroom

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Audiobooks have grown in popularity, but our school's data showed they were rarely used by students or teachers. As a school librarian, ensuring access to reading and informational resources is central to my work, so I set a goal to increase audiobook use this year.

I developed a program to bring audiobooks into classrooms through Sora. Instead of selecting titles for students, I empowered them to choose from more than 200 options. I taught them how to search for topics in a novel database and then purchased the audiobooks they requested.

To support engagement, I created a choice board of quiet activities students could complete while listening. In collaboration with teachers, we identified options that would work well in classrooms, including puzzles, word finds, paint-by-number art, knitting, card games, scratch art, sticker pictures, drawing, and other independent activities. The program was a tremendous success. Beyond classroom teachers, I also partnered with the Art teacher to provide audiobooks for seventh graders to enjoy while working on projects.

Almost immediately, reluctant readers began asking to listen to their books, and audiobook circulation in Sora soared. Students who finished one audiobook eagerly requested another.

To extend the impact, I shared Sora information with families through the school newsletter to encourage at-home listening. I also purchased a special collection of family-friendly read-alouds to promote borrowing during vacations and road trips.

The program is sustainable and cost-effective. By primarily using the Cost Per Circulation (CPC) purchasing model, I was able to offer a wide variety of titles without exceeding the budget. Its success has ensured that teachers will continue integrating audiobooks into their classrooms.