



Valley Collaborative

Literacy Blog

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“What online resources for listening comprehension can I access during the closure?”

This school closure is unprecedented. The situation is dynamic, and every day we receive new updates on how to keep our communities safe and healthy. With the announcement by Governor Baker of an extended school closure into May, a parent or guardian’s inbox is likely to be flooded with online resources providing enrichment opportunities for students at home. Educational vendors are following the trend of offering free versions of their products. Your school’s educators and administrative team are here to help wade through the options to provide the best enrichment opportunities to your student.

Featured Resource:

Audible Stories

Students and parents can access, for free and without creating a membership, a collection of streamable stories for a variety of platforms. Stories are available by age group, and can be streamed in six different languages.

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>



Last week we talked about the importance of keeping your child reading during the school closure. Reading is a complex skill that can be strengthened by many different activities. This week we are focused on [listening comprehension](#). Listening comprehension is vital for elementary students in their progression to reading comprehension. Listening comprehension, or listening skills, may also help middle- and high-school

students close an achievement gap, or further develop comprehension skills. Generally, children can understand much more challenging material through listening than reading, so listening allows students to stretch their skills and access more difficult content. Students who are English Language Learners benefit enormously from listening comprehension activities. Parents or guardians also have the opportunity to listen to the same content as their student, making this a social and active learning experience. Look below for online resources for listening comprehension.

Elementary Online Listening Comprehension Resources

Online Resource	Description	Login Information
PebbleGo	Designed for K-3 students and is packed with informational articles with a read-aloud feature.	Username: engaged Password: learning
PebbleGo Next	Similar to PebbleGo, but designed for grades 3-5 researchers in mind.	Username: engaged Password: learning
Capstone Interactive eBooks	These are high interest eBooks with read-aloud and text highlighting features.	Username: continue Password: reading
Storyline Online	Stories read aloud by members of the SAG.	n/a
Unite for Literacy	eBooks available in many different languages and with a read aloud feature.	n/a

Middle School Online Listening Comprehension Resources

Online Resource	Description	Login Information
Capstone Interactive eBooks	These are high interest eBooks with read-aloud and text highlighting features.	Username: continue Password: reading
Kids Discover Online	For Elementary and Middle School Learners (grades 3-8) with over 2,000 high interest social studies and science articles with a read-aloud feature.	Username: valleycollaborative01 Password: valleycollaborative01
Unite for Literacy	eBooks available in many different languages and with a read aloud feature.	n/a

High School Online Listening Comprehension Resources

Online Resource	Description	Additional Information
Podcasts: iTunes iHeart.com Google Podcasts Spotify YouTube	Podcasts are free and available through a variety of vendors, depending on your platform (Smart phone, tablet, desktop). Podcasts take on many forms: informational, fiction, who-dunnit, expose, or interview.	Recommended Shows: TED Talks Radio Diaries Here Be Monsters How Stuff Works Stuff To Blow Your Mind Stuff You Should Know
LibriVox	Here you can access audio files to books in the public domain. You can also volunteer to record chapters of text to be made public for an audience of listeners.	n/a

There are many ways for your child to listen: hanging out in the backyard, helping you prepare dinner, during at-home exercise, during hands-on activities, or in the peaceful silence of the couch. We hope you find these online resources as helpful as we have in enriching our listening comprehension outside of our school environment.

Stay safe and healthy!

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