

# BOOKSHARE & LEARNING ALLY

## A REALLY NEAT RESOURCE



<b>Their Mission</b>	<p>Serves users around the world and ensures that content is available to people with print disabilities at the same time as their peers. Bookshare is a Global Literacy initiative of <a href="http://Benetech">Benetech</a>. <a href="http://www.bookshare.org">www.bookshare.org</a></p>	<p>Promote personal achievement when access and reading are barriers to learning by advancing the use of accessible and effective educational solutions. <a href="http://www.learningally.org">www.learningally.org</a></p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Individuals with a documented, print disability that inhibits or prevents them from reading traditional print materials. A print disability includes individuals with a vision impairment, physical disability, or significant learning disability.</p>	
<b>Cost</b>	<p>FREE for qualified U.S. students of any age and schools through an award from OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education). Non-students and other organizations pay a low fee.</p> <p>Text-to-Speech options for auditory access to Bookshare electronic text is available in FREE and pay for options.</p>	<p><i>Qualifying students and adults pay \$135 annual membership.</i></p>
<b>Type of Assistive Technology (AT)</b>	<p><i>Electronic Text</i> that can be used with <i>Text-to-Speech</i></p>	<p><i>Audiobooks</i></p>
<b>Description of AT</b>	<p><i>Electronic text</i> provides manipulation and access to text in ways that would not be possible using standard printed text. <i>Electronic Text</i> is flexible and can be reformatted or transformed into accessible, alternative formats and may increase the readability.</p> <p>Once text is in an electronic format, it can be read on a computer or mobile device with <i>Text-to-Speech</i>.</p>	<p><i>Audiobooks</i> provide the individual with the ability to listen to an audio recording of a book.</p>

<p><b>Voice Output</b></p>	<p><i>Text-to-Speech</i> (computer generated voice output)</p>	<p><i>Human narrated voice</i></p>
<p><b>Pros...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a strong learning environment for visual and auditory learners, or a combination of both</li> <li>• Providing access to struggling readers, individuals with vision impairments or physical disabilities</li> <li>• Can read books on their comprehension level as opposed to decoding level &amp; by default, Introducing new vocabulary or pronunciation of difficult words</li> <li>• Text-to-Speech can be adjusted to male/female voices as well as adjusted to suit the rate of speech needs of the individual (especially, with and auditory processing disorder)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a strong learning environment for auditory learners</li> <li>• Providing access to struggling readers, individuals with vision impairments or physical disabilities</li> <li>• Can read books on their comprehension level as opposed to decoding level &amp; by default, Introducing new vocabulary or pronunciation of difficult words</li> <li>• Identify books with Lexile level</li> <li>• Models good interpretive reading</li> <li>• Teaches critical listening skills</li> <li>• Highlights expressive reading (prosody) timing, emphasis, and intonation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cons...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some words are not pronounced correctly</li> <li>• Not read with a human narrated voice so expressive reading connections are limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot adjust the rate of speech or change the voice</li> </ul>
<p><b>Visual Support</b></p>	<p>Individuals listen to the text read aloud while following along with text on the screen.</p>	<p>There is limited/to no text associated with the audio recording. Individuals can follow along in a printed copy of the material.</p> <p><i>Note: Learning Ally is increasing the amount of books that contain text and audio.</i></p>
<p><b>Pros...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes readability through reformatted text</li> <li>• Visually tracks with highlighting and anchors individuals to the words being read aloud</li> <li>• Can typically highlight important text to return to later</li> <li>• Search for specific words in a book</li> <li>• Can relieve visual fatigue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes visual clutter</li> <li>• Can relieve visual fatigue</li> <li>• Cannot highlight important text to return to later</li> </ul>

<p><b>Cons...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited graphics and images</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Bookshare is increasing the amount of books that contain graphic and images.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited with text to visually track</li> <li>Limited graphics and images</li> <li>While an individual can navigate different sections of the audiobook; it can be difficult to find a specific passage</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technology Format</b></p>	<p>5 digital file types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Bookshare Web Reader</i>; a customized reading tool for Google Chrome.</li> <li><i>EPUB</i>; a digital book file format that works with with e-readers such as Voice Dream Reader, Read2Go and iBooks.</li> <li><i>DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System)</i>; a digital book file format that works with screen readers, self-voicing synthetic-voice DAISY players, Braille notetakers, portable self-voicing DAISY Players, and scan-and-read software such as Read:OutLoud - Bookshare Edition, Kurzweil K1000 and K3000, and WYNN and OpenBook.</li> <li><i>BRF (Braille Refreshable Format)</i> - digital Braille for use with refreshable Braille devices and Braille embossers.</li> <li><i>MP3 file</i>); provides audio only with no text.</li> <li><i>DAISY Audio</i>; similar to the Daisy 3.0 option listed above; however, this option uses mp3 files created with our text-to-speech engine. It will work with Daisy Audio compatible players such as VictorReader Stream and Read2Go.</li> </ul>	<p>A digital file; typically MP3 files that can listened to be played on a computer or mobile phone</p>