

Using audiobooks in language classes



Context

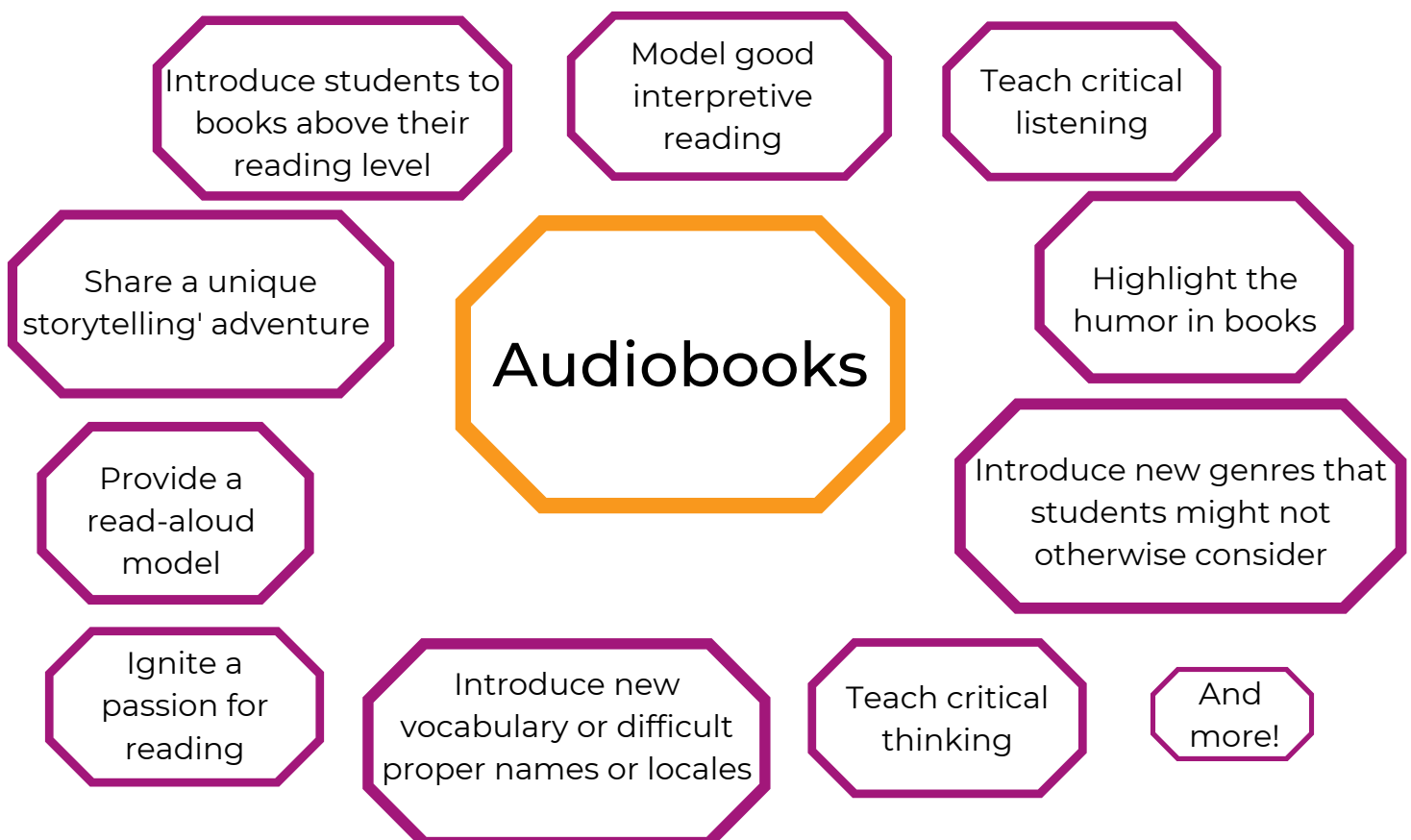
Students with specific learning disorders, such as dyslexia for example, tend to struggle with their reading and writing skills. This can impact not only their literary skills, but influence the way they approach and understand instruction, guidelines or rules. It can also affect their everyday lives, with issues reading forms, understanding written important information. Therefore, in addition to 'read aloud' programs, a good tool to teach literacy skills for students with SLDs is to go through the use of audiobooks.



Presentation

An audiobook is a recording of a book or other work being read out loud. These digital media are essential in teaching. A common argument against audio books lies with the idea that it is not 'reading'. That depends on the skills you are trying to develop. If it is a question of decoding, then yes, reading remains paramount, but when you are trying to develop the skills of thinking critically about a content, using imagination, making connection between ideas and subject, then audiobooks are perfectly capable of delivering.

In this sense audiobooks help:





Practical Uses

Audiobooks can be used in many ways in the classroom.

Here are some tips:

Develop characterization: in addition to description, the voice of the character is a great indication of his persona.

Analyse the tone and mood: this can help students take not so formal, literal approach to books and stories.

Give listening exercise as homework: this is an activity that can be done in a less formal setting, at home or in bed.

Introduce audiobooks often: play the beginning of a story, or tease students to get them excited about storytelling and the course.

Present non-fiction: non-fiction can help students build their knowledge and spark their interest in new subjects such as math or history.

Create a listening corner: create a space for students to engage independently with audiobooks with smart speakers.

Explore different format: podcasts, radio show, and more are great ways for students to 'read' about new topics.

Illustrate what they are listening too: audiobooks can develop creative skills by having students create visual representation of what they are listening to.



Free Audiobooks

Here are some sites where you can find free accessible audiobooks for your classes:

- [Librivox](#)
- [Audible](#)
- [Loyal Books](#)
- [Open Culture](#)
- [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Spotify](#)
- [Digitalbook](#)



Resources

Here are some resources useful for the use of audiobooks in class:

- <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/benefits-audiobooks-all-readers>
- [Top tips for using audiobooks in the classroom. National Literacy Trust. 2020.](#)
- <https://blog.libro.fm/use-audiobooks-in-the-classroom/>