



Case Study: The Solution to Our Audiobook Dilemma

Background

Cathy Potter is a school librarian at Falmouth Elementary School (FES) in Maine with a population of 935 students. She taught 5th and 6th grade for many years before she decided to take the plunge and become a school librarian. Her passion has always been literacy and she enjoys integrating technology into all areas of the curriculum. When FES built a new K-5 school they updated their technology to include iPads for students to use in their classrooms and the library.

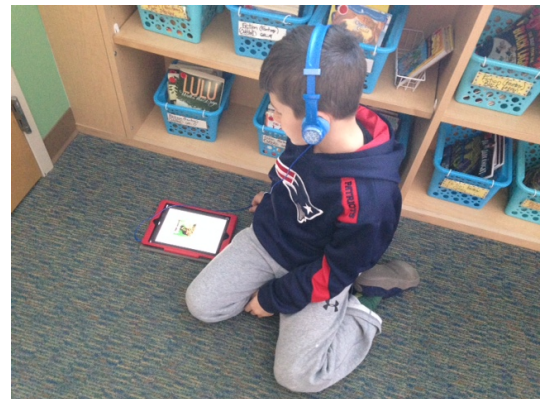
Priorities

Cathy wanted students to be able to listen to audio books during literacy instruction or silent reading, and also continue listening at home in the evening. Cathy realized FES would need audio books for their K-5 collection, but purchasing hundreds of books on CDs didn't seem like the best solution. The CD audiobooks the library owned were often damaged or missing discs, and only one person could check out the audio book at a time.

Champion

Cathy was really excited when she discovered that students could stream audio books using the Tales2go app. Cathy credits Tales2go as a wonderful model of reading with expression:

"This was the solution to our audio book dilemma. Students could have access to thousands of audio books, and I didn't have to worry about lost discs. It also meant multiple students could listen to the same story at the same time, which works really well for reading groups."



Usage

Cathy motivates FES educators and students to use Tales2go in a variety of ways throughout the school day and at home. Several fourth grade teachers use the audio book *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* as a read aloud during their Maine geography unit. A second grade teacher sets up listening centers in her

classroom by using headphone splitters so that multiple students can listen at the same time. A number of third grade teachers have also made Tales2go an integral part of independent reading. Fifth grade teachers consistently have success with using Tales2go in reading groups and literature circles. Students who have difficulty accessing complex texts can listen to the books on Tales2go and take part in group discussions and written responses. Tales2go often has audio books included in the Maine Student Book Awards reading list, making it possible for more students at FES to participate in the program.



Results

Cathy believes that listening to audio books is an excellent way to improve listening comprehension and auditory skills, as it allows students to picture stories in their minds. Cathy says, "Tales2go has been a game changer for us at FES. It provides our readers with access to quality books, makes reading accessible for all and generates excitement for reading."

FES logs an average of 22,000 listening minutes per month on Tales2go. Here are some of the favorite Tales2go books at FES:



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The 39 Clues series

Rules by Cynthia Lord

My Weird School series by Dan Gutman

Diary of Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

Cathy is currently the chair of the AASL's Best Apps for Teaching and Learning Committee and reviews apps for School Library Journal.