

Level 1 - Includes Two Activity Guides **What's Your Listening Style / Active Listening**

Activity Guide: What's Your Listening Style?

Use this short activity to introduce or enhance audiobook listening for all ages, from toddler to senior citizen. This listening style analysis can take place as a solo activity, through home-based parent-child interaction, in a lecture presentation with a hands-on session at a public library, or as a classroom-based activity using printed handouts. Allow 40 minutes to an hour to complete.

Gather materials that will enhance the activity. Paper, drawing materials, or other art materials are essential. Those participants who have a handheld device should be encouraged to have it available. Craft items such as play dough, Legos, or knitting are also useful. If possible, have eyeshades or eyebags available; directions are included on handout for making homemade eyebags prior to the activity. Emphasize physical activity by completing the *What's Your Listening Style* activity in an area where workout equipment such as treadmills or exercise bikes are nearby, such as a senior center, special education classroom, or local gym.

Select audiobooks for the activity. A solo session requires only a self-selected audiobook title in either physical or download format, the appropriate player, plus the print version of the audiobook title. Small groups or classrooms can be equipped similarly, or the session leader may choose to have multiple print versions available, and a single copy of the corresponding audiobook played so that all participants can listen together. An effective method with pre-readers or emergent readers is to display a read-along audio/picture book to the group or project onto a screen, while the audio is played through a speaker. A school or library may have a lab with computers that can play audiobook CDs while running a paint program, so that each participant can listen individually via headphones. A computer lab location can expand the activity into a how-to-download pre-session featuring audiobooks available through the school or public library.

Follow the *What's Your Listening Style?* activity handout to rotate through three different modes of listening. Be sure that participants have gathered materials at hand. Leaders should give start & stop signals for individual audiobook use or play between five and ten minutes of the audiobook for the whole group while incorporating the corresponding activities, with the Audio + Print style requiring a slightly longer span. Participants may use the handouts as a guide or session leaders may prefer to give direction orally after distributing needed materials. Provide time for reflection and analysis at the end of the session. Happy listening!

What's Your Listening Style?

Name: _____

Are you new to audiobooks? Try these different ways to explore the audio genre. Or have you listened once and hated it? You may not have discovered the way that fits you best. Are you a regular audio listener? Expand your listening opportunities. There's no best way, and everyone has their own listening style. Experiment with the suggestions below, and find your favorite!

- **Busy body, attentive brain listening style:** I like to move while listening. If I try to sit still and listen to an audiobook, I lose track of the story. When I keep my hands busy or body moving, the words flow into my brain.

Activities for this listening style: Artistic movement like doodling, drawing what you hear, or an online paint application. Handheld devices with simple video games such as Bejeweled, Temple Run, Minecraft or Solitaire. Crafts like Legos, play dough, knitting. Activities like daily chores, cleaning, cooking, yard work. Movement like walking to school, sports practice, riding the bus, exercise, car trips, walking the dog.



Now you try it: As you listen to a short audiobook segment, draw what you hear, doodle, sketch characters, or jot down memorable words. Play a game with the sound muted while you listen to the audiobook. Or chose another busy body, listening brain activity!

- **Relax while reading with my ears listening style:** I like to block out the world and listen, and let the words paint a picture in my mind.

Activities for this listening style: Chill out in your bedroom, listening with the lights out. Put earbuds in and close your eyes when on the bus or in the car. Listen in the classroom during free choice reading time, headphones on and head down on desk. Try a homemade eyebag: Take an old kneesock or cut a leg off an old pair of tights, fill with dry beans or rice, and tie securely. Lie down with the eyebag over your eyes to help you relax and listen.



Now you try it: As you listen to a short audiobook segment, turn out the lights, close your eyes, and let a short audiobook segment create a movie in your mind!

- **Audio + print listening style:** I like to have both the print text and audiobook, and I combine the two for greater understanding and enjoyment.

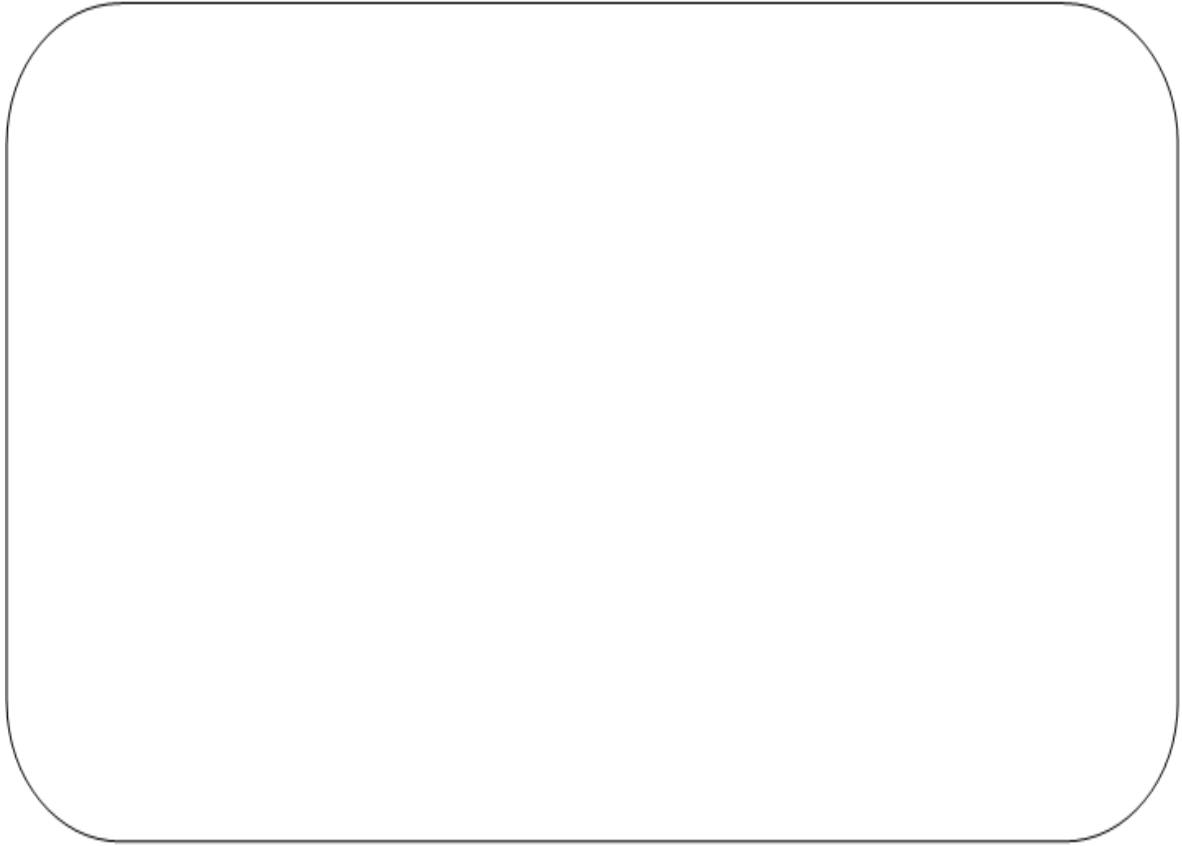
Activities for this listening style: Some people like to follow along in the print book while listening, with the combination making the text easier to understand. Other people hate to try to follow along with the book, as their reading speed and listening speed don't match. But many people like to listen to a chapter, and then read the same chapter in the print book, with the two versions combining to make the text more interesting. Some very fast print readers like to read a whole book, then go back and listen to the audiobook, and discover many details they missed the first time. If you are a voracious reader, go back and listen to an old favorite!



Now you try it: As you listen to a short audiobook segment, follow along with the printed book for a few pages. Next, just listen for a few minutes, then pause the audio and go back and read the same segment in the print book. Or get creative and combine the Busy Body or Relaxation listening style, and then pause the audio and re-read the same segment in print.

What's Your Listening Style?

- **Analyze your style:** What's your favorite way to listen? Does one style help you comprehend the book better? Do you have more than one style? Does the listening experience transform your understanding? Support your choice with observations below:



Activity Guide: Active Listening

Use this method to enhance the use of audiobooks in an instructional setting, incorporating the educational benefits of audio in a technology-rich, multi-sensory environment. Use the simple *Active Listening* lesson to foster student engagement and introduce analysis of audio-specific characteristics, an ideal follow-up to the *What's Your Listening Style* activity. Before independent use of the *Active Listening* handout, model as a single period, whole-class activity with a short read-along audio/picture book displayed or projected by a document camera, with the audio played through speakers. Take time to pause and define audio qualities such as *Pace*, *Emotion*, and *Rhythm*—the [Audiobook Lexicon](#) serves as a helpful tool. This whole-class method is also an ideal way to integrate literature while introducing a new curricular focus using an audio/picture book for older students tied to core content, such as the Live Oak Media production of *When Marian Sang* prior to a Civil Rights Social Studies unit.

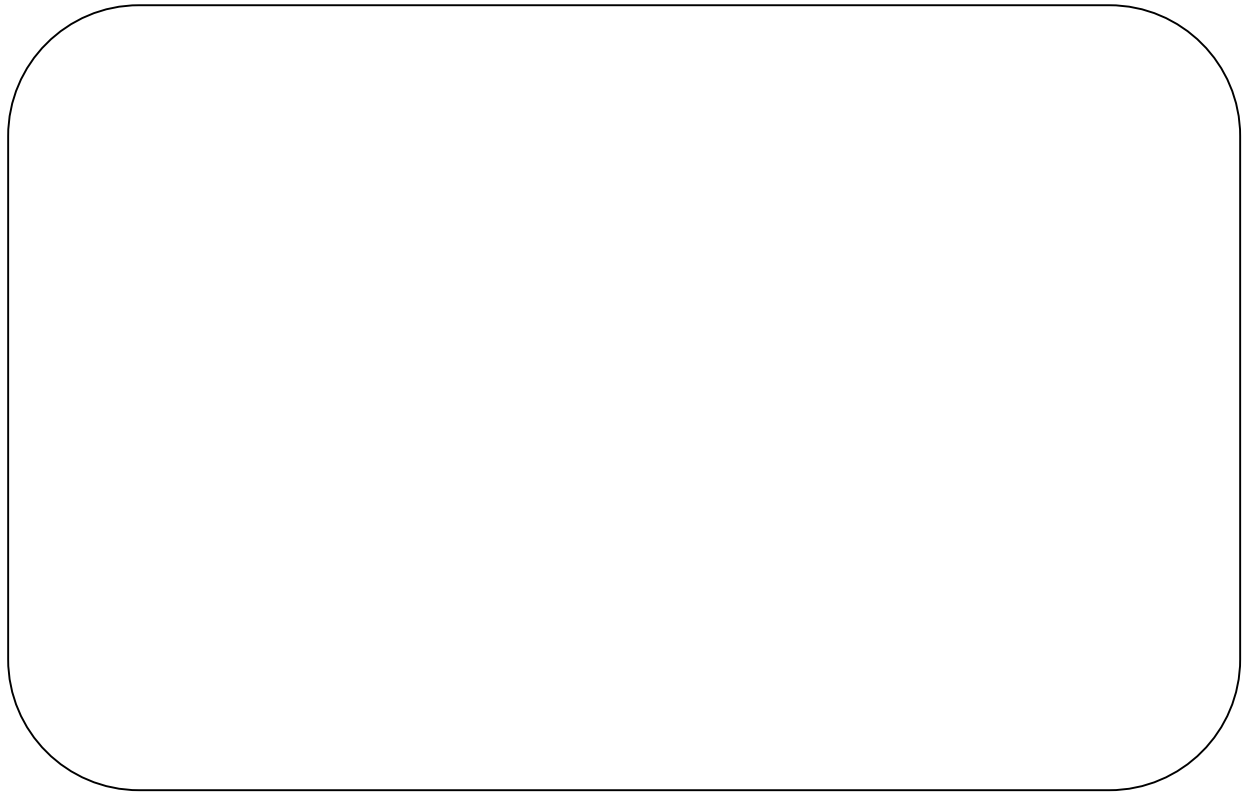
Once students have been introduced to audiobook evaluation, move on to the resources in Level 2 to match instructional needs.

Active Listening Name _____ Date _____

Audiobook Title: _____

Before you start, tell why you picked this book and what you think it will be about.

Memory Map: As you listen, draw or write words to help you remember what you hear. Use another sheet of paper if needed.



Prediction and Inference: Half-way, pause & guess what will happen next. What clues in the text led you to make this prediction?

When you are done listening to the audio, answer these questions.



Character Clues:

What do you learn about the character from listening? Think about:

- Did the narrator have emotion in his/her voice? Cite an example and explain how that helped you understand the character.
- Did the narrator emphasize any words? What were they, and how did this help you learn more about the character?
- How did the narrator read the dialogue? How did the way the characters spoke to each other help you understand them more?



See the Setting through Sound: Can you hear where the action is taking place? Does music set the scene? Are there sound effects that expand the text or illustrations?

Does the narrator's voice fit the time period? Are words from a region or country spoken clearly?



Reading with your Ears: How does hearing the text help you remember details, visualize action, or create meaning? Cite an example of a place during the audio where hearing the story helped you.
