Reading with audiobooks is still reading.

Students with reading deficits who read with audiobooks have better comprehension than those that don’t. Don’t believe the myths, here are the facts about audiobooks.

MYTH: Listening to books is not reading.
FACT: Whether we are reading or listening to an audiobook, our brains process the words in the same way. There is no slacking in how our brain sorts, remixes, and creates inferences.

MYTH: Reading text on paper is the only way to read.
FACT: All Reading matters. Reading in different formats, both on paper and through audio, is taking in information in order to apply the knowledge gained.

MYTH: It seems unfair to let just a few students read with audiobooks.
FACT: Differentiation is ideal for individualized learning and much more commonplace now. Use audiobooks for whole class instruction so struggling readers are included in the classroom conversation and able to participate right alongside their peers.

MYTH: Students can’t do close reading with highlights and notes if they listen to a book.
FACT: If they’re using an app, such as the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution, they can use the integrated note-taking tools in the digital copy.

MYTH: Students will never actually learn to read well if they listen to audiobooks.
FACT: Listening to books increases comprehension and allows students to access grade-appropriate content. Building prior knowledge and increasing word exposure increases reading ability so that when they do decode text on their own, they are better prepared.

For more information about using audiobooks in the classroom, visit LearningAlly.org