

AUDIOBOOKS: A GREAT WAY TO “READ” MORE!

Have you ever tried *listening* to a book instead of sitting down and reading one? It's a nice option if you have lots to do, and not much time to sit and relax with a book in hand. The friendly staff at the Spirit Lake Public Library would be happy to help you discover which type of audiobook works best for you because there are several to choose from!

A traditional choice is the audio CD format. You will need a CD player to listen to the discs. Unfortunately, many newer vehicles no longer include a CD player. We have a portable CD player with headphones, and a Sony CD/DVD player available for checkout.

Very similar to CDs is the MP3. The difference is that a complete book fits onto one MP3 disc, where there are multiple discs needed for the audiobook on CDs. Most computers, and some CD players will also play MP3 discs.

The next choice is the Playaway. This is a small cartridge that has one book loaded onto it. You will need an AAA battery and a pair of earbuds or headphones. Many of the Playaways include a lanyard, so you can wear it around your neck, if you like. Otherwise, it slips easily into a pocket. There are easy to follow directions inside the case. The library also has Playaway Speakers that you can check out if you prefer to not use earbuds or headphones. Playaways can be used in your vehicle if you have an auxiliary port and cord. You just chose the auxiliary setting on your stereo, and the book will play through your stereo system. A word of caution though: when you turn off the vehicle, also turn off the Playaway. Otherwise, it will keep going!

For the younger set, we have Wonderbooks. These are physical books that have an audiobook built into them. The kids love them! The directions are on the inside of the front cover, and they should be fully charged when you check them out.

Finally, if you want to go digital, there is the Libby app! There are over 22,000 free audiobooks and over 75 audio read-along books that can be downloaded to just about any device. Listen to a story today!