

Are e-books better for younger children or print books?



Usage

- Electronic books are becoming more popular with young children as technology is more accessible at home.

How are e-books read?

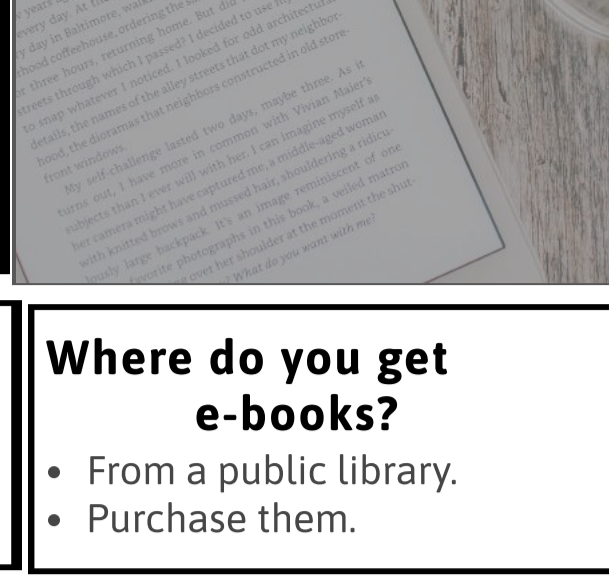
They can be read on a(n)

- a) computer (i.e. Libby by overdrive)
 - b) tablet (i.e. Google Play Books)
 - c) mobile (i.e. Apple Books)
- e-book reader (i.e. Amazon Kindle)

Did you know...

- The first e-book was published in 1949!
- Children can make their own digital stories using apps, for example, ScratchJr or StoryKit.

An overview of e-books.



Where do you get e-books?

- From a public library.
- Purchase them.

Why is reading important?

A child's literacy is influenced by:

- the amount of reading
- the quality of reading

Reading can affect a child's:

- reading
- vocabulary
- language

A child's development in language and literacy is affected by:

- the number of books
- the number of days books are read
- the relationship between the parent and child



The Evolution of Storytelling

Visual/Oral

- Cave painting

Written

- On stone/clay
- Papyrus scrolls
- Codex/books
- Magazines

Digital

- TV
- Video games
- Social media
- E-books
- VR

Storytelling has evolved over time. Thousands of years ago, cave painting was used to portray stories and myths.

Over time, stories have transformed their form into a written format due to advances in technology. Today, we have digital storytelling through various mediums.

E-book features

The features vary upon an e-book.

E-book features may include:

- Page-turning
- Audio narration where the speed of narration can be increased or decreased
- Digital notes/highlighting
- Customized font size & page layout
- Sound
- Music
- Animations
- Hotspots
- Games
- Links that provide extra information



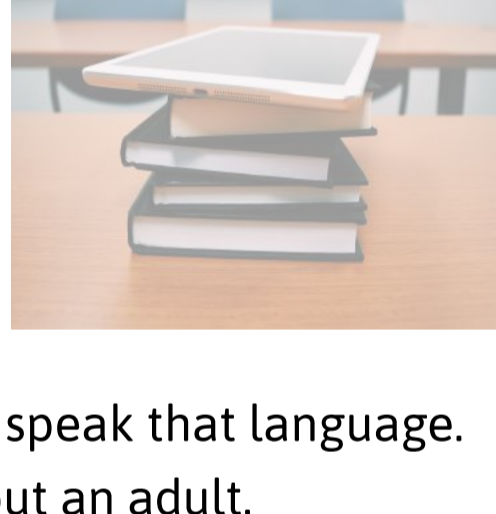
Similarities using e-books and paper books with children

- Both allow active learning for a child.
 - When reading from a paper book/e-book, active learning occurs from the conversation with the adult.
- They both allow for open-ended conversations.
 - An adult can ask the child to predict what will happen next within the story.



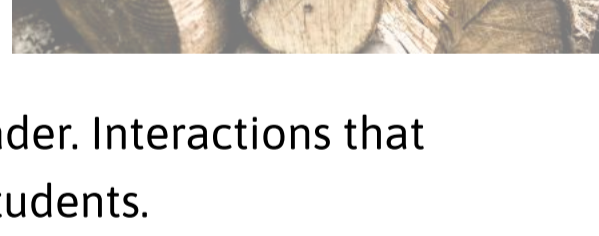
Advantages of e-books

- It can be more engaging for the reader.
- It may help students learn a second language.
 - This is helpful if the parents can not read or speak that language.
- It can help students read independently, without an adult.
- Assists visually impaired readers as students can zoom in on words. Furthermore, it can assist children with a learning disability.
- The interactive features can develop preschoolers fine motor skills.
- Convenient (i.e. easily access many books on one device, lightweight).
- Helps develop literacy skills early, when good quality books are used.
 - Features that help develop literacy include the dictionary and the function where words are highlighted during narration.
- Environmentally friendly as paper is saved.



Disadvantages of e-books

- "Just for fun" interactions may distract the reader. Interactions that support or extend learning may better help students.
- There is an emphasis on learning technology, which may distract the reader from learning the content from the book. There may be better comprehension from reading print books.
- An increase in screen time. What activity is this screen time substituting?
- The quality of e-books varies.
- Some children prefer print text, as they are used to that format. Furthermore, they may enjoy the authenticity of a book (i.e. feeling the book or hearing the pages turn).
- It may alter the relationship between a child and a parent.
- It may be harder to read from a screen (i.e. eye fatigue).
- It may take up to twice the time to read an e-book in comparison to a print book.
- MRI scans show a decrease in connections between various parts of the brain when an e-book uses narration and animations.



Tips on using e-books with children

- Children learn the most when they read an e-book with an adult.
 - They learn the most when they discuss the story with an adult.
 - Deeper learning can occur when a parent makes connections to a child's life experiences.
- Use the read-only version first, where children are not distracted with interactive elements (i.e. playing games).
- Explain the meaning of any new or difficult words from the story.
- Use quality e-books. Parents can read the reviews of e-books and vet them before using them with children.
- Use an e-book that has reduced blue light. Blue light alters the circadian rhythm of sleep. This makes it harder to sleep as your brain thinks it is the day.
- Use e-books during the day, and print books at bedtime. Children may get overstimulated by the interactive elements within e-books.



Conclusion

In the future, there will likely be both print and e-books. E-books may supplement print books in the future. As tablets have become more affordable, it is predicted that e-books will be used more in the future.

However, more research needs to be completed in this area to fully understand the effects of e-books on children.

