

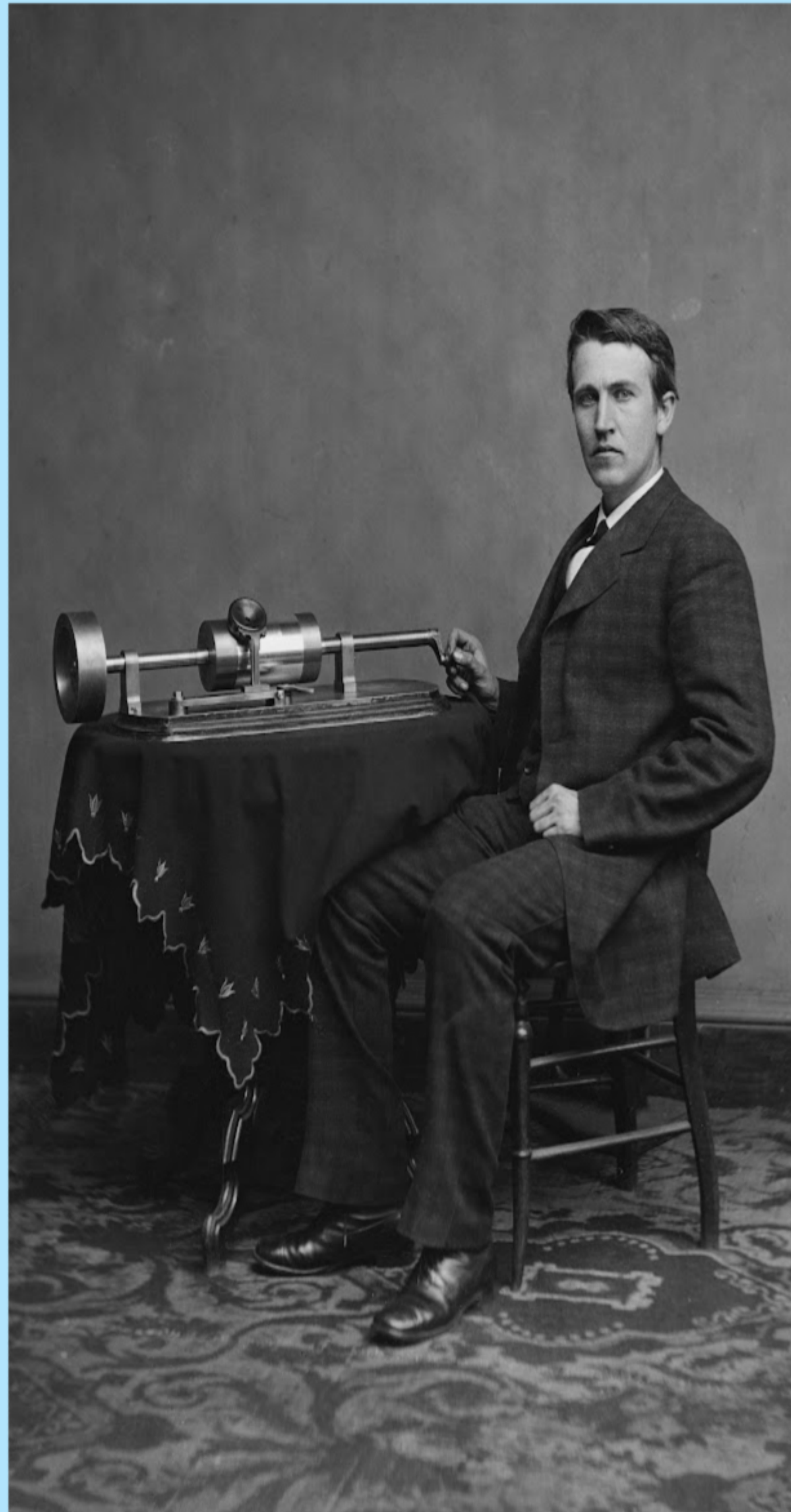
# The Impact of Technology on Audiobooks

## The Evolution of the Audiobook

1877 ←

### PHONOGRAPHIC BOOKS

Thomas Edison makes it possible to record sound and then listen to it. Records are able to gather a few minutes of audio. Due to the length, records cannot record whole books; however poetry and children's nursery rhymes are recorded. The first playback on the phonograph is Mary Had a Little Lamb, a nursery rhyme (Rubery, 2013).



Source: Wikipedia

→ 1931

### THE TALKING BOOK

Talking books are used to read material to those injured in WWI. Talking books are useful in education as they help students with phonics, especially those with learning difficulties and challenges with memory. These talking books also benefit older students who have difficulty with reading comprehension as it allows them to practice flow, rhythm and rate of language (Carbo, 1978).

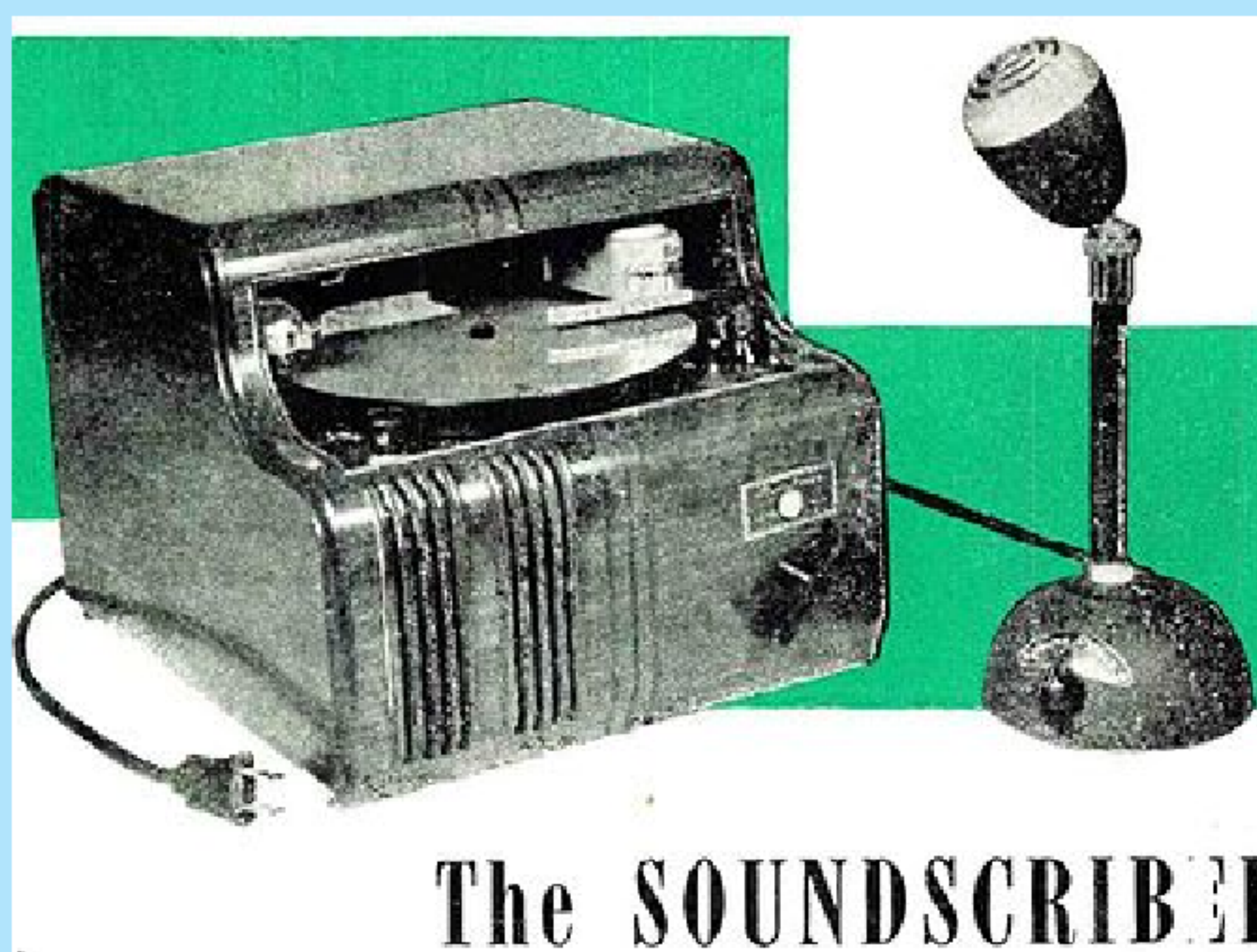


Source: Wikipedia

1944 ←

### THE SOUNDSCRIBER

This technological device can record up to fifteen minutes of audio on each side of the disc. It is then played back instantly (Kempner, 1944).



Source: Wikipedia

→ 1969

### BOOKCASSETTE

Books are put on cassette tapes and are used by the Library of Congress where individuals who are blind are able to have books read to them. Besides the library, vehicles started having cassette players in 1968 and in ten years from now, the Walkman will be developed (in 1979).



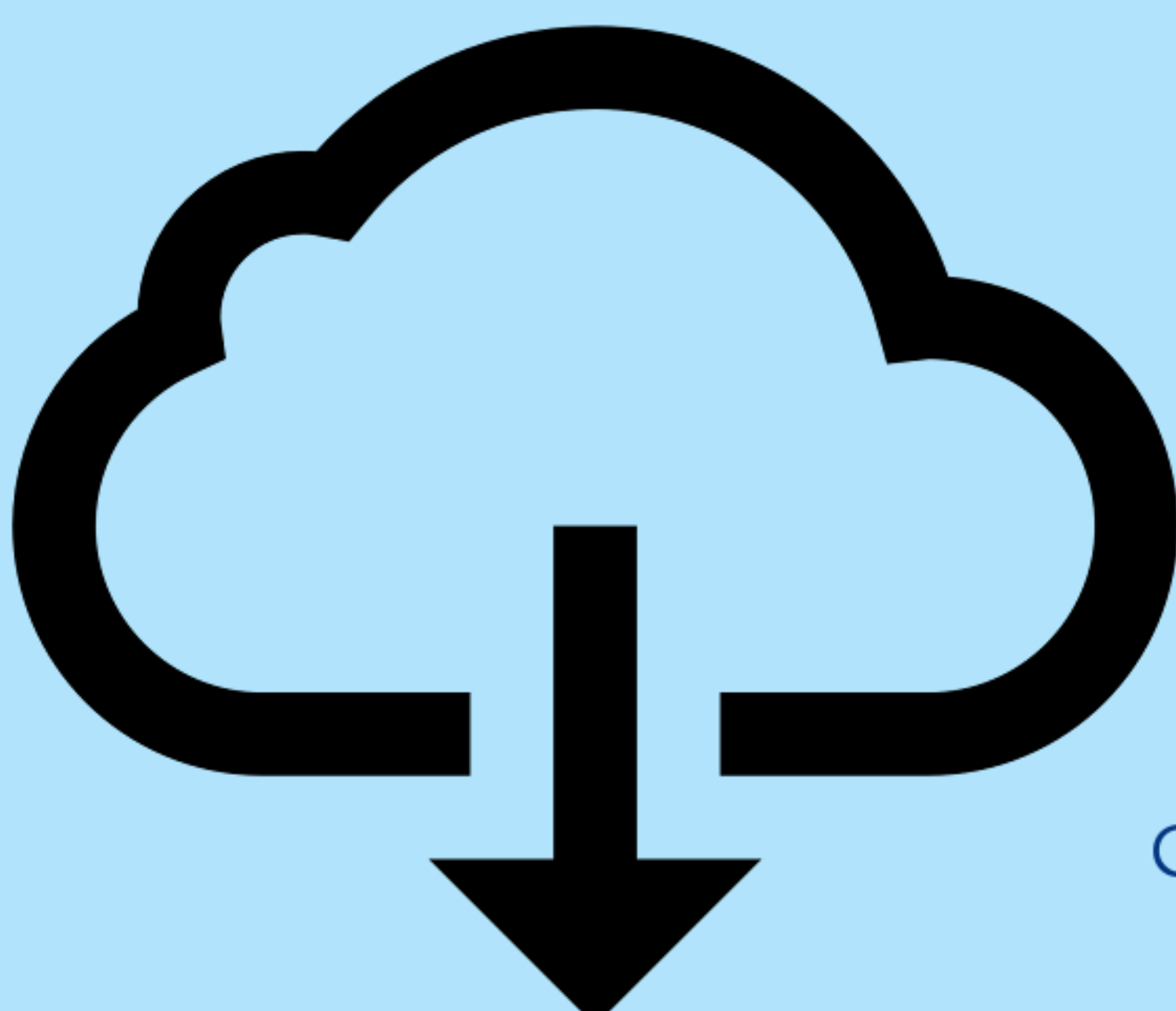
Source: Wikipedia



Source: NicePNG.com



Source: www.softicons.com



Source: www.originfilms.com

→ 1944

### BOOKS ON TAPE

Duvall Hecht wanted to expand audiobooks to reach a wider audience of travelers and commuters (Alter, 2013).



Source: Wikipedia

← 1978

### RECORDED BOOKS AND CHIVERS AUDIO BOOKS

These companies create classic literature audiobooks read by professional actors. These audiobooks cater to commuters (Blake, 1990).

→ 1997

### THE AUDIBLE PLAYER

This device holds up to two hours of audio, allowing for audiobooks to play on the go. For educational purposes, this device allows students to improve grammar pronunciation and expand their vocabulary. (Davies et al. 2008).



Source: www.audible.com

← 2004

### CDs

Cassettes are replaced by CDs and are the preferred medium.

→ 2005

### PRELOADED DIGITAL PLAYERS

An all-in-one audio book format is created.



Source: www.pinterest.com

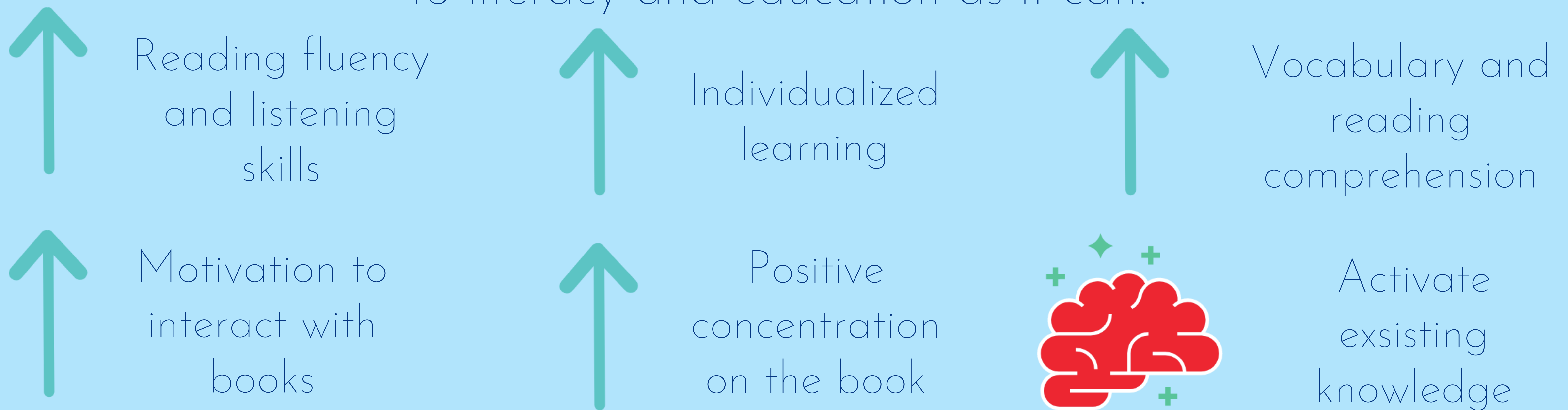
← 2009

### DIGITAL DOWNLOADS OF BOOKS

Downloading audiobooks is the most popular audiobook format.

# The Significance of Audiobooks on Literacy and Education

According to Wolfson (2008), audiobooks can be beneficial to literacy and education as it can:



Xhaferi and Karavidaj (2020) also discuss some advantages for using audiobooks in the classroom:

✓ Audiobooks are able to serve as a helping tool when teachers are inaccessible.

✓ These technological mediums attract linguistic learners since they use components such as sound, rhythm and music that make listening more enjoyable, exciting, and entertaining.

✓ For distance education and virtual learning, audiobooks allow for "easy access, low cost and quick change of the content" (p. 15).



Source: www.clipstock.com



Source: www.fullertonobserver.com

## Special Needs and Audiobooks

Allows students with learning disabilities to be able to listen to a book at the same grade level as their peers (Esteves & Whitten, 2011)..

Readers who struggle do not need to focus on the pronunciation of words, allowing them to listen to the audio so that they can focus on the comprehension of the text and how to pronounce certain words that are difficult (Xhaferi and Karavidaj, 2020).

Allows students to have an option to either read or listen to a book depending on their preference, especially with those who struggle with reading.



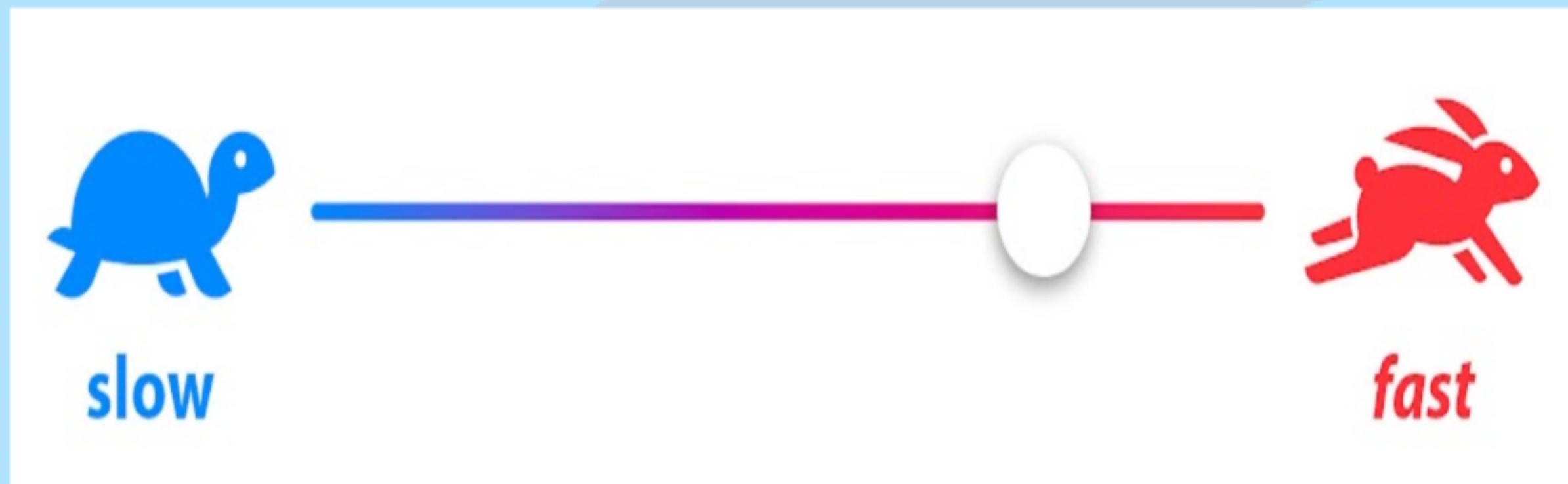
English Language Learners can increase their oral language by listening to the pronunciation of words (Moyer, 2012).

This medium is an essential aid to those individuals who are visually challenged, along with those who have dyslexia and agraphia. Elders also use these devices, such as my late grandmother, Ruby (Xhaferi and Karavidaj, 2020).

Allows learning to become more accessible to students who have visual impairments (Fansury et al., 2019).

# The Limitations of Audiobooks on Literacy and Education

According to Priyadarsini (2017), there are some limitations that occur with audiobooks classroom:



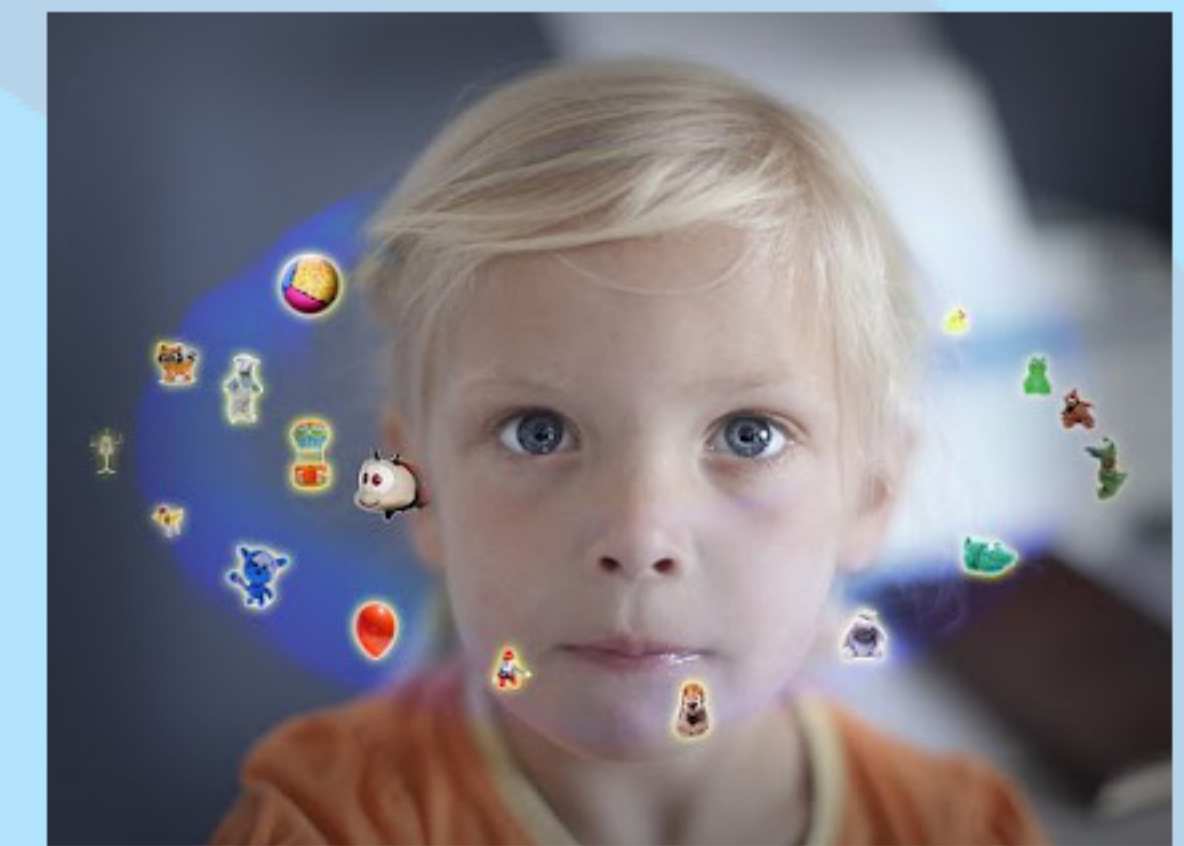
Source: [www.iconwerk.com](http://www.iconwerk.com)

The narration speed of an audiobook may be too fast or too slow for the student using the device.



Source: [www.shutterstock.com](http://www.shutterstock.com)

Audiobooks are expensive.



Source: [www.yogaclam.org](http://www.yogaclam.org)

When students get distracted, they may not be able to follow the narrator.



Source: [www.todaysparent.com](http://www.todaysparent.com)

It may take time for students to train and master audiobook listening skills.



Source: [www.coolmompicks.com](http://www.coolmompicks.com)

Audiobooks do not offer as much flexibility compared to reading a physical book.



Source: [www.stream.org](http://www.stream.org)

According to Xhaferi and Karavidaj (2020), with the increased engagement use of audiobooks, there has been a decline of students' reading which may impact their cognitive development and overall academic success.

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