Sora

The student reading app

It’s about equity: Key ways digital eliminates resource roadblocks

OverDrive Education

OverDrive Education

Welcome!
Meet your presenter.

Christa Taylor

Account Executive

OverDrive Education

Appalachia, New England, Canada

What if you could…

Engage more readers

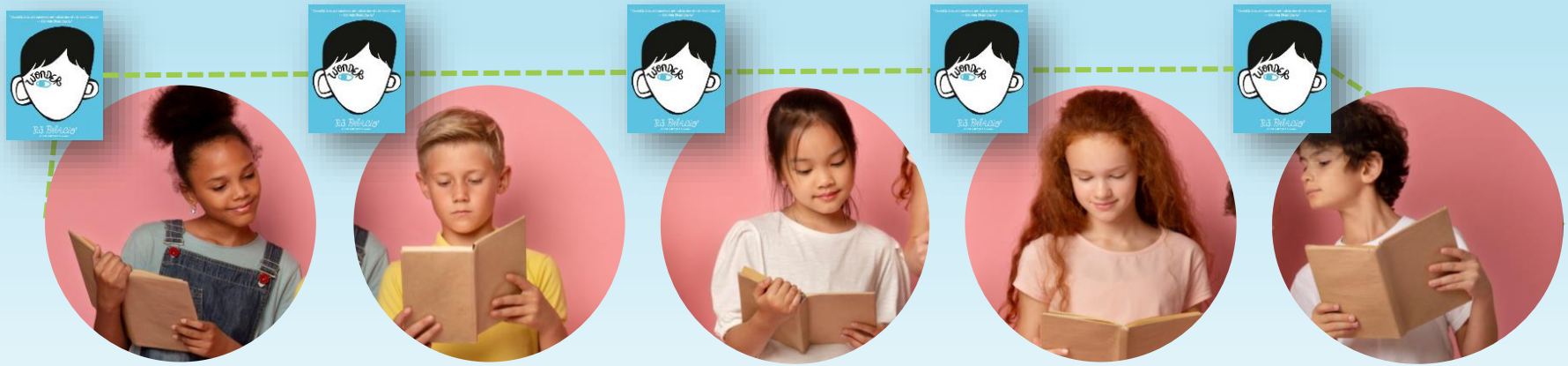
Enhance & personalize learning

Motivate students

Sora
The student reading app

Sora Overview

EQUALITY



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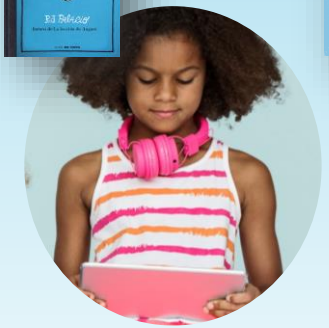
EQUITY

Ebook

Young Reader ebook

Audiobook

Young Reader Spanish ebook



Spanish ebook

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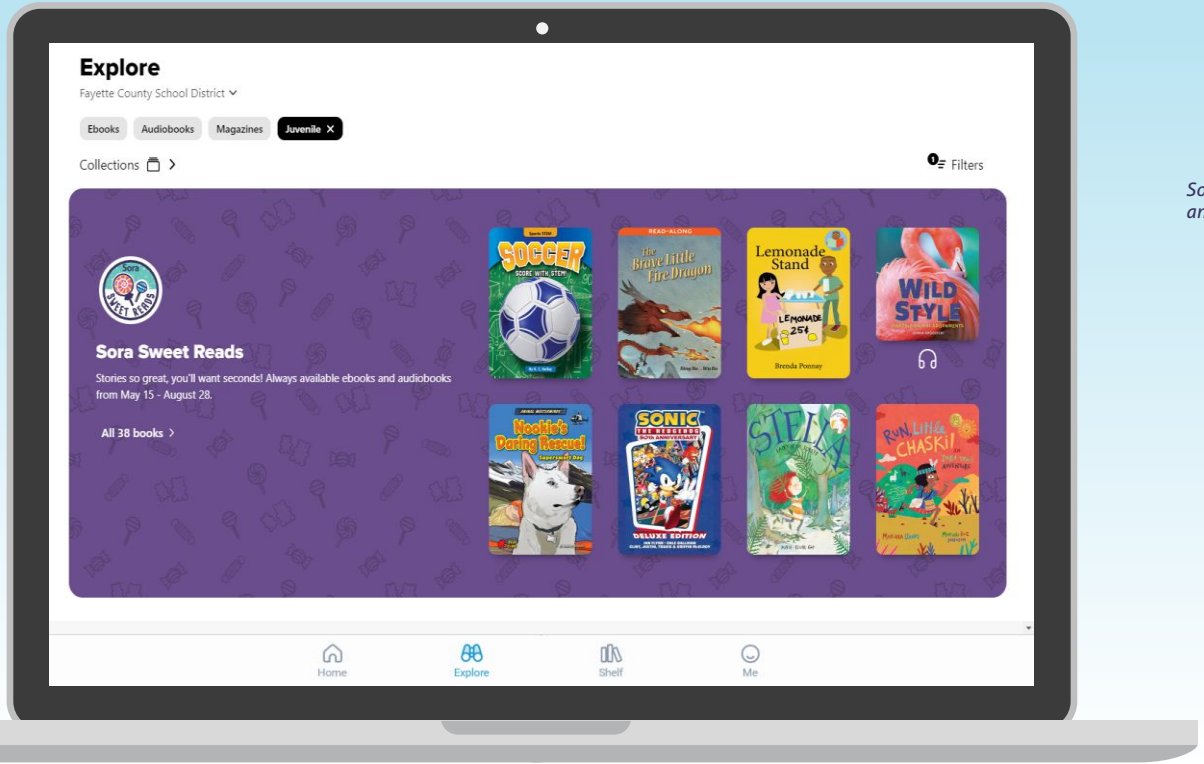
Sora, the student reading app



Sora is the app and platform students and faculty will use to read ebooks and listen to audiobooks from their school and public library.

soraapp.com

or download the app

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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Digital content is compatible on ***all*** major devices – whether provided by the district or personally owned by the student – and can be used online or offline

- ✓ Chromebook
- ✓ Desktop/Laptop Computer
- ✓ Tablet
- ✓ Kindle
- ✓ Smartphones

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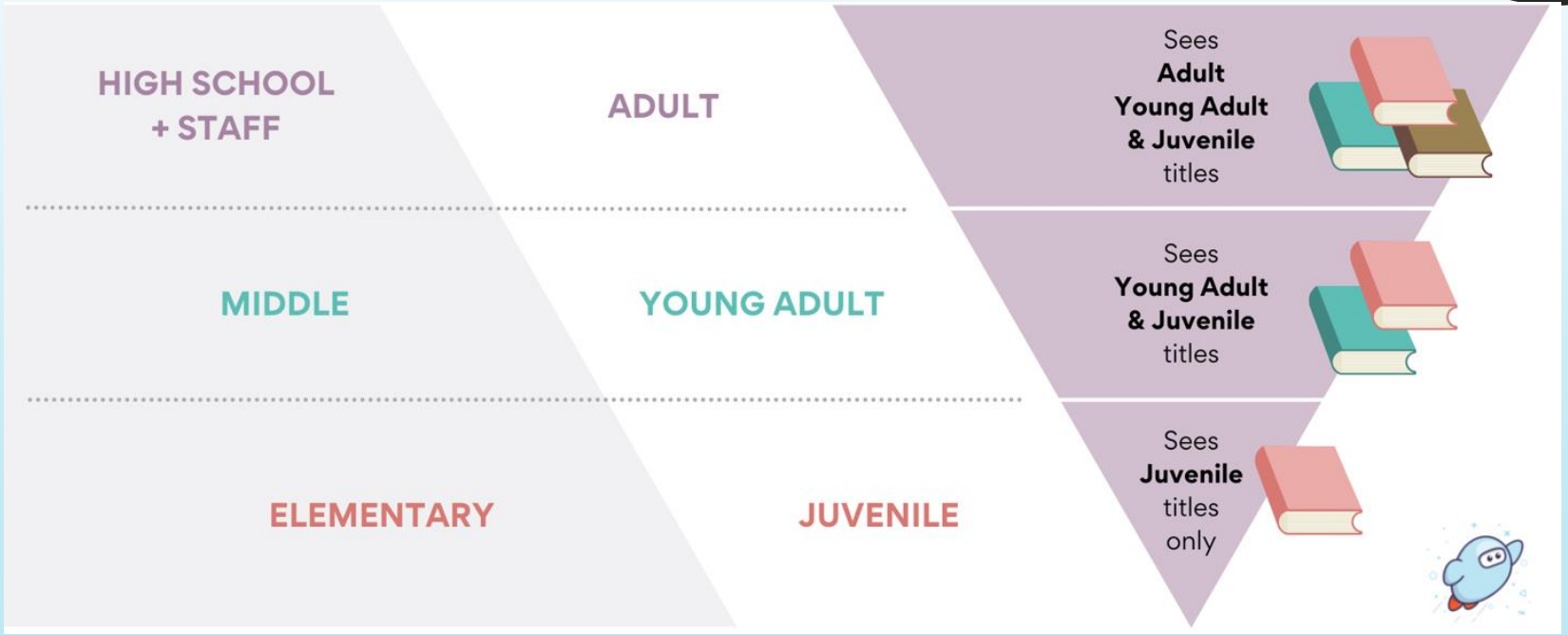
Access Levels

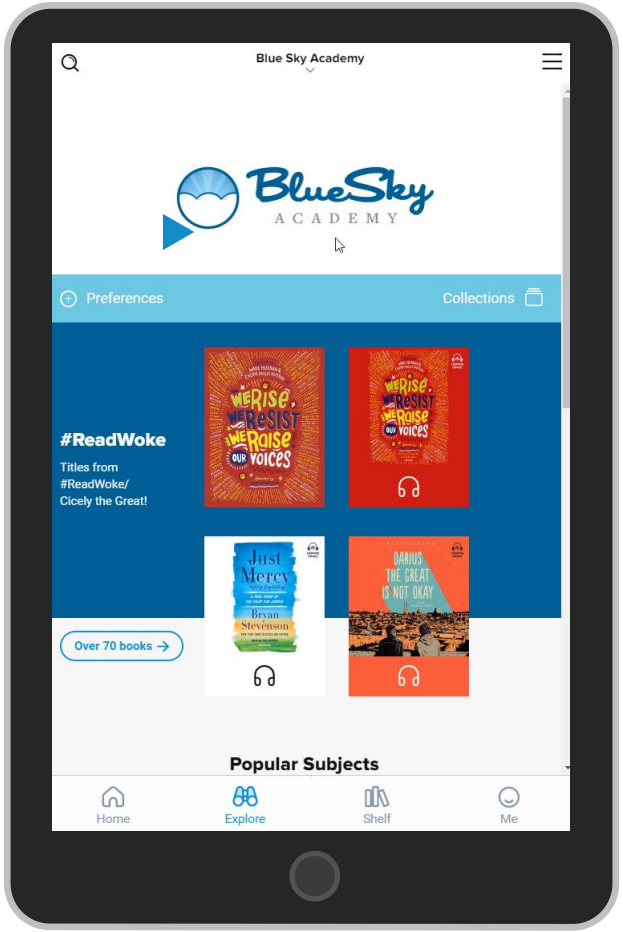
- Juvenile (Prek, K-5) Young Adult (6-8) and Adult (9-12, Faculty)
- All titles are available to Adult users automatically, including librarian at each level

Grade Level Reading Access

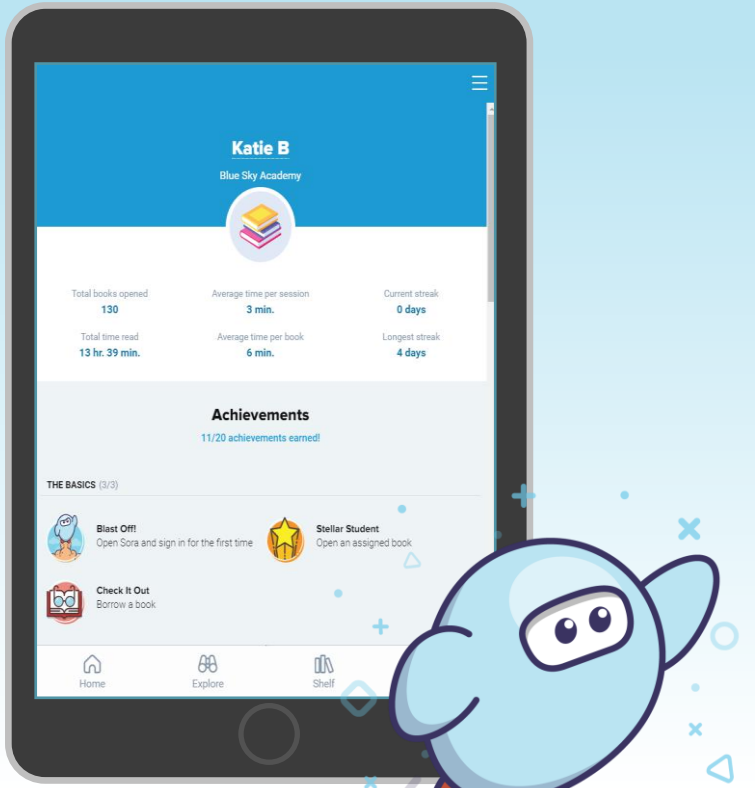


PUBLIC LIBRARY CONNECT

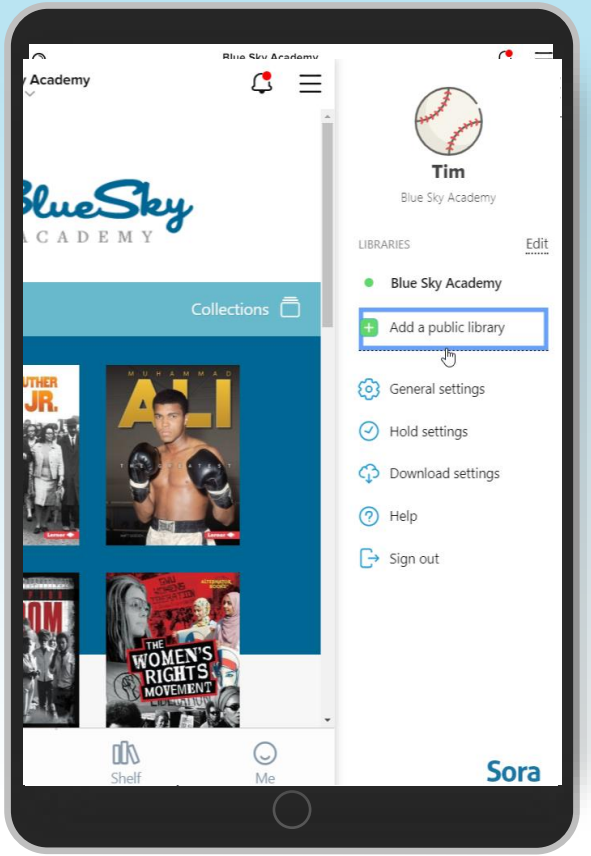
- Open Sora main menu.
  - Tap “Add a public library“.
  - Search for the library.
  - Browse for a title.
  - Sign in with school credentials.



Live demonstration



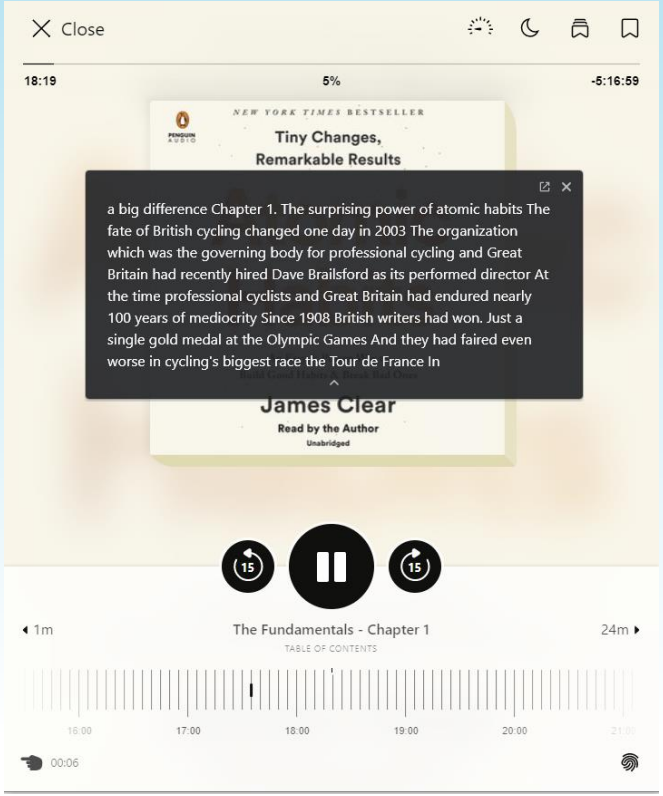
Sora Features Recap



- ✓ Single sign-on
- ✓ Multilingual interface
- ✓ Easy browse and borrow
- ✓ In-app definitions
- ✓ Customizable reading settings
- ✓ Title Assignment capabilities
- ✓ Offline access
- ✓ Exportable notes and highlights
- ✓ Public library digital collection access

Accessibility Features – Inside Sora

- Screen reader compatibility
- Audiobooks
- Live captions in audio books
- Large print – font size
- Font type – dyslexic font
- Dark lighting – contrast
- Page settings – justification
- Multi-lingual app
- LOTE – Content available in 110 languages



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OverDrive Marketplace

Over 4 million ebooks, audiobooks, and videos to purchase for your school's digital library.

For more help and information:

help.marketplace.overdrive.com

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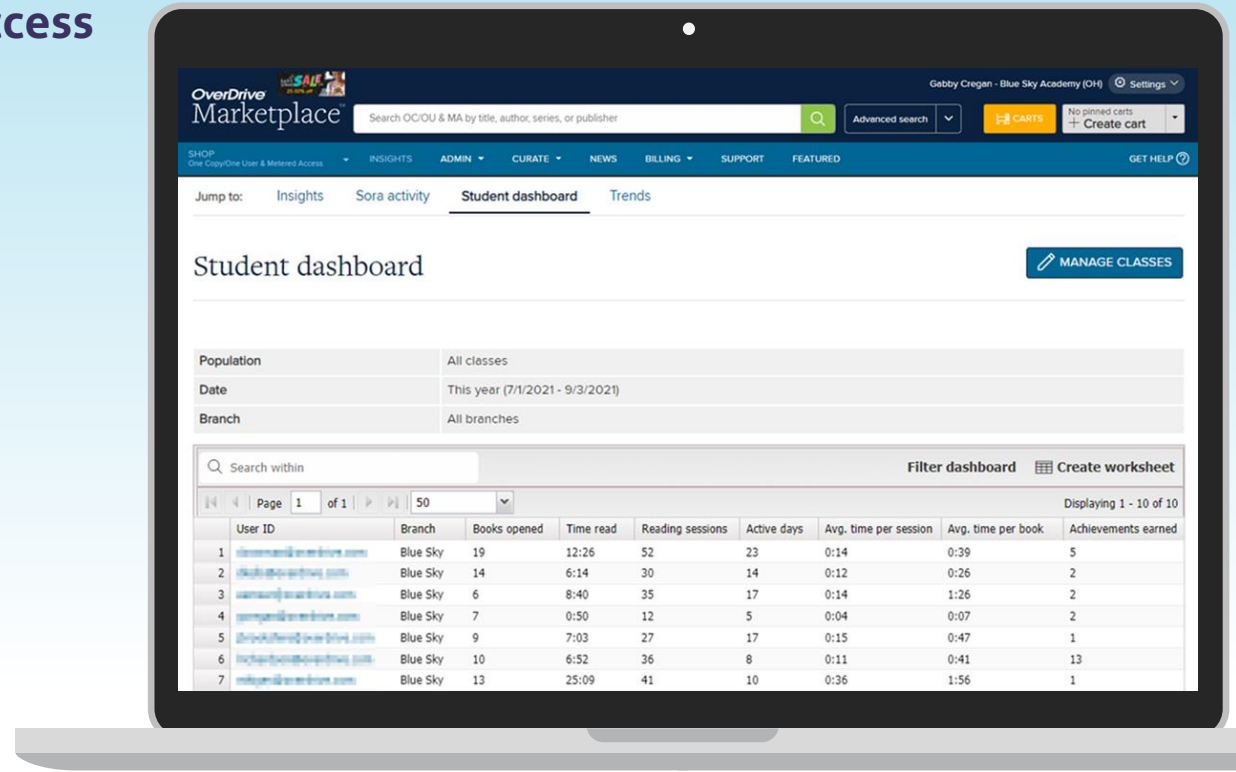
Student-level data helps educators dive deeper

Authorized educators can access stats for:

- Books opened
- Time read
- Reading sessions
- Average time per session
- Average time per book
- Achievements earned



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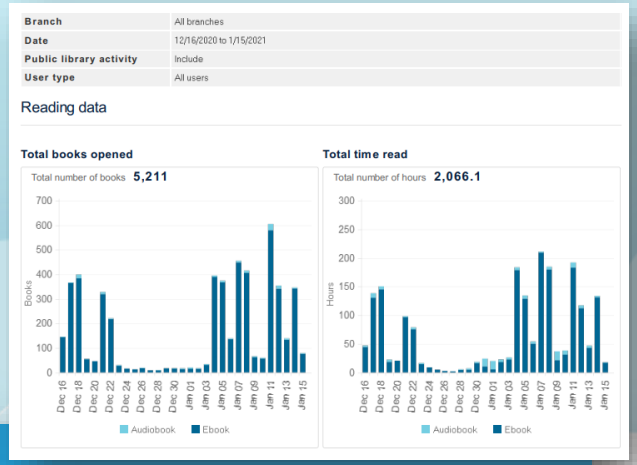
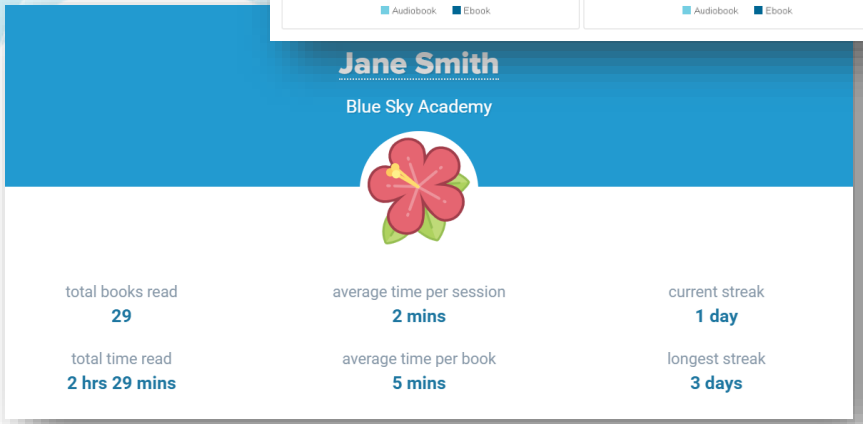
Reporting

Leverage powerful insights

Use Sora data to:

- Inform purchase decisions
- See real-time student reading data
- Guide intervention strategies
- Identify usage trends





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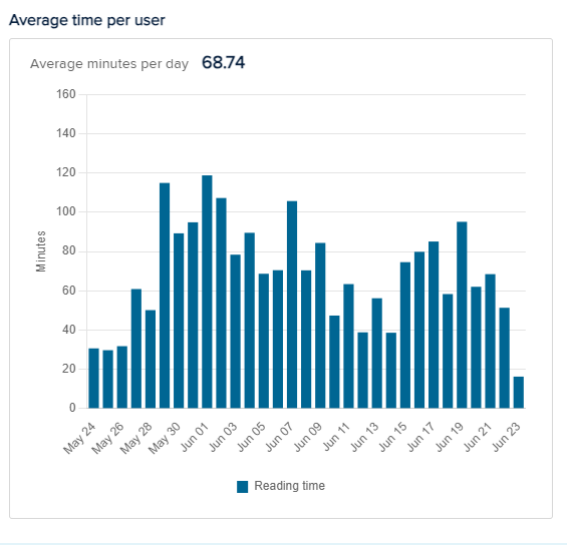
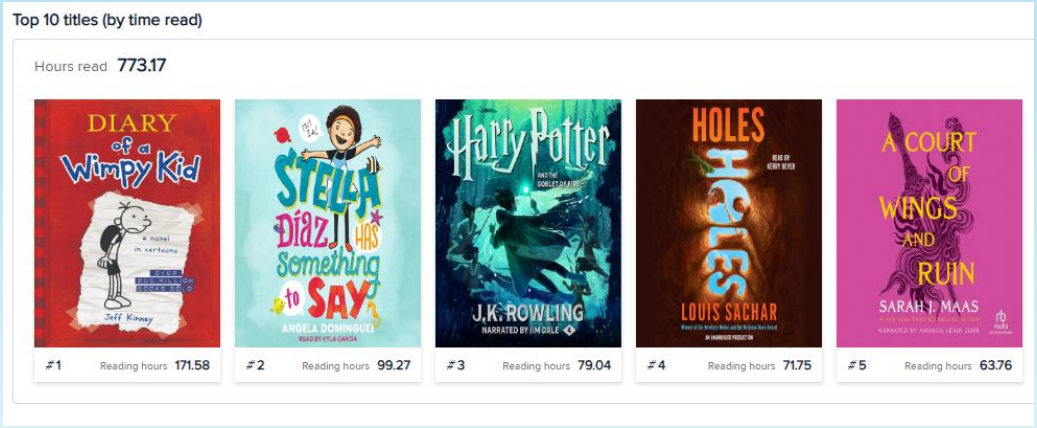
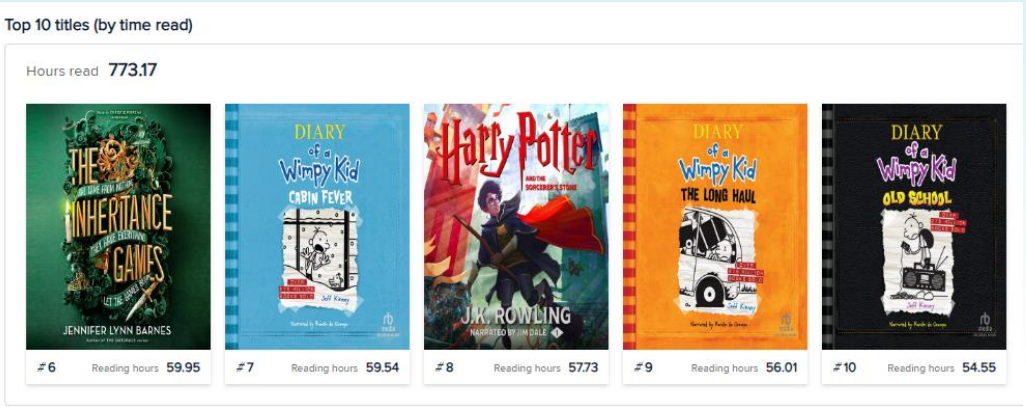
Celebrate literacy outcomes







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Time spent reading positively impacts reading proficiency & achievement

Long-term impact of reading:

Reading 30 minutes vs. 15 minutes per day leads to 12 million more vocabulary words learned over the course of a student's schooling.

Reading had a higher level of correlation to achievement than socioeconomic status, gender, family structure, or even time spent on homework (PISA)

Source: "The magic of 15 minutes: Reading practice and reading growth"
https://www.renaissance.com/2018/01/23/blog-magic-15-minutes-reading-practice-reading-growth/

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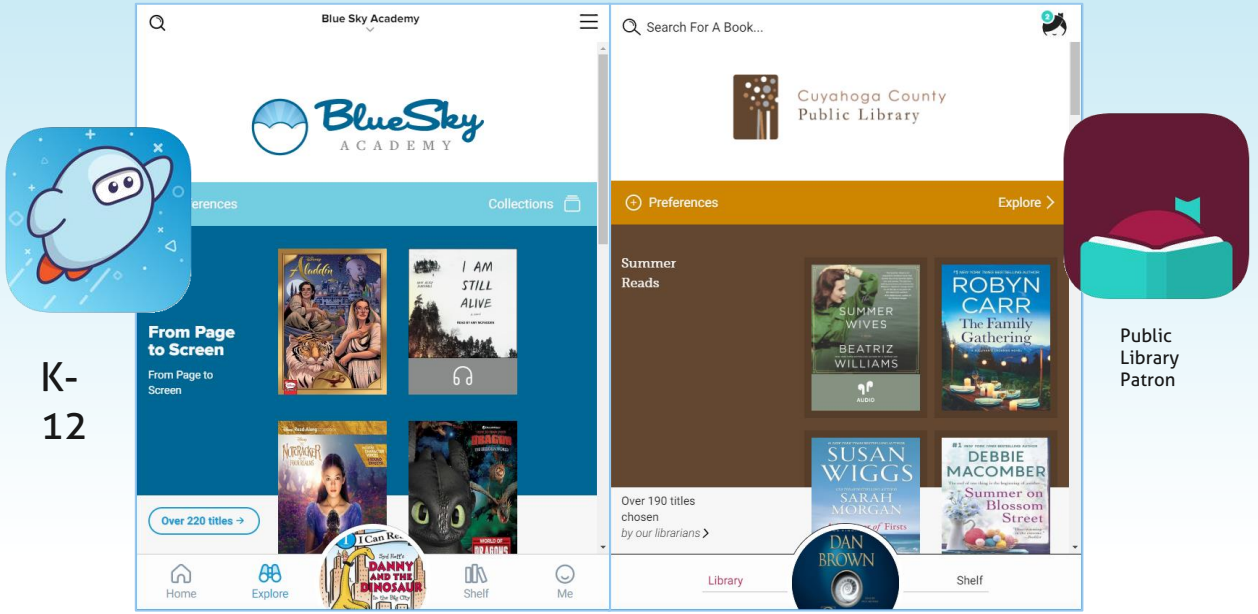
Shape lifelong learners

Give students the skills to read beyond school



K-12

Public Library Patron

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Contact Us:

Join a live product walkthrough

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THANK YOU

Last Chance to Enter to Win a Sora T-Shirt

It's About Equity

Key Ways Digital Eliminates Resource Roadblocks

Fayette County Public Schools

Lexington, KY

- 70 schools and programs
  - 31 Title 1 Schools
- 41, 573 students
- 5,710 staff members

District Demographics

- Minority majority district
  - 47% White
  - 23.3% Black
  - 18.6% Hispanic
  - 4.9% Asian
- Over 6,600 EL Students
- 95 Home Languages Spoken
- 5,170 Students Classified for Special Education
- 51.7% Qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch

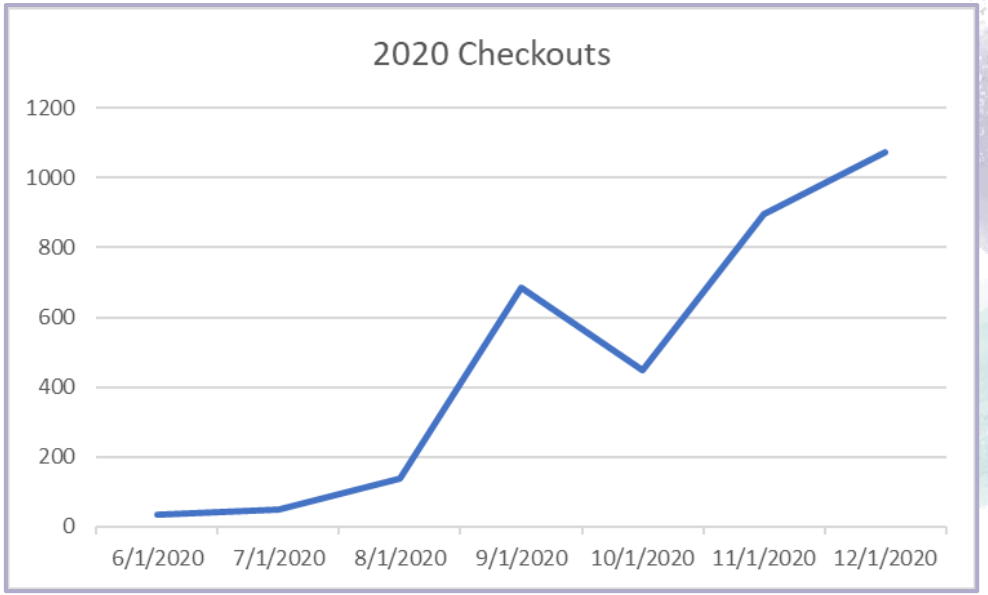
Why go digital?

- Most schools staffed with school librarian- access to print materials but few digital materials
- Digital platform aligned to our public library- one platform
- Students are one to one with Chromebooks
- Impactful data on student reading habits
- Platform provides built in accessibility tools that benefit all learners
- Maximizing purchasing power for district-wide access

Our Starting Point

- Started with basic set up and OverDrive provided materials
- Added Battle of the Books titles for district-wide access
- Librarians provided feedback for additional high interest, high instructional value titles

Launched and watched statistics....



Building the Collection

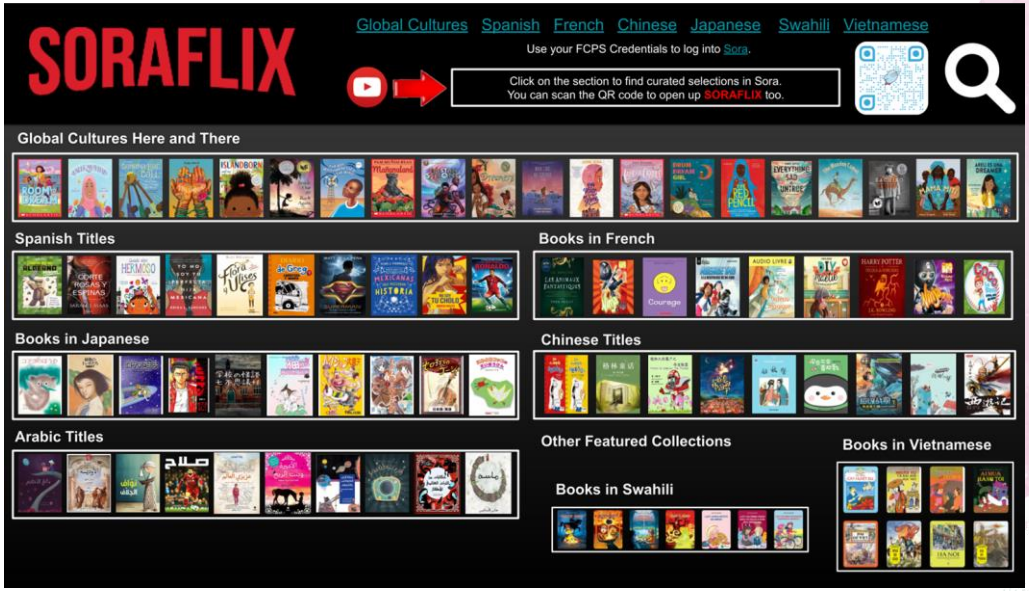
- Identifying Stakeholders
  - EL Department
  - Support Services
  - DEIB
  - Curriculum Department
  - Special Education

- Educate and Advocate
  - How to access materials
  - Available content
  - Using accessibility features
  - Usage data

Collaborating with the EL Department

Goal- Access to items in home language

- 95 home languages spoken across the district
- Both eBook and Audiobook format
- Popular texts translated AND original texts written in that language
- Global cultures representative of our FCPS population

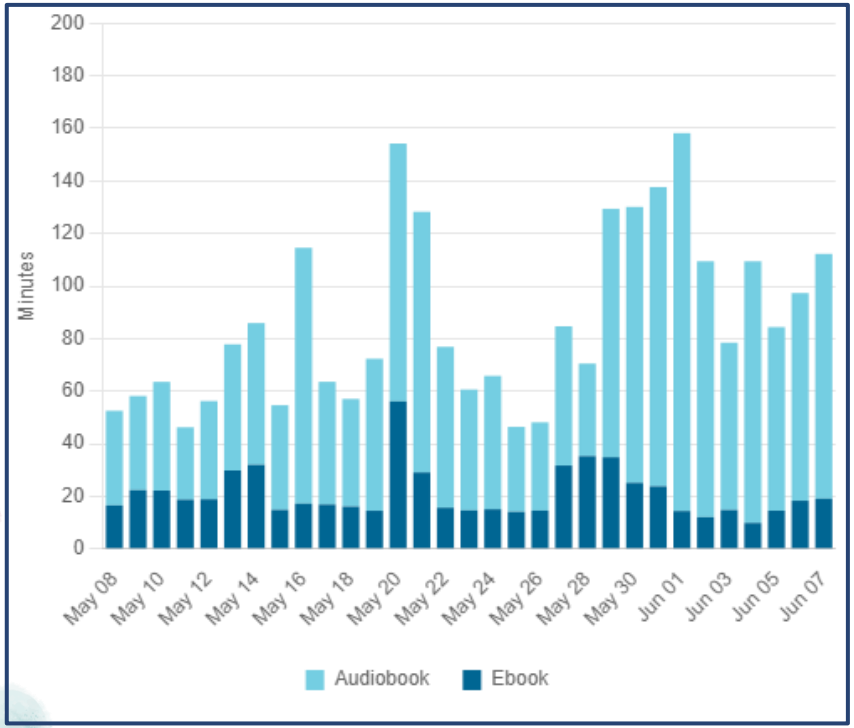


Collaborating with Support Services

Goal- Engage Reluctant Readers

- Magazine Package
- Comics Package
- Popular Audiobooks

Using Data for Advocacy



- Data on Average Time Per Book By Format shows more time in text with audiobooks

- Prompted increase in funding for audiobook collection

Technology Department Support

Goal- Create a well-rounded collection

- Increase high interest texts
- Increase audiobook offerings
- Monitored Automated Carts
  - Holds Manager
  - Expired Titles
  - Metered Access
- Building on book series

Partnership with the Public Library

Goal- Increase access and offerings

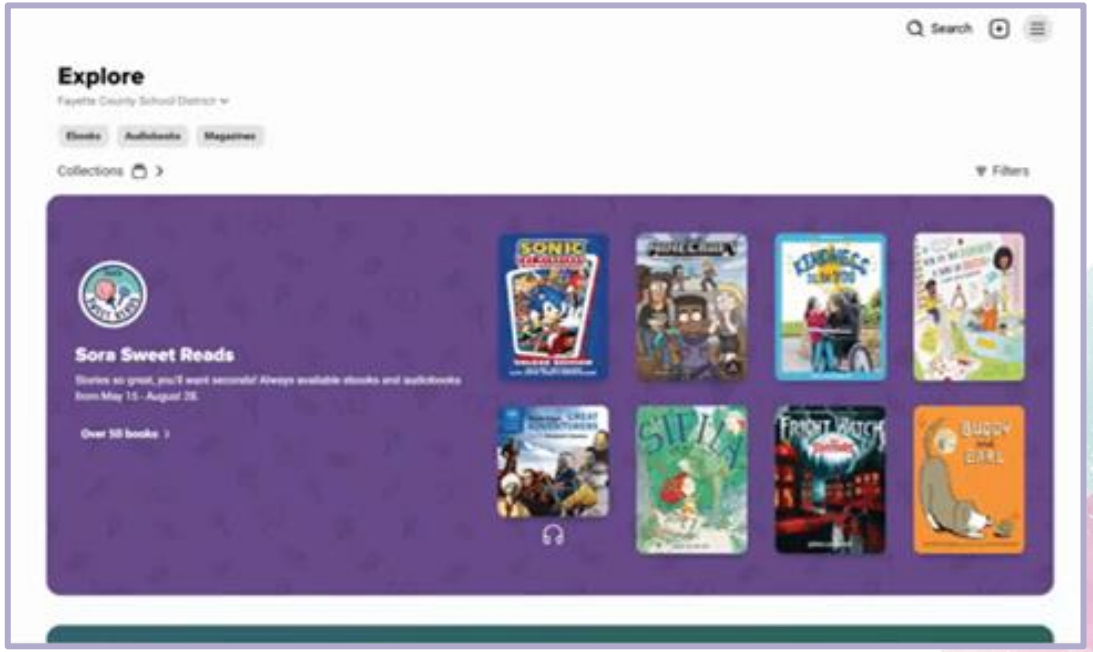
- Utilized SSO to connect access to both FCPS materials and Lexington Public Library collection
- Sora Data Insights include public library activity
- Users able to search across libraries for materials

Promotion

Curating, Showcasing, and Sharing Resources

Curated Collections

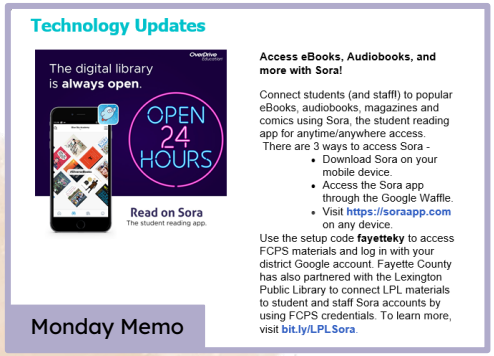
- Curated collections based on
  - holidays
  - department requests or purchases
  - usage statistics
- Rotate curated collections frequently
- Create individualized collections for teachers/librarians/groups to share as a link



Showcasing Sora

Utilizing district communication platforms to showcase offerings

- Monday Memo
- Tech Snacks- from Technology Department
- Social Media
- Class Dojo



Monday Memo

Twitter Post

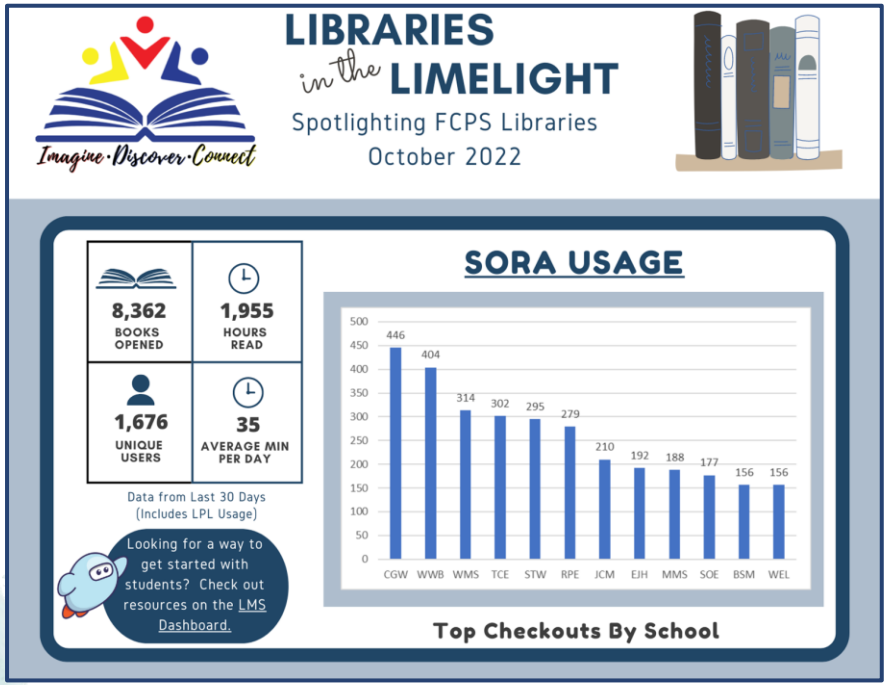
MAGAZINES IN SORA

Want to get your students reading something timely and interest based? Get them hooked on magazines, now available in Sora. Our Sora Magazine Collection has something for all ages and all readers, all available with simultaneous use- no waiting and no holds! Want your students to read an article in Time for Kids? EVERY student in your class can check out the same issue and read at the same time. Check out bit.ly/fcpsmags to see the full collection and share with your students and families.

Have your students download Sora on their personal devices, access the Sora app through the Google Waffle, or visit https://soraapp.com. Students can use the setup code fayetteky to access FCPS materials and log in with their student credentials. Fayette County has also partnered with the Lexington Public Library to connect LPL materials to students' Sora accounts by using FCPS credentials. To learn more, visit bit.ly/LPLSora.

Tech Snacks

Sharing Usage Statistics with Stakeholders



- Overview to district librarians monthly
- Site specific data upon request
- Usage data to collaborating departments to advocate for continued support

Learning Along the Way

Lending Models

Understanding models and the investment involved.

Curated Collections

Capturing readers with rotating collections.

Access Levels

Ensuring a robust collection at all levels.

Establishing a Bank

Funds available for on demand and expiring titles.

Leveraging Data

Understanding the data and how best to communicate to stakeholders.

Promotional Packages

Taking advantage of cost effective packages available.

Next Steps for Growth

Promotion / Advocacy

Build connections across departments to develop and maintain the collection.

Advantage Accounts

Encourage schools to create advantage accounts to increase collection.

Collection Curation

Continue to build engaging and relevant collections to capture readers.

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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