

# Mythbusting digital reading

*Dispelling 4 common misconceptions.*

2025 ISTE Live & ASCD Annual Conference



# Sora

Where students read

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## Overview:

Today, you'll discover:

- Some of the most common myths about digital reading and how to dispel them
- Resources to help you overcome objections from your digital doubters



# The evolution of reading technology

**5,000 years ago**

Human beings began reading and writing.

**550 years ago**

The printing press was developed.

**50 years ago**

Digital books come onto the scene with Project Gutenberg.

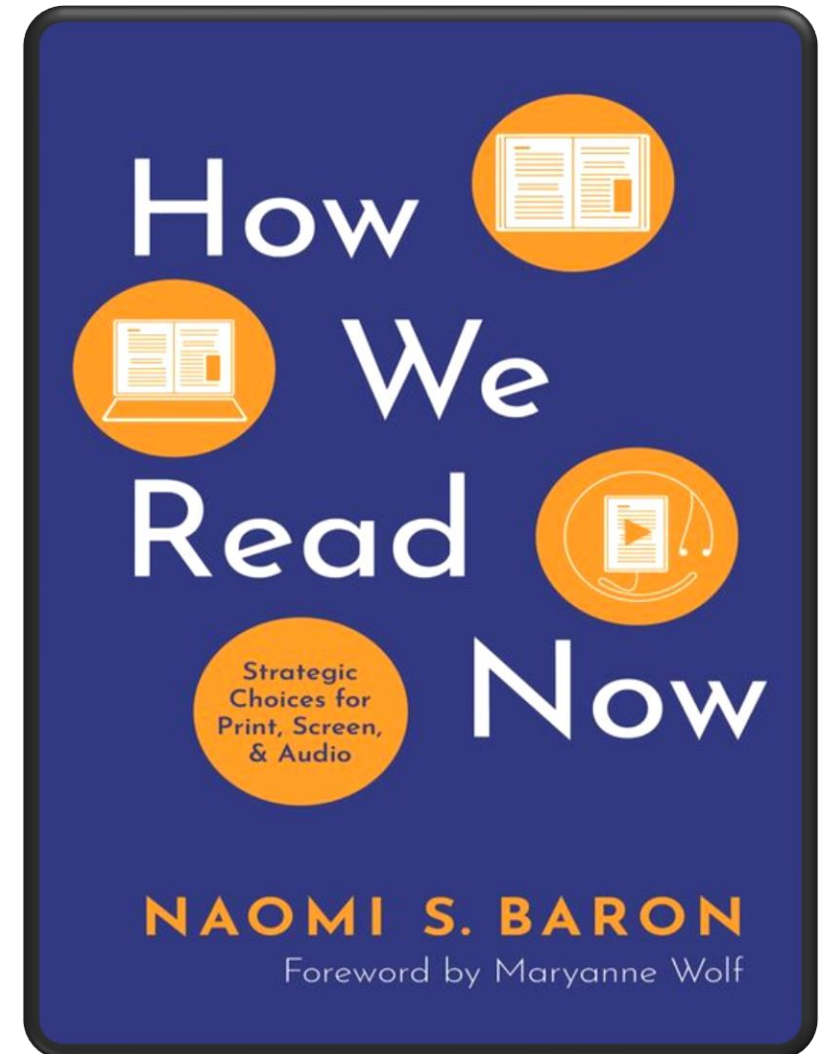
# Let's do a quick show of hands.

*Approximately how much of the daily reading required for your career is done on a **screen?***

- ☐ 0 - 20% (None or very little)
- ☐ 21 - 50% (Some)
- ☐ 51 - 75% (More than half)
- ☐ 76 - 100% (Nearly all or all)



***“...we may want to stop  
thinking of the electronic book  
for young children as a digital  
substitute for print and instead  
as a distinct form unto itself.”***



**What are some common  
misconceptions about  
digital reading?**



**Myth:** Students already have **too much screen time**.  
We don't need to expose them to more in school.



**FACT:** There is a difference between passive and active screen time. Guided screen time benefits students. Most students participate in “shallow” reading (like scrolling through Facebook or Twitter) online.

**Deep digital reading in a classroom context enforces good reading habits, making students better at reading and comprehending digital texts.** If this practice is not taught purposefully, it's unlikely to be learned.



**Myth:** Print reading provides better **comprehension** than reading digitally.



**FACT:** There is **no notable difference** in comprehension between reading in print and reading digitally.

Reading comprehension is higher in digital texts that use **paging** rather than scrolling. **Reading ebooks is not the same as scrolling online.**





**Myth:** Students prefer reading print books.



**FACT:** Studies with middle and high school students show that **digital reading is preferred, especially for boys and reluctant readers.**

Consider that **each student has unique preferences and needs.**



**Myth:** Audiobooks don't count as “real” reading.



**FACT:** A meta-analysis shows no discernable difference in comprehension between those who read a book and those who listened to the audiobook.

Additionally, audiobooks provide **support for students with accessibility needs.**

**Ultimately, digital books  
help prepare students for  
life beyond the classroom.**

# Students are faced with...

- More digital reading than ever in **post-secondary education and careers.**
- **Increasingly computerized testing**
  - Exams requiring students to **read on a screen** include CAASPPs, ELPACs, SATs & ACTs
  - This year, **28 AP exams** transitioned to full or hybrid digital formats.

**Now is the time** for students to build deep, sustained reading skills...**but how?**





## What if you had a solution that could...

- ✓ ...prepare students for digital testing?
- ✓ ...offer 24/7 access to books?
- ✓ ...provide equitable access to digital books across a whole school or district? (Or even an entire state!)

# Sora

## *Where students read*

Sora is an award-winning digital reading platform that ensures every one of your students has access to the right digital books to achieve their reading and learning goals.

[soraapp.com](https://soraapp.com)

OR DOWNLOAD THE APP:



2024, 2021 &  
2019 AASL Best  
Digital Tools



District  
Administration  
Top Ed Tech  
Product 2025



2024 Tech &  
Learning Best  
of Show  
Winner –  
ISTELive 24



2022 Excellence  
in Equity Winner  
*Best Literacy  
Solution*

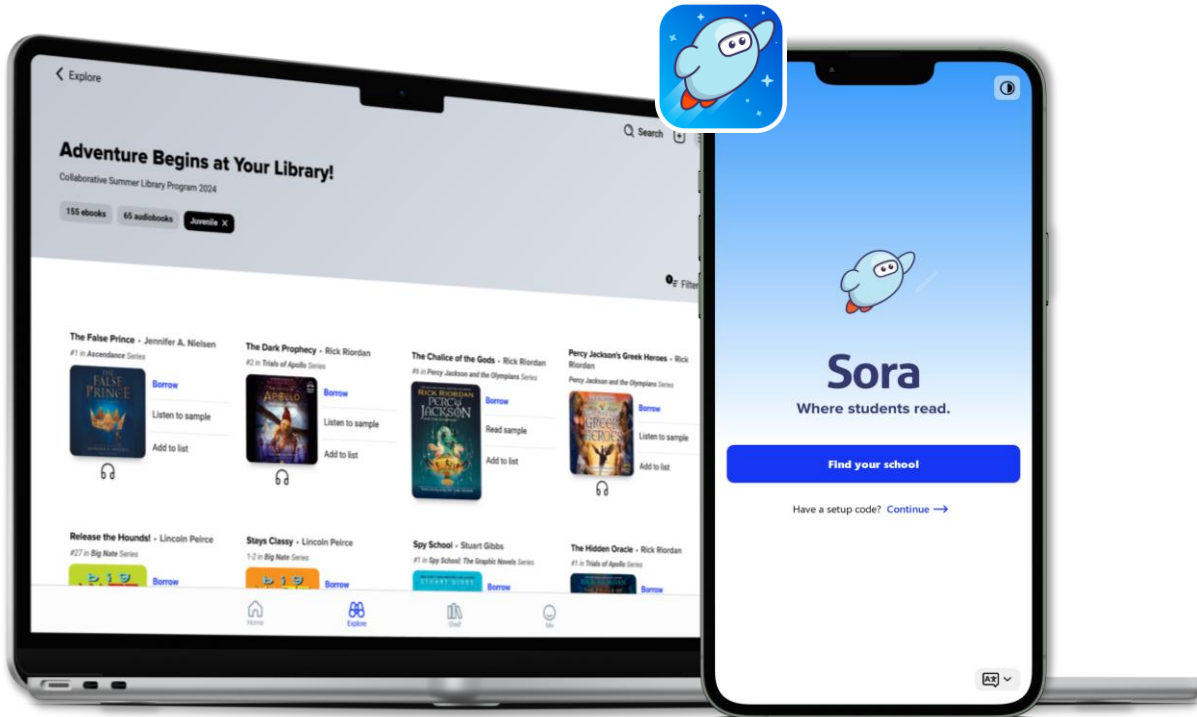


2021 Gold Stevie  
Award

TIME

Time Magazine's  
Best Inventions  
of 2019

# How does Sora make a difference?



24/7 access to digital reading



Offline access for downloaded titles



Multilingual interface (13 languages!)



Customizable reading & listening settings



Screen reader support



Public library access



Monitor reading progress and usage data.



# In summary...



**Digital reading** is an important part of preparing students for the world of today – and the future.

**Stick around and chat with our team to learn how Sora can help. (Plus, ask us about our special BOGO offer!)**

**And don't forget to get your badge scanned – you'll get a copy of today's presentation and be entered into a raffle for a Sora care package!**



# Sora

Where students read

## Thank you!

**Get in touch:** [schools@overdrive.com](mailto:schools@overdrive.com)

**Learn more:** [discoversora.com](https://discoversora.com)

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