

It is important for “the blind or other persons with disabilities” to be treated like all other citizens in the United States. We should be treated equally and not considered 2nd class citizens. Our “disabilities” only hinder us when we are not provided with the proper accommodations or taught how to cope.

One of the accommodations that can and is helping so many persons who are “blind or those with other disabilities” is having access to audiobooks or being read to. Having this capability opens up a whole new world to those who struggle to read like “normal” people. It allows them to enjoy the written word and read the same books as any non-disabled person does with ease. Not only do they get to enjoy the written word, but often comprehend and understand it better because they hear how the words should be pronounced and in some cases when they are listening to audio that has been recorded by a person (such as a recording from RFB&D) they hear the inflection/tone of voice and can better grasp the emotion of the characters and the story itself.

Being able to listen to audiobooks/RFB&D recordings, etc. was a life saver when I was a student from 7th grade to a senior in college. The ability to listen to textbooks/novels for classes helped tremendously in my success at school. In addition, I have come to find that my enjoyment when I read books for pleasure has gone up dramatically by listening to them as I follow along with the text in front of me. This practice also helped in my achievement of success in school.

When you take a look at the big picture, the technology is there, we just need to utilize it more and explore ways to use it to our benefit in helping and accommodating those with “disabilities.” Many people who are involved in education and in government positions related to education, funding, etc. often ask “what can we do or what more can we do to help those with disabilities without it being an unfair advantage?” Well, while accommodations themselves should never be considered unfair advantages ever, this is clearly not unfair at all facilitating access to copyrighted works for “blind or other persons with disabilities” will put them on an even playing field with their non-disabled peers and allow them to read and enjoy the written word just like any “normal” person does everyday.