

# Hear Here!

---

The audio revolution of podcasts and beyond  
adapted for literacy instruction.

# When books are not enough, or, quite literally, too much.

- We all know there is a wealth of published works available.
  - Leveled?
  - Age-appropriate?
  - Subject-gamut
- In adult literacy instruction...
  - Curricula
  - Supplemental
  - Costly

What works best with a struggling, reluctant,  
or non-reader?

# Narrowing the scope

- Nonfiction
  - Easier to teach, easier to understand
  - Relatable
  - Valuable
- What do nonfiction works need to be?
  - Teachable
  - Applicable
  - Brought to life

More than anything else, nonfiction needs to be

*high-interest!*



# Taking cues from the past...

- Story times & read-alouds
  - Kinesthetic related activity
- Author readings
- Pairing audiobooks with actual books.



# ... and implementing new media.

From radio to podcast

## *What is a podcast?*

- Digital media made available on PCs and mobile devices.
- History
  - 2004-present
- Ascribing value?



# Where can I find a podcast?

Smartphones and tablets are already equipped with, or can download, a podcast app.

Podcasts have websites that can be a direct source.

Aggregate sites – my favorite is [www.podbay.fm](http://www.podbay.fm)





# How to adapt podcasts for adult literacy instruction

---

Ground rules, guides, supplementation and more...

# What makes for worthwhile instruction?

- The podcast adheres to what we have already determined is crucial to the learner.
- It is presented in a way that can be developed into detailed instruction.
- The podcast has some modicum of prestige.
- It is something which *you* enjoy.



# *The Memory Palace*

- Current iteration made available from Radiotopia, a collective of storytellers. Previous incarnations made available from NPR and later Maximum Fun.
- Created and narrated by Nate DiMeo, a writer and Thurber award finalist.
- Began in 2008, more or less regularly since then.
- Described by this fan as: “a weird, unique history podcast; a study of the human condition, of paths taken and relationships fostered; a link from then to now, with some curious sidesteps.”

# *The Memory Palace (cont.)*

- Episodes are anywhere from 3-17 minutes long.
- Production includes music and actual audio recordings (sometimes).
- Narration is clear, and stories are florid.
- While all the stories are excellent, the more recent ones are less “op-ed”.

# Episode 33: Lost Lobsters





# What do you do now that you have an audio story?

- Write it out to be read
- Develop vocabulary list
- Adaptive text
- Supplemental reading

Other ideas?

# oTranscribe.com

## oTranscribe <sup>BETA</sup>

A free web app to take the pain out of transcribing recorded interviews.

Start transcribing

**No more switching** between Quicktime and Word.

**Pause, rewind and fast-forward** without taking your hands off the keyboard.

**Interactive timestamps** to navigate through your transcript with.

**Automatically saved** to your browser's storage every second.

**Private** - your audio file and transcript never leave your computer.

**Export** to Markdown, plain text and Google Docs.

**Video file support** with integrated player.

**Open source** under the MIT license.

As featured on

**TNW**  
THE NEXT WEB

the guardian

lifehacker



Choose audio (or video) file

or YouTube video

Your browser supports mp3/ogg/webm/wav audio files and mp4/ogg/webm video files. You may need to [convert your file](#).

Enter your transcript here...

Quick tips:

- **Ctrl+I** adds *italic* formatting and **Ctrl+B** adds **bold** formatting.
- Press **ESC** to play/pause, and **Ctrl+J** to insert the current timestamp.

B

I

28



# Vocabulary List

## Useful Vocabulary!

Squall (skuh / wall): a sudden, violent gust of wind, often accompanied by rain, snow, or sleet.

Undulating (un / joo / lay / teen): to move with a wavelike motion; display a smooth rising-and-falling or side-to-side movement.

Crustacean (cruh / stay / shun): any chiefly aquatic animal, typically having the body covered with a hard shell or crust, including the lobsters, shrimps, crabs, barnacles, and wood lice.

Scarcity (skehr / sih / tee): insufficiency or shortness of supply; rarity; infrequency.

Station (stay / shun): the position, as of persons or things, in a scale of estimation, rank, or dignity; standing.

Peasant (pez / ant): a member of a class of persons who are of low social rank. A coarse, unsophisticated, boorish, uneducated person of little financial means.

Millennia (mill / in / ee / uh): many thousands of years.

Binge (binj): a period, usually brief, of excessive indulgence, as in eating, drinking alcoholic beverages, etc.; spree.

Consumption (cun / sump / shun): the act of consuming, as by use, decay, or destruction.

Maitre D (may / truh / dee): a steward or butler.

Theoretically (thee / or / ret / ih / clee): existing only in theory; hypothetical.

## Places & Things Mentioned!

Nor'easters: a wind or gale from the northeast.

Ogunquit (oh / gun / quit): Coastal town in Maine, near the New Hampshire border.

Sachuest (sa / chew / ist): A beach and peninsula in Rhode Island.

Horseneck Beach: A beach in Massachusetts.

Plymouth: Massachusetts town where the first European settlers in America came and settled.

Sierra Nevada (see / air / uh - nuh / va / duh): a mountain range in the western United States, between the Central Valley of California and the Basin and Range Province. The vast majority of the range lies in the state of California, although the Carson Range spur lies primarily in Nevada.

Cameroon (kam / uh / roon): a country in Central Africa. It is bordered by Nigeria to the west; Chad to the northeast; the Central African Republic to the east; and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo to the south.

Lake Michigan: One of the 5 U.S. Great Lakes; divides Wisconsin and Michigan.



# Cloze reading generator

zander.io/cloze-test/

## 2. Click the words below that you want to hide

Click words only once

In 1810, a man in France invented the tin can. A couple of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ later, people in Maine put the new invention to use. They (2) \_\_\_\_\_ up lobsters by the hundreds of thousands, and then shipped them a pound at a time in cans to the lobster-less corners of the world. And none of it tasted any good. Salted, blackened Maine lobster was little more than straight (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to fuel miners in the Sierra Nevada, and loggers in Cameroon. But by 1870, people were sending live lobsters, lobsters that actually (4) \_\_\_\_\_ good, inland on trains. And soon lobster palaces, grand (5) \_\_\_\_\_ devoted to the strange new arrivals from New England, rose in Chicago and St. Louis. And the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Midwesterners, kings of the cattle yards who'd grown tired of steak, furriers who'd tasted the future and found that it was shelled, would show their stations by eating crustaceans. Because food that had found its way to the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of Lake Michigan from the shores of New England couldn't be peasant food, not at those prices. And the lobster, as we know it on modern (8) \_\_\_\_\_, was born. But the lobster as they knew it, and as seaside (9) \_\_\_\_\_ had known it for millennia, was on its way out.

## 3. Keywords

Click again to remove from this list & replace the words back into the main body of text.

tasted hauled protein decades  
restaurants fanciest menus peoples  
shores

Randomise

ZANDER.IO/CLOZE-TEST/

# Supplemental Readings

- Flying to a new home -  
<http://www.tauntongazette.com/x1438205874>
- Goliath (II) finds a new home -  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/goliath-the-lobster-arrives-at-new-home-in-montreal-1.1348156>
- “How Lobster Got Fancy” -  
<http://www.psmag.com/business-economics/how-lobster-got-fancy-59440>
- New England Aquarium -  
<http://www.neaq.org/index.php>

# Now you try!

---

Lesson plan a vocabulary list, cloze reading exercise, possible supplemental readings, and more...



# Episode 61: The Glowing Orbs



# What did you come up with?

---

Words worthy of a vocabulary list?

Cloze reading exercise (different words, parts of sentences, etc.)?

What kinds of supplemental readings would be appropriate?

What other instruction could you incorporate?

# *Other podcasts: Radiolab*

- Radiolab is currently a radio show available on NPR. It exists as a podcast that provides content different from what is covered on radio episodes.
- Hosted by Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich
- Began in 2002 (radio) and 2009 (podcast).
- Self-described as “a show about curiosity.” Largely science-based, but also has strong human element.
- Episodes around a theme, 2-4 short stories comprise a full episode.
- High production value.



# Other podcast sources:

- The Way I Heard It (MRW)
- Serial (NPR)
- This American Life (NPR)
- Stuff You Should Know (HowStuffWorks.com)
- Freakonomics Radio (WNYC)
- Criminal (Radiotopia)
- TED talks

If you enjoy it, you can teach it!

Questions, comments, concerns?

---

Wes Young

Wesley.Young@arlingtontx.gov