



# Listening Books The National Listening Library



*Providing a professional service since 1959*

Registered Charity no  
264221

**Individual Information Sheet**

Patron: Steven Fry

## Why become a member of Listening Books?

If you have any difficulty reading due to an illness or disability Listening Books could be for you. We support individuals with a wide variety of print impairments, including arthritis, ME, Stroke, MS, Frailty, Visual Impairment, Cerebral Palsy or Special Educational Needs such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia or Autism. If you are unsure whether you qualify for membership, please phone our Membership Services Assistants on 0207 234 0522 or e-mail [membership@listening-books.org.uk](mailto:membership@listening-books.org.uk).

For over a decade, Listening Books has offered its postal audiobook service on standard cassette tape for adults and children. We are now expanding our service, and from January 2007 we will start to offer MP3 audio files on CD, which can be listened to on a CD player, personal stereo or computer. The majority of books come on only one CD, which means that a title can play constantly without having to stop for you to change discs. Another option now available for children and young people is listening to audiobooks on their computer through internet streaming. This gives our members constant access to the titles they would like to listen to and also removes the need to send audiobooks back in the post. Internet streaming will be coming for adults in 2007.

Whether you read for pleasure or for learning, Listening Books has something for everyone. We support the National Curriculum from Key Stage 2 to A-Level, providing set texts to support the study of English and English Literature as well as revision guides, a huge range of general fiction and books that support other subject areas such as R.E., History, Citizenship, Science and Art. This means that we offer the largest selection of educational audio materials in the

UK at secondary level and are able to provide texts that are not available for commercial purchase.

For adults we stock a wide variety of both fiction and non fiction titles. From History and Biography to Sport and Crime, whether modern titles or classics, our members are always sure to find something that interests them. For many of our adult members, our charity not only provides a link to the wonderful world of books but is also a relief from boredom, pain and loneliness.



If you would like to see a full list of our audiobooks please visit our website [www.listening-books.org.uk](http://www.listening-books.org.uk). For our children's only titles go to [www.soundlearning.org.uk](http://www.soundlearning.org.uk) which is dedicated to providing a service for those of school age.

We constantly update our stock of audiobooks and pride ourselves on being a member-led charity; every book suggestion we receive from our members is taken into consideration to be added to our growing library of titles. We also offer our members the opportunity to be part of a members forum.



Listening Books member Pauline says: "Every day is a treat for me. Why? Well, just as people take pleasure in ordering from a mail-order catalogue... so I look forward to my rest-times with Listening Books... These are not just books for the Blind, but are a lifeline for people with special needs. For me, a day without them would be a sad day indeed."

We offer four different membership options for individuals joining Listening Books (please see below). Whichever option you choose, you will be a valued member to Listening Books and we will keep you updated with what is happening at the charity with our bi-annual newsletter, Connect, which is packed full of useful information, author interviews and charity news.

**Option 1:** Tape, MP3 CD and Internet Streaming, £70

**Option 2:** MP3 CD and Internet Streaming, £45

**Option 3:** MP3 CD only, £35

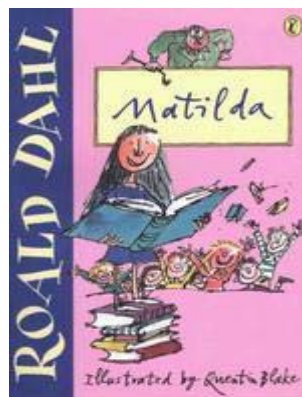
**Option 4:** Internet Streaming only, £20

## Option 1: Tape, MP3 CD and Internet Streaming

**MP3 CDs are coming in January 2007. Internet Streaming is currently available for children only and is coming for adults in 2007.**

Once you have returned your completed application to us we will send you your welcome pack. This will contain your membership number and password which you will be able to use immediately to log onto our website [www.soundlearning.org.uk](http://www.soundlearning.org.uk). From here you can listen to audiobooks streamed through your computer at any time of the day. Those members with a wireless connection will of course be able to listen anywhere in their home or on their laptop. You can listen to as many audiobooks as you like as many times as you wish. We understand that this is invaluable for those who are studying and need an audiobook immediately. It is our intention to dramatically expand the number of titles available for streaming over the next few years.

Your welcome pack will also contain our catalogue which lists all the audiobooks we stock on both tape and MP3 CD. Please request a list of titles you would like to receive and return the form to us in the freepost envelope provided. As soon as we receive your requests we will begin to send you your chosen titles. When you have finished with one of your audiobooks, simply reverse the address card, and send it back to us. All postage is included in the membership fee. As soon as we receive it, we will send you another title from your list. We understand that people listen at different speeds and due to this we do not charge for late returns. We update the library with over 200 new audiobooks a year; each time we do this you will be sent a list of the new titles we have in stock so that you may add to your list of choices.



For as little as £5.83 a month you may borrow unlimited audiobooks on both tape and MP3 CD, based on an allocation of two at a time, and have constant access to an ever growing number of titles available through internet streaming. Please see below for a break down of the yearly fee for option 1.

Yearly (in full)	£70
6 Monthly	£35
Quarterly	£17.50
Monthly	£5.83

### Easiplay Machines



If because of your disability or illness you find it difficult to operate a tape machine, we can supply an Easiplay which is free of charge whilst you are a member. The player has large buttons and plays both sides of the tape continually, providing around 1 hour and 30 minutes of uninterrupted listening instead of the usual 45 minutes.

From January 2007, if you have difficulty accessing an MP3 CD player, please contact the library team. Staff can give guidance on where to purchase them and there may be funding available for those in financial hardship.

### Option 2: MP3 CD and Internet Streaming

**MP3 CDs are coming in January 2007. Internet Streaming is currently available for children only and is coming for adults in 2007.**

This option is the same as option 1 but you will have your full allocation of audiobooks as MP3 CDs. **You will not be able to order from our tape library.**

Please see below for a break down of the yearly fee for option 2.

Yearly (in full)	£45
6 Monthly	£22.50
Quarterly	£11.25
Monthly	£3.75



Chris collecting his GCSE results

Listening Books member Chris' mum wrote to us after her dyslexic son gained one of the top five U.K. results in his English Literature GCSE:

“ We have to say big thank you to Listening Books for all the help and assistance you have given [Chris] over the years which has instilled in him a great love of the English language. I am not sure he would have achieved such an outstanding result without the support you have offered.”

### Option 3: MP3 CD Only

**Please Note: this option will not be available until January 2007 when we will be able to provide audiobooks on MP3 CD.**

Please be aware that we will gradually be converting our tape library onto MP3 CD. Phone the library staff on 0207 234 0522 for an up-to-date list of titles.



Once you have returned your completed application to us we will send you a welcome pack. This will contain our catalogue which lists all the audiobooks we stock on MP3 CD. **You will not be able to order from our tape library.** Please request a list of titles you would like to receive and return the form to us in the freepost envelope provided. As soon as we receive your requests we will begin to send you your chosen titles. When you have finished with one of your audiobooks, simply reverse the address card, and send it back to us. All postage is included in the membership fee. As soon as we receive it, we will send you another title from your list. We understand that people listen at different speeds and due to this we do not charge for late returns. We update the library with new audiobooks each year; once this is done you will be sent a list of the new titles we stock so that you may add to your requests.

Please see below for a break down of the yearly fee for option 3.

Yearly (in full)	£35
6 Monthly	£17.50
Quarterly	£8.75

**Option 4: Internet Streaming Only**

**Please Note: This option is currently only available to children and young people. It will be available for adults in 2007.**



Once you have returned your completed application to us we will send you your welcome pack. This will contain your membership number and password which you can use immediately to log onto our website [www.soundlearning.org.uk](http://www.soundlearning.org.uk). From here you can listen to audiobooks streamed through your computer at any time of the day. Those members with a wireless connection will of course be able to listen anywhere in their homes or on their laptops. You can listen to as many books as you like as many times as you wish. We understand this is invaluable for those who are studying and need an audiobook immediately. It is our intention to dramatically expand the number of titles available for streaming over the next few years.

Please find below a yearly break down of the membership fee for option 4.

Yearly (in full)	£20
6 Monthly	£10
Quarterly	£5



If you would like any more information, please contact our library team on 0207 234 0522 or e-mail [membership@listening-books.org.uk](mailto:membership@listening-books.org.uk)