

## Grade 6 Playlist: Compare and Contrast the Experience of Reading to Listening or Viewing

*Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.7:*

- Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they “see” and “hear” when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

### Welcome

Have you ever watched a movie that was based on a book? Or have you listened to an audio recording of a poem? Texts can be presented through different ways called *mediums*. Reading a story in digital or print form is one way to experience a text. However, that same story could also be told through other mediums, such as audio, video, or even live stage performances. The way a text is presented affects the way the audience experiences it. By examining audio, visual, and live presentations of texts, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the each medium’s unique strengths and weaknesses.

### Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- recognize that people experience and understand texts differently depending on the mediums used to present them.
- compare and contrast the experience of reading a poem and listening to an audio recording of the same poem.

### Exploring the Standard

Engaging with a written text requires the reader to interact with the text in a personal way. The reader uses his or her imagination to visualize the world of the story. This is different from the kind of interaction that occurs when someone listens to an audio book or watches a film adaptation of the same story. In a film, for example, the director and actors, not the audience, fill in the details left uncertain by the story. It’s important for readers to recognize how their perception of a written text can change after hearing or viewing a presentation of it. This helps them recognize the advantages and disadvantages of each medium.

### A Closer Look: The Differences Between the Mediums

Readers can contrast what they “see” and “hear” when reading a written text with what they perceive while listening to or viewing an audio or visual version. The largest difference is the level of interaction that each medium requires from the audience.

Although the experience of reading a written text requires the most interaction, readers are free to perceive the elements of the story, poem, or drama as they imagine them. This means that characters will sound however the reader thinks they would. When characters appear in the reader’s mind, they will look however he or she imagines.



On the other hand, audio, video, and live presentations limit the audience's freedom to perceive the elements of the story. The speaker in an audio book will have the voice of whichever performer is hired to record it. The characters in a play will have the physical features of the actors who portray them on stage. A strong story can be successfully adapted to several mediums, but the different styles of presentation mean that the audience's experience will be different as well.

Read the following chart to learn key features of common mediums used to present a text.

Medium	Key Features
<b>Written Text</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows the reader to fully concentrate on the information presented</li> <li>• Grants the reader the most freedom to perceive the elements of the story, poem, or play</li> <li>• Does not provide audio evidence of the emotions portrayed in the text</li> <li>• Usually does not provide visual evidence of the emotions portrayed in the text (some texts do include pictures)</li> </ul>
<b>Audio Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows the audience to concentrate on the emotional delivery of what is said</li> <li>• Conveys the presenters' perceptions of the story, poem, or play</li> <li>• Partially limits the audience's freedom to perceive the elements of the story, poem, or play</li> <li>• Can be more difficult to understand without the corresponding text</li> </ul>
<b>Video/Live Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives the audience an experience that might seem like a more "real" version of the text</li> <li>• Conveys the presenters' perceptions of the story, poem, or play</li> <li>• Greatly limits the audience's freedom to perceive the elements of the story, poem, or play</li> <li>• Can be more difficult to understand without the corresponding text</li> <li>• Can be distracting if it includes anything that does not pertain to the information being presented, such as a background character, prop, or set</li> <li>• Sometimes presents an edited version of the text to better suit the visual medium</li> </ul>

### Watch!

Watch this video to learn more about comparing and contrasting the ways to experience a text:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOxYFY8rNV4>

