FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Listenwise Releases Podcast Lessons for Elementary Classrooms
As NAEP scores stagnate, Listenwise aims to positively impact literacy with the expansion of high-quality podcast lessons to support students in grades 2-12

Boston, MA – Today Listenwise, an award-winning listening comprehension platform, announced its expansion into elementary classrooms. Listenwise is the only program with high quality, nonfiction podcast lessons, with proven-effectiveness in middle and high school. By expanding into elementary grades starting at second grade, Listenwise is poised to impact reading and listening comprehension earlier with research-based, comprehensive literacy practices.

With stagnant NAEP readings scores, educators are in need of innovative, easy-to-implement, research-based literacy instructional tools. Research shows that listening comprehension and reading comprehension are correlated through the eighth grade. “We believe that listening is a missing piece to the literacy puzzle, and there is an urgent need to teach listening explicitly just like reading, writing, and speaking,” said Monica Brady-Myerov, the CEO and Founder of Listenwise. “We know that in the primary grade levels students can comprehend audio content 2-3 grade levels higher than they can read. With appropriate, engaging, high-quality podcasts, we can expose students to higher level vocabulary and content and better support literacy and language acquisition” added Brady-Myerov.

Elementary educators across the U.S. have been asking for appropriately leveled, rigorous, audio content. Especially in states such as California where listening is tested in the third grade, teachers need to teach and practice this vital skill. “Audio is something that if it’s not explicitly taught, students don’t just pick it up. It’s really important to call it out and to have strategies - and to really emphasize the fact that listening is more than just hearing,” said Jim Bentley, a 5th grade teacher in Elk Grove District, CA. “Listenwise provides a great platform with all the helpful resources and engaging audio content that my students enjoy. I can’t wait to explore these new lesson additions with my students,” added Bentley.

The audio in the elementary lessons will also help English language learners, as low as WIDA Level 2, who use Listenwise to acquire language and access instructional content.

Listenwise has modeled their podcast lesson and curation methods for elementary on their successful middle and high school curriculum. The new elementary podcast lessons differ from audiobooks because they are originally composed expressly for the purpose of listening and contain real-world interviews, non-fiction topics, ambient sound, and other elements that capitalize on the power of oral communication. In addition to using high-interest content from NPR, Listenwise has sourced audio from...
some of the best podcasts for kids including *But Why from Vermont Public Radio*, *Earth Rangers*, *Tumble*, and *Book Club for Kids*.

Explore the new podcast lessons when you sign up for a free trial of Listenwise Premium and search “elementary” content. Listenwise will continue to add lower-level podcast lessons and current events on a weekly basis and will have a full elementary collection, ready for back to school 2020.

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**About Listenwise**

Listenwise is an award-winning listening comprehension platform. We harness the power of listening to advance literacy and learning in all students starting in second grade. Our collection of Lexile leveled podcasts keeps teaching connected to the real world and builds student listening skills at the same time. The curriculum aligned podcasts are paired with learning tools and listening comprehension assessments to transform them into rigorous academic content. Students are motivated by the interesting real world stories, and Listenwise provides the literacy supports and differentiated instruction necessary for diverse classrooms including ELs and reluctant readers. Find more information at: listenwise.com