



# Reading without seeing for persons with Print Disabilities

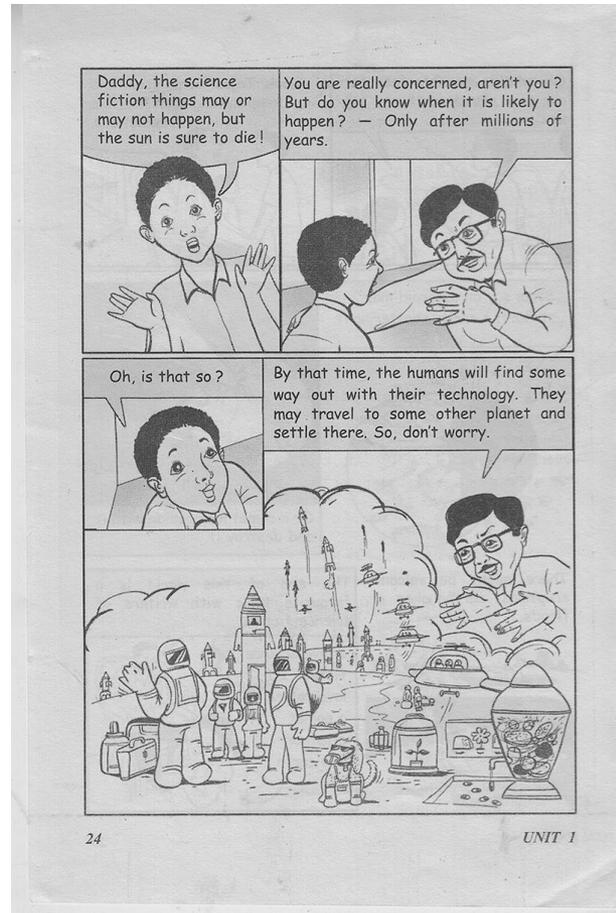
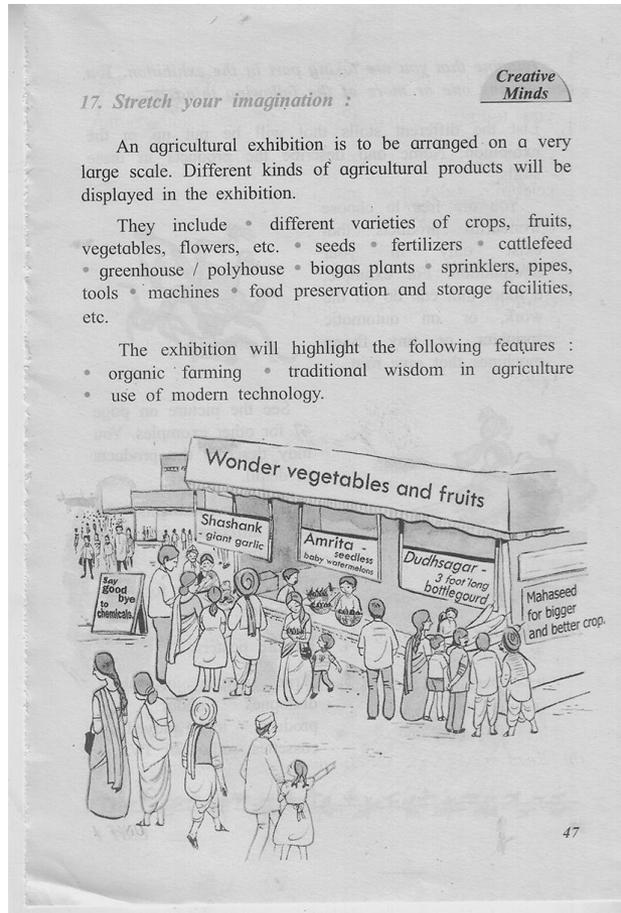
Presented by:  
Zainab Chinikamwalla  
Membership head Bookshare  
[Asia & Africa]  
Mobile: +91 9650211575  
Email: [zainabc@bookshare.org](mailto:zainabc@bookshare.org)



# Challenges of inaccessible reading content

- Not all print books are available in Accessible E-book format.
- Many E-books are Scanned copies in Image format, which is in-accessible for a Screen reader.
- Publishers do not see any business Case in creating Accessible content, which can be accessed by every kind of reader.
- Vernacular language e-books are generally found in Non-unicode fonts, which are In-accessible to Screen readers.

# Scanned copies in Image format



# Solutions for accessible reading



# Bookshare is...

...the world's largest collection of ebooks for people who experience barriers to reading print.

- 598,730+ titles: Textbooks + books for pleasure reading + periodicals
- 500,000+ members
- Funded by US Department of Education as well as other public and private philanthropy
- 24x7 access to books
- Members in more than 70 countries

# Bookshare's Mission

- Bookshare's goal is to **raise the floor of access** so that people with print disabilities can obtain a broad spectrum of print materials at the same time as everyone else.
- Bookshare provides a **large quantity** of books and newspapers in accessible formats and in a **timely manner**
- Bookshare's vision encompasses **new technological developments** as well as **new applications** of widely available technologies to stretch the power of technology for increased access to content.

# Bookshare

- Over 11,000,000 book downloads since we started
- 850 Publisher partners donating books
- Automatically adding 5000-7000 books/month
  - Added over 100,000 last year
- 400-500 books per month manually added
- Books in 36 languages and 48 categories
- Every book is checked for accessibility

# Who Qualifies?

- Must be certified by a Competent Authority\* as having a qualifying print disability:
  - Low Vision / Blindness
  - Physical disability that affects reading
  - Learning disability that affects reading

\*Examples: AT Coordinator; Dyslexia or Reading Specialist; Special Education Teacher, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, etc.

# What Bookshare Offers

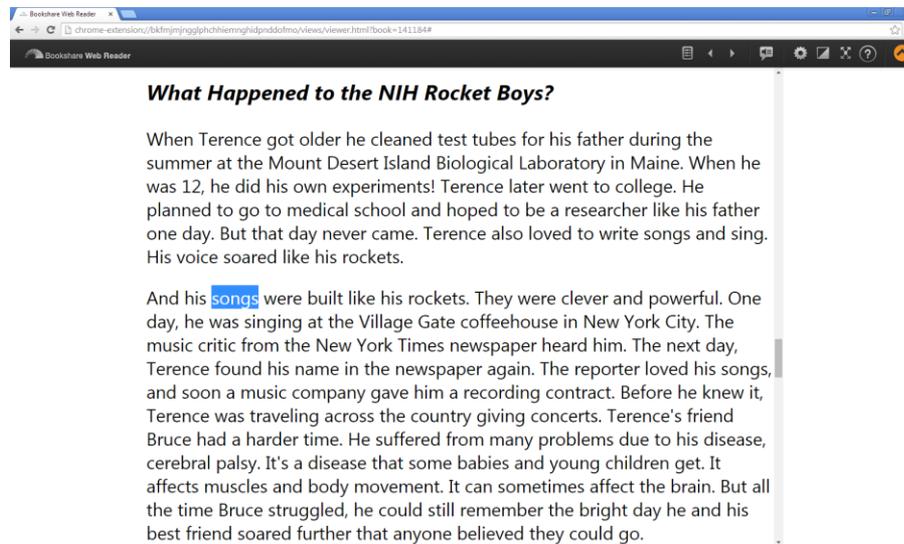
- Digital books for individuals and Organisations serving persons with print disabilities
- 24/7 access to books
- FREE memberships for qualified U.S. students through OSEP award.
- For membership of Print disabled persons in Honkong, the subscriptions charge is just approx. 390.85 HKD (50 US\$) annual subscription fee (for accessing 598,730+books )

<https://www.bookshare.org/cms/bookshare-me/what-does-it-cost/subscription-fees>

- FREE assistive technology software for members.
- FREE online training support.

# How to read Bookshare content online

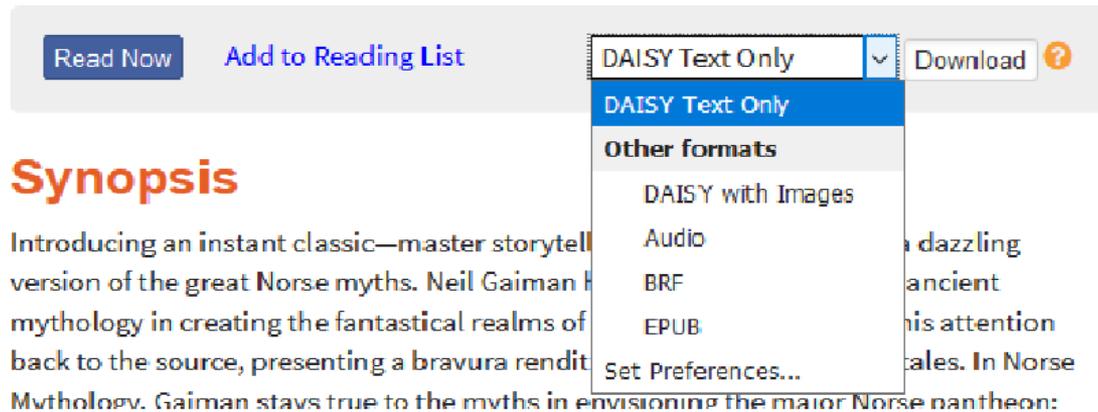
- 1 **Multi-modal** reading: See and hear words simultaneously
- 2 **View** books with large font on a PC screen, or print
- 3 **Listen** to them (many voice options)
- 4 Read **Braille** (digital or hardcopy)



# Available Bookshare Formats for offline reading

- Bookshare offers text-based access for NON-copyrighted books to all persons with print disability
- Bookshare formats available to individuals with qualifying print disabilities (copyrighted materials)
  - **DAISY-3** (Digital Accessible Information System)
    - global digital talking book format
  - **MP3 and Daisy Audio**
    - digital audio
  - **BRF** (Braille Ready Format)
    - digital braille
  - **E-Pub**

# Screenshot of various formats available for download



The screenshot shows a book interface with a grey header bar. On the left, there are two buttons: "Read Now" (dark blue) and "Add to Reading List" (blue text). On the right, there is a "Download" button (grey) with a question mark icon. A dropdown menu is open, showing "DAISY Text Only" as the selected option. Below this, under the heading "Other formats", are the following options: "DAISY with Images", "Audio", "BRF", "EPUB", and "Set Preferences...".

**Synopsis**

Introducing an instant classic—master storyteller Neil Gaiman's dazzling version of the great Norse myths. Neil Gaiman has captivated readers with his attention to detail in creating the fantastical realms of Norse mythology in creating the fantastical realms of Norse mythology back to the source, presenting a bravura rendition of the myths. In Norse Mythology, Gaiman stays true to the myths in envisioning the major Norse pantheon:

# What is DAISY ?

- Support for table of contents and index
- Navigate forward and backward by Character ,word, paragraph, page, section header, or chapter,
- Increase or decrease font size,change font colour and colour contrast.
- Searchable
- Place bookmarks in the text
- Make notes in the text
- Increase and decrease the rate of speech
- May display images and provide alt text if available.

# Bookshare's Specialized Formats: BRF

- Braille Ready Format (.brf)
  - Digital text format creates refreshable braille
  - No images or text formatting
  - Electronic representation of a braille book
- Available from Bookshare in contracted or uncontracted braille
  - Select the preferred format and cell line length in account preferences.

# Reading devices for reading books on the go

- Daisy Players
- Android devices
- iOS devices
- Computers



# Applications for reading Bookshare content on various platforms

- Android- Go Read(free) , DD reader (free), Vital source bookshelf(free), Voice dream reader.
- iOS- Read to go, Voice dream reader, Vital source bookshelf(free), Easy reader (free)
- Windows- FS reader (free with JAWS), DD reader(free), Vital source bookshelf(free)
- For comprehensive list of reading apps visit  
<https://www.bookshare.org/cms/help-center/reading-tools/member-preferred-tools>

# Seven Point Digital Rights Management for secure content

## ① Qualified Users

- Only qualified users with certification of disability on record.

## ② Contractual Agreement

- All users have to agree to terms of use that forbid violation of specific copyright laws.

## ③ Copyright Notice

- All books in our library contain a copyright notice.

## ④ Encryption

- All books are encrypted for a specific user.

## ⑤ Fingerprint

- All downloaded copyrighted material is fingerprinted as to allow us to trace files that show up elsewhere back to the Member.

## ⑥ Security Database

- All transactions, encryption codes and fingerprints are stored in a database enabling Bookshare to track any unusual activity.

## ⑦ Security Watch Program

- Monitors all book downloads and suspends any user whose account exhibits unusual activity.

# THANK YOU

## **For Memberships contact:**

Zainab Chinikamwalla,  
Membership head Bookshare  
[Asia & Africa].  
Mobile: +91 9650211575  
Email: [zainabc@bookshare.org](mailto:zainabc@bookshare.org)

Dr. Homiyar Mobedji,  
Disability Expert, Program  
Management [India]  
Mobile: +91 7875466344  
Email: [Homiyarm@benetech.org](mailto:Homiyarm@benetech.org)