You may have played the fun, conversation-starting game Two Truths and a Lie (players take turns listing two truths and a lie about themselves, and everyone else has to guess which one is the lie). For this edition of the game, the rules are similar, but instead of facts about yourself, you’ll be using two researched true news facts and one news fact that is fake or made up. Then everyone has to guess which one is the fake news. You must use your sleuthing skills to do research and determine if the news you are finding is true, or if it is fake or even altered.

Check the sources and credentials of any articles you read, look for bias, even check the dates of when your news was published. For more information on fact-checking news, you and your parent can check out research.ppld.org/NewsEverywhere.

Check it Out: Audiobooks
Did you know listening to audiobooks stimulates the same parts of your brain as reading a physical book? There are so many benefits to listening to audiobooks – not the least of which is the sheer joy of a well-told story. They build important listening skills, develop focus and attention span, hone critical thinking, aid comprehension, and foster imagination. Audiobooks provide a good model of fluent reading – how a text should sound when read aloud with appropriate pacing and expression – and help kids increase vocabulary and improve pronunciation. They also provide an opportunity for young readers to sample literature above their reading level, stretching their abilities and allowing them to access more complex vocabulary and sentence structure.

For struggling readers, audiobooks can provide the extra boost that might encourage a child to persevere and finish a text. Narrators bring a book’s characters to vivid life, helping kids to connect closely with them, gain insight into the experiences of others, and develop empathy. Audiobooks can also provide a relaxing experience that can reduce stress and boost mental health. Listened to as a family or a group, audiobooks provide a wonderful shared experience and encourage discussion of a book’s characters, events, and themes. Ultimately, audiobooks are fun to listen to, and have the ability to reinforce the important idea that reading is an enjoyable activity.

Children's CD Kits
These popular picture books come with a CD tucked into a plastic envelope on the book’s back page! Kids can follow the illustrations and text while listening to the story read aloud. Bonus: many recordings include music and sound effects.

Children's Talking Books
These are colorful print picture books with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Kids will press play to listen to their favorite stories and then switch to a fun learning mode to keep talking about the book they just read. There are options to listen with a speaker or a headphone jack.

Audiobooks
PPLD offers a wide variety of audiobooks at all reading levels. Visit ppld.org/Library to discover a tantalizing array of titles available as digital downloads, or borrow audiobooks in CD or take-home MP3 player format (you provide the earbuds!).

Children's Book Player Kits
These have an MP3 player paired with a print chapter book to provide an educational read-along experience at every reading level (you supply the earbuds)! They are a great resource for emerging and struggling readers, auditory and special education learners, and English language learners.

Check the virtual calendar for more events!

tinyurl.com/ppldvirtualcalendar

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email jfleishhacker@ppld.org.
Listening to stories and books is a breeze if you are an auditory learner. You can do something your one-stop shop for eBooks and audiobooks called Hoopla! It includes videos, music and books, with over 8,000 titles included in their Hoopla Kids section. They have plenty of picture and chapter books in their collection.

The Podcasts: A Fun Way to Learn

**Brains On brainson.org**
Hosted each week by Molly Bloom and a different kid co-host, this award-winning offering from American Public Media tackles a variety of science-themed questions and concepts, such as “Why do siblings annoy each other?” or “What makes gross things gross?” Fast-filled and kid-relevant, this podcast is like a ready-made science lesson. For ages 8 - 12.

**But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids vpr.org/programs/why-podcast-curious-kids**
Kids have a knack for asking questions that have surprising complex answers. Based around a theme, each show tackles kid-submitted inquiries with help from the experts. Go to the website to listen and to download learning guides designed to help kids deepen their understanding to the concepts addressed. For all ages.

**Overheard at National Geographic nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/overheard/**
What would it be like to listen in on the conversations at National Geographic’s headquarters? Hosted by Peter Gwin and Amy Briggs, this podcast follows explorers, photographers, and scientists as they explore our world. For ages 13+.

**Science Friday sciencefriday.com**
Join host Ira Flatone to explore a wide variety of complex science and technology topics, presented in a riveting format. Visit the website to access podcasts (full episodes or shorter segments), and explore an array of related articles, videos, STEM activities, lessons, and resources. The content is also divided into subject areas. For ages 10+.

**Tumble Science Podcast for Kids scienceforallofus.com**
Hosted by Lindsay (a science journalist) and Marshall (a teacher), this podcast covers a fascinating array of topics, discoveries and research projects and features interviews with real scientists. A great way to encourage a love of science! For ages 8+.

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**Listening to History**
Recordings of historical speeches and interviews provide one of the most compelling examples of primary resources and an engaging way to look at the past. Visit the Speeches and Audio section of History (history.com/speeches) to sample speeches made by famous individuals such as Eleanor Roosevelt commemorating World Children’s Day (1953) or General Douglas MacArthur’s farewell address (1951). Also check out the Library of Congress’s National Jukebox (loc.gov/collections/national-jukebox/about-this-collection/), which makes historical sound recordings available to the public for free, and includes everything from music to spoken word (speeches).

**Storynory storynory.com**
This weekly podcast offers hundreds of free audio stories, helpful guidance into categories (original, fairytales, classic authors, myths and world stories, poetry and more). The narration is appealing, and the text for the tales is included at the website.

**What If World whatifworldpodcast.com**
In this podcast, host Eric O’Keefe takes a wacky “what if” question (submitted by young listeners) and develops it into an entertaining story. “What if a tiny dragon lived in my closet? What if there were a never-ending bowl of ice cream? What if cats could rule the world?” Join Mr. Eric to find the answers, and pen your own “what if” tales. For ages 5 - 8.

**Additional Podcasts**

**Book Club for Kids bookclubforkids.org**
In this podcast, a trio of middle school students talk about a popular middle-grade or young adult book about how it impacts their lives, and offer book suggestions. Public radio host, Kitty Faber oversees the discussion, and episodes include a celebrity reading from the book and Q&A with the author. For ages 10+.

**The Story Seeds Story Seeds podcast storyseedspodcast.com**
In each episode of the imagination-stirring serial, an award-winning children’s author interviews a kid with an idea for a story, and then writes and shares about a tale inspired by that child’s idea. Visit the website for information about the featured authors and how to submit a “story seed.” For ages 6 - 12.

**Colorado Talking Book Library**
For this unique app, the player is a story seed. “That All May Read” If your child is unable to read standard print due to a physical, visual, or learning disability, you might want to check out what’s available through CTBL. They provide access to a wide variety of reading materials for kids and adults, supplied to you on either an automatic or request-only basis, and mailed to your home or instantly downloaded. In addition, popular databases are also available, including Explore (meeting the research and project needs of Elementary through High School students), and Novelists (serving as a reader’s advisors for fiction lovers). If this service might fit in a need in your family, visit myctbl.cde.state.co.us to access an application and explore the possibilities.

**Bedtime History: Inspirational Stories for Kids BedtimeHistory.com**
Presented in story format with a soothing narration and musical backdrop, these ten-minute episodes focus on inspirational current-day and historical figures (including Malala Yousafzai, Maya Angelou, Ada Lovelace, Abraham Lincoln), current and historical events, and amazing feats of engineering. Vocabulary is defined and context is provided. For all ages.

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