



***Dorothy's List* Tips for Teachers & Librarians**

(Or: How to turn a great book discussion into a great radio program!)

First of all it's important to remember that radio, these days, isn't just radio. It is podcasts and apps-on-the-go and web build-outs with words, sound and pictures! Below are some things to remember when *Dorothy's List* comes to visit your library or classroom that will help turn a great discussion into great radio.

1. Who's in? – Get your VPR permission slips in kids' hands early and let parents know what we're doing. (*Flip over for reproducible.*) If there are kids who don't have permission to be photographed or recorded, then they shouldn't be part of group photos and discussions while *Dorothy's List* is visiting.

2. Be Active! – We all know that some of the best book discussions happen quietly, when a group of readers sit in a circle and really put their heads together. However, that doesn't always make for engaging radio. Think about sound-rich activities that get kids thinking about the book. Some ideas from past shows include a 1930s-style radio drama, a quiz show or a sing-along.

3. Spoiler Alert! – One of the things *Dorothy's List* tries to accomplish is getting kids interested in reading the book they heard about on the radio. Therefore, we try not to give away major plot twists and surprise endings. This doesn't mean you can't talk about those things, just be sure there is more to your discussion and/or activity.

4. We're Not Ready! – No worries! You don't need to be finished with the book when *Dorothy's List* comes to visit. In fact, if you are in the middle of the book then you don't have to worry about the kids only wanting to talk about the ending. As long as you've read enough for your students to formulate thoughtful questions, you're good!

5. What Should I Ask? – Kids love getting to ask the author questions, but sometimes they don't know what to ask. Feel free to brainstorm questions as a group before *Dorothy's List* arrives. It's nice to have a mix of questions about the subject/story, about how the author approaches his or her craft and about the author's personal background.

6. Here's My Question. – It's okay if your students have their questions written down, but when it comes time to talk into the microphone, we'll ask them not to read from their paper. We'd rather have students try a couple times to get the question right than reading it off a cue sheet.

7. Have fun! – *Dorothy's List* is an opportunity for your students to shine. We want to showcase how smart they are and how much fun they're having reading the books on the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award master list. By keeping the mood light, they'll be less nervous and better able to enjoy the entire experience.





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