You enrolled in Ebooks NOW – now what? See below for responses to Frequently Asked Questions.

What is a shared collection?

A shared collection enables four or more schools to access digital content via a joint platform. With Ebooks Now, participating schools share in the use of the 1700+ titles in the collection that is administered by OverDrive. Purchased titles are available to all participating schools through this central access point, Sora platform.

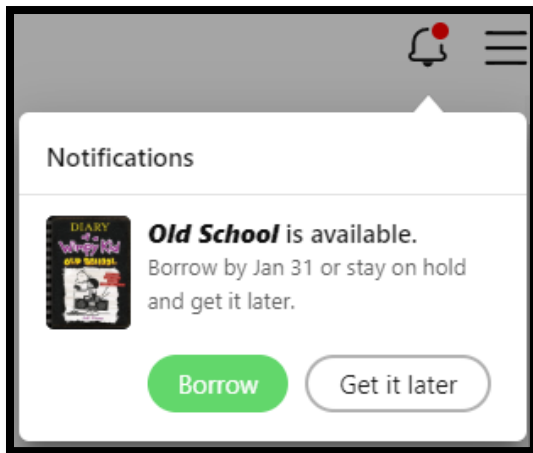**What are the dates of my service term?**

Your 12 months of service begins once you are set live with Ebooks NOW. Subsequent renewals will take place from that date.

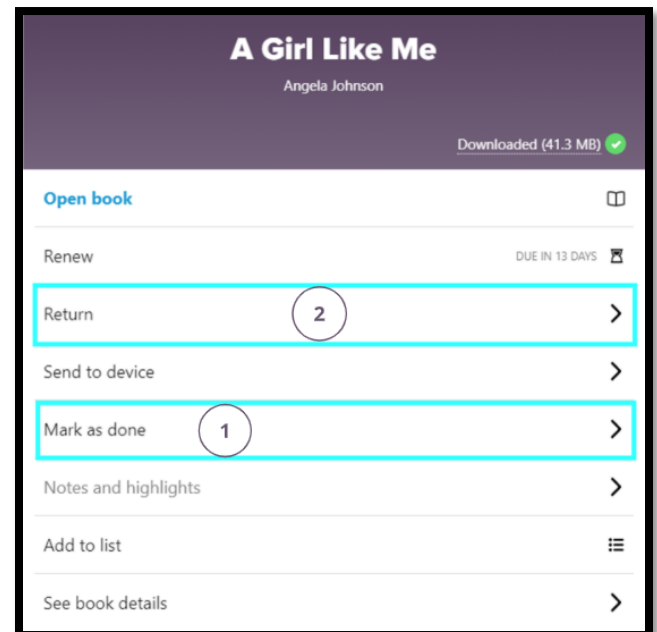**With many schools participating in Ebooks NOW will my students need to wait to read their book of choice?**

Most titles are like physical books in that you can only check out as many copies as you own. However, unlike your physical library, digital content can be added to the collection almost immediately. We closely monitor the collection and purchase additional copies to keep wait times down. For some books, we own 1-2 copies, whereas others (like David Walliams, Harry Potter, Wimpy Kid, etc.), we have many copies.

That does not mean that students won't experience wait time on popular or new release titles. To keep titles circulating we encourage students to:

- Place a hold if a title is of interest and already checked out. We will not add more copies if we do not see holds.
- If a student places a title on hold, watch for the titles to be ready for checkout as indicated through the in-app notification; the student will need to be logged into Sora to receive this notification.
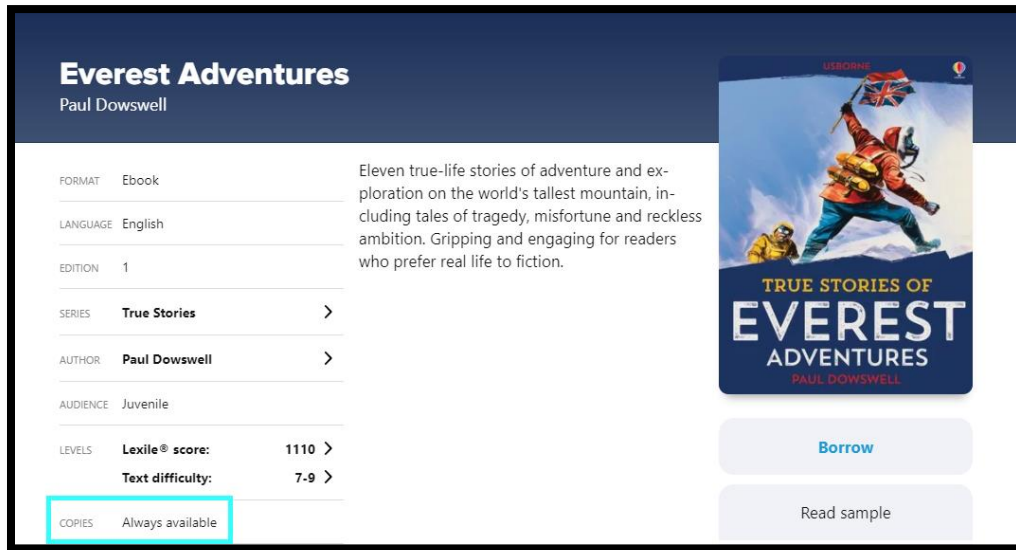

- When finished reading, mark the title as done and return.

What are *Always available* titles?

Some titles in the Ebooks NOW collection are designated as *Always available*, meaning that an unlimited number of users can borrow the same title simultaneously. These titles expire from the collection after a determined period (for example, one year).

On the title details page in Sora, the 'copies' field reflects *Always available* for these titles.

How do students log into Sora?

- Before your students can begin using Sora, you will work with your OverDrive Product Support Specialists to choose an authentication or method for students to login to Sora.
- Once authentication is determined, students can access Sora at https://soraapp.com or download the free Sora app for Android or iOS.
- Several Library Management Systems allow for a direct link to Sora. Ask your Account Manager for more information.

How can teachers use Sora?

Teachers can use Sora in several ways:

- Using the list feature create a list of titles in the collection to recommend to student.
- In addition, all titles and collection (think of collections as digital displays) have permalink. Teachers can share the permalink to encourage students to borrow from a particular collection or a particular title. Instructions to create a link can be found here.
- With Advantage (read more below) teachers can assign *Always Available* titles and any title purchased by the school to a student or group of students (depending on number of copies in the collection) for a lending period of up to 180 days.

Can teachers also use the Sora app to read books?

Absolutely! We have a small number of continuing professional development titles (curated at the bottom of the *Explore* tab), but they are also welcomed to read any of the ebooks/audiobooks offered.

Teachers will use the same authentication method as students.

How do teachers "set assignments" or monitor usage?
- With an Advantage account (read more below) teachers can assign always *Always available* titles and any title purchased by the school to a student or group of students (depending on number of copies in the collection) for a lending period of up to 180 days.
- Through title assignments, teachers can view reading data for the title assigned.

What usage data is available to me?
- Through the OverDrive administrative portal, Marketplace, schools can view composite checkout data for their school. Individual usernames are not included in reports to protect student privacy.

Can you change the lending period?
No, the lending period is set at the shared collection level. However, students can return a book early or renew/place a hold if they haven't finished it yet.

Primary Ebooks NOW	Secondary Ebooks NOW
3 loans	5 loans
3 holds	3 holds
7-day lending period	14-day lending period

Can my school limit which titles are available to students based on maturity?
Primary Ebooks NOW – titles included in this collection are appropriate for all ages.

Secondary Ebooks NOW – if your school would like to limit the younger students from seeing more mature content (geared towards ages 14+), we can help you set this up. Please note that at this time, Capita authentication does not support this feature. Please email your Product Support Specialist for more information/instructions.

How can students connect to their public library via Sora?

If your public library has an OverDrive digital collection, students can access the library's titles within Sora. They are limited to browsing age-appropriate content from the local library. Sora provides a safe space to access community resources and gets more books into the hands of your students. Users will follow the instructions found [here](#) to add their public library within Sora.

Cost associated with upgrading your service to Advantage
There is no fee to upgrade to Advantage.

Advantage is an upgrade to your existing service that will give you the ability to purchase titles specifically for your school. There only cost associated with Advantage is the cost of the desired content itself. If you would like more information about Advantage, please let us know and we will provide you with an overview and the corresponding order form.

We require an initial deposit of £150 when setting up your Advantage account.

Additional resources:

- OverDrive Resource Center: This is an open site for librarians and educators, you will likely find the following pages useful:

    - Sora How-To Videos for staff

    - Training Kits includes PowerPoint templates to present Sora and lesson plans

    - Marketing & Outreach includes digital graphics, student reading assessments, and more! Be sure to visit all four tabs: *Trending, Print-Ready, Social, & Outreach*

- Sora Help: Direct users here to get started with Sora and troubleshoot any issues

We also highly recommend these eLearning modules that you can share with students and staff:

- ✓ Getting Started with Sora - for Students
- ✓ Getting Started with Sora - for Educators