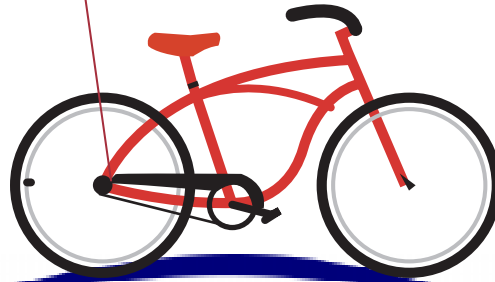


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The American Experience

LITTLE WOMEN

Read by Barbara Caruso

Love, kindness, and faith are threaded through this classic novel of four sisters and their effort to move from childhood to the adult world during the Civil War. Caruso's formal style perfectly suits the time and setting. Gr. 5+

Louisa May Alcott

Recorded Books

A GATHERING OF DAYS

Read by Madeline Porter

Porter's appealing voice dramatizes Catherine's journal for 1830, her 14th year, as she chronicles daily life on a New Hampshire farm. Gr. 5+

Joan W. Blos

Recorded Books

THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM—1963

Read by LeVar Burton

Popular TV star LeVar Burton takes you along with the "Weird Watsons" on a trip that moves from wildly funny family problems to tragic and moving racial violence. Gr. 5+

Christopher Paul Curtis

Listening Library

THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LUCAS WHITAKER

Read by John McDonough

When Lucas's family dies of consumption, he leaves their Connecticut farm and apprentices himself to a doctor, discovering that medical practice in 1800s America is pretty gruesome. McDonough's voice is a good match for this tough story. Gr. 5+

Cynthia DeFelice

Recorded Books

HAVING OUR SAY: The Delany Sisters' First Hundred Years

Read by Whoopi Goldberg

This remarkable memoir of indomitable African American sisters sheds light on our nation's past century. Goldberg's neutral narration allows the Delany sisters to take center stage. Gr. 9+

Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delany

Audio Renaissance

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MISS JANE PITTMAN

Read by Lynne Thigpen

Thigpen captures the rich beauty of African American English as a fictional centenarian recalls Southern life before the Civil Rights Movement. Gr. 6+

Ernest J. Gaines

Recorded Books

LILY'S CROSSING

Read by Mia Dillon

Life on the home front during WWII is clearly established as Lily tries to make the days pass for herself and her new friend, Albert, whose sister is trapped in war-torn France. Dillon handles the characters with finesse, including the Hungarian Albert. Gr. 5+

Patricia Reilly Giff

Listening Library

OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA

Read by Emmy Rossum

Being the only girl in a large, Finnish American family along the Nasel River in Oregon would be hard at any time, but in 1899 it's impossible. Rossum ably captures May Amelia's distaste for ladylike behavior and her desire for adventure. Gr. 5+

Jennifer L. Holm

Listening Library

SHOELESS JOE

Read by Grover Gardner

Gardner plays to the humor and humanity of this engaging baseball story, which inspired the movie *Field of Dreams*. Gr. 7+

W.P. Kinsella

Blackstone Audiobooks

DAVE AT NIGHT

Read by Jason Harris

Eleven-year-old orphan Dave's daytime life turns on the neglect and cruelty of The Hebrew Home for Boys, but at night the resilient boy escapes with the elderly Solly, the Gonif, to the excitement and energy of the Harlem Renaissance. This partially voiced reading skillfully portrays both the pathos and humor of Dave's divergent worlds. Gr. 5+

Gail Carson Levine

Listening Library

LYDDIE

Read by Alyssa Bresnahan

Through this skilled reading the listener "stands" beside Lyddie as she works at the noisy textile mill in nineteenth-century Lowell, Massachusetts. Gr. 5+

Katherine Paterson

Recorded Books

UNDER THE BLOOD RED SUN

Read by Jeff Woodman

Baseball and bigotry take the field for eighth-grader Tomikazu Nakaji after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The diverse community of pre-WWII Hawaii is vividly characterized by Woodman, giving greater dimension to a superb story of human imperfection and the corresponding fight for dignity. Gr. 5+

Graham Salisbury

Recorded Books

BAT 6

Read by a Full Cast

Oregon, 1949: Preparations are underway for the annual Bat 6 softball game. Shazam, whose father died at Pearl Harbor, is on a collision course with Japanese American Aki. With joy, rage, passion, and bewilderment, a girl from each team takes her turn at telling the story of the events leading up to the fateful game. All is deftly rendered by the young voices of the narrators. Gr. 5+

Virginia Euwer Wolff

Listening Library

Family Matters

THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET

Read by the Author

Cisneros perfectly re-creates the voice of Esperanza Cordero, a young girl growing up in a Chicago barrio. Gr. 9+

Sandra Cisneros

Random House Audio Books

WALK TWO MOONS

Read by Kate Harper

Harper's voice plumbs Salamanca Tree Hiddle's family mysteries in this story of love, loss, family ties, and friendship. Gr. 5+

Sharon Creech

Listening Library

BUD, NOT BUDDY

Read by James Avery

Bud Caldwell sets out to find his father in Depression-era Flint, Michigan, expanding his list of "Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself." Avery's enthusiastic narration makes this a solid listening experience. Gr. 5+

Christopher Paul Curtis

Listening Library

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Read by George Guidall

Hilarity ensues when Father, an efficiency expert, tries to employ his business tactics as a means of keeping his large family under control. Guidall's partially voiced reading conveys the love, drama, and humor of this sparkling family memoir. Gr. 6+

Frank B. Gilbreth and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

Recorded Books

PARROT IN THE OVEN: MI VIDA

Read by Robert Ramirez

Ramirez faithfully interprets the pain and anger of 14-year-old Manny Hernandez's family life in the depressive housing projects of Southern California, while allowing the hope that Manny never gives up to shine through the reading. Gr. 9+

Victor Martinez

Recorded Books

MICK HARTE WAS HERE

Read by Dana Lubotsky

Lubotsky perfectly expresses 13-year-old Phoebe's seesaw emotions as she bears witness to the life of her beloved, and dead, younger brother. Gr. 5+

Barbara Park

Listening Library

A LONG WAY FROM CHICAGO A YEAR DOWN YONDER

Read by Lois Smith
Join Richard and his sister, Mary Alice, as they spend time with their eccentric Grandma Dowdel in her Illinois town. These episodic novels are perfect in audio format. Gr. 5+

BLUE SKIN OF THE SEA

Read by Jeff Woodman
Sonny Mendoza realizes that he is different from the other men in his family in these interconnected stories about growing up in 1960's Hawaii. The story is enriched by Woodman's fully voiced reading. Gr. 8+

THE PIGMAN & ME

Read by Jeff Woodman
Prolific young-adult author Zindel's autobiographical sketch of his teen years sparkles with humor in Woodman's lively narration. Gr. 7+

Fantasy & Science Fiction

THE BOOK OF THREE

Read by Chris King
Assistant pig-keeper Taran battles the evil Horned King to save the mythical land of Prydain in this stirring rendition of the first book in the Prydain Chronicles. Gr. 5+

THE BOGGART

Read by David Rintoul
Modern technology bumps up against an ancient, dark power when an invisible spirit trapped in an ancient castle is downloaded via computer disk. Rintoul's voice expertly spans the distinct settings of contemporary Toronto and the mist-shrouded coast of Scotland. Gr. 5+

THE DARK IS RISING

Read by Alex Jennings
Will Stanton's life is forever altered when he discovers that he must bring together the six magical Signs that will save the world from the forces of evil and darkness. Elegant prose combines with finely polished characterizations in this unvoiced reading of one of the classics of high fantasy. Gr. 5+

THE DAWN PALACE

Read by Alyssa Bresnahan
A calm and measured pace enhances this retelling of the Medea myth, brimming with political scheming and gruesome murder. Gr. 6+

REDWALL

Performed by a Full Cast
This audio dramatization projects great enthusiasm, charm and dedication. The ensemble, which includes author Brian Jacques taking the role of narrator and nearly 20 actors, creates the lively fantasy, featuring the valiant Redwall mice, their woodland friends and wicked rat enemies. Gr. 5+

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

Read by Alyssa Bresnahan
Beautiful teenaged werewolf Vivian Gandalon's life is in chaos, and Bresnahan's languid and sensuous reading makes Vivian's conflicting yearnings seem all the more distasteful, while at the same time strangely delicious, in this haunting story of the desire to belong. Gr. 8+

A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA, THE TOMBS OF ATUAN and THE FARTHEST SHORE

Read by Rob Inglis
A gawky, young boy becomes a powerful wizard in these stunning narrations of a windswept other world and the power of language to name and own things. Gr. 7+

ELLA ENCHANTED

Read by Eden Riegel
How would you survive if you had to do everything you were told? Young Ella tries to find a way to rid herself of this spell in this captivating audio version of the Cinderella story. Gr. 5+

Richard Peck

Read by Ron McLarty
Listening Library

Graham Salisbury

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Paul Zindel

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Lloyd Alexander

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Susan Cooper

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Helen Hoover

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Brian Jacques

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Annette Curtis Klause

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Ursula K. Le Guin

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Gail Carson Levine

Listening Library

THE GIVER

Read by Ron Rifkin
When chosen as the "Receiver of Memory," Jonas must confront the hidden truth of his futuristic society. Rifkin ably contrasts the voices of Jonas and the older, weary "Giver of Memory" in this compelling drama. Gr. 5+

THE MOORCHILD

Read by Virginia Leishman
Saaski, half-Folk and half-human, finds herself an outcast in both worlds. Leishman's melodic voice charms the listener and brings Saaski's world of villagers and fairy folk to life. Gr. 5+

THE BLUE SWORD

Read by Diane Warren
Harry's life takes an electrifying turn when she's kidnapped by the magical, golden-eyed king of Damar. Warren's sturdy performance transforms Harry Crewe from orphan Homelander to Lady Hero and adroitly steers the listener through the romantic waters of this stirring adventure. Gr. 5+

THE HERO AND THE CROWN

Read by Roslyn Alexander
Aerin confronts grave danger as she attempts to win back the fabled Crown of Damar. The resolute pacing of the narration flaw-lessly establishes the mythical kingdom and is particularly effective interpreting the evil inherent in the Black Dragon. Gr. 5+

Z FOR ZACHARIAH

Read by Christina Moore
Alone in a post-apocalyptic landscape, a young girl possessed of unblinking courage faces a future without human companionship, only to discover that she is, in fact, not alone. Moore reads this journal-style novel, quietly refusing to rush the pace or overdramatize the situation as the horror of Ann Burden's reality gradually dawns on her and on the listener, as well. Gr. 7+

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

Read by Philip Pullman and a Full Cast
The first two books in His Dark Materials feature stunning performances by Pullman and the actors, whose voices perfectly suit young Lyra and her friends and enemies. In *The Subtle Knife*, the voice of Will is perfectly poised on the brink of adolescence and stands in steely contrast to the bold and flamboyant rendering of Lyra's character. Gr. 6+

HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Jim Dale proves that he is firmly in control of all of the characters peopling the orphaned Harry's world in these recorded offerings of the ongoing saga of life at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Gr. 5+

THE HOBBIT

Read by Rob Inglis
Bilbo Baggins's quiet life is shattered by the arrival of a wandering wizard, and the listener is launched on a great adventure as the little hobbit joins the wizard's peculiar band. Inglis's masterful narration brings hobbits, dwarves, and other enchanted creatures to life. Gr. 5+

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

THE TWO TOWERS

THE RETURN OF THE KING

Read by Rob Inglis
Tolkien fashioned landscape and language for one of the most compelling fantasy creations of all time. Inglis skillfully traverses this magical world and plunges the listener into the great battle of good against evil. The recent release of the movie *The Fellowship of the Ring* will surely spark renewed interest in these titles. Gr. 6+

THE TIME MACHINE

Read by Simon Prebble
In the year 802,701, the Time Traveler crash-lands into the astonishing world of the gentle Eloi and the fearsome Morlocks. Use Prebble's masterful narration to introduce this classic science fiction tour de force to a new generation. Gr. 7+

Lois Lowry

Listening Library

Loise McGraw

Recorded Books

Robin McKinley

Recorded Books

Robin McKinley

Recorded Books

Robert C. O'Brien

Recorded Books

Philip Pullman

Read by the Author and a Full Cast

J. K. Rowling

Read by Jim Dale

Listening Library

J.R.R. Tolkien

Recorded Books

J.R.R. Tolkien

Recorded Books

H.G. Wells

Recorded Books

Friends & Enemies

KIT'S WILDERNESS

Read by Charles Keating

A multilayered novel about the power of story to affect and change lives. In startlingly visual fashion, Keating's deep, dark voice takes the listener over the landscape of a British mining village, down into the pit, and back across the centuries with a prehistoric boy whose tale mingles with those of contemporary children struggling to find their place in the adult world. Gr. 6+

David Almond

Listening Library



SPEAK

Read by Mandy Siegfried

Melinda Sorvino has become almost mute and increasingly remote and isolated as the result of a traumatic event at an end-of-summer party and the shunning by her peers, which she must now endure. Mandy Siegfried's flat rendering of Melinda's interior voice, filled with sardonic humor, makes this a compelling listening experience. Gr. 7+

Laurie Halse Anderson

Listening Library



WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN, ANYWAY?

Read by Jeff Woodman & John Randolph Jones

The narrators make this poignantly humorous WWII story of two friends accessible to a generation with no experience of radio drama. Gr. 5+

Avi

Recorded Books



THWONK!

Read by Christina Moore

A. J. McCreary, senior in high school and aspiring photographer, forms an unlikely friendship with—Cupid! Moore's inflection and pacing bring the longings and anxieties of a typical teenager to life in this funny novel that cautions you, the listener, to be careful of what you wish for. Gr. 7+

Joan Bauer

Recorded Books

Chris Crutcher

Recorded Books



ATHLETIC SHORTS

Read by Frank Muller

The stories of six unforgettable teen athletes—some funny, some moving, all compelling—are created here through the wisdom and compassion of Crutcher and the measured, unvoiced reading of Muller, a combination not to be missed. Gr. 7+

THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY

Read by Rick Adamson, L.J. Ganser, Agnes Herrmann, Aasif Mandvi, Barbara Rosenblat, and Jeff Woodman

Four students tell the story of how they came to be picked by their teacher, Mrs. Olinski, to become the school team for the Academic Bowl, in this recording, which lets each player tell his or her own story with the voice of a different narrator. Gr. 5+

E.L. Konigsburg

Listening Library



MONSTER

Read by Peter Francis James

Budding high school filmmaker Steve Harmon—awaiting trial for murder—writes a screenplay to determine his guilt as perceived by him and others. Is he a victim of a bad decision and bad friends, or a monster? James adroitly manages to play all of the characters in the script, at the same time reminding the listener that this is all playing out in Steve's head. Gr. 7+

Walter Dean Myers

Recorded Books



Performed by a Full Cast

This production is recorded as a full-cast dramatization. A superb recording of an intriguing work. Gr. 7+

Listening Library



ALL ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE

Read by Hope Davis

At 13, there is nothing worse than being dumped by your best friend. The narrator's youthfully expressive voice perfectly captures Debbie's anguish at this horrendous event, even as she relates the many small and funny happenings of Debbie's difficult year. Gr. 5+

Lynne Rae Perkins

Listening Library



WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

Read by Frank Muller

Muller narrates with sensitivity, clearly expressing the deep emotions young Billy feels for his two hounds—his best friends. Gr. 6+

Wilson Rawls

Recorded Books



THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE, AGED 13 3/4

Read by Nicholas Barnes

Barnes's spare narration takes us on an illuminating and entertaining journey into the mind of an adolescent boy, while transmitting all of the angst and humor of Adrian's world. Gr. 8+

Sue Townsend

Chivers Audio Books



THE FRIENDS

Read by Jeff Woodman

Curious about death, three Japanese boys haunt an old man in their neighborhood in order to watch him die. Woodman manages the characters with skill and charm, enhancing this translated Japanese import, which is both funny and heartbreaking. Gr. 6+

Kazumi Yumoto

Recorded Books



Many Cultures

WHEN THE LEGENDS DIE

Read by Norman Dietz

Read with great vigor, this American Indian coming-of-age story bursts with energy, rage, and triumph. Gr. 8+

Hal Borland

Recorded Books

LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE

Read by Kate Reading

Thwarted love and magical realism during the Mexican Revolution are narrated with exquisite care and sensuous pleasure. Gr. 9+

Laura Esquivel

Books On Tape

ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

Read by Christina Moore

Moore's sensitive and sympathetic voice portrays Karana's survival alone on an island off the coast of California. Gr. 5+

Scott O'Dell

Recorded Books

CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

Read by Maggie Soboil

As a Zulu pastor searches for his lost son, the narrator reveals not only the peace that once was Africa but also the despair and hopelessness that were apartheid. The struggle of South Africans to find their place in a new order is as timely today as when this was published in 1948. Gr. 9+

Alan Paton

Recorded Books

SHABANU: DAUGHTER OF THE WIND, HAVELI

Read by Christina Moore

Life is difficult for a young Pakistani nomad promised in marriage to a much older man. The first book describes the freedom that Shabanu must give up, while the sequel turns on the jealousy and intrigue she confronts with her new family. Moore's flawless interpretations extend the flavor of a locale unfamiliar to most Western listeners. Gr. 8+

Suzanne Fisher Staples

Recorded Books

THE RAINBOW PEOPLE

Read by George Guidall

Guidall enhances, but never overwhelms, this wonderfully imaginative collection of Chinese American folktales. Yep's introductory remarks add interesting cultural information. Gr. 7+

Laurence Yep

Recorded Books

Modern Masters

A LIGHT IN AUGUST

Read by Mark Hammer

Hammer's interpretation quickly and accurately opens up Faulkner's Southern world with its many complex characters. Gr. 9+

William Faulkner

Recorded Books

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Read by Alexander Adams

The story of American Robert Jordan, fighting with anti-fascist guerillas in the Spanish Civil War, gets an inspired interpretation from Adams. Gr. 9+

Ernest Hemingway

Books On Tape

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

Read by Michelle-Denise Woods

This poetic book beautifully examines a black woman's quest for identity in the 1930s. Woods expertly depicts Janie Crawford's resilient spirit. Gr. 9+

Zora Neale Hurston

Recorded Books

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Read by Sally Darling

Darling is the defining voice for young Scout as she is drawn into the violence of racial prejudice. Gr. 8+

Harper Lee

Recorded Books

TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY

Read by Gary Sinise

In the 1960s John Steinbeck and his venerable standard poodle, Charley, set out on a three-month journey to explore America in a camper. Sinise's respect for Steinbeck's story makes this a listening hit. Gr. 7+

John Steinbeck

Penguin Audiobooks

Mystery & Suspense

DEATH ON THE NILE

Performed by a Full Cast

When murder interrupts an idyllic cruise, Hercule Poirot is ready to solve the mystery by using his famous “little grey cells.” Originally produced for BBC radio, this theatrical performance features a diverse cast, music, and wonderful sound effects. Gr. 9+

Agatha Christie

Audio Partners

REBECCA

Read by Alexandra O’Karma

Silky narration captures the mystery in this haunting tale of the memory of a beautiful woman drowned at sea and the difficult path followed by the young, and second, Mrs. DeWinter. Gr. 8+

Daphne du Maurier

Recorded Books

DON’T LOOK BEHIND YOU

Read by Alyssa Bresnahan

April is shocked to learn that her father works undercover for the FBI and terrified when she discovers that her family must assume new identities in an attempt to escape grave danger. Bresnahan’s dramatic presentation makes it hard to turn off the tape player. Gr. 7+

Lois Duncan

Recorded Books

BOLT

Read by Tony Britton

Off to the races! The horse races, that is, with Britton capturing both the mystery and each British character to perfection. Gr. 9+

Dick Francis

Chivers Audio Books

THE HOUSE OF DIES DREAR

Read by Lynne Thigpen

A mysterious house that was once a stop on the Underground Railroad, a new boy in town, ghosts of escaped slaves, and a search for treasure make this a powerful listening experience. Thigpen’s pitch and pacing keep listeners spellbound until the surprising conclusion. Gr. 5+

Virginia Hamilton

Recorded Books

THE SKINWALKERS

Read by George Guidall

Guidall plays Navajo detectives Leaphorn and Chee to perfection as they pit themselves against a Skinwalker—a Navajo witch. Gr. 9+

Tony Hillerman

Recorded Books

AN UNSUITABLE JOB FOR A WOMAN

Read by Davina Porter

Porter adds crisp tension to Cordelia Gray’s investigation of a student’s death at Cambridge. Gr. 9+

P.D. James

Recorded Books

SAMMY KEYES AND THE HOTEL THIEF SAMMY KEYES AND THE SKELETON MAN

Read by Tara Sands

Redoubtable seventh-grader Samantha has great powers to observe and sleuth, as well as to irritate and annoy. Sands executes the characters with delightful stereotyping, reading this over-the-top mystery fare in an equally over-the-top manner. Gr. 5+

Wendelin Van Draanen

Live Oak Media

THE CALLENDER PAPERS

Read by Barbara Caruso

Jean Wainwright spends the summer sorting through the papers of the unpleasant and secretive Mr. Thiel’s late wife, Irene, a member of the wealthy Callender family. Caruso’s stable voice guides the listener through the mysterious, highly charged events of Jean’s surprising summer. Gr. 6+

Cynthia Voigt

Recorded Books

THE STONES OF MUNCASTER CATHEDRAL

Read by Ron Keith

Two young boys are lured to their death by a malignant presence inhabiting the stones of an ancient cathedral. Will it kill again, or will a steeplejack working on the tower be able to discover its source and destroy it? Perfect accents and pacing allow the listener to be taken over by the power of this horrifying story. Gr. 7+

Robert Westall

Recorded Books

Other Places

THE ROAD FROM COORAIN

Read by Barbara Caruso

Caruso conveys the intellectual and emotional energy of Conway’s intimate portrait of Australia. Gr. 9+

Jill Kerr Conway

Recorded Books

THE WHEEL ON THE SCHOOL

Read by Anne T. Flosnik

When Lina begins to wonder why storks no longer nest in her Dutch fishing village, she sets off extraordinary events in the community. The unvoiced reading skillfully guides the listener through the myriad and convoluted events. Gr. 5+

Meindert DeJong

Listening Library

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Read by Christopher Timothy

Wonderful characterizations draw the listener into the life of this Yorkshire veterinarian and the lively, eccentric community he serves. Gr. 7+

James Herriot

Audio Renaissance

HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY

Read by Patrick Tull

Tull presents a robust, dramatic interpretation of the story of a young Welsh boy and the struggles of his family and community in their mining village. Gr. 8+

Richard Llewellyn

Recorded Books

Other Times

THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE

Read by Alexandra O’Karma

O’Karma’s cultivated voice is exactly right for recounting the adventures, delights, and horrors of the transatlantic voyage of a young lady in 1832. Gr. 5+

Avi

Recorded Books

MATILDA BONE

Read by Janet McTeer

The colorful world of medieval England comes to life in humorous and fascinating detail in this fully voiced reading as the pious and self-centered orphan, Matilda, learns compassion and humility as assistant to Red Peg, the village bonesetter. Gr. 5+

Karen Cushman

Listening Library

NORY RYAN’S SONG

Read by Susan Lynch

It has always been hard trying to eke out a living on the West Coast of Ireland, but when the potato blight begins, 12-year-old Nory must find a way to survive. Lynch’s lilting voice allows the listener to hear the story, as Nory herself would tell it, with anger and despair, and with great compassion and humor. Gr. 5+

Patricia Reilly Giff

Listening Library

STOWAWAY

Read by David Cale

In 1768, 11-year-old Nicholas Young stowed away aboard Captain James Cook’s ship, the *Endeavor*, and sailed into history on a remarkable voyage. Cale plunges the listener into the dangerous expedition recounted in this fictionalized journal. Gr. 6+

Karen Hesse

Listening Library

THE GATE IN THE WALL

Read by Jenny Sterlin

A rich and energetic picture of life along the canals of Victorian England. The fully voiced reading perfectly creates the sense of time and place, expanding the book’s experience for listeners unfamiliar with the sounds of this remarkable community. Gr. 5+

Ellen Howard

Recorded Books

THE WRECKERS THE SMUGGLERS

Read by Ron Keith

Storms at sea, smugglers, murder, mystery, and intrigue—these adventure stories have it all. Ron Keith navigates this story of cruelty and despair with subtle nuance, bringing the characters to life with his meticulous interpretation of their accents, genders, and ages. Gr. 6+

Iain Lawrence

Recorded Books

THE PERILOUS GARD

Read by Jill Tanner

Historical fiction and fantasy intertwine with skillful narration to entice the listener into a world of Elizabethan loyalty and treachery. Gr. 7+

Elizabeth Marie Pope

Recorded Books

THE SONG OF THE GARGOYLE

Read by Richard Ferrone

Enter the world of knights and castles with young Tymmon as he struggles to find his kidnapped father and his own place in life. The animated narration navigates the unfamiliar territory of nobles and serfs, while allowing the story to carry you to the edge of your seat. Gr. 5+

Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Recorded Books

THE SHINING COMPANY

Read by Ron Keith
The compelling story of boys, men, and war, and the accompanying valor, betrayal, and defeat. Keith's brilliant interpretation and unhurried pacing of the sweep of historical drama bring to life this recreation of *The Gododdin*, the earliest surviving North British epic poem. Gr. 8+

A PARCEL OF PATTERNS

Read by Brigit Forsyth
The passion of youth, love remembered, giddy hopes, and eventual tragedy are captured by Forsyth in this fictionalized memoir of a seventeenth-century English village caught up in the horror of the Black Plague. Gr. 6+

Personal Challenge

SHIPWRECK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD: The Extraordinary Story of Shackleton and the Endurance

Read by Taylor Mali
The gripping story of Antarctic survival against incredible odds will make listeners shiver with cold and amazement as Mali capably narrates the story of this amazing expedition. Gr. 5+

THE WANDERER

Read by Dana Lubotsky and John Beach
Hidden family issues are slowly disclosed in alternating logs kept by Sophie and her cousin, Cody, on their trip aboard *The Wanderer*. The readers' voices, young and believable, perfectly capture two 13-year-olds attempting to find clear sailing in a tempest-tossed adult world. Gr. 5+

LOST! ON A MOUNTAIN IN MAINE

Read by Amon Purinton
A remarkable 12-year-old narrator who makes the listener feel the cold, the hunger, and the fear skillfully tells the terrifying survival story of a 12-year-old's nine-day wilderness ordeal—with no shelter and nothing to eat. Gr. 5+

A LESSON BEFORE DYING

Read by Jay Long
Masterful handling of dialects and accents marks this reading of the story of a dignified black man facing death for a crime he didn't commit. Gr. 8+

JULIE OF THE WOLVES, JULIE, JULIE'S WOLF PACK

Read by Christina Moore
The complete saga of Julie/Miyax and her struggle to maintain ancient Eskimo culture, to safeguard the wolves she has come to know and love, and to grow up in a modern world. Moore's voice provides steadiness and consistency to Julie's adventures. Gr. 5+

JASON'S GOLD

Read by Boyd Gaines
Gaines expresses the frenzy, misery, and adventure of the Klondike Gold Rush as 15-year-old Jason Hawthorn gets caught in the grip of "gold fever," making the trek to Dawson City in 1857. Gr. 5+

THE PERFECT STORM

Read by Richard M. Davidson
Davidson's voice conveys the proper New England attitude as a fishing boat and its crew battle what many meteorologists called the storm of the century. Gr. 9+

INTO THIN AIR

Read by the Author
The author as narrator lends intimacy and immediacy to his recounting of the tragic, deadly attempt to climb Mount Everest in May 1996. Gr. 9+

THE HAYMEADOW

Read by Richard Thomas
Alone in the mountains with only two horses and four dogs and the family's herd of sheep, 14-year-old John develops the skills and courage that earn his father's respect. Thomas is perfect in his portrayal of a young man facing his fears. Gr. 6+

Rosemary Sutcliff

Recorded Books

Jill Paton Walsh

Listening Library

Jennifer Armstrong

Audio Bookshelf

Sharon Creech

Listening Library

Donn Fendler

Audio Bookshelf

Ernest J. Gaines

Recorded Books

Jean Craighead George

Recorded Books

Will Hobbs

Listening Library

Sebastian Junger

Random House Audio

Jon Krakauer

BDD Audio

Gary Paulsen

Listening Library

SWEET FRIDAY ISLAND

Read by Christina Moore
Peg Toland's peaceful vacation with her father turns to terror when their camp is invaded, their inflatable boat slashed, and their provisions stolen. Moore's steady, unvoiced reading heightens the fear as Peg realizes she must save her father and herself. Gr. 7+

LENA

Read by Kate Forbes
Running away is dangerous, but 13-year-old Lena feels it is the only way to protect her younger sister Dion, from their sexually abusive father. Forbes's unvoiced narration respectfully captures the essence of all the characters in this thoughtful and provocative story. Gr. 6+

World Conflicts

THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL

Read by Susan Adams
Adams delivers the sweetness, intelligence, and courage of Anne Frank, hidden from the Nazis in an attic in Amsterdam. Gr. 6+

THE ENDLESS STEPPE

Read by Alyssa Bresnahan
A family's true story of endurance and courage in a remote Siberian labor camp during WWII is superbly rendered by Bresnahan in this first-person remembrance of a life turned upside down by war and hate. Gr. 6+

THE LAST MISSION

Read by George Guidall
Guidall builds extraordinary tension as he tells the story of young Jack's combat missions over Germany in WWII. Gr. 8+

IN MY HANDS: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer

Read by Hope Davis
This simply told, heart-stopping memoir demonstrates Opdyke's conviction that courage is little more than a decision, and that heroism begins by taking a single step. The story is read by the youthful sounding Hope Davis; the author's own voice brackets her story, helping to move the listener from the present day into the nightmare of the Holocaust. Gr. 7+

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Read by Frank Muller
Muller's straightforward, simple delivery underscores the horror and hopelessness of a young man's soul-destroying encounter with the terrors of WWI. Gr. 9+

KINGDOM BY THE SEA

Read by Ron Keith
Keith's solid reading brings immediacy to the harrowing experiences of 12-year-old Harry, surviving alone with a stray dog after his home is bombed in WWII England. Gr. 8+

Special thanks to Sharon Grover. Sharon Grover is the Youth Services Collections Specialist for the Arlington County Department of Libraries, and one of the editors of Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children. Ms. Grover is an avid listener to audiobooks for young adults and shares listening pleasures with her middle school reading group.

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