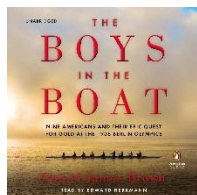


Sound Learning Audiobook Collection Lists & Samples

Use this annotated list to guide your audiobook collection development. Common Core State Standards are included for each title. Click on each title to hear an audio clip.

Adult Titles for High School Students



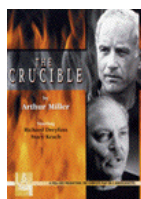
[The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics](#), written by Daniel James Brown, narrated by Edward Herrmann, Penguin Audio, 2013

In order to sit in the boat and become the rowing team that won the gold medal in the 1936 Olympics in Germany, nine young men from the University of Washington had to rise above the financial and emotional adversities of the Great Depression as well as often-troubled family situations. Their fortitude and determination to succeed and the support of their coaches and loved ones is the stuff of sports' legend. Edward Herrmann's conversational tone and controlled pacing carries the action forward, often leaving listeners on the edge of their seats, always leaving them cheering on this amazing band of brothers.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.3

Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.



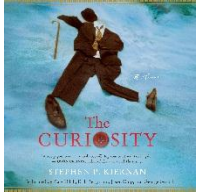
[The Crucible](#), written by Arthur Miller, narrated by a full cast, L.A. Theatre Works, 2001.

American dramatist Miller's classic, written as a 1953 indictment of McCarthyism, takes place in Salem, Massachusetts, as the Puritan New Englanders are caught up in accusations of witchcraft. High school students may examine this play through a multimedia lens, analyzing a variety of formats. The students' own interpretation of this text, the portrayals of the audiobook's performers: Michael York as Reverend Harris, Richard Dreyfuss as Reverend Hale, and Stacy Keach as John Proctor, an evaluative appraisal of the freely-available Williams College video production available at <http://youtu.be/o3hDrTAmDH0>, as well as a comparison with the 1959 drama *A Raisin in the Sun* (included in this list), will extend the appreciation of this work.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.7

Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)



The Curiosity, written by Stephen P. Kiernan, narrated by Kate Udall, George Guidall, Jason Culp, Erik Bergmann, Harper Audio, 2013

Scientific research on the origins of life, religious extremism, and journalistic bias are topics investigated in this science fiction work. As the lead scientist on an Arctic expedition, Dr. Kate Philo discovers a perfectly-frozen man who is later re-animated in a Boston laboratory, sparking a media frenzy and religious protests. Four narrators portray the accounts of the main characters, presented in alternating chapters, with each voice expanding the listener's understanding, from Guidall's depiction of Judge Jeremiah Rice's phrasing and vocabulary from the early 1900s to Udall's sympathetic rendering of Dr. Philo's ethical reservations. An excellent title to add to a study of science fiction literature while integrating research on the possibility of re-animating extinct life, or to extend a biology class study on the ethics of scientific research.

Key Ideas and Details:

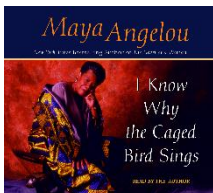
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.9-10.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.2

Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.



I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, written and narrated by Maya Angelou, Books on Tape, 2011

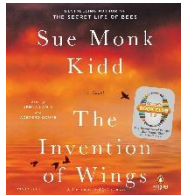
No one tells the story of poet Maya Angelou's hardscrabble life, her rise above racism, rape, and teenage pregnancy better than the late author herself.

Growing up with a variety of family members in the Deep South, in St. Louis, Missouri, and in southern California, Dr. Angelou went on to become an acclaimed author and educator. This Common Core Standards Text Exemplar for Grades 9–10, on many high school reading lists, makes for involved classroom discussion.

Craft and Structure:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.6

Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.



The Invention of Wings, written by Sue Monk Kidd, narrated by Jenna Lamia and Adepero Oduye, Penguin Audio, 2014

Set in Charleston, South Carolina in the early 1800s, this historical novel begins on the eleventh birthday of Sarah Grimké, when she receives the gift of ten-year-old Hetty “Handful” as her personal slave. The social structure and cultural rhythm of Sarah and Handful’s backgrounds are recreated as Jenna Lamia and Adepero Oduye expertly voice the alternating segments of this dual point-of-view novel. Inspired by Kidd’s research into the actual diaries of abolitionist and suffragette Sarah Grimké, the novel follows the intertwined lives of the two women into their adulthood, as Sarah and Handful both struggle with the desire for freedom. The beautifully performed text illuminates Kidd’s mastery of rhetoric, as the dual narration explicates the work’s central themes.

Craft and Structure:

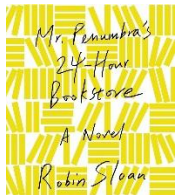
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.2

Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.



Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore, written by Robin Sloan, narrated by Ari Fliakos, Macmillan Audio, 2013

Clay Johnson loses his job in Silicon Valley, and impulsively takes a job as the night manager of an obscure 24-Hour Bookstore. Curious about the lack of customers, Johnson discovers a secret society and embarks on a quest to solve a centuries-old mystery involving ancient texts with Google-based computer coding. Narrator Ari Fliakos’ narration is an outstanding example of the power of audio to engage listeners in pleasure reading. Suggest this audio as an option for overbooked students who need to multitask, combining free-choice reading assignments with active pursuits, or to hook reluctant readers

required to report on an independent read, who will be captivated by Fliakos' quirky interpretation of a cast of bookish nerds and computer-savvy geeks.

Craft and Structure:

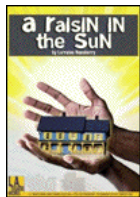
CCSS-ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3

Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

Craft and Structure:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.5

Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.



[A Raisin in the Sun](#), written by Lorraine Hansberry, narrated by a full cast, L.A. Theatre Works, 2011

Hansberry's 1959 landmark drama portrays a pivotal episode in the lives of the Younger family, an African-American working-class clan whose matriarch's dream of relocating to a white neighborhood of Chicago clashes with the actions and dreams of her family. Pair this audio with the 1961 film version, starring Sidney Poitier and the entire original Broadway cast, to expand study of the works through critical analysis of this audiobook's performance by a stellar cast of contemporary actors compared with those who originated the roles. Teachers will want to explore L.A. Theatre Work's free educator resources at <http://www.latw.org/EDU-latw/aliveandaloud/aliveandaloud.html> for more resources on this and other dramatic works.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

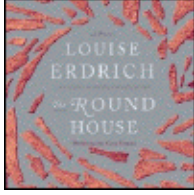
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.7

Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluate how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.7

Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment.



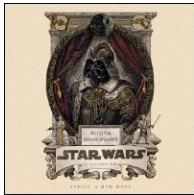
[*The Round House*](#), written by Louise Erdrich, narrated by Gary Farmer, Harper Audio, library edition Recorded Books, 2012

Thirteen-year-old Joe Coutts leads a sheltered life on the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota with his tribal judge father and tribal enrollment specialist mother. And then his mother is brutally attacked and life is never the same again. Joe's coming-of-age is infused with the frustration of injustice, the bewilderment of hate, and the love and humor of family and friends. Erdrich's brilliant foray into the communities she has been plumbing for years is accurately narrated with Native American pitch and cadence by Farmer, heightening the cultural authenticity of the listening experience.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.3

Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).



[*William Shakespeare's Star Wars Collection*](#), written by Ian Doescher, narrated by a full cast, Books on Tape, 2014

The three original Star Wars movies are retold in iambic pentameter in the audiobook version of *William Shakespeare's Star Wars*, *The Empire Striketh Back*, and *The Jedi Doth Return*. Replete with Shakespearian motifs, quotes, and characters, this highly humorous compendium is a light-hearted addition to Shakespeare studies. The full cast recreates the sound of George Lucas' classic Star Wars, with the perfectly-rendered voices of Luke, Han, Leia, Darth Vader, and other movie notables. There's even an entire soundscape of space gadgets, R2D2's beeps and whistles, and musical selections from the original score. Educators will appreciate the included author's notes that address instructional goals, as well as the author's website with extended materials.

Craft and Structure:

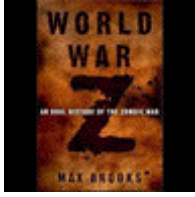
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.5

Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS-ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.7

Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)



[World War Z: The Complete Edition](#), written by Max Brooks, narrated by Max Brooks and a full cast, Books on Tape, 2013

Author Max Brooks portrays a survivor of the Zombie War who sets out to compile an oral history of the political and military response to the world-wide invasion. Short, episodic chapters document interviews with key players in the global disaster. An all-star cast of forty narrators provides culturally-appropriate voices that convince listeners that they are actually hearing documentary material. The dramatic performances provide primary-source commentary that reflects upon the moral and social imperatives that drove response to catastrophic events, material that will spark rich discussion in both language arts and social studies classrooms. The audiobook provides an unabridged version that expands and enhances the print title, which is completely unlike the movie of the same name.

Comprehension and Collaboration:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2

Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.