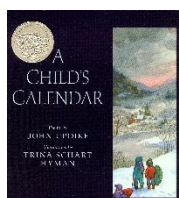


Sound Learning Audiobook Collection Lists & Samples

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.

Grades K-2



[*A Child's Calendar*](#), written and narrated by John Updike, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman, Live Oak Media

The changing seasons are embodied in twelve child-centered poems, one for each month of the year. Celebrations as well as observations of the natural world are delightfully rendered through Updike's elegantly understated narration and, when paired with the print book, Hyman's saturated watercolor paintings depicting a multiracial cast in rural New England. The quiet, even pacing will help children follow the poetry, identifying rhyming words as well as the patterns of the seasons to support the Common Core State Standards listed below.

Craft and Structure:

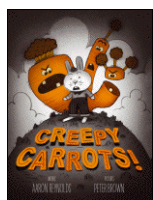
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.5

Recognize common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems).

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7

With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).



[*Creepy Carrots*](#), written by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown, narrated by James Naughton, Weston Woods, 2014

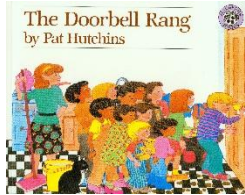
Jasper Rabbit loves to eat carrots. In fact, he eats them anywhere he finds them—on the way to school, walking home, in the fields—anywhere and all the time. And then, one day, the carrots begin to follow him! What will those carrots do? How can Jasper save himself? When paired with the print book, orange and brown-toned, stylized illustrations add to the tension and the hilarity, while Naughton's sometimes sinister baritone heightens the humor as the carrots terrify poor Jasper. Spooky music and appropriate sound effects round out this 2014 Odyssey Honor.

This is a great story for introducing a writing project. Have students determine what other fruit or vegetable might be scary and encourage them to write, and illustrate, their own story.

Text Types & Purposes:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3

Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.



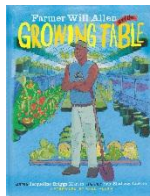
The Doorbell Rang, written and illustrated by Pat Hutchins, narrated by Suzanne Toren, Live Oak Media, 2001

Children will get practice with adding and removing in this amusing look at cookies shared further than might be optimal. Ma brings out a dozen cookies—six each for Sam and Victoria—and then the doorbell rings (cleverly disguised as page-turn signals), and rings, each time bringing more friends to share the cookies. Paired with the print book, illustrations provide visual clues to help with the math (and to determine Victoria and Sam's feelings). Toren's unhurried narration allows young listeners to follow along with the reading, reinforcing the repetition of the text and giving time to determine the distribution of the cookies. Extend the story by having the children make paper cookies (great for building fine motor skills) and sort them according to the storyline.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.OA.A.1

Represent addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds (e.g., claps), acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions, or equations.



Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table, written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin, narrated by Peter Jay Fernandez, Live Oak Media, 2014

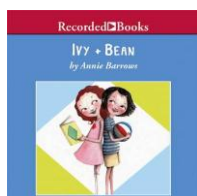
In this read-along, listeners will be introduced to a modern day urban farmer with a unique background, from a rural boyhood to professional football and then a dedicated return to farming. This true story of Will Allen will fascinate listeners with his practical ideas for success in building viable city farms. Fernandez' narration provides good pacing so that both the information and illustrations can be absorbed. The audio production details include an afterword by Will Allen himself where he stresses important facts about starting to grow crops in an urban setting, i.e. a worm factory is essential!

A recommended learning extension for this audiobook is a visit to Allen's web site, Growing Power (www.growingpower.org) where a video of Allen talking about how he began his farming project in Milwaukee, Wisconsin can add further motivation for young farmers-in-the-making. The site also offers more information for curriculum development activities.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1

Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.



[Ivy and Bean](#), written by Annie Barrows, narrated by Cassandra Morris, Recorded Books, 2007

When quiet, book-loving Ivy moves next door to tomboy Bean, the two girls are sure they will never be friends. But Bean's help with a prank on Ivy's older sister convinces them that combining their talents can lead to great fun. The first in a beginning chapter book series, this features a lively performance, with young and girlish narration. Each chapter introduces a separate event, making this just right for new listeners. Students can describe their listening skills and comprehension in support of these Common Core State Literature Standards:

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1

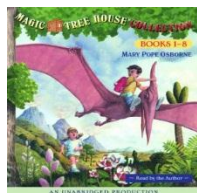
Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2

Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3

Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.



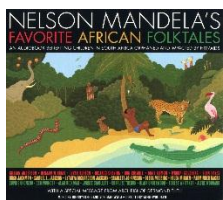
[Magic Tree House Collection, Books 1-8](#), written and narrated by Mary Pope Osborne, Listening Library, 2001

The first eight books of the ever-popular series introduce brother and sister duo, Jack and Annie. Each story features an adventure where they time travel to different historical periods, from dinosaurs to pirates and beyond. Each episode brings opportunities to solve a mystery, and build their sibling bond. An added bonus for listeners is the author's friendly tone and good pacing as she reads the simple beginning chapter text. The themes of magic time travel, mystery, and historical settings brings a winning combination to young listeners as they follow Jack and Annie through their continuing journeys.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9

Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).



[Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales](#), collected by Nelson Mandela, narrated by a full cast, Hachette, 2009

The rich oral tradition of storytelling is apparent in this collection from cultures across the African continent. Selected by Nobel Laureate Mandela, each of the 32 stories is performed by a notable celebrity, ranging from Samuel L. Jackson and Scarlett Johansson to Matt Damon, Whoopi Goldberg, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The production also contains source notes plus original music by South African musicians Johnny Clegg and Vusi Mahlasela. A perfect combination of masterful narration and an authentic soundscape, this title was named winner of the 2010 Audie Award for Audiobook of the Year by the Audio Publishers Association. Younger students may retell the story through drawing the characters and setting while listening. Older children may pair & share to retell the stories asking their partner questions to clarify details. Educators will want to make use of resources available as bonus material on the final CD and at <http://www.mandelasfavoritefolktales.com/>.

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2

Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

Comprehension and Collaboration:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.2

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.



[The One and Only Shrek](#), written by William Steig, narrated by Stanley Tucci and Meryl Streep, Macmillan Audio, 2007

This excellent collection of Steig picture books (*Shrek!*, *Doctor De Soto*, *Caleb and Kate*, *Brave Irene*, *The Amazing Bone*, and *Spinky Sulks*) focuses all the attention on his extraordinary use of language. Without the accompanying illustrations, listeners get the full effect of Steig's ability to paint pictures with words. Steig's rich language and complex storytelling is perfectly complemented by Tucci's superb voicing and pacing, while Streep's extensive vocal range and her talent for creating sound effects with her voice elevates even the wind to character level in this outstanding production.

To build comprehension, have students convey their understanding of the characters and settings in the stories and draw pictures to extend their descriptions. Compare the student illustrations with Steig's illustrations in the print picture books and allow the students time to discuss the different interpretations.

Comprehension and Collaboration

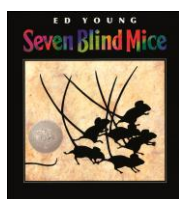
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.2

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5

Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.



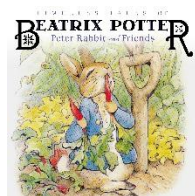
[*Seven Blind Mice*](#), written and illustrated by Ed Young, narrated by B.D. Wong, Weston Woods, 2007

Seven variously colored, and blind, mice venture down to the pond during the course of a week to investigate the strange thing that has come there. One finds it to be "sturdy," while another feels that it is "supple." Each discovers a differing attribute in this vocabulary-rich tale, but it takes the wise white mouse to determine the whole. Exotic music, lots of squeaking, and a deliberate narration heighten the tension of the story. The afterword, read by author/illustrator Young, offers insight into his creative process and provides useful advice on instructional extensions.

Measurement & Data

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.A.1

Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight. Describe several measurable attributes of a single object.



[*Timeless Tales of Beatrix Potter: Peter Rabbit and Friends*](#), narrated by Katherine Kellgren, Tantor Media, 2014

The timeless stories of Peter Rabbit, Nutkin, Benjamin Bunny, and all the Beatrix Potter creations are deliciously crafted with the performance of Katherine Kellgren. Her authentic British accent, perfect pacing, and emotional inflections give the listener a sense of the wonderful scenes of idyllic country life. That is not to say that Peter's terror of Mr. MacGregor or the Tailor of Gloucester's happiness in finding a completed waistcoat are understated, no, Kellgren can lend each character a definite persona, that includes some appropriate sounds and singing of various rhymes and songs throughout. This modern production includes a pdf of the print version and gives listeners a fresh appreciation for the universality of these classic tales.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9

Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.