



## ALA's 2008 Audiobook Lists

Below is a list of compiled titles selected by ALA's 2008 Notable Children's Recordings (ALSC), Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults (YALSA), and Odyssey Award for Excellence in Audiobook Production (Odyssey) Committees.

*The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones.* By Rick Riordan. Read by David Pittu. 2008. Scholastic Audio. 4 CDs (5 hrs.), \$19.95.

Gr. 4–8. At the reading of their grandmother's will, Dan and Amy Cahill are given the choice of receiving a million dollars or uncovering the 39 clues that will lead to the source of their family's power. Pittu brings this interactive tale to life with a spirited narration. ALSC

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.* By Lewis Carroll. Read by Jim Dale. 2008. Listening Library. 3 CDs (3 hrs.), \$25.

Gr. 4 and up. Ingenious and versatile narrator Dale brings to life the classic story of Alice falling down the rabbit hole and experiencing nonsensical adventures. ALSC

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian.* By Sherman Alexie. Read by the author. 2008. Recorded Books. 4 cassettes (4½ hrs.), \$33.75; 4 CDs, \$46.75.

Gr. 7–12. Arnold Spirit Jr. leaves his Spokane Indian Reservation high school after throwing his 30-year-old geometry textbook at his teacher. Reading his own work with appropriate pacing and true emotion, Alexie explores major issues of belonging and leaving your community, life and death, and the value of friendship. ALSC, YALSA, Odyssey

*The Adoration of Jenna Fox.* By Mary E. Pearson. Read by Jenna Lamia. 2008. Macmillan Audio. 7 CDs (7½ hrs.), \$29.95. Also available as a digital download.

Gr. 6–12. Her parents tell her that she has just awoken from a coma after a terrible accident, but Jenna Fox doesn't remember anything about her life. Narrator Lamia brilliantly brings to life one of the most empty—literally—young women in fiction. YALSA

*Brooklyn Bridge.* By Karen Hesse. Read by Fred Berman. 2008. Macmillan Audio. CDs (4½ hrs.), \$24.95. Also available as a digital download.

Gr. 4–9. Narrator Berman voices the thoughts and hopes

of lucky Joseph Michtom, son of the couple who created the teddy bear in 1903, while homeless children live under the Brooklyn Bridge and the new Coney Island Amusement Park entices. ALSC

*The Burn Journals.* By Brent Runyon. Read by Christopher Evan Welch. 2008. Recorded Books. 7 cassettes (8 hrs.), \$56.75; 7 CDs, \$77.75.

Gr. 7–12. At 14, Runyon set himself on fire; this is the true story of his emotional and physical recovery from that darkness. The pain, joy, and fear of Brent's ordeal are flawlessly portrayed in Welch's narration. YALSA

*Celia Cruz: Queen of Salsa.* By Veronica Chambers. Read by Michelle Manzo. 2008. Live Oak. Book and cassette set (15 mins.), \$25.95; book and CD set, \$28.95.

K–Gr. 5. A Cuban-born salsa singer, Cruz had a magical vibrancy even as a child. Using music and sound effects, Manzo offers a glimpse into Celia's childhood in this charming picture-book read-along. ALSC

*Clementine's Letter.* By Sara Pennypacker. Read by Jessica Almas. 2008. Recorded Books. 2 cassettes (2½ hrs.), \$25.75; 2 CDs, \$25.75. Also available as a Playaway or read-along set.

Gr. 2–5. Clementine's beloved teacher, Mr. D'Matz might be leaving, so she hatches a plan to get him back even if it means ruining his once-in-a-lifetime chance. Narrator Almas captures all the exuberance of the well-meaning heroine. ALSC

*A Clockwork Orange.* By Anthony Burgess. Read by Tom Hollander. 2007. HarperAudio/Caedmon. 7 CDs (8 hrs.), \$34.

Gr. 9 and up. High on milk-plus and teen hormones, Alex happily leads his mates on a rampage of ultraviolence. Arrested and imprisoned, he agrees to be "cured;" the cost is his free will. Hollander breathes life into Alex and his world with this amazing performance, helping listeners easily acquire the "nadsat" language. YALSA

*The Compound.* By S. A. Bodeen. Read by Christopher Lane. 2008. Brilliance Audio. 5 cassettes (6 hrs.), \$69.25; 5 CDs, \$74.25. Also available as a digital download.

Gr. 6–10. Eli's billionaire father built the Compound to protect his family from nuclear devastation. Now, six years have passed and Eli finally begins to question his reality. Lane's intense, well-paced narration adds to the pulse-pounding intensity of this nonstop thrill ride. YALSA

*Curse of the Blue Tattoo: Being an Account of the Misadventures of Jacky Faber, Midshipman and Fine Lady.* By L. A. Meyer. Read by Katherine Kellgren. 2008. Listen & Live Audio. 11 CDs (14 hrs.), \$37.95. Also available as a digital download.

Gr. 6–10. Mary "Jacky" Faber spent a year at sea facing life-and-death situations, but becoming a "Fine Lady" at the Lawson Peabody School for Girls will be her toughest challenge yet! This rousing historical tale is brought to vivid life through Kellgren's expert narration. ALSC, YALSA, Odyssey Honor

*The Dead and the Gone.* By Susan Beth Pfeffer. Read by Robertson Dean. 2008. Listening Library. 7 CDs (9 hrs.), \$55.

Gr. 6–12. Narrator Dean lends a chilling air of suspense telling Pfeffer's story of Alex Morales and his siblings' struggle for survival in New York City after an asteroid hits the moon and catastrophically alters the earth's climate. ALSC

*The Declaration.* By Gemma Malley. Read by Charlotte Parry. 2007. Recorded Books. 7 cassettes (7¾ hrs.), \$67.75; 7 CDs, \$97.75.

Gr. 7–12. It's 2140 and Anna is a Surplus, an unwanted child forced into slavery. With Peter's arrival, she learns that everything she knows is wrong, and her journey back home begins. Parry's unique and genuine accents make the characters shine in this thrilling story. YALSA

*Elijah of Buxton.* By Christopher Paul Curtis. Read by Mirron Willis. 2008. Listening Library. 8 CDs (8½ hrs.), \$55.

Gr. 6–9. Willis' enthralling, richly authentic narration of Curtis' award-winning novel transports listeners to a historic Canadian settlement of former slaves as 11-year-old Elijah Freeman confronts the realities of slavery. ALSC, YALSA, Odyssey Honor

*Fairest.* By Gail Carson Levine. Read by Sarah Naughton and the Full Cast Family. 2007. Full Cast Audio. 8 CDs (8¼ hrs.), \$55. Also available in a Playaway edition.

Gr. 5–10. Aza does not look like her fellow Ayorthans, but she can sing like them. Feeling huge and ugly, she somehow becomes the favorite of the new queen and shares in a secret that could bring down a kingdom and destroy Aza's happiness. The Full Cast Family expertly reads and sings the story of Aza and her home of Ayortha, a country where beautiful composing and singing are prized above everything. YALSA

*Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village.* By Laura Amy Schlitz. Read by Christina Moore and a full cast. 2008. Recorded Books. 2 cassettes (1½ hrs.), \$30.75; 2 CDs, \$30.75. Also available as a Playaway or read-along set.

Gr. 4–9. Listeners get a glimpse of life in medieval times as told by a wide variety of characters—from nobility to beggar—in this audiobook featuring a narrator and full cast. ALSC

*Grandfather's Journey.* By Allen Say. Read by B. D. Wong. 2008. Weston Woods. 1 CD (8 mins.), \$12.95. Also available in book and CD sets and a DVD edition.

K–Gr. 5. Wong's crisp and clear narration enhances Say's provocative memoir of his grandfather's yearning for two countries. A bonus author interview is included. ALSC

*The Graveyard Book.* By Neil Gaiman. Read by the author. 2008. Recorded Books. 7 cassettes (7¾ hrs.), \$56.75; 7 CDs, \$77.75.

Gr. 5–9 Pursued by a knife-wielding killer, young orphan Bod Owens is taken in by the spirits of a graveyard. To learn about life beyond the cemetery gates, Bod must face the dangers that await him. Listeners cannot help but be captivated by Bod's tale through the voice of master storyteller Gaiman,

who evokes the horror, humor, and heartbreak of an unusual boy raised by ghosts. ALSC, YALSA

*Gregor and the Code of Claw.* By Suzanne Collins. Read by Paul Boehmer. 2008. Listening Library. 7 CDs (9 hrs.), \$55.

Gr. 4–8. Narrator Boehmer enlivens the final segment of the Underland Chronicles with distinct character voices and appropriate tension for the battle of the warrior Gregor with the Bane and the breaking the Code of Claw. ALSC

*How to Build a House.* By Dana Reinhardt. Read by Caitlin Greer. 2008. Listening Library. 5 CDs (5½ hrs.), \$45.

Gr. 8–12. Harper's home and family are falling apart. To escape her father and stepsister, she joins a volunteer program to build a house for Teddy's family, who lost their home in a tornado. Greer gives voice to Harper who, as she helps one family build their house, starts to put her own life back together. YALSA

*I'm Dirty!* By Kate McMullan. Illus. by Jim McMullan. Read by Steve Buscemi. 2008. Weston Woods. 1 CD (12 mins.), \$12.95. Also available in book and CD sets and a DVD edition.

Preschool–Gr. 2. Join Backhoe Loader for a day in this fanciful romp featuring big machinery. Buscemi captures all the enthusiasm of this personified backhoe. With music by David Mansfield adding the perfect touch, young readers can follow every dirty minute of the day's work. ALSC, Odyssey Honor

*The Last Apprentice, Book 3: Night of the Soul Stealer.* By Joseph Delaney. Read by Christopher Evan Welch. 2007. Recorded Books. 6 cassettes (7½ hrs.), \$41.75; 6 CDs, \$51.75.

Gr. 5–9. In his third adventure as apprentice to the Spook, young Tom Ward travels to Angelzarke for a long, cold winter. When the Spook falls ill, Tom faces terrors on his own as he defends the County against the dark. Narrator Welch creates a properly spooky and suspenseful atmosphere seen through the eyes of the naïve Tom. YALSA

*Lock and Key.* By Sarah Dessen. Read by Rebecca Soler. 2008. Penguin Audio. 10 CDs (11 hrs.), \$39.95. Also available as a digital download.

Gr. 8–12. Just shy of her eighteenth birthday, Ruby is forced to move in with her older sister Cora, who left Ruby with their alcoholic mother 10 years earlier. In creating the character of Ruby, Soler perfectly embodies a young adult woman: alternatively confident and scared, sarcastic and tentatively affectionate. YALSA

*Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale.* By Carmen Agra Deedy. Read by the author. 2008. Peachtree. 1 CD (10 mins.), \$6.95.

K–Gr. 5. Storyteller Deedy brings spirited wit and cultural touches to her retelling of the traditional Cuban folktale about Martina's quest to find a husband. Bonus tracks include a Spanish version and a storytelling performance. ALSC, Odyssey Honor

*Miss Spitfire.* By Sarah Miller. Read by Terry Donnelly. 2008. Recorded Books. 6 cassettes (6¾ hrs.), \$51.75; 6 CDs, \$66.75.

Gr. 5–9. Narrator Donnelly fully captures both the joys and frustrations of Helen Keller’s tutor, Anne Sullivan, in this fictionalized account of Anne’s struggle to communicate with blind and deaf Helen during their first days together. ALSC

*Nation.* By Terry Pratchett. Read by Stephen Briggs. 2008. HarperChildren’s Audio. CDs (9½ hrs.), \$29.

Gr. 7–11. Narrator Briggs’ crisp, precise British narration artfully enhances Pratchett’s survival story focusing on 13-year-old Mau and British teen Daphne, the sole survivors of a tsunami. YALSA, Odyssey Honor

*The Possibilities of Sainthood.* By Donna Freitas. Read by Emily Bauer. Brilliance Audio. 2008. 6 CDs (7 hrs.), \$60.97. Also available as a digital download.

Gr. 7–10. Antonia Lucia Labella has not only a secret ambition to become a saint but also a desire to catch the eye of a “hottie.” This warm, engaging story of a 15-year-old Catholic girl is expertly narrated by Bauer. ALSC

*Red Moon at Sharpsburg.* By Rosemary Wells. Read by Julia Gibson. 2008. Recorded Books. 6 cassettes (7 hrs.), \$51.75; 6 CDs, \$66.75.

Gr. 5–8. Coming of age during the American Civil War, 13-year-old India Moody faces both danger and heartbreak as she concentrates on surviving. Gibson narrates this sweeping epic of determination and self-sacrifice. ALSC

*Sebastian Darke: Prince of Fools.* By Philip Caveney. Read by Maxwell Caulfield. 2008. Listening Library. 7 CDs (8½ hrs.), \$55.

Gr. 6–9. On the eve of her seventh birthday, Princess Kerin is rescued from certain death by Sebastian, Cornelius, and Max the Buffalo. Chock full of action, humor, friendship, and loyalty, this adventure is epic storytelling at its best with Caulfield in charge of the narration. YALSA

*Shooting the Moon.* By Frances O’Roark Dowell. Read by Jessica Almas. 2008. Recorded Books. 3 cassettes (3¼ hrs.), \$30.75; 3 CDs, \$30.75. Also available as a Playaway edition or read-along set.

Gr. 4–7. Almas voices the story of Jamie, who receives a roll of film to process from her brother who is serving in Vietnam. This begins her journey of understanding not only herself but the larger world around her. ALSC

*Skybreaker.* By Kenneth Oppel. Read by David Kelly and the Full Cast Family. 2008. Full Cast Audio. 10 CDs (11½ hrs.), \$65.

Gr. 5–10. Matt Cruse soars to new heights of adventure in pursuit of the Hyperion, a ghost ship carrying untold treasure at 20,000 feet. Kelly and the Full Cast Family masterfully create engaging and unique characters that pull the listener into Matt’s high-flying world of excitement, adventure, and danger. ALSC, YALSA

*Slam.* By Nick Hornby. Read by Nicholas Hoult. 2007. Penguin Audio. 7 CDs (7 hrs.), \$29.95.

Gr. 9–12. Sam is a 16-year-old who likes to skate, does well in art classes, looks up to Tony Hawk, and . . . gets his girlfriend pregnant. Hoult nails the voice of Sam—immature, poignant, and funny—which matures throughout the book as Sam’s experiences life and fatherhood. YALSA

*Story of a Girl.* By Sara Zarr. Read by the author. 2008. Listening Library. 4 CDs (4¾ hrs.), \$38.

Gr. 8–12. Branded the “school skank” at age 13, Deanna feels isolated and puts on a tough exterior. The author’s narration unveils the spare, powerful, and honest portrayal of a girl with a reputation. YALSA

*Tallgrass.* By Sandra Dallas. Read by Lorelei King. 2007. Macmillan Audio. 8 CDs (8½ hrs.), \$29.95. Also available in a digital download.

Gr. 9–12. Rennie’s life is changed forever at age 13; her brother is fighting in World War II and a Japanese internment camp opens near her small town. When a young girl is murdered, most of the townspeople believe it was someone from the camp. King’s multidimensional voice brings the characters to life. YALSA

*A Thousand Never Evers.* By Shana Burg. Read by Kenya Brome. 2008. Listening Library. 7 CDs (8 hrs.), \$50.

Gr. 7–10. It’s the summer of 1963, and 12-year-old Addie Ann Pickett lives on the black side of town in Kuckachoo, Mississippi. Brome has the perfect voice for Addie, her family, and the townspeople, as she expresses alternately lighthearted optimism, tearful emotion, and arrogant assumption of white superiority. YALSA

*The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.* By Jon Scieszka. Illus. by Lane Smith. Read by Paul Giamatti. 2008. Weston Woods. 1 CD (8 mins.), \$12.95. Also available as a Playaway or read-along set.

K–Gr. 4. Told from Alexander T. Wolf’s point of view, narrator Giamatti presents a compelling case for the wolf’s innocence. A great use of music, pacing, and narration adds just the right touch of humor in this rousing read-along. ALSC

*Under the Jolly Roger: Being an Account of the Further Nautical Adventures of Jacky Faber.* By L.A. Meyer. Read by Katherine Kellgren. 2008. Listen and Live Audio. CDs (15 hrs.), \$29.95

Gr. 6–10. When her reunion with Jaimy goes awry due to a misunderstanding, Jacky is pressed into service on the Wolverine. Kellgren captures the wonder of the “Cheapside orphan” who has journeyed to America and back, and undertakes new feats with daring, recklessness, and courage. YALSA

*Wolf Brother.* By Michelle Paver. Read by Ian McKellen. 2005. HarperChildrens Audio. 6 CDs (6½ hrs.), \$18.95.

Gr. 3–8. In the Bronze Age, orphan Torak and his companion animal Wolf make a mystical journey to seek revenge in the first book in the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series. 