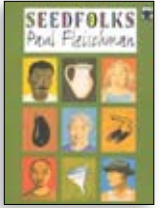


Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood

by Benjamin Alire Sáenz,
narrated by Robert Ramirez

Sammy Santos and Juliana Rios live amongst the racism, discrimination, and everyday violence during the 1960s Vietnam years in small town Southern New Mexico. Ramirez narrates with strong cultural authenticity, intensifying the sense of time and place.



Seedfolks

by Paul Fleischman,
narrated by Various Voices

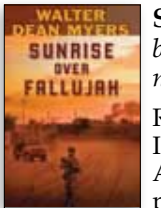
One by one, people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed. Each gardener is read with regional and cultural accuracy, heightening the emotional impact of the story.



A Step from Heaven

by An Na, narrated by Jina Oh

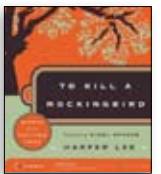
A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America. Jina Oh expertly creates Young Ju's voice from her earliest toddler experiences in Korea through her painful attempts to keep peace in the family as a high school student.



Sunrise over Fallujah

by Walter Dean Myers,
narrated by J. D. Jackson

Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him. Jackson captures Robin's voice, increasing the emotional impact of this story of boys and war.



To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee, narrated by Sissy Spacek

A young girl growing up in an Alabama town in the 1930s learns of injustice and violence when her father, a widowed lawyer, defends a black man falsely accused of rape. Spacek's soft southern accent adds to the regional atmosphere created so powerfully by the author.



Tomorrow, When the War Began

by John Marsden,
narrated by Suzi Dougherty

A group of teens returning from a camping trip discover that something terrible has happened in their absence. How they survive and fight an invading army is skillfully narrated by Dougherty with her authentic Australian accent.



Under the Blood Red Sun

by Graham Salisbury,
narrated by Jeff Woodman

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life in Hawaii with his Japanese family changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Woodman creates Tomi's diverse community with unique voices for each character.



The Whale Rider

by Witi Ihimaera,
narrated by Jay Laga'aia

The first-born male insures the rightful succession of chief in a Maori tribe in Whangara, New Zealand. When Kahu breaks that line, she must prove that she has truly been chosen by the whales to lead her people. The narrator, a native Maori, provides accurate pronunciation and pacing to heighten the cultural experience for listeners.



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Read Around the World With Your Ears for teens



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We live in a global society and one of the best ways to connect with each other is through stories.

Audiobooks can provide a wonderful way to hear the voices of people from many lands and regions. The following titles offer authentic cultural listening experiences, so plug in your ear buds and travel through time and around the world.



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

written and narrated by Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane

Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Alexie comfortably creates Junior's voice, showcasing the humor and tragedy of this autobiographical novel.



Before We Were Free

written and narrated by Julia Alvarez

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, 12-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo. Alvarez, who grew up in the

Dominican Republic, perfectly creates the setting, language, and characters through her narration.



Colibrí

by Ann Cameron, narrated by Jacquelin Kim

Kidnapped by a ruthless man who forces her to lie and beg for money, a 12-year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing to return to the parents she hardly remembers.

Kim's reading creates a sense of place and culture, as well as Colibrí's anguish.



Elijah of Buxton

by Christopher Paul Curtis, narrated by Mirron Willis

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, uses his wits and skills attempting to bring an unscrupulous preacher to justice. Willis effortlessly narrates a tale filled with dialect, accentuating both the humor and the horror of Elijah's life.



Esperanza Rising

by Pam Muñoz Ryan, narrated by Trini Alvarado

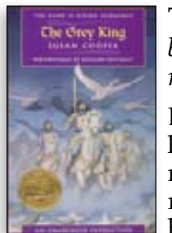
On the eve of the Great Depression, Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in Southern California, where harsh circumstances face Mexican farm workers. Spanish words and phrases are effortlessly read by Alvarado adding to the cultural realism.



The First Part Last

by Angela Johnson, narrated by Khalipa Oldjohn (featuring Kole Kristi)

Kahlipa Oldjohn's appropriately youthful voice realistically takes listeners inside Bobby's story as his carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.



The Grey King

by Susan Cooper, narrated by Richard Mitchley

Eleven-year-old Will Stanton, who has only recently discovered his magical powers, is sent to Wales to recover from a long illness. There he encounters a strange boy and an amazing dog that help him in his quest to defeat the powers of darkness. Native Welsh speaker Mitchley's rich voice transports listeners to the mountainous countryside ably conveying the dark magic.



Here in Harlem: Poems in Many Voices

by Walter Dean Myers, narrated by Multiple Voices

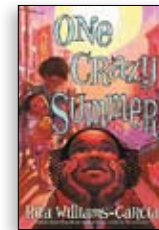
A celebration of Harlem through powerful and soulful first-person poems in the voices of the residents who make up the legendary neighborhood. Read by a full cast, each poem comes to life with the music and sound effects of this vibrant African American cityscape.



Nory Ryan's Song

by Patricia Reilly Giff, narrated by Susan Lynch

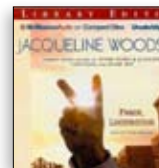
When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, 12-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive. Lynch brings a lilting Irish accent to this bleak historical moment that still manages to be filled with hope.



One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williams-Garcia, narrated SiSi Aisha Johnson

In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her two younger sisters travel from Brooklyn, New York to Oakland, California to spend a month with the mother they barely know. Resenting the intrusion, their mother sends them off to a Black Panther community day camp. Johnson's strong voice guides listeners through Delphine's growing awareness of herself.



Peace, Locomotion

by Jacqueline Woodson, narrated by Dion Graham

Sixth-grader Lonnie, "Locomotion," keeps his family alive through letters to his sister, living in a different foster home. Dion Graham's sensitive narration brings listeners squarely into the lives of Lonnie's own foster family, including the brother who comes home from the war completely changed.