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Children's Animal Stories

Here is a collection of favorite and new animal stories for younger readers, ranging from grades 2nd through the 6th. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

The One and Only Ivan By Katherine Applegate

Read by Joe Peck

Reading time 3 hours, 37 minutes

Ivan the gorilla has lived comfortably for years in a down-and-out, circus-themed mall. But when baby elephant Ruby arrives, Ivan decides that he must find her a better life. For grades 3-6 and older readers. Newbery Medal. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The One and Only Ivan](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075687

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19679](#)

Also available in braille BR019679

A Dog On His Own By Mary Jane Auch

Read by Erik Synnестvedt

Reading time 2 hours, 54 minutes

A stray mutt--named K-10 by his mother because he is one step above the other dogs--leads a black lab called Pearl and a chihuahua called Peppy on a daring escape from an animal shelter. They explore the outside world while moving from one adventure to another. For grades 3-6. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Dog On His Own](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068331

The Case of the Lost Boy By Dori Hillestad Butler

Read by Gregory Gorton

Reading time 1 hour, 15 minutes

A mother and her nine-year-old son Connor go to the pound and adopt Buddy, a golden retriever. When Connor disappears, Buddy uses his keen sense of smell and powers of deduction to help the mother find her lost boy. For grades K-3.

Edgar Award. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Case of the Lost Boy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074463

Paddington Here and Now By Michael Bond

Read by Graeme Malcolm Reading time 2 hours, 30 minutes

Paddington, the bear from Darkest Peru, has a new set of London adventures: his shopping basket on wheels disappears from outside of the grocer's shop, he goes trick-or-treating on Halloween, and he has a visitor who gives him a Christmas surprise. For grades 3-6. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Paddington Here and Now](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068099

Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit By Joan Davenport Carris

Read by Nicola Daval Reading time 1 hour, 40 minutes

Dr. Bender, also called Grampa, runs an animal boarding house, the Bed and Biscuit, with the help of his pets--miniature pig Ernest, mynah bird Gabby, and young cat Milly. They all feel jealous when Grampa's attentions become focused on caring for a sick Scottie puppy. For grades 2-4. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071042

Because of Winn-Dixie By Kate DiCamillo

Read by Ann Hodapp Reading time 2 hours, 5 minutes

Ten-year-old India Opal and her preacher dad move to a new town in Florida during the summer. Opal is lonely until she adopts a big stray dog she names Winn-Dixie. The two soon make friends with the local librarian, the pet store manager, and a nearly-blind elderly neighbor. For grades 3-6. 2000.

[Download from BARD: Because of Winn-Dixie](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050679

Also available on cassette RC050679

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12917](#)

Also available in braille BR012917 OR BR016130

The Tale of Despereaux Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread By Kate DiCamillo

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 3 hours, 57 minutes

Despereaux, a small mouse, is condemned to the dungeon for falling in love with human Princess Pea. Despereaux meets the rat, Roscuro, while Mig, an upstairs serving girl, wishes to be a princess, too. All four meet with near disastrous results. Newbery Medal winner. For grades 3-6. 2003.

[Download from BARD: The Tale of Despereaux Being the Story of a...](#)

Also available on cassette RC057805

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15300](#)

Also available in braille BR015300

Mikis and the Donkey By Bibi Dumon Tak

Read by J. P. Linton

Reading time 1 hour, 35 minutes

On the Greek island of Corfu, young Mikis is thrilled when his grandfather buys a new donkey, Tsaki, but soon worries that his grandfather is overworking the animal. Determined to take care of her, Mikis pampers Tsaki and she in turn surprises him. First published in Dutch in 2011. Batchelder Award. For grades 3-6. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Mikis and the Donkey](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082801

Mountain Dog By Margarita Engle

Read by J. P. Linton

Reading time 2 hours, 49 minutes

When his mother is sent to jail in Los Angeles for dog fighting, eleven-year-old Tony goes to live with his forest-ranger great-uncle in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tony experiences unconditional love for the first time through his friendship with rescue dog Gabe. For grades 4-7. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Mountain Dog](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082212

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21134](#)

Also available in braille BR021134

Sword Quest By Nancy Yi Fan

Read by Kate Kiley

Reading time 5 hours, 12 minutes

In order to save the world of birds from destroying themselves at war, Wind-voice, a dove, seeks a sword made magical by the Great Spirit himself. But first the dove must confront an evil rival, archaeopteryx Maldeor. Prequel to Swordbird (RC 64969). For grades 3-6. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Sword Quest](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068116

Man o' War By Walter Farley

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 11 hours, 21 minutes

Lexington, Kentucky. Danny stands nearby as a big red colt is born on March 29, 1917. The boy watches the foal grow, learning his nature and accompanying him to the racetrack. Danny stays with Man o' War as he wins races and the hearts of Americans. For grades 4-7. 1962.

[Download from BARD: Man o' War](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066966

Follow My Leader By James B. Garfield

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 5 hours, 17 minutes

At first eleven-year-old Jimmy is discouraged by losing his sight in a firecracker accident. Gradually he learns to read braille, use a cane, and do things for himself. But working with his own guide dog, Leader, makes the biggest and best change. For grades 4-7. 1957.

[Download from BARD: Follow My Leader](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070876

Also available on cassette RC012868

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18829](#)

Also available in braille BR018829

Julie of the Wolves By Jean Craighead George

Read by Catherine Byers Reading time 3 hours, 34 minutes

Julie, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl, runs away rather than agree to an arranged marriage. Lost and starving on the barren tundra, she makes friends with a pack of wolves who save her life. For grades 5-8. Newbery Medal. 1972.

[Download from BARD: Julie of the Wolves](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034451

Also available on cassette RC034451

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR08738](#)

Old Yeller By Fred Gipson

Read by Jack Fox Reading time 3 hours, 11 minutes

1860s Texas. Fourteen-year-old Travis at first resents the big, yellow stray dog that hangs around his home, but he comes to love and depend on him. With his father away on a cattle drive, Travis is the man of the house and looks to Old Yeller for help and protection. For grades 5-8.

[Download from BARD: Old Yeller](#)

Also available on cassette RC047404

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11976](#)

Also available in braille BR011976 OR BR007798

Toad Rage By Morris Gleitzman

Read by John Polk Reading time 3 hours, 8 minutes

An Australian cane toad named Limpy notices that human drivers deliberately run down and kill his relatives. Determined to figure out why humans hate toads and to change their opinion, Limpy embarks on a dangerous trek from his swamp to the Summer Olympics in Sydney. For grades 3-6. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Toad Rage](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067488

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18117](#)

Also available in braille BR018117

The Big Nap From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye By

Bruce Hale

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 2 hours

Someone is turning the students at Emerson Hicky Elementary school into zombies and it's up to fourth-grade detective Chet Gecko to find out who. For grades 3-6. 2001.

[Download from BARD: The Big Nap From the Tattered Casebook of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069475

Gabriel's Horses By Alison Hart

Read by Patrick Downer

Reading time 4 hours, 49 minutes

Kentucky, 1864. With the Civil War disrupting normal routines, twelve-year-old slave Gabriel's free father joins the Union Army to earn his family's freedom. Meanwhile Gabriel contends with the new, cruel, white horse trainer and with Confederate soldier raids and dreams of becoming a jockey. For grades 4-7. 2007.

[Download from BARD Gabriel's Horses](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069305

Misty of Chincoteague By Marguerite.Henry

Read by David Palmer

Reading time 2 hours, 36 minutes

Adventuresome tale of two children and a freedom-loving wild pony on the islands of the Chesapeake Bay. For grades 4-7.

[Download from BARD: Misty of Chincoteague](#)

Also available on cassette RC025353

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12918](#)

Also available in braille BR012918

Hoot By Carl Hiaasen

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 7 hours, 26 minutes

Middle school student Roy has just moved from Montana to south Florida. He befriends a boy named Mullet Fingers and his stepsister, who are trying to prevent a pancake-house chain from building a restaurant over a colony of burrowing owls. For grades 6-9. Newbery Honor Book. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Hoot](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055550

Also available on cassette RC055550

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17274](#)

Also available in braille BR017274

Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery By Deborah Howe

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 1 hours, 55 minutes

Harold, the family dog, recalls the time the Monroes brought home a cute baby bunny they found at a Dracula movie and named Bunnica. But Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that the rabbit is really a vampire. For grades 3-6. 1979.

[Download from BARD: Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065299

Also available on cassette RC065299

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17165](#)

Also available in braille BR017165 OR BR004392

Mr. and Mrs. Bunny-- Detectives Extraordinaire! By Polly Horvath

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 4 hours, 36 minutes

When her hippie parents go missing on Hornby Island, Canada, fifth-grader Madeline finds two fedora-wearing detective bunnies to take the case pro bono. And their prime suspects are foxes. For grades 3-6 and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Mr. and Mrs. Bunny-- Detectives Extraordinaire!](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076222

Digby O'Day in the Fast Lane By Shirley Hughes

Read by Jennifer Hubbard Reading time 34 minutes

Canine duo Digby O'Day and Percy are best friends, and adventure always seems to find them. When an all-day race is announced, Digby enters his car against their nemesis, Lou Ella, and mayhem ensues. For grades K-3. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Digby O'Day in the Fast Lane](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083191

Into the Wild By Erin Hunter

Read by Patrick Downer Reading time 7 hours, 31 minutes

A young house cat, Rusty--later renamed Firepaw and then Fireheart--leaves home to join the endangered ThunderClan, one of four rival clans of wildcats claiming the forest. With noble warrior cats mysteriously dying, Rusty trains to become a warrior, a hunter, and a survivor. Some violence. For grades 4-7. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Into the Wild](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066677

Survivors The Empty City ; A Hidden Enemy ; Darkness Falls ; The Broken Path By Erin Hunter

Read by Jennifer Hubbard Reading time 28 hours, 29 minutes

Four fantasy novels about dogs in a strange and dangerous new world. In The Empty City, after a devastating earthquake, Lucky changes his stance on being a lone dog and teams up with a few other hounds to improve their chances of survival. For grades 4-7. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Survivors The Empty City ; A Hidden Enemy...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078798

Redwall By Brian Jacques

Read by David Palmer

Reading time 11 hours, 28 minutes

Fantasy about a community of mice defending their monastery against marauding rats led by the evil Cluny the Scourge. Matthias defers his peaceful ideals to follow his calling as successor to the renowned Martin, who long ago saved the monastery. With the help of old Methuselah, Matthias seeks to unravel a key riddle and recover Martin's lost scabbard and sword. For grades 5-8.

[Download from BARD: Redwall](#)

Also available on cassette RC029729

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13472](#)

Also available in braille BR013472

We Can't All Be Rattlesnakes By Patrick Jennings

Read by Julie-Ann Elliott

Reading time 2 hours, 40 minutes

A gopher snake, named Crusher by Gunnar the boy who captures her, describes her reactions to living in a human's house with other pets. Imprisoned in a terrarium, Crusher plans an escape that may include the live mouse Gunnar gave her to eat. For grades 3-6. 2009.

[Download from BARD: We Can't All Be Rattlesnakes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069610

The Pup Who Cried Wolf by Chris Kurtz

Read by Brian Hemmingsen

Reading time 2 hours, 10 minutes

Lobo, a Chihuahua from New York City who feels he truly is a wolf in an undersized body, goes to Yellowstone National Park with his mistress and dreams of running wild with his wolf brothers. For grades 2-4. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Pup Who Cried Wolf](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071872

Guardians of Ga'Hoole [series] By Kathryn Lasky

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

Reading time 74 hours, 28 minutes

Adventures in an owl kingdom, where friends band together to battle danger and evil and heroism is valued. Complete series of fifteen books. For grades 3-6. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Guardians of Ga'Hoole \[series\]](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072810

Highway Cats By Janet Taylor Lisle

Read by Graci. Ragsdale-Miller Reading time 2 hours, 5 minutes

A tough band of cats claiming Potter's woods as home are amazed by the mysterious arrival of three kittens crossing Interstate 95. As bulldozers approach to destroy the cats' habitat, the kittens become a rallying point for action. For grades 4-7. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Highway Cats](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068219

Akimbo and the Elephants By Alexander McCall Smith

Read by Judith Ann Gantly Reading time 1 hour

Akimbo loves watching the elephants on the game preserve in East Africa where his father works. When Akimbo learns that the authorities cannot catch the poachers who kill elephants for their ivory tusks, he comes up with a plan to save the elephants himself. For grades 2-4. 1990.

[Download from BARD: Akimbo and the Elephants](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067045

The Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh By A.A. Milne

Read by Bob Askey Reading time 5 hours, 47 minutes

The adventures of Christopher Robin, a boy, and his favorite companions-- Winnie-the-Pooh, a bear; Eeyore, an old grey donkey; and Rabbit, Piglet, Kanga, and Baby Roo. Contains the unabridged texts of Winnie-the-Pooh, first published in 1926, and The House at Pooh Corner, from 1928. For grades K-3 and older readers.

[Download from BARD: The Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048132

Also available on cassette RC048132

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16417](#)

Also available in braille BR016417

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Read by David Cutler

Reading time 3 hours, 54 minutes

Joey, a horse, recalls his experiences growing up on an English farm, his struggle for survival when sold to the cavalry during World War I, and his reunion with Albert, his beloved master. (2011 movie of same name is based on this book.) For grades 5-8. 1982.

[Download from BARD: War Horse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072156

Wild Born Spirit Animals By Brandon Mull

Read by Nicola Barber

Reading time 5 hours, 38 minutes

In the world of Erdas, four children separated by vast distances all undergo the same ritual. Each of them is bonded with a great beast, and now they must confront a dark force. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Wild Born Spirit Animals](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078815

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20969](#)

Also available in braille BR020969

Meow Means Mischief By Ann Whitehead Nagda

Read by Celeste Lawson

Reading time 1 hour, 35 minutes

Adopting a stray kitten helps Rana, a new student, make friends with fellow cat owner Susan. But Rana's grandmother, who is visiting from India, doesn't like the kitten's mischief at home and tries to stop Rana from keeping it. Companion to Dear Whiskers (RC 54786). For grades 2-4. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Meow Means Mischief](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069296

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Read by Richard Hauenstein Reading time 2 hours, 43 minutes

Marty Preston, an eleven-year-old West Virginia boy, narrates a gripping account of how he comes to own a runaway dog, Shiloh. Fearing that Shiloh is being abused by Judd Travers, his owner, Marty takes him in. But his family cannot afford to feed another mouth, and Shiloh is returned. When Shiloh comes back to Marty, the boy hides him in the woods and builds a structure of lies that crumbles and compromises everyone. For grades 4-7. Newbery Medal.

[Download from BARD: Shiloh](#)

Also available on cassette RC035064

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11971](#)

Also available in braille BR011971 OR BR008861

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH By Robert C. O'Brien

Read by Flo Gibson Reading time 5 hours, 18 minutes

A widowed mother mouse with housing problems seeks the help of a colony of rats. She discovers that the rats, who are super-intelligent laboratory specimens, have developed a highly sophisticated civilization which includes computers. For grades 4-7. 1972 Newbery Award. 1971.

[Download from BARD: Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023562

Also available on cassette RC023562

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16422](#)

Also available in braille BR016422 OR BR008598

Woof a Bowser and Birdie Novel By Spencer Quinn

Read by James Frangione Reading time 7 hours, 4 minutes

Following the adoption of Bowser, a mutt, eleven-year-old Birdie Gaux and her grandmother get home to Grammy's bait-and-tackle shop in the bayou to discover that their prize stuffed marlin has been stolen. Bowser decides to investigate, and things quickly become complicated and dangerous. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Woof a Bowser and Birdie Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081689

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20862](#)

Also available in braille BR020862

I Am the Great Horse By Katherine Roberts

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 16 hours, 26 minutes

Bucephalus, a war horse, recounts his adventures with Alexander the Great, traveling from northern Greece to Persia and Egypt from 344-323 B.C.E.

Charmeia, a determined stable girl carrying secrets of her own, accompanies them as Bucephalus's groom. Some violence. For grades 6-9. 2006.

[Download from BARD: I Am the Great Horse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066974

Secrets of Bearhaven By K. E. Rocha

Read by Louisa Gummer Reading time 6 hours, 17 minutes

When Spencer's uncle abruptly pulls him out of school, they find themselves in a car chase. After Spencer takes refuge in the woods, a bear leads him to Bearhaven, a secret place his parents created, filled with talking bears who want to help. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Secrets of Bearhaven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083515

Black Beauty By Anna Sewell

Read by Robert Sams Reading time 5 hours, 51 minutes

Black Beauty, a fine stallion, tells of his suffering as he is sold from one cruel master to another. This book was written to dramatize the abuse of horses in nineteenth-century England. Some violence. For grades 4-7. .

[Download from BARD: Black Beauty](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB041291

Also available on cassette RC041291

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16469](#)

Also available in braille BR016469

The White Giraffe By Lauren St. John

Read by Jill Fox Reading time 4 hours, 22 minutes

Suddenly orphaned, eleven-year-old Martine leaves England to stay with an unfamiliar grandmother living on a wildlife sanctuary and game reserve in South Africa. One stormy night Martine sights a legendary white giraffe, which poachers want to capture, and she becomes determined to protect the animal. For grades 4-7. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The White Giraffe](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067843

Wishworks Inc. By Stephanie S. Tolan

Read by Brian Conn

Reading time 1 hour, 59 minutes

Third-grader Max imagines adventures with a wonderful dog named King. In his dreams Max visits Wishworks, Inc., and wishes for a real, live pooch. But he doesn't foresee a neighbor bringing a ratty stray to his door--and his mother accepting the mutt. Beginning chapter book. For grades 2-4. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Wishworks Inc.](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070844

Harriet the Invincible Hamster Princess By Ursula Vernon

Read by Marsha Rehns

Reading time 2 hours, 12 minutes

Never a conventional princess, Harriet Hamsterbone becomes an adventurer when she learns she is cursed by the wicked fairy Ratshade to fall into a deep sleep on her twelfth birthday, after pricking herself on the hamster wheel . Years pass, and something peculiar happens when Ratshade reappears. For grades 3-6. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Harriet the Invincible Hamster Princess](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083774

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21395](#)

Also available in braille BR021395

Wild Blue the A Story of a Mustang Appaloosa By Annie Wedekind

Read by Mare Trevathan

Reading time 2 hours, 32 minutes

Idaho. Two young fillies, Blue and her sister Doe, happily spend the summer days with their family herd of Appaloosa mustangs until they are captured by men and their ropes. Blue is determined to break free of the men no matter what the cost. For grades 3-6. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Wild Blue the A Story of a Mustang](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069905

Charlotte's Web By E.B. White

Read by Alexander Scourby Reading time 3 hours, 10 minutes

Fern, a young girl with a unique understanding of animals, shares a special friendship with her uncle's pig and Charlotte, a wise spider who weaves encouraging words in her web. Digital restoration of Alexander Scourby's original 1960 analog recording for the American Foundation for the Blind. For grades 3-6. 1952.

[Download from BARD: Charlotte's Web](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074950

Also available on cassette RC046839

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17770](#)

Also available in braille BR001318 OR BR009405