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Action, Adventure and Intrigue for Young Adult Readers

This is a list of popular, contemporary, and classic books all about excitement and perilous situations including mysteries, adventure, exploration, sports, and strong protagonists in both realistic and fantastic situations. 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 Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin By Josh Berk

Read by Chuck Young

Reading time 5 hours, 54 minutes

Will Halpin is both fat and deaf--the perfect target for bullies as he mainstreams in a Pennsylvania high school. But when a popular football player is found dead at the bottom of a coal mine during a field trip, Will figures out who pushed him. For grades 6-9. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071045

White Cat: The Curse Workers, Book 1 By Holly Black

Read by Brian Conn

Reading time 7 hours, 54 minutes

Cassel Sharpe discovers that his older brothers used their curse-working skills to have him carry out their criminal schemes--and then they stole his memories. But Cassel figures out a way to turn his brothers' evil machinations against them. Some violence. For senior high readers. 2010.

[Download from BARD: White Cat: The Curse Workers, Book 1](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072072

The Name of This Book Is Secret ; If You're Reading This, It's Too Late ; This Book Is Not Good For You ; This Isn't What It Looks Like ; You Have To Stop this By Pseudonymous Bosch

Read by Andy Pyle

Reading time 38 hours, 49 minutes

Five books in a series. Eleven-year-old friends Cass and Max-Ernest solve mysteries involving a dead magician, a magic museum, and a mummy. In This Isn't What It Looks Like Cass gets stuck in the past and Max-Ernest races to save her before it is too late. For grades 4-7. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Name of This Book Is Secret ; If You're...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074898

The Reader By Traci Chee

Read by Kim Mai Guest

Reading time 12 hours, 33 minutes

Set in a world where reading is unheard of, Sefia makes use of a mysterious object to track down those who kidnapped her aunt Nin and to find out what really happened the night her father was murdered. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Reader](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085596

Shelter a Mickey Bolitar Novel By Harlan Coben

Read by Nick Podehl

Reading time 7 hours, 15 minutes

Mickey Bolitar begins his sophomore year at a new high school and gets a girlfriend named Ashley. When Ashley suddenly disappears, Mickey uncovers an underworld and learns the truth about his father. Some violence. For senior high and older readers. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Shelter a Mickey Bolitar Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073737

The Reluctant Assassin W.A.R.P. By Eoin Colfer

Read by George Holmes.

Reading time 9 hours, 57 minutes

Albert Garrick, an illusionist and assassin in Victorian England, and his apprentice Riley travel through time to modern London. Riley teams up with seventeen-year-old Chevie, a quasi-FBI agent, to stop Garrick's nefarious plans. Some violence and some strong language. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Reluctant Assassin W.A.R.P.](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076776

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20105](#)

Also available in braille BR020105

The Maze Runner By James Dashner

Read by Gary Tipton

Reading time 10 hours, 33 minutes

A teenage boy wakes up in an elevator remembering nothing but his name, Thomas. He soon meets a group of boys who welcome him to the Glade--and the unsolved puzzle of the Maze. The next day a girl arrives with an unexpected message. Some violence. For grades 6-9. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Maze Runner](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072392

Playing for the Devil's Fire By Phillippe Diederich

Read by Ozzie Rodriguez

Reading time 8 hours, 15 minutes

Thirteen-year-old Boli lives in a small town near Mexico City, a landscape destroyed by drug crime. When his parents leave town and are not heard from, Boli hopes to inspire a luchador to help him find them. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Playing for the Devil's Fire](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084915

Little Brother By Cory Doctorow

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 12 hours, 37 minutes

After a terrorist attack on San Francisco's Bay Bridge, the Department of Homeland Security detains high school senior Marcus and his friends without cause. When Marcus is released, he lashes out at the authorities by hacking into the city's universal electronic surveillance system. For senior high and older readers. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Little Brother](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067004

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR018708](#)

Also available in braille BR018708

On the Edge of Gone By Corinne Duyvis

Read by Mare Trevathan

Reading time 10 hours, 24 minutes

In 2035, a comet hits Earth, and life on our planet struggles to survive the event. Sixteen-year-old Denise, who is autistic, tries to find her missing sister and also help her neglectful, undependable mother as the disasters begin. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: On the Edge of Gone](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085282

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library By Chris Grabenstein

Read by Patrick Downer

Reading time 5 hours, 56 minutes

Twelve-year-old Kyle and his friends enter a contest to win a Friday-night lock-in at the new public library created by an eccentric game maker. Little do they know that the winners will have to work together to solve puzzles in order to escape. For grades 4-7. Agatha Award. 2013

[Download from BARD: Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077918

Paper Towns By John Green

Read by Dan John Miller Reading time 8 hours

During senior year, Margo, the girl next door, entices Quentin into a night of mischief--and she then disappears. Quentin and classmates Radar, Ben, and Lacey follow the clues Margo left while they worry about her state of mind. Strong language. For senior high readers. Edgar Award. Commercial audiobook. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Paper Towns](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068404

Football Genius By Tim Green

Read by Gary Tipton Reading time 4 hours, 55 minutes

Sixth-grader Troy can predict football plays before they occur and wants to use this ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons. But first he has to convince the team to take him seriously. For grades 5-8. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Football Genius](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068601

Theodore Boone Kid Lawyer By John Grisham

Read by Brian Conn Reading time 5 hours, 5 minutes

Both kids and adults ask eighth grader Theo for legal advice because he knows the court system so well. But when his friend Julio approaches Theo about a possible surprise witness for an ongoing murder trial--the biggest in Strattenburg's history--it's Theo's turn to seek counsel. For grades 5-8. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Theodore Boone Kid Lawyer](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071512

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19083](#)

Also available in braille BR019083

Satch & Me a Baseball Card Adventure By Dan Gutman

Read by Erik Sandvold Reading time 4 hours, 21 minutes

Using vintage baseball cards to travel through time, Stosh and his coach Flip Valentini return to 1942 with a radar gun to determine whether Satchel Paige was the fastest pitcher ever. They learn that Satch was fast at a lot of things. For grades 4-7. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Satch & Me a Baseball Card Adventure](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069453

Found the Missing By Margaret Peterson Haddix

Read by Jack Fox

Reading time 5 hours, 55 minutes

Seventh-grader Jonah knows that he was adopted. But when he and his friend Chip receive mysterious letters, they learn that they and thirty-four other babies were found on an airplane with no adults on board--a possible time-travel experiment. Now opposing forces want to capture them. For grades 5-8. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Found the Missing](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067848

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19492](#)

Also available in braille BR019492

Scat By Carl Hiaasen

Read by Michael Kramer

Reading time 9 hours, 14 minutes

Florida. While her biology class is on a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Mrs. Starch goes missing during a mysterious wildfire. Believing the class bully Smoke is involved, Nick and his friend Marta investigate and encounter some unusual people and a panther. For grades 5-8. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Scat](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068759

Bloody Horowitz By Anthony Horowitz

Read by Michael Russotto

Reading time 8 hours, 14 minutes

Fourteen tales of the macabre. In "The Man Who Killed Darren Shan" a would-be writer's jealousy leads him to commit a not-so-perfect crime. In "Robo-Nanny" a robot left in charge of two young boys malfunctions--with horrifying results. For grades 5-8. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Bloody Horowitz](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072216

Shipwreck Island By Gordon Korman

Read by Holter Graham

Reading time 2 hours, 34 minutes

Six troubled kids who were sent out to sea for a character-building experience are shipwrecked on a desert island. The adults are gone, and the quest for survival begins. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Shipwreck Island](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078614

Death Cloud Sherlock Holmes, the Legend Begins By Andy Lane

Young Adult Action, Adventure, Intrigue

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Read by Joe Peck

Reading time 8 hours, 5 minutes

When fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes stays with his eccentric uncle and aunt during a break from the Deepdene School for Boys, he encounters his first murder mystery. Two men appear to have died from the plague, but Holmes believes otherwise. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Death cloud Sherlock Holmes the Legend Begins](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073573

The Call of the Wild By Jack London

Read by L.J. Ganser

Reading time 3 hours, 36 minutes

Buck, a St. Bernard mix, is stolen and trained to be a sled dog in the Alaskan gold fields. Abused by both men and dogs, Buck learns to fight ruthlessly until he finds a master, John Thornton, whom he loves and respects. For senior high and older readers. 1903.

[Download from BARD: The Call of the Wild](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049486

Also available on cassette RC049486

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille](#)

Also available in braille BR12582

The Battle of the Red Hot Pepper Weenies and Other Warped and Creepy Tales By David Lubar

Read by Julian Thompson

Reading time 4 hours, 34 minutes

Thirty-five short stories on bizarre subjects ranging from the stinky consequences of boys using a turkey call in the woods to a new girl's reaction to a mood ring. In the title piece, a Mexican boy and a Texan challenge each other to a hot-pepper-eating contest. For grades 6-9. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Battle of the Red Hot Pepper Weenies and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069554

Game Changers By Mike Lupica

Read by Mark Delgado

Reading time 4 hours, 31 minutes

What eleven-year-old Ben McBain wants most is to be the quarterback for his football team. But teammate Shawn O'Brien has been groomed by his dad, a former NFL player, to look and act the part--and Shawn's dad is the coach. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Game Changers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076470

I Hunt Killers By Barry Lyga

Read by Jeremy Gage.

Reading time 10 hours 47 minutes

Jazz Dent, son of a serial killer, worries that he too is a sociopath. When a body is found in Jazz's hometown of Lobo's Nod, Jazz uses what he learned from his father and hunts for the culprit. Violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: I Hunt Killers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074623

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20068](#)

Also available in braille BR020068

Stalking Jack the Ripper By Kerri Maniscalco

Read by Nicola Barber

Reading time 9 hours, 28 minutes

In Victorian-era London, privileged seventeen-year-old Audrey Rose leads a secret life studying the practice of forensic medicine. She finds herself embroiled in the investigation of a gruesome serial killer. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Stalking Jack the Ripper](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085817

The Outliers By Kimberly McCreight

Read by Cynthia Farrell

Reading time 10 hours 42 minutes

When her best friend Cassie goes missing and then sends a cryptic note pleading for help, Wylie sneaks off to find her, with the help of Jasper, Cassie's boyfriend. What they discover is beyond their imaginations. Violence and strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Outliers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085244

Sunrise Over Fallujah By Walter Dean Myers

Read by L. J. Ganser

Reading time 7 hours, 11 minutes

Iraq, 2003. Robin "Birdy" Perry joins the army after high school and becomes involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Birdy writes about his experiences to his uncle Richie, a Vietnam War veteran, from Fallen Angels (RC 29775, BR 17796). Violence and strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Sunrise Over Fallujah](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067033

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17795](#)

Also available in braille BR017795

The Call By Peadar Ó Guilin

Read by Amy Shiels

Reading time 7 hours, 27 minutes

Every teenager in Ireland dreads the one day that they will be subjected to "the call," which whisks them away to battle monsters. With limited mobility due to polio, Nessa Doherty trains to survive and is determined to return alive.

Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Call](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086726

The Dangerous Days of Daniel X By James Patterson

Read by Brian Hemmingsen

Reading time 4 hours, 9 minutes

Fifteen-year-old orphan Daniel has followed in his parents' footsteps as the Alien Hunter, secretly tracking down and exterminating dangerous aliens that roam the planet. But when Daniel faces Ergent Seth, the fates of Earth and another world hang in the balance. For senior high and older readers. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Dangerous Days of Daniel X](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067523

Brian's Hunt By Gary Paulsen

Read by Gary Tipton

Reading time 2 hours, 14 minutes

When sixteen-year-old Brian from Hatchet (RC 30535, BR 11525) returns to the wilderness two years after his plane crash he finds a wounded dog and the bodies of a Cree couple killed by a rogue bear. Tracking the animal, Brian is pursued as its prey. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Brian's Hunt](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057823

Also available on cassette RC057823

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15296](#)

Also available in braille BR015296

The Living By Matt de la Peña

Read by Joe Peck

Reading time 7 hours 45 minutes

Shy works on a cruise liner to make a bit of extra money to help out his family back in Otay Mesa, north of the Mexican border. But then, an epic earthquake changes everything. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Living](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078224

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20449](#)

Also available in braille BR020449

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone By J.K. Rowling

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 8 hours, 55 minutes

On Harry Potter's eleventh birthday, he learns that he is more than an unwanted orphan. The Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry recruits him because he has inherent magical abilities. As he purchases his school supplies--robes, wand, and messenger owl--Harry looks forward to attending his new boarding school. For grades 4-7. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB047260

Also available on cassette RC047260

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR011879](#)

Also available in braille BR011879 OR BR017774

The Prince of Mist By Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Read by Steven Carpenter Reading time 4 hours, 18 minutes

After young Max and his family move into a house on the Spanish coast, strange occurrences point to a ghost and a diabolical spirit, the Prince of Mist, who is intent on collecting past debts. First publication in 1993 in Spanish. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Prince of Mist](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071917

Holes By Louis Sachar

Read by Phil Regensdorf Reading time 5 hours 19 minutes

Stanley Yelnats IV finds himself in a detention center for possessing stolen property that he didn't take. While digging holes under the summer Texas sun, he sees a fellow inmate running away--and follows him. Legends, loyalty, and buried treasure are revealed as Stanley learns to survive. For grades 5-8.

Newbery Medal. Nat'l Book Award. 1998.

[Download from BARD: Holes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB047444

Also available on cassette RC047444

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17776](#)

Also available in braille BR017776 or BR012174

The Rithmatist By Brandon Sanderson

Read by Mark Delgado Reading time 9 hours, 52 minutes

Rithmatists use magic to bring chalk drawings--called chalklings--to life to do battle with the wild chalklings that threaten the land. When Rithmatist students begin to mysteriously disappear, generalist student Joel, his friend Melody, and a professor at Armedius Academy try to find them. For senior high and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Rithmatist](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076769

Uncaged the Singular Menace By John Sandford

Read by Tara Sands

Reading time 11 hours, 45 minutes

After an animal-rights action at a research lab goes horribly wrong, hacker Odin's life is in danger. His younger sister Shay must find a way to help him before the researchers at Singular Corp can silence him. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Uncaged the Singular Menace](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079163

Guys Write for Guys Read By Jon Scieszka

Read by Don Hagen

Reading time 7 hours

A selection of writings by boys' favorite authors--Avi, Chris Crutcher, Dan Gutman, Stephen King, William Sleator--about being a boy. Scieszka, who took these pieces from his Guys Read web site, describes them as "funny, action-packed, sad, goofy, gross, touching, stupid, true, and all very short." For grades 6-9. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Guys Write for Guys Read](#)

Also available on cassette RC061908

Man Made Boy By Jon Skovron

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 10 hours, 28 minutes

Tired of being sheltered from humans, seventeen-year-old Boy, son of Frankenstein's monster and the Bride of Frankenstein, runs away from his Times Square theater home and embarks on a wild cross-country road trip. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Man Made Boy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077557

Spontaneous By Aaron Starmer

Read by Alex McKenna

Reading time 9 hours, 41 minutes

When teens begin to spontaneously combust in a suburban New Jersey high school, no one knows who will be next. The students begin to live their lives as if any moment might be their last. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Spontaneous](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085366

Murder is Bad Manners a Wells & Wong Mystery By Robin Stevens

Read by Lise Bruneau

Reading time 5 hours, 51 minutes

At an English boarding school in the 1930s, crime-solving friends Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells struggle to find an exciting mystery to investigate. Then Hazel discovers the dead body of Miss Bell, the science teacher. For grades 5-8. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Murder is Bad Manners a Wells & Wong Mystery](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084334

The Water Wars By Cameron Stracher

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 5 hours, 32 minutes

After the great empires fall to drought and war, any drinkable water is precious. That makes teenaged Kai's gift for locating underground water valuable. When Kai is kidnapped, his young friends Will and Vera set out to rescue him. For grades 6-9. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Water Wars](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073240

Ask the Dark By Harry Turner

Read by Lincoln Hoppe

Reading time 6 hours, 41 minutes

Former juvenile delinquent Billy Zeets notices the strange disappearances of teenage boys in his neighborhood. A high cash reward tempts him to start an investigation into the murders, but he also catches the notice of the serial killer. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Ask the Dark](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084443

Breaking Stalin's Nose By Eugene Yelchin

Read by Ken Kliban

Reading time 1 hours, 51 minutes

In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist. But when the police take his dad away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs. For grades 5-8. Newbery Honor. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Breaking Stalin's Nose](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075693