



## **BRaille AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY**

(800) 952-5666; [btbl.ca.gov](http://btbl.ca.gov); [btbl@library.ca.gov](mailto:btbl@library.ca.gov)

### **Banned Books**

Celebrate intellectual freedom by reading a frequently challenged or banned book. The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom celebrates Banned Book Week in September. The titles on this list are frequently challenged adult and young adult books as reported by libraries, schools, and the media. For more information on Banned Book Week, please see the [American Library Association's Banned Book page](#). To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

#### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie**

Read by Michael Russotto

5 hours, 38 minutes

Spokane Indian Reservation. Fourteen-year-old Junior--beset with physical problems caused by brain damage--transfers to an all-white town school. Called a traitor by his best friend and Tonto by his new classmates, Junior uses humor and wit to bridge the cultural divide. Some strong language. For junior and senior high readers. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065403

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21549](#)

Also available in braille BR021549

#### **Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher**

Read by Erik Sandvold

8 hours, 3 minutes

Clay Jensen receives a box of audiocassettes in the mail with no return address. Hannah Baker--a girl he barely knew but secretly liked, who committed suicide--recorded a final message for thirteen people to listen to and then pass on to the next person. For senior high readers. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Thirteen Reasons Why](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070544

### **Go Tell it on the Mountain by James Baldwin**

Read by John Stratton

7 hours, 32 minutes

While living in Harlem, John experiences a religious conversion on his fourteenth birthday. Flashbacks portray the lives, suffering, and sins of John's African-American forefathers, especially their struggles with racism and poverty as they moved from the rural South to this northern ghetto.

[Download from BARD: Go Tell it on the Mountain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033488

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR08734](#)

Also available in braille BR008734

### **A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess**

Read by David Broughton

5 hours, 51 minutes

A 15-year-old hooligan named Alex roams the streets of London terrorizing people at random. He is arrested and subjected to corrective brainwashing with unanticipated results. The author adds a flavor of reality of his prophecy of future urban life by inventing the teenage dialect of "nadsat." Violence and strong language. 1963.

[Download from BARD: A Clockwork Orange](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB015213

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18284](#)

Also available in braille BR018284

### **In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and its Consequences by Truman Capote**

Read by Ray Hagen

11 hours, 54 minutes

The author coined the term "nonfiction novel" for this account of the murder of a Kansas family. He reconstructs the crime and the backgrounds and personalities of all the principals, drawing his information from observation, interviews, and official records. 1965.

[Download from BARD: In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022726

### **The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky**

Read by Noah Galvin

6 hours, 22 minutes

1991. High school freshman Charlie shares his observations in letters to someone he doesn't know. After befriending Patrick, who is gay, and Patrick's stepsister Sam, Charlie becomes more involved in the world around him. Young adult appeal. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 1999.

[Download from BARD: The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075897

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12551](#)

Also available in braille BR012551

### **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

Read by Erin Jones

9 hours, 14 minutes

In a future North America, Panem's rulers maintain control through a televised survival competition pitting teens from twelve districts in a fight to the death. Sixteen-year-olds Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark are this year's girl and boy contestants from District Twelve. Some violence. For junior and senior high readers. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Hunger Games](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068384

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18488](#)

Also available in braille BR018488

### **The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Read by Alexander Scourby

4 hours, 56 minutes

The glitter and recklessness of the Jazz Age is the backdrop for this novel about Jay Gatsby's desperate attempt to recapture the past, and along with it, the love of Daisy Buchanan. Amid extravagant parties at Gatsby's palatial estate, his neighbor narrates the story of his obsession with the American dream. 1925.

[Download from BARD: The Great Gatsby](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB016147

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11057](#)

Also available in braille BR011057

### **Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

Read by Christopher Walker

7 hours, 18 minutes

With horrifying implications, this novel relates the experiences of a group of English boys who are wrecked on a desert island and have to establish their own system of government. For junior and senior high and older readers.

[Download from BARD: The Lord of the Flies](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048388

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR9480](#)

Also available in braille BR009480 BR001595

### **Looking for Alaska by John Green**

Read by Ken Kliban

8 hours, 36 minutes

Entering boarding school in Alabama, sixteen-year-old Miles "Pudge" Halter encounters new experiences: challenging classes, extreme pranks, and Alaska Young, a moody, sexy girl whose death in a car crash might be a suicide. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. For senior high readers. Printz Award. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Looking for Alaska](#)

### **Catch-22 by Joseph Heller**

Read by Gary Telles or Leon Janney

20 hours, 3 minutes

Bombardier Yossarian desperately tries to stay alive during World War II. Military rules make it impossible for anyone to achieve the combat quota necessary to quit flying. Yossarian and his buddies concoct ways to avoid the ridiculous orders of their officers. Strong language and descriptions of sex. 1989.

[Download from BARD: Catch-22](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048063

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11980](#)

Also available in braille BR011980

### **A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway**

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

9 hours, 14 minutes

Romance between American lieutenant Frederic Henry in the ambulance service in Italy during World War I and the English nurse Catherine Barkley, who tends him when he is wounded. When Catherine becomes pregnant, she refuses to marry Frederic. 1929.

[Download from BARD: A Farewell to Arms](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049506

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12510](#)

Also available in braille BR001599 OR BR012510

### **The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton**

Read by Ray Foushee

4 hours, 48 minutes

This classic young adult novel is set in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Ponyboy, the fourteen-year-old narrator, tells how it looks and feels to be a Greaser--from the wrong side of the tracks. He vividly describes the guerilla raids into his territory by their traditional, upper-middle-class enemy, the Socs, and of the beating that led to a murder charge and two deaths. For junior and senior high readers. 1967.

[Download from BARD: The Outsiders](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022433

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17779](#)

Also available in braille BR017779 OR BR008582

### **The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini**

Read by Richard Hauenstein

11 hours, 52 minutes

An Afghan in California recalls a fateful 1975 day in Kabul that seared his soul at age twelve--the day he won a kite tournament and abandoned a younger companion to rape. That cowardice keeps haunting him during exile in America until the opportunity for atonement arises--back in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Violence and some strong language. 2003.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB057457

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15785](#)

**Fifty Shades of Grey; Fifty Shades Darker; Fifty Shades of Freed by E. L. James**

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

54 hours, 32 minutes

Trilogy chronicles the dominant-submissive relationship of college student Anastasia and young CEO Christian Grey. In Fifty Shades of Grey naive Ana is intimidated by--and drawn to--the handsome tycoon. As she indulges Christian's erotic tastes, Ana becomes aware of his dark past. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Fifty Shades of Grey...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074504

**Ulysses by James Joyce**

Read by Alexander Scourby

30 hours, 43 minutes

Deals with a single day--June 16, 1904--in the life of Leopold Bloom, a Dublin advertising salesman. The stream-of-consciousness style and the use of interior monologues expose the personalities of the characters. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 1922.

[Download from BARD: Ulysses](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019994

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR10287](#)

Also available in braille BR010287

**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey**

Read by Gordon Gould

12 hours, 20 minutes

Chief Bromden, a long-term inmate of a mental institution, relates the story of a struggle for control of the ward, centering around the hateful, authoritarian Nurse Ratched and a new patient, the fiercely independent Randle Patrick McMurphy. Fortieth anniversary edition with an introduction by the author. Some strong language. 1962.

[Download from BARD: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056351

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12698](#)

## **Beyond Magenta Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin**

Read by Jennifer Hubbard

5 hours, 47 minutes

Collection of six interviews with transgender teens. Recounts their experiences before, during, and after the personal acknowledgment of their gender preference. Includes resources, questions and answers with the clinical director of a health outreach to teens program, and more. Some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Beyond Magenta Transgender Teens Speak Out](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078523

## **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**

Read by Mare Trevathan

10 hours, 12 minutes

Scout Finch is an outspoken and literate six-year-old tomboy when she begins her tale of growing up in a small Alabama town with her brother Jem and her attorney father Atticus. The children's intense curiosity about a reclusive neighbor is eclipsed by Atticus's attempt to defend a black man against charges of raping a white woman. Pulitzer Prize winner. For high school and older readers.

[Download from BARD: To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077672 OR DB036414

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12850](#)

Also available in braille BR012850 OR BR009237

## **Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan**

Read by Joe Peck

5 hours, 59 minutes

A chorus of men who died of AIDS observes and yearns to help a cross-section of today's gay teens who navigate new love, long-term relationships, coming out, self-acceptance, and more. Descriptions of sex, some strong language, and some violence. For senior high and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Two Boys Kissing](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078286

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20465](#)

Also available in braille BR020465

### **The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison**

Read by Pam Ward OR Michelle Shay

6 hours

1941. Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove--poor, ugly, and black--desperately wants blue eyes, which she thinks would solve all her problems. But instead she is subjected to rejection, violence, and an unwanted pregnancy. Slowly, she begins to descend into madness. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 1970.

[Download from BARD: The Bluest Eye](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049914

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12618](#)

Also available in braille BR012618

### **Lolita by Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov**

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 14 hours, 34 minutes

Incarcerated and awaiting trial, widowed middle-aged professor Humbert Humbert tells of his erotic obsession with preadolescent girls--particularly twelve-year-old Dolly Haze, whom he calls Lolita. Humbert details his fascination with Lolita and describes their bizarre road trip. Includes 1992 introduction by Martin Amis. Some descriptions of sex and some violence. 1955.

[Download from BARD: Lolita](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067388

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13157](#)

Also available in braille BR013157

### **Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell**

Read by Andy Pyle

13 hours, 56 minutes

Satire about an alternate London under a totalitarian regime overseen by the omnipresent Big Brother. Winston Smith, a Ministry of Truth bureaucrat, attempts an intellectual rebellion against the Party while he pursues an illicit romance. His actions lead to his imprisonment, torture, and reeducation by the Thought Police. 1949.

[Download from BARD: Nineteen Eighty-Four](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073474

Also available in braille BR001614 OR BR010312



### **Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell**

Read by Jill Fox

8 hours, 54 minutes

1986. After socially painful circumstances toss Eleanor and Park together, they form an unlikely--and extraordinary--romance. Although the two sixteen-year-olds know that the odds of remaining together forever are slim, they find the courage to try. Strong language. For senior high and older readers. Horn Book Award Winner. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Eleanor & Park](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076406

### **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling**

Read by Erik Sandvold

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

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

Also available in braille BR011879 OR BR017774

### **The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger**

Read by Ray Hagen

6 hours, 54 minutes

As Christmas vacation begins, Holden Caulfield recounts his feelings and reactions to flunking out of Pencey, his third prep school. Instead of heading straight home, he wanders around New York City. This account of his adventures conveys his dismay at the adult world. Strong language. For senior high and older readers. 1951.

[Download from BARD: The Catcher in the Rye](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB047480

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11909](#)

Also available in braille BR001617 OR BR011909

## **The Jungle by Upton Sinclair**

Read by Annie Wauters

16 hours, 20 minutes

Grim account of the deplorable conditions in the Chicago meatpacking industry around 1900, as seen through the eyes of Lithuanian immigrant Jurgis Rudkus. When first published, the novel aroused the indignation of the American public and forced government investigations that led to the passage of pure food legislation. 1985 introduction. Some violence. 1906.

[Download from BARD The Jungle](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB052961

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR 13742](#)

Also available in braille BR013742 OR BR000650

## **The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck**

Read by Steven Carpenter

17 hours, 20 minutes

Steinbeck's classic tale of the Joads, who, like many other families during the Great Depression, are driven from their homestead by drought, economic hardship, and the encroachment of large agricultural interests. They leave Oklahoma in search of a better life in California but meet with hardship and injustice. Pulitzer Prize. 1939.

[Download from BARD The Grapes of Wrath](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068308

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR9954](#)

Also available in braille BR001621 or BR009954

## **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**

Read by Emily Ellet

11 hours, 21 minutes

When sixteen-year-old Starr Carter witnesses the fatal shooting by a police officer of her childhood best friend, Khalil, she is afraid to speak out. But remaining quiet and safe is difficult with rising tensions between the police and the community. Violence and strong language. William C. Morris award. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Hate U Give](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087441

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21874](#)

Also available in braille BR021874

## **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain**

Read by Nick Sullivan

11 hours, 22 minutes

Tom Sawyer's friend young Huck Finn explains the reasons he is running away from home and recounts his exploits floating down the Mississippi River on a raft with Jim, an escaped slave. Companion to The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (RC 53084). Some strong language. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 1884.

[Download from BARD The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057349

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille 10687](#)

Also available in braille BR010687 OR BR009247

## **Slaughterhouse-Five or, The Children's Crusade: a Duty-Dance with Death by Kurt Vonnegut**

Read by Don Hagen

5 hours, 23 minutes

Billy Pilgrim, adrift in time, randomly revisits past and present manifestations: senile widower stalked by an assassin, hopeful young newlywed, giraffe on the planet Tralfamadore--where time is an illusion--and, most crucially, American POW during the firebombing of Dresden in World War II. Strong language. 1969.

[Download from BARD Slaughterhouse-Five Or the Children's Crusade](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064540

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17373](#)

Also available in braille BR017373

## **Gossip Girl Novels Gossip Girl ; You Know You Love Me ; All I Want Is Everything ; Because I'm Worth It by Cecily von Ziegesar**

Read by Jill Fox

23 hours, 29 minutes

First four books in the series. Follows the scandalous lives of privileged teens in Manhattan's elite, private schools. In Gossip Girl rumors fly when gorgeous Serena is kicked out of boarding school and returns to New York. Strong language and descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Gossip Girl Novels...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075743

## **The Color Purple by Alice Walker**

Read by Tracy Mickens-Hundley

8 hours, 51 minutes

Follows two black sisters--Nettie, a missionary, and Celie, raped by her father and married to a cruel man. Nettie's letters do not reach Celie, and Celie's shame is so great that she writes only to God. Anniversary edition includes Walker's 1992 preface. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Pulitzer Prize. 1982.

[Download from BARD The Color Purple](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058842

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12265](#)

Also available in braille BR012265