

## **TOP AUDIOBOOKS FOR MIDDLE GRADES**

(3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade; ages 8-12)

(From Book Riot, School Library Journal, Brightly, and Audible suggestions)

### **LORETTA LITTLE LOOKS BACK**

Story by Andrea Davis Pinkney; Read by Dashawn Barnes, Deborah Wilson, and Ralph Harris

DB 101986

Loretta, Roly, and Aggie B. Little relate their Mississippi family's struggles and triumphs from 1927 to 1968 while struggling as sharecroppers, living under Jim Crow, and fighting for Civil Rights. Includes supplemental material. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8.

### **WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER**

Story by Tae Keller; Read by Greta Jung

DB 99005

When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6.

### **SEA IN WINTER**

Story by Christine Day; Read by Kimberly Woods

DB 103049

After an injury sidelines her dreams of becoming a ballet star, Maisie is not excited for her blended family's midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **CLASS ACT**

Story by Jerry Craft; Full cast narration

DB 102465

Eighth-graders Jordan and Drew navigate a new year at the elite Riverdale Academy Day School. But Drew recognizes that no matter how hard he works, he isn't afforded the same opportunities as his privileged classmates. Sequel to *New Kid* (DB 94151). Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **ONCE UPON AN EID: STORIES OF HOPE AND JOY BY 15 MUSLIM VOICES**

Edited by SK Ali and Aisha Saeed; Read by Siiri Scott and Neil

DB 102145 (in process as of 1/19/22)

Short story collection by and about Muslims that celebrates a joyful holiday: Eid. In Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow's "Perfect," two cousins learn to embrace their differences. Contributors include Hanna Alkaf, Hena Khan, Rukhsana Khan, Ayesha Mattu, and more. Includes supplemental material. Commercial audiobook. For grades 3-6.

## **GHOST SQUAD**

BY CLARIBEL A. ORTEGA, NARRATED BY ALMARIE GUERRA

DB 105730 (in process as of 1/19/22)

Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and her best friend, Syd, cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine. Together, they must join forces with Syd's witch grandmother, Babette, and her tubby tabby, Chunk, to fight the haunting head-on. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7

## **FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON**

BY JANA E MARKS, NARRATED BY BAHNI TURPIN

DB 98670

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime. Determined to uncover his innocence, Zoe investigates. Meanwhile, pressure rises over a baking show audition. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **A THOUSAND QUESTIONS**

BY SAADIA FARUQI, NARRATED BY GAIL SHALAN AND REENA DUTT

DB 103624

Told in two voices. Mimi, who for the first time is visiting her wealthy grandparents in Karachi, Pakistan, and Sakina, daughter of the grandparents' cook, form an unexpected friendship. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **AMERICAN AS PANEER PIE**

BY SUPRIYA KELKAR, NARRATED BY PRIYA AYYAR

DB 103231

When a racist incident rocks her small Michigan town and her class teases her about being Indian, eleven-year-old Lekha must decide whether to speak up or stay silent. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **GHOST**

by Jason Reynolds

DB 85921 (recorded by NLS)

Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his city's elite track team, gifted runner Ghost finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with an abusive, alcoholic father. For grades 5-8.

## **HARBOR ME**

by Jaqueline Woodson

DB 92266

When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8.

## **HAZEL'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION**

by Lisa Jenn Bigelow

DB 103466

Hazel, a walking encyclopedia of animal facts who lives on a goat farm, tries to adjust to her new school and make new friends. Meanwhile, she worries over one of her moms' pregnancy. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8

## **FRONT DESK**

by Kelly Yang

DB 91215

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California. Even though the owner, Mr. Yao, is mean and exploits their family, Mia plans on following her dreams. For grades 4-7.

## **MELISSA'S STORY (formally titled GEORGE)**

by Alex Gino

DB 82273

When people look at George, they think they see a boy, but she knows she's really a girl. A class play pushes George to take action. George and her friend Kelly come up with a plan so that everyone can know who she truly is. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **CLEAN GETAWAY**

by Nic Stone

DB 98099

When the run-ins at school have led to a lockdown at home, Scoob jumps at the chance to go with G'ma on an impromptu road trip using a strange, old green pamphlet as their guide. But their Winnebago adventure soon turns into uncertainty. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8.

## **FISH IN A TREE**

by Lynda Hunt

DB 80497

Bullied and moved from different schools, sixth grader Ally creatively distracts anyone from discovering that she has problems reading. But one teacher, Mr. Daniels, helps her understand that she has dyslexia and encourages Ally to understand her feelings in a new way. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

## **ALL'S FAIRE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

by Victoria Jamieson

DB 94963

Homeschooled by Renaissance fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7.

## **GOODBYE STRANGER**

by Rebecca Stead

DB 82093

Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, curvaceous Em, crusader Tab, and a curious new friend--or more than friend--Sherm. With them, she finds her purpose in life. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8.

## **AMAL UNBOUND**

by Aisha Saeed

DB 91665

In Pakistan, Amal holds on to her dream of being a teacher, even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8.

## **ROLL WITH IT**

by Jamie Sumner

DB 97973

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has dementia. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8.

## **FIRST RULE OF PUNK**

by Celia C Perez

English: DB 89161 Spanish: DB 104263

Twelve-year-old Mal reluctantly moves to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang. She violates the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurns the most popular girl in favor of starting a band with kids like herself. For grades 4-7

## **DEAD END IN NORVELT**

by Jack Gantos

DB 74209

Norvelt, Pennsylvania; 1962. Twelve-year-old Jack Gantos is spending his summer grounded for various offenses and helping his elderly neighbor. As part of his duties, Jack must perform an unusual chore that involves the newly dead, molten wax, underage driving, and more. For grades 5-8 and older readers. Newbery Award in 2012.