

Best Audio Books for Teens

With thousands of audio books available specifically for teens, it can take time to find one that really interests you. Help is here! An annual list of notable audio recordings significant to young adults and released in the past two years is available at www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/selectedaudio.

For the past couple of years I've had the pleasure of serving on the American Library Association's (ALA) Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) Division Audiobook committee. Our goal—select, annotate, and present for publication an annual list of outstanding teen-focused audio books.

List selection is based on appeal to a teen audience, the quality of the recording, and the enhancement of an audience's appreciation of any written work on which they may be based. The list, as a whole, addresses the interests and needs of young adults ranging in age from 12 to 18.

Many thanks to the Deschutes Public Library staff and teens that provided feedback on the titles. It's been an invaluable experience working with librarians across the nation to develop this "best of" audio books list for teens.

Josephine Caisse, Outreach Services Manager

Sunriver Area Teen Section Deemed "Cool!"

Wandering back toward the south end of the library, you might notice a whole new look. No more lumbering, standard-issue library tables. In their place—smaller, eye-catching stainless steel café tables with funky blue chairs. Shifted shelving opens up once narrow space, and more changes are on the way, thanks to the library team and the local Friends of the Sunriver Area Library, headed by president Mary Lou Kreiss.

The financial support from the Friends got the ball rolling, and the results have garnered praise from local teens like: "These tables are cool!" and "I love the way it's set up like a café!" The Friends have also been generous in their support of **Teen Territory**. Each Wednesday when the Three Rivers Schools lets students out early for staff development, teens have a fun place to go. **Teen Territory** is set up with a stereo, magazines, and plenty of junk food.

Teen services are rapidly developing throughout the Deschutes Public Libraries. Thanks to the Friends group, the Sunriver Area Public Library is well on its way to becoming an inviting environment for teenagers.

April Witteveen, Teen Services Librarian

Bend River R.A.T.S.

Four-week sessions of reading, activities, treats and stories from 2:30–4pm are under way. The current series is "African Safari." Registered children learn about East and West Africa games, hear stories from Ashanti, Masai, and Samburu tribes, and make an African mask. The final series begins April 26 and is all about mysteries. Call 617-7097 to register.

[For grades 3–5, early release Wednesday afternoons, Bend Public Library]

Afterwords Workshops

Children's librarians will offer *Afterwords Workshops* with community partners who also work with school-aged children. The workshops guide after-school caregivers toward using literature and libraries in their programming. Call Paige Bentley at 617-7078 for more information.

Watch for...

Throughout May, librarians will be visiting schools to promote the library's Summer Reading Program. Please call Heather McNeil at 617-7099 to schedule a visit.