

Audiobooks and Road Trips -- Perfect Together

By Laura Leonard, Director, Wyckoff Public Library

“Are we there yet?” is the dreaded refrain heard in many cars during the summer, but a great audio book can change that. Your library card provides access to thousands of audiobooks. Stop in and check out a book on CD or download an audiobook for your next trip. *Libby/Overdrive* and *Hoopla* give you access to thousands of e-audiobooks that can be streamed or downloaded for free with your library card. More information and instructions can be found on our website, <https://wyckofflibrary.org/audiobooks/>. If you'd like help getting started give the library a call at 201-891-4866.

Many of our staff members listen extensively to audiobooks and we all agree that a good narrator can elevate a book to a new level. Once you find a narrator that you enjoy you can search our catalog using their name as a keyword to find others they have voiced.

For the youngest listeners I suggest audiobook versions of Mo Willem's and Kevin Henke's picture books as a good place to start. For older children, legendary narrator Jim Dale's rendition of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series is a must listen. Other favorites for children include: *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, narrated by Jayne Entwistle and *Matilda* by Roald Dahl narrated by Kate Winslet.

Teens are listeners - to music and podcasts, so why not audiobooks? There is a great variety of genres available, from fantasy to historical fiction to realistic fiction. Here is a sampling: *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, read by Bahni Turpin; *The Golden Compass* by Philp Pullman, read by the author and a full cast; *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell, read by Rebecca Lowman and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, read by Allan Corduner.

In the mood for a classic? *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee read by Sissy Spacek is a perfect choice. As a fan of all things 80s and Stark Trek the Next Generation, Wil Wheaton's narration of *Ready Player One* was a perfect mix of nostalgia and sci-fi for me. I listen to many non-fiction books and biographies, both serious and funny. A few that had me hoping the commute was a little longer include: *Bossypants* by Tina Fey, read by the author; *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown, read by Mark Bramhall; and *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah, read by the author.

Stop by the library for more recommendations and check out the Odyssey Awards or Audie Awards for even more suggestions.

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