

## Audiobook Picks for Road Trips

*The One and Only Ivan*  
by Katherine Applegate

*The Ramona Quimby Audio Collection*  
by Beverly Cleary

*New Kid*  
by Jerry Craft

*The Tale of Despereaux*  
by Kate DiCamillo

*Song for a Whale*  
by Lynne Kelly

*A Handful of Stars*  
by Cynthia Lord

*Pax*  
by Sara Pennypacker

*Ninth Ward*  
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

*Charlotte's Web*  
by E.B. White

## Audiobook Picks for Tweens

*The Last Rebound*  
by Katherine Applegate  
by Kwame Alexander

*Aru Shah and the End of Time*  
by Roshani Chokshi

*Allies*  
by Alan Gratz

*Lailani of the Distant Sea*  
by Erin Entrada Kelly

*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*  
by Kwame Mbalia

*Ghost*  
by Jason Reynolds

*The Trial of Morrigan Crow*  
by Jessica Townsend

## Audiobook Picks for Teens

*The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*  
by M. T. Anderson

*The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place*  
by Julie Berry

*Caraval*  
by Stephanie Garber

*Dragon Pearl*  
by Yoon Ha Lee

*From Twinkle, with Love*  
by Sandhya Menon

*Long Way Down*  
by Jason Reynolds

*Anna and the Swallow Man*  
by Gabriel Savit

*Pride: A Pride & Prejudice Remix*  
by Ibi Zoboi

## Did You Know?

Did you know that technology can be used to edit video footage with so much precision it can fool the viewer? These doctored videos are referred to as deepfakes. Often this means face swapping (switching the photo image of a face onto the face of the person in your existing video). By running special algorithms on the two faces still by still, differences can be detected and then adjusted. As technology improves, these falsified videos are getting more realistic looking. That means it's more important than ever to do your homework and verify that what you're watching (or reading or listening to) is fact or fiction. Check out Common Sense Media's article explaining Deepfake videos to learn some tricks to spot them: [www.common-sense-media.org/blog/common-sense-explains-what-are-deepfake-videos](http://www.common-sense-media.org/blog/common-sense-explains-what-are-deepfake-videos)

## Did you know

Did you know that Stephen Hawking used a special computer program to speak? This brilliant physicist (1942-2018) enrolled at Cambridge the same year he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Within a few years, his speech became hard to understand. A dangerous case of pneumonia resulted in a tracheotomy and left him unable to speak entirely. After trying different methods to communicate, he discovered Equalizer, a computer program that allows the user to choose words or phrases by clicking the mouse. He could thus string together sentences spoken aloud in a computer-generated voice with the touch of a finger. As Hawking's mobility declined, he collaborated with Intel to create ACAT (Assistive-Context Aware Toolkit), software that allowed him to use his eyes and cheek muscle to build sentences and synthesize his speech. The software was released under a free license in 2015 and can now be used by anyone.

Mark your virtual calendar for the annual PPLD Homeschool Science Fair! [ppld.librarymarket.com/homeschool-science-fair-1](http://ppld.librarymarket.com/homeschool-science-fair-1)



**Check the virtual calendar for more events!**

[tinyurl.com/ppldvirtualcalendar](http://tinyurl.com/ppldvirtualcalendar)

## Activity: Two Truths and a Lie: Fake News Edition



You may have played the fun, conversation-starting game Two Truths and a Lie (players take turns listing two truths and a lie about themselves, and everyone else has to guess which one is the lie). For this edition of the game, the rules are similar, but instead of facts about yourself, you'll be using two researched true news facts and one news fact that is fake or made up. Then everyone has to guess which one is the fake news. You must use your sleuthing skills to do research and determine if the news you are finding is true, or if it is fake or even altered. Check the sources and credentials of any articles you read, look for bias, even check the dates of when your news was published. For more information on fact-checking news, you and your parent can check out [research.ppld.org/NewsEverywhere](http://research.ppld.org/NewsEverywhere).



# Homeschool Connections

An Educational Resource Tool

WINTER 2020

## LOCATION KEY

- CA** **Calhan Library**  
(719) 531-6333, x7013  
600 Bank St., Calhan
- CH** **Cheyenne Mountain Library**  
(719) 531-6333, x7001  
1785 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- EA** **East Library**  
5550 N. Union Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7014
- FO** **Fountain Library**  
230 S. Main St., Fountain  
(719) 531-6333, x7002
- HI** **High Prairie Library**  
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Falcon  
(719) 531-6333, x7003
- KCH** **Knights of Columbus Hall**  
20 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333
- LI** **Library 21c**  
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7012
- MA** **Manitou Springs Library**  
701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs  
(719) 531-6333, x7004
- MO** **Mobile Library Services**  
[ppld.org/mobile-library-services](http://ppld.org/mobile-library-services)  
(719) 531-6333, x2313
- MO** **Monument Library**  
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument  
(719) 531-6333, x7005
- OL** **Old Colorado City Library**  
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7006
- PE** **Penrose Library**  
20 N. Cascade Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7015
- RO** **Rockrimmon Library**  
832 Village Center Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7008
- RU** **Ruth Holley Library**  
685 N. Murravy Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7009
- SA** **Sand Creek Library**  
1821 S. Academy Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7018
- UT** **Ute Pass Library**  
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade  
(719) 531-6333, x7011



## Homeschool Hub

[ppld.org/homeschool-hub](http://ppld.org/homeschool-hub)

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family, or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to check out community and library events, sign up for eNewsletters, and access reading lists. Click on the "Resources" tab to link to information on getting started, Colorado homeschool law, online courses, concurrent enrollment and enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, support organizations, and more.

## Check it Out: Audiobooks

Did you know listening to audiobooks stimulates the same parts of your brain as reading a physical book? There are so many benefits to listening to audiobooks -- not the least of which is the sheer joy of a well-told story. They build important listening skills, develop focus and attention span, hone critical thinking, aid comprehension, and foster imagination. Audiobooks provide a good model of fluent reading -- how a text should sound when read aloud with appropriate pacing and expression -- and help kids increase vocabulary and improve pronunciation. They also provide an opportunity for young readers to sample literature above their reading level, stretching their abilities and allowing them to access more complicated vocabulary and sentence structure. For struggling readers, audiobooks can provide the extra boost that might encourage a child to persevere and finish a text. Narrators bring a book's characters to vivid life, helping kids to connect closely with them, gain insight into the experiences of others, and develop empathy. Audiobooks can also provide a relaxing experience that can reduce stress and boost mental health. Listened to as a family or a group, audiobooks provide a wonderful shared experience and encourage discussion of a book's characters, events, and themes. Ultimately, audiobooks are fun to listen to, and have the ability to reinforce the important idea that reading is an enjoyable activity.

## Children's CD Kits

These popular picture books come with a CD tucked into a plastic envelope on the book's back page! Kids can follow the illustrations and text while listening to the story read aloud. Bonus: many recordings include music and sound effects.

## Children's Talking Books

These are colorful print picture books with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Kids will press play to read along with their favorite stories and then switch to a fun learning mode to keep talking about the book they just read. There are options to listen with a speaker or a headphone jack.

## Audiobooks

PPLD offers a wide variety of audiobooks at all reading levels. Visit [ppld.org/eLibrary](http://ppld.org/eLibrary) to discover a tantalizing array of titles available as digital downloads, or borrow audiobooks in CD or take-home MP3 player format (you provide the earbuds!).

## Children's Book Player Kits

These have an MP3 player paired with a print chapter book to provide an educational read-along experience at every reading level (you supply the earbuds!). They are a great resource for emerging and struggling readers, auditory and special education learners, and English language learners.

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email [jfleishhacker@ppld.org](mailto:jfleishhacker@ppld.org).





## Listen to This: The Audio Bookshelf

Listening to stories and books is a breeze if you are an auditory learner. You can do something else—play, clean, create—while enjoying a story. Find each of the resources below at [ppld.org/eLibrary/](http://ppld.org/eLibrary/)



**The Libby App** by OverDrive offers many award-winning books as audiobooks. This is your one-stop shop for eBooks and audiobooks -- for all ages.



**Kanopy Kids** provides access to all of the picture books you can listen to! Set up your Kanopy account with your PPLD card, click "Kanopy Kids" on the home screen, and select "Story Time" for a wide selection of children's picture books. Sample classics, laugh-out-loud delights, and informative picture book biographies alike.



**Hoopla** includes videos, music and books, with over 8,000 titles included in their Hoopla Kids section. They have plenty of picture and chapter books in their collection.



## Podcasts: A Fun Way to Learn



### Brains On [brainson.org](http://brainson.org)

Hosted each week by Molly Bloom and a different kid co-host, this award-winning offering from American Public Media tackles a variety of science-themed questions and concepts, such as "Why do siblings annoy each other?" or "What makes gross things gross?" Fact-filled and kid-relevant, this podcast is like a ready-made science lesson. For ages 8 - 12.



### But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids [vpr.org/programs/why-podcast-curious-kids](http://vpr.org/programs/why-podcast-curious-kids)

Kids have a knack for asking questions that have surprisingly complex answers. Based around a theme, each show tackles kid-submitted inquiries with help from the experts. Go to the website to listen and to download learning guides designed to help kids deepen their understanding to the concepts addressed. For all ages.



### Overheard at National Geographic [nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/overheard/](http://nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/overheard/)

What would it be like to listen in on the conversations at National Geographic's headquarters? Hosted by Peter Gwin and Amy Briggs, this podcast follows explorers, photographers, and scientists as they explore our world. For ages 13+.



### Science Friday [sciencefriday.com](http://sciencefriday.com)

Join host Ira Flatow to explore a wide variety of complex science and technology topics, presented in a riveting format. Visit the website to access podcasts (full episodes or shorter segments), and explore an array of related articles, videos, STEM activities, lessons, and resources. The content is also divided into subject areas. For ages 10+.



### Tumble Science Podcast for Kids [sciencepodcastforkids.com](http://sciencepodcastforkids.com)

Hosted by Lindsay (a science journalist) and Marshall (a teacher), this podcast covers a fascinating array of topics, discoveries, and research projects and features interviews with real scientists. A great way to encourage a love of science! For ages 8+.



### Wow in the World [npr.org/podcasts/510321/wow-in-the-world](http://npr.org/podcasts/510321/wow-in-the-world)

Produced by National Public Radio and hosted by Guy Raz and Mindy Thomas, this engaging and informative podcast explores the latest advances in science and technology, from the physics of basketball to the adventures of a scientist who collected poop for an entire year. For all ages.



### Bedtime History: Inspirational Stories for Kids [podcastrepublic.net/podcast/1155392992](http://podcastrepublic.net/podcast/1155392992)

Presented in story format with a soothing narration and musical backdrop, these 10-minute episodes focus on inspirational current-day and historical figures (including Malala Yousafzai, Maya Angelou, Ada Lovelace, Abraham Lincoln), current and historical events, and amazing feats of engineering. Vocabulary is defined and context is provided. For all ages.



### KidNuz [kidnuz.org](http://kidnuz.org)

Created by moms who are also veteran broadcast journalists, this newscast covers "today's top stories, current events, politics, science, entertainment, sports and more—all nonpartisan and age-appropriate." Each five-minute podcast focuses on kid-relevant topics and is followed by a quick quiz. Check out the website for learning resources. For all ages.



### The Past and the Curious [thepastandthecurious.com](http://thepastandthecurious.com)

This engaging podcast delves into fascinating, often little-known stories from history, with a focus on lively presentation and humor, as well as entertaining musical interludes and brief quiz segments. Kids can learn about Leonardo da Vinci and a painting that was not famous until it was stolen or the rip-roaring adventures of Stagecoach Mary. For all ages.



### Stuff You Missed in History Class [iheart.com/podcast/stuff-you-missed-in-history-cl-21124503/](http://iheart.com/podcast/stuff-you-missed-in-history-cl-21124503/)

Although not created for kids specifically, this podcast focuses on little-known but fascinating historical events, forgotten stories, and intriguing individuals. Also, check out This Day in History Class ([listennotes.com/podcasts/this-day-in-history-class-iheartradio-WHprbx82uDD/0](http://listennotes.com/podcasts/this-day-in-history-class-iheartradio-WHprbx82uDD/0)), from the same producers, for short episodes that quickly recount a tidbit from global history. Access through this website to search by people, places, or topics. For ages 12+.



### Young Ben Franklin [beta.prx.org/series/38101](http://beta.prx.org/series/38101)

This audio drama brings history to life by exploring the escapades of 14-year-old Ben, a boy living in Colonial Boston who has "an adventurous spirit, a curious mind...and a penchant for getting into trouble." Listeners are drawn into the moment as events unfold, and Ben and his friends solve problems and take on the world. For ages 8 - 12.



## Additional Podcasts

### Book Club for Kids [bookclubforkids.org](http://bookclubforkids.org)

In this podcast, a trio of middle school students talk about a popular middle-grade or young adult book, how it impacts their lives, and offer book suggestions. Public radio host Kitty Felde oversees the discussion, and episodes include a celebrity reading from the book and Q&A with the author. For ages 10+.

### Story Pirates [storypirates.com/podcast](http://storypirates.com/podcast)

Is there a budding author in your household? This podcast takes kids' original stories and turns them into audio dramas/comedies/musicals that feature professional actors. For ages 5 - 9.

### The Story Seeds Podcast [storyseedspodcast.com](http://storyseedspodcast.com)

In each episode of this imagination-stirring podcast, an award-winning children's author interviews a kid with an idea for a story, and then writes and shares aloud a tale inspired by that child's idea. Visit the website for information about the featured authors and how to submit a "story seed." For ages 6 - 12.

### Storynory [storynory.com](http://storynory.com)

This website offers hundreds of free audio stories, helpfully organized into categories (original, fairytales, classic authors, myths and world stories, poetry, and more). The narration is appealing, and the text for the tales is included at the website.

### What If World [whatifworldpodcast.com](http://whatifworldpodcast.com)

In this podcast, host Eric O'Keefe takes a wacky "what if" question (submitted by young listeners) and develops it into an entertaining story. "What if a tiny dragon lived in my closet? What if there were a never-ending bowl of ice cream? What if cats ruled the world?" Join Mr. Eric to find the answers, and pen your own "what if" tales. For ages 5 - 8.



## Other Resources

### Listening to History

Recordings of historical speeches and interviews provide one of the most compelling examples of primary resources and an engaging way to look at the past. Visit the Speeches and Audio section of History ([history.com/speeches](http://history.com/speeches)) to sample speeches made by famous individuals such as Eleanor Roosevelt commemorating World Children's Day (1953) or General Douglas MacArthur's farewell address (1951). Also check out the Library of Congress's National Jukebox ([loc.gov/collections/national-jukebox/about-this-collection/](http://loc.gov/collections/national-jukebox/about-this-collection/)), which makes historical sound recordings available to the public for free, and includes everything from music to spoken word (speeches).

### Colorado Talking Book Library

This unique library exists so "That All May Read." If your child is unable to read standard print due to a physical, visual, or learning disability, you might want to check out what's available through CTBL. They provide access to a wide variety of reading materials for kids and adults, supplied to you on either an automatic or request-only basis, and mailed to your home or instantly downloaded. In addition, popular databases are also available, including Explora (meeting the research and project needs of Elementary through High School students), and Novelist (serving as a readers' advisory for fiction lovers). If this service might fill a need in your family, visit [myctbl.cde.state.co.us](http://myctbl.cde.state.co.us) to access an application and explore the possibilities.

### Local Radio Stations

For learning at home and on the go, just turn on your radio! KRCC (FM 91.5) is El Paso County's local National Public Radio partner station. Tune in for all sorts of interesting segments for both kids and adults! A full schedule is available online at [KRCC.org](http://KRCC.org). Looking to get outside, but don't know where to go? Find recordings of Colorado Public Radio's recent "Nature's Neighborhood" segment, highlighting lesser-known trails and open spaces perfect for families, at [CPR.org](http://CPR.org). Need some entertainment for younger kids? NPR.org features several kid-friendly podcasts, including "Molly of Denali," the eight-episode story of a young Alaskan Native searching for the creature who stole her birthday cake. Make sure to check back frequently, as offerings are always changing. Young fans of classical music can tune into another local station, KCME (FM 88.7) on Sundays at 6 p.m. for their weekly "Classics for Kids" show.