



Audio Publishers Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rachel Tarlow Gul

Over the River Public Relations

201-503-1321, tarlowgul@nj.rr.com

Combine Reading and Listening to Boost Literacy Skills with Expert Recommendations from Sound Learning

June 27, Philadelphia, PA – [Sound Learning](#), a literacy toolkit created by The Audio Publishers Association (APA), has launched [The Sound Learning 2016 Audiobook + Paperback List](#) – a carefully curated reading list that combines audiobooks and paperbacks and covers a wide array of genres, themes, and topics for students in grades 3-12. Created by education experts Mary Burkey, Francisca Goldsmith and Sharon Grover, The Sound Learning Summer 2016 Audiobook + Paperback List is a free resource designed to reach all readers across all formats.

“Sound Learning is a terrific literacy development resource for parents, educators and librarians,” said Mary Burkey, teacher, librarian and author of *Audiobooks for Youth* (ALA). “From casual listening suggestions to collection development recommendations, the APA’s educational resources showcase curated collections of audiobooks that go beyond mere lists, but also include free educational materials for every grade level.”

In recent years, audiobooks have seen incredible growth (sales were up 24% from 2014-2015) and come to the forefront of education, giving children of all ages the power to learn to listen and listen to learn. By pairing print and audiobook formats, Sound Learning and the APA hope to maximize every young reader’s learning potential and level the playing field so everyone – regardless of comprehension levels – can enjoy a good story.

“Listening and speaking are very important to the English Language Common Core standards, and audiobooks are a great way to develop these skills,” explained Michele Cobb, Executive Director of the APA.

Today’s readers can experience the same story as they switch among audiobooks in the car or on an MP3 player, ebooks on the iPad, and paperbacks at home. Young readers in particular are naturals in this transmedia world; they view information as it is received and don’t differentiate between mediums. Combining more than one format gives children a much deeper understanding of the subject.

Teachers, librarians and parents looking for ways to encourage learning through different activities – watching, reading, speaking or listening – will find both classic and current award-winning fiction and nonfiction books recommended on Sound Learning’s latest list. Sound Learning also includes links to audio reviews, sound clips, and additional information on diversity, series, and major literary awards for young people.

The pairing of audio and print formats is perfect for summer reading, school assignments and family listening. Find audiobooks for download and on CD at your local bookstore, library, and online retailers.

For more information, visit <https://www.audiopub.org/transmedia-literacy> and <https://www.audiopub.org/education/sound-learning>.

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The Audio Publishers Association (APA) is a not-for-profit trade organization whose primary goals are to promote awareness of the audiobook industry, gather and disseminate industry statistics, encourage high production standards and represent the interests of audiobook publishers. Since 1986, the APA has worked to bring audio publishers together to increase interest in audiobooks. Please visit www.audiopub.org for more information.