



# Sound Learning & Diversity

---

Audiobooks As Advocates  
for Cultural Authenticity

ALA Annual Conference, June 24, 2017



# Presenters

---



Thom Barthelmess



Dion Graham



Sharon Grover

# HOW AUDIO PROMOTES LITERACY

BENEFITS OF AUDIO TO LEARNING HOW TO READ

The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.

INCREASES READING  
ACCURACY BY  
**52%**



IMPROVES  
COMPREHENSION  
BY **76%**

Provides context, helping  
children focus on words and  
comprehend what they are reading.

TEACHES

INCREASES  
READING SPEED

EXPANDS  
VOCABULARY

IMPROVES  
FLUENCY

PRUH • NUHN • SEE • YE • SHUN

BENEFITS OF AUDIO TO OTHER TYPES OF LEARNING

Children who are better listeners are also better learners.

**85%**  
of what we learn,  
we learn by listening.

TEST SCORES  
INCREASED  
**21%**  
when engaged in  
multi-modal learning  
versus single mode.



Combining print and audio  
increases recall **40%**  
over print alone.

**2** GRADE  
LEVELS  
Students can listen and  
comprehend 2 grade levels  
above their reading level.

INCREASES  
MOTIVATION  
BY **67%**



**27%**  
of the K-12 population  
are auditory learners.



Audio Publishers Association

MEMBER LOGIN

MEMBERS ▾

JOIN ▾

ABOUT ▾

EDUCATORS & LIBRARIANS ▾

Save



Sound Learning

LISTEN. THINK. LEARN.

<https://www.audiopub.org/education/sound-learning>

# Cultural Authenticity



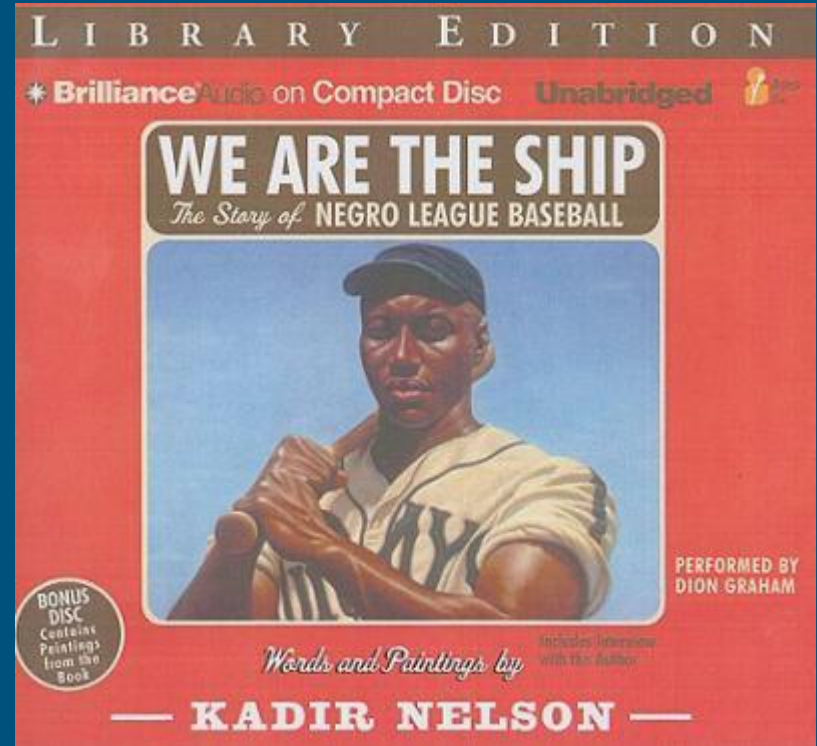
# WE ARE THE SHIP

## THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL

Written & illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Narrated by Dion Graham

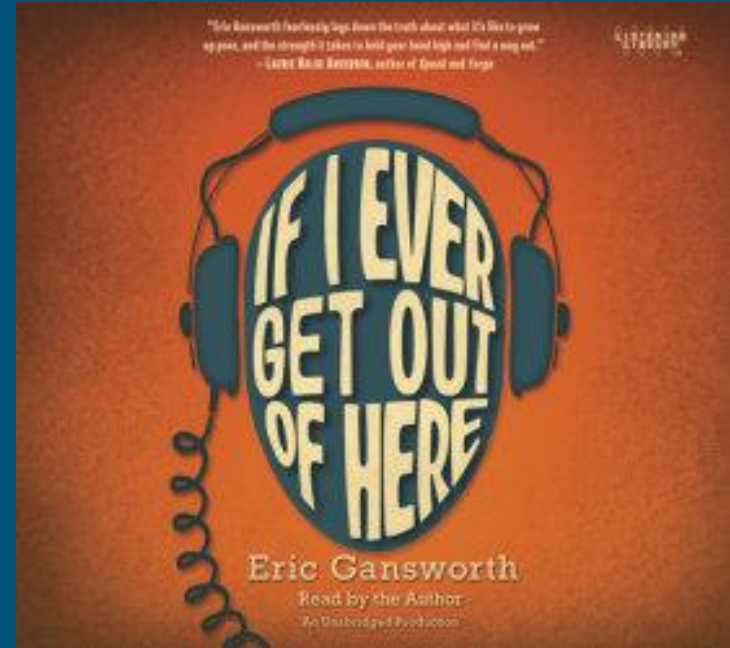
Brilliance Audio, 2009



Cultural Authenticity

# IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE

Written & narrated by Eric Gansworth  
Listening Library, 2014



Cultural Authenticity

# IF YOU COULD BE MINE

Written by Sara Farizan  
Narrated by Negin Farsad  
HighBridge Audio, 2013



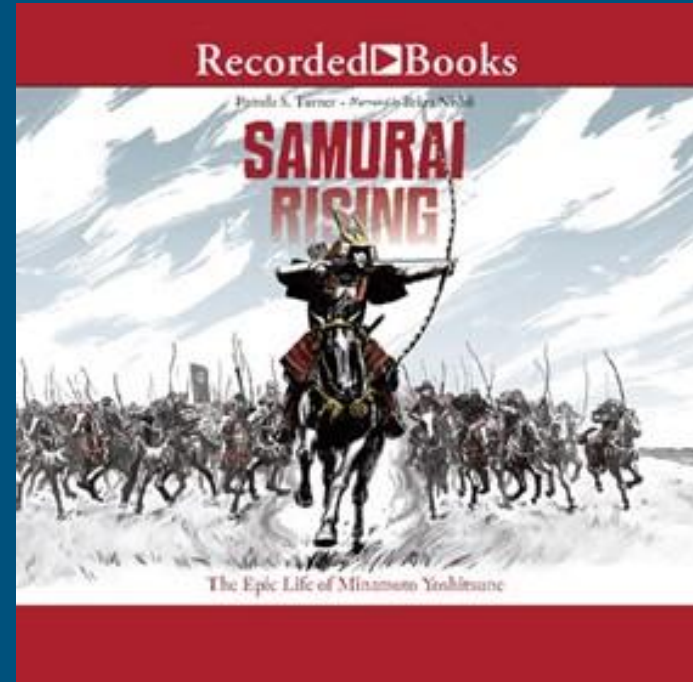
Cultural Authenticity



# SAMURAI RISING

## THE EPIC LIFE OF MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE

Written by Pamela S. Turner  
Narrated by Brian Nishii  
Recorded Books, 2016



Cultural Authenticity

# Relationship Between Author/Narrator/Protagonist

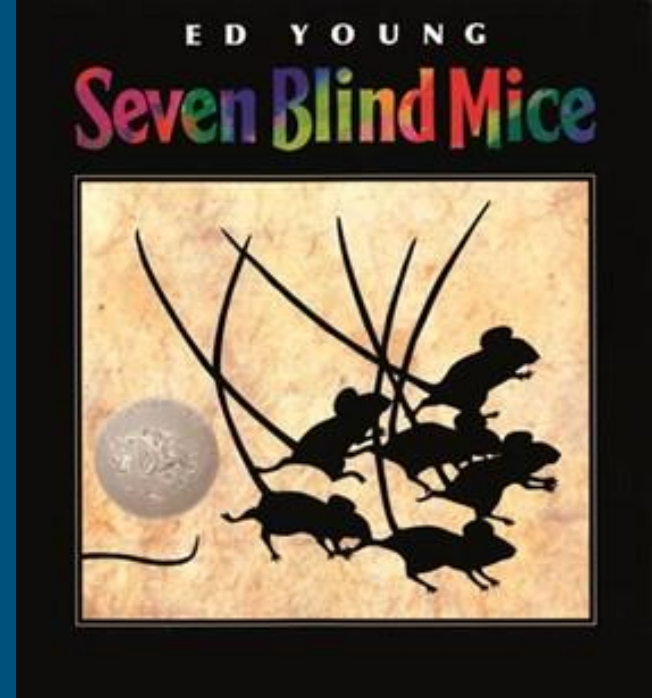
---

# SEVEN BLIND MICE

Written & illustrated by Ed Young

Narrated by B.D. Wong

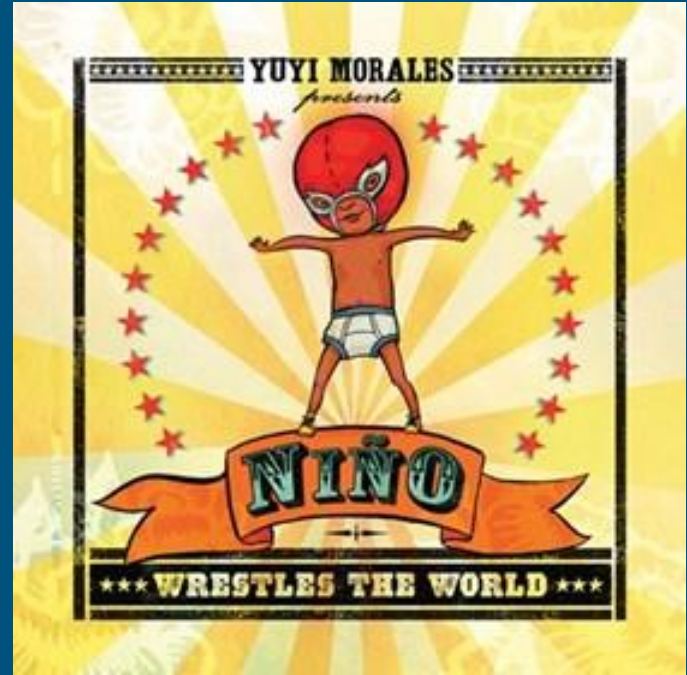
Weston Woods, 2007



Relationship Between Author/Narrator/Protagonist

# NIÑO WRESTLES THE WORLD

Written & illustrated by Yuyi Morales  
Narrated by Adriana Sananes  
Dreamscape, 2015



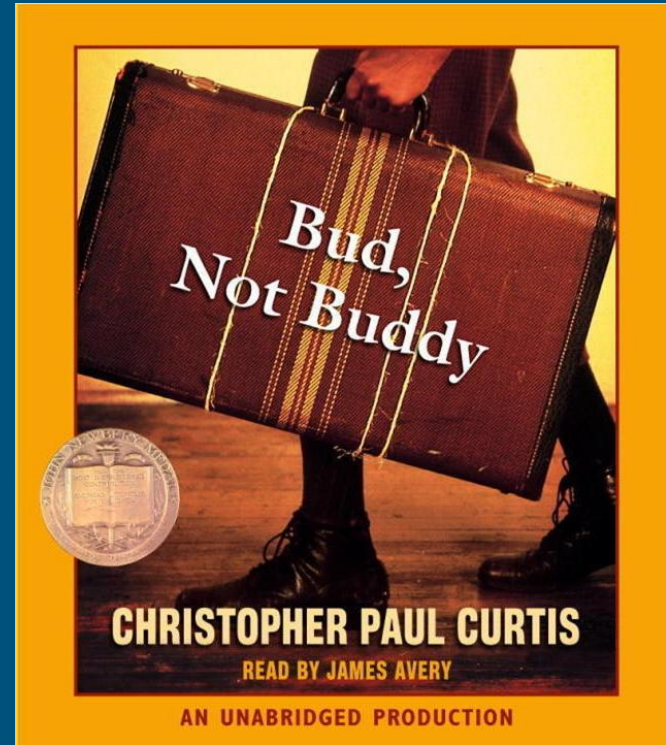
Relationship Between Author/Narrator/Protagonist

# BUD, NOT BUDDY

Written by Christopher Paul Curtis

Narrated by James Avery

Listening Library, 2002



Relationship Between Author/Narrator/Protagonist

# IF I WAS YOUR GIRL

Written by Meredith Russo

Narrated by Samia Mounts

Macmillan Audio, 2016



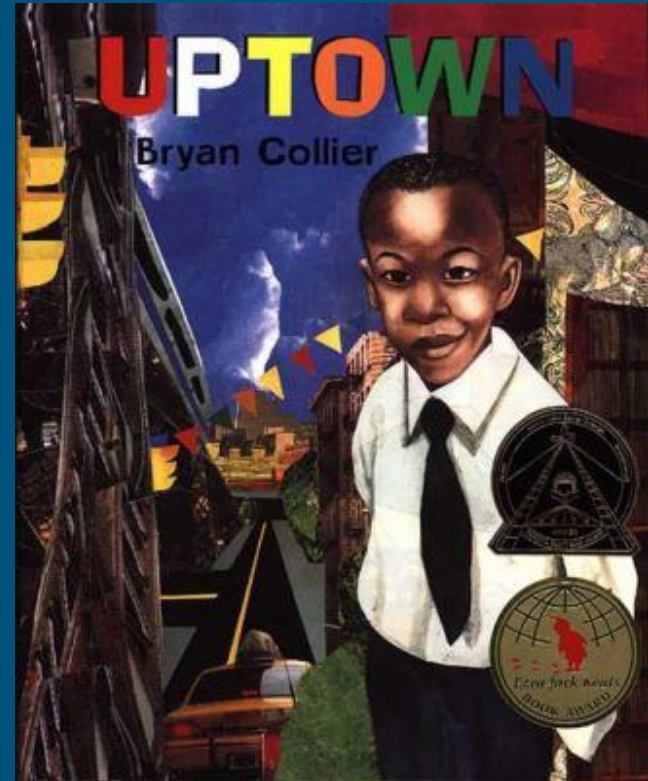
Relationship Between Author/Narrator/Protagonist

# Diversity Through Production

---

# UPTOWN

Written & illustrated by Bryan Collier  
Narrated by Ricky Smith  
Live Oak Media, 2007



Diversity Through Production



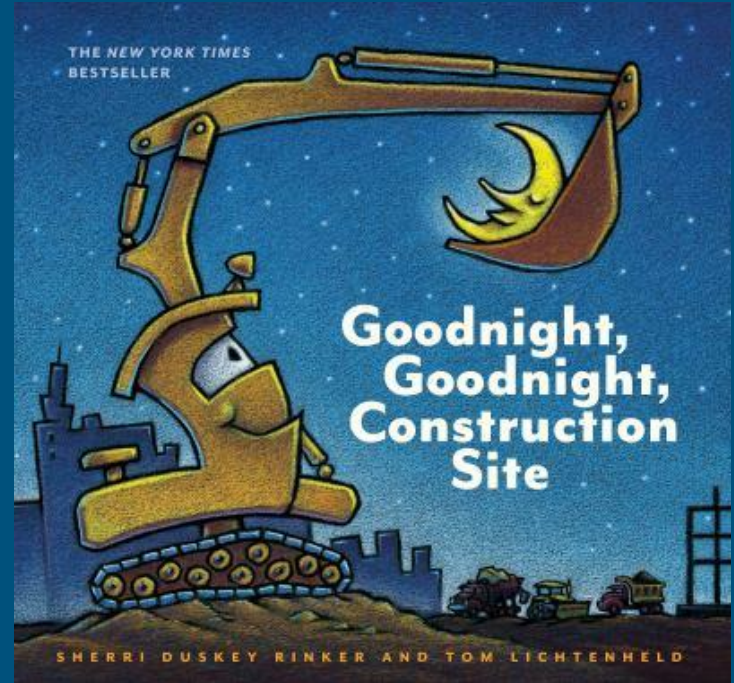
# GOODNIGHT, GOODNIGHT, CONSTRUCTION SITE

Written by Sherri Duskey Rinker

Illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

Narrated by Dion Graham

Weston Woods, 2012



Diversity Through Production

# NIMONA

Written by Noelle Stevenson

Narrated by Rebecca Soler, Jonathan Davis, Marc Thompson, January LaVoy, Natalie Gold, Peter Bradbury, & David Pittu

Harper Audio, 2016



Diversity Through Production

# RAIN REIGN

Written by Ann M. Martin

Narrated by Laura Hamilton

Brilliance Audio, 2014



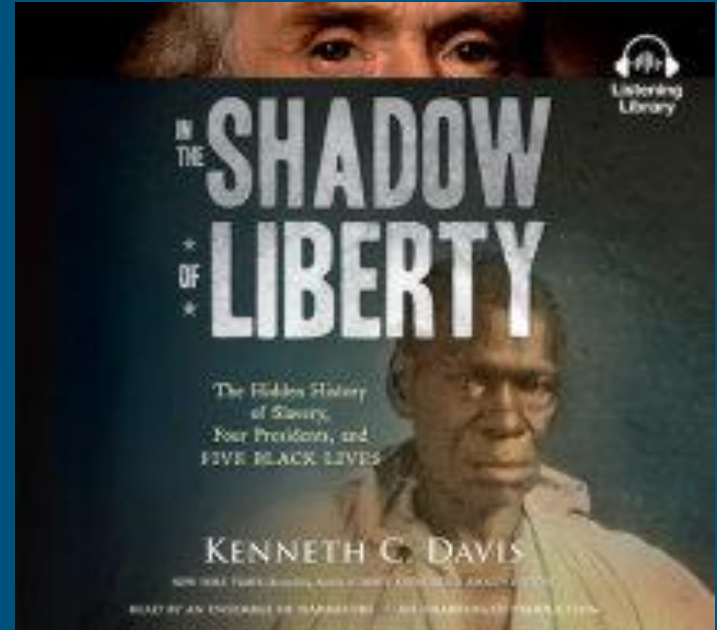
Diversity Through Production

# A Special Gift from Listening Library

---

# IN THE SHADOW OF LIBERTY

Written & narrated by Kenneth C. Davis, with  
Frankie Faison, Keith David, JD Jackson,  
Adenrele Ojo, Adam Lazarre-White, Mark  
Bramhall, & Dion Graham  
Listening Library, 2016



# Resources to help build diverse audio collections

---



<http://www.booksontape.com/hear-diversity/>



<http://www.readproudlistenproud.com/>



<http://www.liveoakmedia.com/assets/clientpages/hear-diversity-here.aspx>

# You can find today's presenter's at:

Thom Barthelmess

[thom.barthelmess@wcls.org](mailto:thom.barthelmess@wcls.org) / [www.thombarthelmess.com](http://www.thombarthelmess.com)  
@thombarthelmess

Dion Graham

[wondaboy@hotmail.com](mailto:wondaboy@hotmail.com)

Sharon Grover

[grover.sharon@gmail.com](mailto:grover.sharon@gmail.com)  
@SharonGrover2

Session slides are available on Sound Learning

---



**Sound Learning**

<https://www.audiopub.org/education/sound-learning>