

PCMS Recommends

The books on this list have been promoted in the library at various times and as a result there are multiple copies available for checkout. They have proven to be popular titles by our students. Included is a variety of AR Reading Levels and genres. If a good/free audio could be found on you tube, a link is provided. Feel free to listen, but know that your reading ability only improves if you also follow along with the book.

Among the Hidden - By: Margaret Peterson Haddix. In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only 2 children, Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation until another third child convinces him that the government is wrong. RL 4.8; pts. 5.0 For the kid who likes Sci-fi. *Series

Free audiobook (has text):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S_0674ZQcA&list=PLSMB6Q5a9rztJ0YtLfla2ANW-9Wde37b

Bad Beginning (Series of Unfortunate Events) - By: Lemony Snicket. After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children go to live with a distant relative who is determined to get their fortune. RL 6.4; Pts. 4.0 Dark humor. * Series

Free audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7WCXWa8PS8>

Because of Mr. Terupt - By: Rob Buyea is a novel about one year in the life of a fifth grade class at Snow Hill School. It is told from the different perspectives of several different students. RL 3.7; pts. 5.0 Realistic Fiction * Series

Free audiobook: (this one is divided by pages, you will have to look for the rest)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oW_ifTYxLVM

Blood on the River - By: Elisa Carbone. Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of Jamestown, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe. RL 5.3, pts. 7.0

Audiobook:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iedILa5yY8I&list=PLNNv05DsP_I40Ad8Mnf1C1Q9OuiQK8v4m

Booked - By: Kwame Alexander. Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. RL 3.9, pts 3.0

Cirque du Freak: A Living Nightmare - By: Darren Shan. Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices. RL 4.8; pts. 10.0 For the kids who likes creepy. * Series

Free audiobook (has text):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlhMO2DGLbU&list=PLzbQxMHUkvxyDu772J_IVbDsok46B3BSI

The City of Ember - By: Jeanne DuPreau. Ember, built as a last refuge for the human race, is running out of power two hundred years later, but twelve-year-old Lina thinks there may yet be hope when she finds part of an ancient message that may hold a key to getting out of the city. RL 5.0; pts. 9.0. Another great Sci-fi read! * Series

Free audiobook:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVlQyW9YGBU&list=PLcad0ebVFcL3BizIk9m_OFjZBuSwPNOXj

Divergent - By: Veronica Roth. In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all. RL 4.8; pts. 16.0 Science Fiction. * Series

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id33ulBcl5k&list=PLI9tN5ZzGGQHTvgTV-AuQiqLtVrdIBVcv>

Echo - By: Pam Ryan. Decades after a man is entwined in a prophecy-based quest involving three mysterious sisters and a harmonica, three individuals from different areas of the world confront daunting challenges involving the same harmonica. RL 4.9; pts. 13.0

The Face on the Milk Carton - By: Caroline Cooney. A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. RL 4.8, pts. 6.0. For the kid who likes realistic stories. * Series

The full audiobook is not available, but here is a link to the movie. Read the book, then watch the movie here: (PS--you cannot pass the AR test from the movie)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAyJOApBNik>

Fallout - By: Todd Strasser. What if the bomb had actually been dropped? What if your family was the only one with a shelter? In the summer of 1962, the possibility of nuclear war is all anyone talks about. ... And then it happens! RL 4.5; pts. 7.0
Suspensful--an excellent read!

Fourth Stall - By: Chris Rylander. Do you need something? Mac can get it for you. It's what he does—he and his best friend and business manager, Vince. Their methods might sometimes run afoul, but Mac is on your side. His office is located in the East Wing boys' bathroom. RL 5.1; pts. 11.0 Realistic Fiction * Series

Gone - By: Michael Grant. In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not. RL 4.3; pts. 18.0 Sci Fi * Series

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfQk8hOaPxQ>

Holes - By: Louis Sachar. As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. RL 4.6; pts. 7.0 Realistic Fiction

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnB7YPEgDbc&list=PLIW5kgkvEHuTqimgq7bVnBlP9YgMXTrq7>

The Honest Truth - By: Dan Gemeinhart. A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau--but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading. RL 4.0; pts. 5 Realistic fiction/adventure.

Hunger Games - By: Suzanne Collins. In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place. RL 5.3; pts. 15.0. Science Fiction. * Series

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lfi82CbVw1c>

I Funny - By: James Patterson. Jamie Grimm tries to win the Planet's Funniest Kid Comic Contest, while also dealing with his stepfamily, friends, and a school bully. RL 3.9, pts. 4.0

Audiobook of ifunny chapters 1-10:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQZuiMI2mfw>

Lawn Boy - By: Gary Paulsen. Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business. RL 4.3; pts. 2.0 Realistic, humorous Fiction. * Sequel is Lawn Boy Returns

Legend - By: Marie Lu. Set in a dark, futuristic Los Angeles, a young government prodigy and a notorious criminal cross paths in this heart-pounding thriller. RL 4.8; pts. 11.0 Science Fiction * Series

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3WT1yT2Rv8>

Life As We Knew It - By: Susan Beth Pfeffer. Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. RL 4.7; pts. 14.0 Science Fiction, end of the world. * Series

Free audiobook:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VC_ageCFU64&list=PLpVbVVffQZEI2uORlezyS1e54ToPZelrR

Lightning Thief - By: Rick Riordan. Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. RL 4.7; pts. 13.0 Fantasy * Series

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfPe74OISU4&list=PLPLKZ25OqMkqprgL-V7KsPodHpA60hAbe>

Lost in the Sun - By: Lisa Graff. As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event where he accidentally killed someone with a hockey puck, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on. RL 4.5; pts. 11.0 Realistic Fiction

Masterminds - By: Gordon Korman. A **group** of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal **masterminds** in history for a sociological experiment. RL 5.2; pts. 10.0 Science Fiction * Series.

Matched - By: Aly Condie. Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, so when Xander appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate--until Ky Markham's face appears for an instant before the screen fades to black. RL 4.8; pts. 13.0 Science Fiction (with a little romance) * Series

Free Audiobook:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpocrKOhJH0&list=PLGIpoSy_4V4aH47PRoVJuULKZp8O-GLZC

The Maze Runner - By: James Dashner. Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape. RL 5.3; pts. 15.0 Science Fiction. * Series

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdcV2Ft8IVg&list=PLbskaMX4AwLw2V9-QT4gK9UJL-C9GLij1>

Michael Vey - By: Richard Paul Evans. A fourteen-year old who has Tourette's syndrome and special electric powers, finds there are others like him, and must rely on his powers to save himself and the others from a diabolical group seeking to control them. RL 3.5; pts. 11.0 Crazy cool science fiction. * Series (One of the most popular books in PCMS behind Wimpy Kid & Hunger Games.)

Middle School: The Worst Year of My Life - By: James Patterson. When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct. RL 4.5; 4.0 Realistic Fiction, similar to Wimpy Kid.

Free audiobook: (not the best, but gets the job done.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-EsQo1iYO4&list=PLSwCT6ccWY_ybw4EzQ52yyuBE6DdVfWfd

The Misadventures of Max Crumbly - By: Rachel Russell. Describes the trials of a middle school student named Max who was trying to fit in at a new school. Max was scared, and he was prone to panic attacks. Still, he fought his fears until he became the hero his school needed. RL 4.6, pts. 4.0 Realistic, similar to Wimpy Kid. Sequel: *Middle School Mayhem*

Mr. Tucket - By: Gary Paulsen. In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild. RL 5.0; pts. 4.0 For kids who like western adventure stories. * Series

The Nest - By: Kenneth Oppel. An anxious boy named Steve becomes convinced that the 'angels' visiting him will save his sick baby brother. But these are creatures of a very different kind, and their plan for the baby has a twist. As the story unravels Steve discovers the truth about his new friends as the time remaining to save his brother ticks down. RL 4.3; pts. 5.0 This is a weird one! It has something to do with bees!

The One and Only Ivan - By: Katherine Applegate. The book is about a silverback gorilla named Ivan who lives in a cage at a mall. He has lived there for 30 years! RL 3.6; pts. 4.0 Animal Story.

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6oi3PZc2ko>

One for Sorrow - By: Mary Downing Hahn. When unlikeable Elsie dies in the influenza pandemic of 1918, she comes back to haunt Annie to make sure she'll be Annie's best--and only--friend soon. RL 4.3, pts. 8.0

Out of My Mind - By: Sharon Draper. Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. RL 4.3; pts. 8.0 Realistic Fiction.

Free Audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XW5UuWz47m4&list=PLbkzunX1BZVs9kvuAH7eMadXaRkOJ-Fwa>

Pax - By: Sara Pennypacker. After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. RL 5.3, pts. 8.0

Audiobook: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rax7_9wm_Dc

Popular - By: Maya Van Wagenen. A memoir of a one year social experiment in which teen author Maya Van Wagenen followed a 1950's popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell. RL 5.0; pts. 8.0 Realistic & Humorous Fiction

Queen of Kentucky - By: Alicia Whitaker. Fourteen-year-old Ricki Jo, a Kentucky farm girl, learns that popularity is not all she hoped it would be when the huge changes she makes in her personality and style seem to do more to drive away old friends than to win new ones RL 5.2; pts. 14.0 Realistic Fiction

Rhyme Schemer - By: K.A. Holt. A novel in verse about Kevin's journey from bully to being bullied, as he learns about friendship, family, and his talent for poetry. RL 3.5; pts. 1.0 Realistic Fiction, written as a poem.

The Right Fight - By: Chris Lynch. One thing Roman loves more than baseball is his country. So when it looks like the Unit-ed States will be swept up into World War II, he joins the US Army. RL. 6.1; pts 6.0 Historical Fiction; war story. * Series

Shelter - By: Harlan Coben. Mickey Bolitar's year can't get much worse. After witnessing his father's death and sending his mom to rehab, he's forced to live with his estranged uncle Myron and switch high schools. RL 3.7; pts. 9.0 Mystery. * Series

Shiloh - By: Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. RL 4.4, pts. 4.0

Audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZErJI0P5BI&list=PL-W5HxgH-8auUUOBKPOfyEEQj738JJ6cv>

Skeleton Man - By: Joseph Bruchac. After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety and maybe even for her life. RL. 4.8; pts. 3.0. Scary, very short. * Sequel: Return of Skeleton Man.

Stargirl - By: Jerry Spinelli. In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. RL 4.2; Pts. 6.0 Realistic Fiction * Sequel is *Love, Stargirl*

Stargirl audiobook: (this is chapter 1, but all chapters look to be there, you will just have to search for the rest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIP8gias90c>

Stormbreaker - By: Anthony Horowitz. After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. RL 5.1; pts. 7.0 Suspense/Thriller * Series.

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UW-jALanig4&list=PLDA619B96A11B5184>

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda - By: Tom Angleberger. 6th grader, Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate, Dwight, as they try to figure out if Yoda can predict the future. RL 4.7; pts. 3.0 Another that reminds you of Wimpy Kid books. Realistic * Series

Free audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0yYws5b3Wg>

Terror at Bottle Creek - By: Watt Key. Thirteen-year-old Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Gulf Coast hurricane makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills to the test! RL 4.4; Pts. 6.0 This author also has *Deepwater & Hideout* that are equally as good. Adventure/Survival story.

Free audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiPZA0qxTOs>

The Thing About Leftovers - By: C.C. Payne (Kentucky Author!) Fizzy struggles to find her place in her blended family after her parents' divorce, hoping her entry in the Southern Living Cook-Off will show them she is more than just a leftover kid. RL 4.9, pts. 10.0

Three Times Lucky - By: Sheila Turnage. Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn murder detective. RL 3.9; Pts. 9.0 Mystery/adventure book. * Series

Touching Spirit Bear - By: Ben Mikaelson. After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. RL 5.3; pts. 9.0 A realistic adventure story. It has a sequel: *Ghost of Spirit Bear*

Free audiobook:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CK4D_2pSzCg&list=PLQVX8HMETwF7i0atR1452JNxJshXb2Tzg

The Unwanteds - By: Lisa McMann. Every year in Quill, thirteen-year-olds are sorted into categories: the strong, intelligent Wanteds go to university, and the artistic Unwanteds are sent to their graves. RL 5.7; pts. 11.0 Fantasy * Series

Wildflower - By: Alicia Whitaker. Sixteen-year-old Bird Barrett is discovered by a country music record label while playing in her family's bluegrass band. As her star rises, she must learn to stay true to her roots while navigating a brave new world of glamour and gold records in Nashville, Tennessee. RL 5.2; pts. 10.0 Realistic * Series

Woods Runner - By: Gary Paulsen. From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them. RL 5.5; Pts. 5.0 Historical Fiction

Free audiobook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rnv2RG8ICMI&list=PLO9Gmqzt6I WV2ZzarIbAkmlfGe-nSY8I4>

Wonder & Auggie & Me - By: R.J. Palacio. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. Wonder is - RL 4.8; Pts. 11.0 & Auggie & Me is actually 3 tests worth 10 pts total. Realistic

Free audiobook: (for Wonder)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-r42LPSqu8>

The Wild Robot - By: Peter Brown. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants. RL 5.1; Pts. 5.0 It has a sequel: *The Wild Robot Escapes* Science Fiction

Free audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NZLwsL43hQ>

