

# 2015 Top Ten Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

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***ACID*** by **Emma Pass**, read by **Fiona Hardingham** with **Nicholas Guy Smith** and **Suzan Crowley**.

Listening Library, 2014. 10 hours, 48 minutes; 9 discs. 978-0-8041-6832-8. The brutal police state ACID rules all, so when Jenna is broken out of prison by a rebel group she has to fight to survive as ACID's most-wanted fugitive. Unique ACID reports and recordings read by Smith and Hardingham's excellent pace combine with her authentic teen voice to highlight this exciting story.

***Curtsies and Conspiracies*** by **Gail Carriger**, read by **Moira Quick**. Blackstone, 2013. 9 hours, 30 minutes, 8 discs, ISBN: 978-1-4789-2648-1. In the second installment of the *Finishing School* series, Sophronia and her classmates use their training to search for a dangerous device that may have fallen into the wrong hands. Quick's lively narration highlights the wit and humor in Carriger's story.

***Define Normal*** by **Julie Anne Peters**, read by **Christine Lakin**. Hachette, 2014. 5 hours, 30 minutes; digital download. 978-1-4789-8080-3. After being assigned as a peer counselor to pierced, black lipstick-wearing Jasmine, the last thing Antonia expects is to find a friend. Lakin's natural voicing and great pacing uplift this relevant and timeless novel.

***Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders*** by **Geoff Herbach**, read by **Nick Podehl**. Brilliance Audio, 2014. 5 hours, 49 minutes; 1 MP3 disc. 978-1-4805-3324-0. Gabe wages war when vending machine money promised to the marching band is diverted to the cheerleading squad. Funny, fast, and angst-filled narration by Podehl takes listeners on a wild ride as Gabe retells his story.

***Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*** by **A.S. King**, read by **Christine Lakin**. Hachette Audio, 2014. 7 hours, 5 minutes; digital download. 978-1-4789-5774-4. When Glory and her friend Ellie drink the remains of a desiccated bat, they find themselves able to see the future and the past, and Glory begins to reconsider her assumption that she's destined to die young. Lakin's nuanced narration explores Glory's anger, grief, confusion, and hope.

***Half Bad*** by **Sally Green**, read by **Carl Prekopp**. Recorded Books, 2014. 8 hours, 30 minutes; 7 discs. 978-1-4906-1427-4. Born an illegitimate son of a white witch mother and a black witch father, no one is sure which side Nathan will join, but both want him. Through Prekopp's emotive performance, listeners are drawn into Nathan's horrible torture and physical and emotional pain.

***Love Letters to the Dead*** by **Ava Dellaira**, read by **Julia Whelan**. Brilliance Audio, 2014. 8 hours, 30 minutes; 1 MP3 disc. 978-1-4805-6838-9. While she grieves her sister's death during her first year of high school, Laurel writes letters to famous dead people ranging from Kurt Cobain to Amelia Earhart. Whelan's tender characterization of Laurel and her friends brings authenticity to this contemporary story of friendship, love, and loss.

***Revolution***, by **Deborah Wiles**, read by **Stacey Aswad** and **Francois Battiste** with **J.D. Jackson** and **Robin Miles**. Listening Library, 2014. 12 hours, 10 minutes; 10 discs. 978-0-553-39526-6. Twelve-year-old Sunny's life changes forever when volunteers descend upon her Mississippi hometown in the summer of 1964, causing her to question her long-held beliefs and assumptions. A wide cast of narrators and accompanying effects create a powerful soundscape that will transport listeners to the Freedom Summer.

***Skink--No Surrender*** by **Carl Hiaasen**, read by **Kirby Heyborne**. Listening Library, 2014. 7 hours, 50 minutes; 7 discs. 978-0-8041-6690-4. When his cousin Malley runs off with a stranger, Richard and Skink, a one-eyed, eccentric ex-governor, must journey into the backwoods of Florida to save her. Heyborne narrates this audiobook flawlessly, coupling a wide range of character voices with an appropriate amount of intensity and humor.

***William Shakespeare's Star Wars Collection***, by **Ian Doescher**, read by **Danny Davis, Jonathan Davis, Ian Doescher, Jeff Gurner, January LaVoy**, and **Marc Thompson**. Random House Audio, 2014. 10 hours, 30 minutes; 15 discs. 978-0-553-54640-8. Join Luke, Leia, Han Solo, and more in this rich and unforgettable audio adventure, an adaptation of George Lucas' Star Wars trilogy that is told entirely in Shakespearean verse. This full-cast production will surprise and delight listeners with authentic music and sound effects, as well as passion and pathos aplenty.