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Children's Books: Coretta Scott King Award Winners

The Coretta Scott King award is awarded annually “are given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.” This bibliography focuses on the authors and not the illustrators. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Everett Anderson's Goodbye by Lucille Clifton

Read by Bruce Huntley

3 minutes

A poem describes the pain Everett Anderson goes through after his father dies. He is angry and depressed, and he tries to make a bargain to bring his father back. But eventually Everett accepts the situation, knowing he will always love his daddy. For grades K-3.

[Download from BARD: Everett Anderson's Goodbye](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB040475

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Read by Jesus Del Orden, Rebecca Soler, Peyton Lusk et. al.

2 hours

Twelve-year-old Jordan loves drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to an art school, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his grade and is caught between two worlds. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2019.

[Download from BARD: New Kid](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094151

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Read by Chuck Young

5 hours, 19 minutes

During the Great Depression, ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy, runs away from his latest (bad) foster home in Flint, Michigan. He sets out for Grand Rapids in search of the man he believes to be his father--renowned bandleader Herman E. Calloway. For grades 4-7. Coretta Scott King and Newbery awards. 1999.

[Download from BARD: Bud, Not Buddy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049311

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12592](#)

Also available in braille BR012592

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Read by Chuck Young

8 hours, 18 minutes

Buxton, Canada; 1860. Born free in a settlement for runaway slaves, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman discovers the horrors of slavery when he accompanies Mr. Leroy to Michigan. They track a thief who stole the money Mr. Leroy saved to buy his family's freedom. For grades 4-7. Coretta Scott King Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Elijah of Buxton](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066054

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17665](#)

Also available in braille BR017665

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper

Read by Gail Nelson

8 hours, 49 minutes

Amari is taken from her African village when she is fifteen and sold to a southern plantation owner in America. Amari and Polly, a white indentured servant, risk everything to escape. Descriptions of sex and violence. For senior high and older readers. Coretta Scott King Award. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Copper Sun](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063855

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17067](#)

Also available in braille BR017067

Forged by Fire by Sharon M. Draper

1 volume of braille

The day before his ninth birthday, Gerald's world changes again. For the past six years he has been living with Aunt Queen while his mother was in prison for child abuse. Now she is re-entering his life, along with a half sister, Angel, and a stepfather. Realizing that Angel is being abused by her father, Gerald tries to protect her. Companion to Tears of a Tiger (BR 10779). For junior and senior high readers.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11688](#)

Also available in braille BR011688

Africa Dream by Eloise Greenfield

Read by Connie Winston

4 minutes

A young child tells the story of a dream. She goes all the way to Africa and visits the marketplace, sings a song with new-old friends, rides a donkey, dances to her uncles' drums, and is rocked back to sleep by her long-ago grandma with Mama's face. For preschool-grade 2.

[Download from BARD: Africa Dream](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB041928

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes

Read by John Polk

2 hours, 32 minutes

Tough students at a Bronx high school reveal their innermost thoughts, dreams, and fears during the monthly English class's Open-Mike Fridays. Through their expressions of rap, free verse, and rhymes, the students learn they are more alike than they are different. For junior and senior high readers. Coretta Scott King Award. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Bronx Masquerade](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055776

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14623](#)

Also available in braille BR014623

Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, and True Tales by Virginia Hamilton

Read by Melissa Maxwell

2 hours, 34 minutes

A collection of folktales, fairy tales, and true stories of legendary women, all taken from traditional African American folklore. These stories are variously humorous, touching, scary, magical, and inspiring. For grades 5-8 and older readers. Laura Ingalls Wilder Award and Coretta Scott King Award.

[Download from BARD: Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043189

The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Virginia Hamilton

Read by Melissa Maxwell

3 hours, 35 minutes

Animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom shape this anthology of retold African American folktales, born of slaves' sorrow but passed on in hope. Includes several stories where Bruh Rabbit triumphs. For grades 4-7 and older readers. Coretta Scott King Award. 1985.

[Download from BARD: The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059991

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15831](#)

Also available in braille BR015831

Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush by Virginia Hamilton

Read by Joan Harris

6 hours, 26 minutes

Fourteen-year-old Tree falls in love with a ghost who she knows will change her life, though she can't dream how. The handsome ghost draws Tree into a fascinating exploration of her family, leading her to an understanding of herself and her mother and of the power of love. A poetic novel for junior and senior high and adult readers.

[Download from BARD: Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019388

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19559](#)

Also available in braille BR019559

A Few Red Drops: the Chicago Race Riots of 1919 by Claire Hartfield

Read by Kristin Allison

4 hours, 21 minutes

Recounts the events on July 27, 1919, when, at a beach on Lake Michigan, a white man threw a rock at a black teen, killing him. The author examines the events and forces that led to the days of violence that followed. Some violence. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2018.

[Download from BARD: A Few Red Drops: the Chicago Race Riots of 1919](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088977

The Story of Stevie Wonder by James Haskins

Read by Charlie Ryle

2 hours, 24 minutes

Biography of the blind composer, pianist, and singer who emerged as a child prodigy and went on to win many Grammy awards. For junior and senior high readers.

[Download from BARD: The Story of Stevie Wonder](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB011600

The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Read by Bruce Huntley

1 hour, 51 minutes

Sixteen-year-old Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father. After tragedy strikes, he must care for his adored baby daughter, Feather, by himself. Despite mistakes, Bobby's courage and love enable him to carry on with the aid of supportive adults and friends. Strong language. For senior high readers. 2003.

[Download from BARD: The First Part Last](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057618

Heaven by Angela Johnson

Read by Tracy Mickens-Hundley

2 hours, 41 minutes

Fourteen-year-old Marley is content with her life in Heaven, Ohio, until a letter arrives from a church in Alabama. Marley is shocked to find out that her parents are really her aunt and uncle--and she feels that they have been deceiving her. For grades 5-8. Coretta Scott King Award. 1998.

[Download from BARD: Heaven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048669

Toning the Sweep by Angela Johnson

Read by Carole Jordan Stewart

2 hours, 7 minutes

Grandmama Ola left Alabama in 1964, right after her husband was murdered for being an "uppity nigger," and moved to the desert. Emily, fourteen, loves the desert as much as Ola. Perhaps due to the trauma of seeing her father murdered, Emily's mother hates the desert. Ola is moving to Cleveland with Emily and Mama, and they have come together to close up Ola's house--and find strength to face the past and the future. For grades 6-9 and older readers.

[Download from BARD: Toning the Sweep](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037726

Day of Tears: a Novel in Dialogue by Julius Lester

Read by Tracy Mickens-Hundley

3 hours, 27 minutes

Savannah, Georgia; 1859. When Pierce Butler sells his slaves to cover gambling debts, he includes Emma, the daughter of his cook, beloved by his own daughters. Both families express thoughts and feelings while flashbacks and flash-forwards reveal the consequences of this act. For grades 5-8. Coretta Scott King Award. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Day of Tears: a Novel in Dialogue](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB62709

March Trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

Read by Chuck Young

13 hours, 12 minutes

Graphic novel trilogy, written between 2013 and 2016, traces Congressman John Lewis's firsthand account of the civil rights movement, from his first meeting with Martin Luther King Jr. to his commitment to nonviolent demonstrations in order to end segregation. Coretta Scott King Award. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: March Trilogy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087098

Ray Charles by Sharon Bell Mathis

Read by Peter Case

19 minutes

Biography of the world-famous blind musician who has played to win against overwhelming odds. For grades 2-5.

[Download from BARD: Ray Charles](#)

Also available on digital cartridge D009584

Also available in braille BR004236

Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters by Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick L. McKissack

Read by Chuck Young

1 hour, 29 minutes

It's 1859. The Virginia plantation is getting ready for Christmas. The Big House is clean, the tree decorated, the fireplace lit, and food prepared. Visitors will be welcomed, carols sung, stories told, and gifts unwrapped. There will be talk about war. Meanwhile, preparations in the Quarters are for singing, dancing, eating, and family reunions. The slaves talk about freedom. For grades 3-6.

[Download from BARD: Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB040586

The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural by Patricia C. McKissack

Read by Bob Moore

3 hours, 13 minutes

The author invites readers to gather in the "dark-thirty"--the eerie half hour just before dark, for ten tales inspired by African-American folklore and history. In "We Organized" a cruel owner is forced by magic to free his slaves; in "Justice" a KKK lynching victim returns to haunt; and in "The 11:59" a porter knows when his time is up. Coretta Scott King Award. For grades 5-8 and older readers.

[Download from BARD: The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036183

A Long Hard Journey: the Story of the Pullman Porter by Patricia and Frederick McKissack

Read by John Stratton

3 hours

In 1859 George Pullman's first sleeping car made its debut run. Soon Pullman's sleeping cars were unrivaled in design and service. The porters who provided this service were at first ex-slaves, and for nearly 100 years all Pullman porters were black. In 1925, with the help of A. Philip Randolph, they organized the first African-American-controlled labor union. For grades 5-8.

[Download from BARD: A Long Hard Journey: the Story of the Pullman...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032703

Remember: the Journey to School Integration by Toni Morrison

Read by Gail Nelson

39 minutes

An account of the thoughts and feelings of children involved in school desegregation. Provides background to the 1954 groundbreaking Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision and the movement to eliminate racist laws. For grades 3-6. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Remember: the Journey to School Integration](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058483

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15549](#)

Also available in braille BR015549

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Earle Hyman

7 hours, 39 minutes

With dreams of college fading, Ritchie Perry, a black youth from Harlem, enlists in the army. He is sent to Vietnam and into a bloody, violent nightmare where he sees desperate heroism and equally desperate cowardice. He struggles to survive racist officers, pitched battles, guerrilla raids, and multiple wounds. Strong language and violence. For high school and older readers.

[Download from BARD: Fallen Angels](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB029775

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17796](#)

Also available in braille BR017796

Motown and Didi: a Love Story by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Janina Edwards

4 hours, 29 minutes

Motown, a Harlem "street kid," and Didi, a young woman who dreams of going away to college, meet when Motown rescues Didi from an attack. Didi's mother is losing her mind, and Didi's brother is a heroin addict. In an attempt to save her brother, she goes to the police, and now Touchy, the pusher who controls Harlem, is out to get her. Strong language. For junior and senior high and older readers.

[Download from BARD: Motown and Didi: a Love Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB028677

Now is Your Time!: the African-American Struggle for Freedom by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Gordon Gould

5 hours, 53 minutes

Against the historical backdrop of the constant struggle of African-Americans for freedom and equality, Myers weaves the personal stories of influential and ordinary people--slaves, soldiers, inventors, artists, and political leaders. For grades 6-9 and older readers. Coretta Scott King Award.

[Download from BARD: Now is Your Time!: the African-American...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB035154

Slam! by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Peter Jay Fernandez

5 hours, 22 minutes

When Harlem basketball talent Greg "Slam" Harris transfers to a magnet high school in the Bronx, everyone expects him to do well and go on to college. But Slam is feeling pressure in school and at home, then discovers that his best friend is dealing drugs. For senior high readers.

[Download from BARD: Slam!](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049501

The Young Landlords by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Phyllis Dorflinger

5 hours, 35 minutes

The "Action Group"--Paul, Gloria, Dean, Omar, Bubba, and Jeannie--have a new project. They are the proud owners of a run-down Harlem apartment building, which they bought for the grand sum of one dollar. For grades 6-9.

[Download from BARD: The Young Landlords](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023501

Heart and Soul: the Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson

Read by Ken Jackson

2 hours, 8 minutes

Presents an introduction to African American history beginning with Revolutionary-era slavery. Topics include the jazz boom in Harlem and the civil rights activism of a generation inspired by Dr. King, Malcolm X, and other leaders. Coretta Scott King Award. For grades 4-7. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Heart and Soul: the Story of America and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084256

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21443](#)

Also available in braille BR021443

We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Read by Chuck Young

1 hour, 54 minutes

Presents the history of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through its decline after Jackie Robinson moved to the major leagues in 1947 and broke the racial barrier. Discusses gifted athletes, discrimination, and the players' passion for the sport. For grades 3-6 and older readers. Coretta Scott King Award. 2008.

[Download from BARD: We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066426

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18223](#)

Also available in braille BR018223

Bad News for Outlaws: the Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Read by Bob Moore

37 minutes

Biography of African American Bass Reeves (1838-1910), a hero of the Old West. Discusses Reeves's escape from life as a slave in Texas, his qualifications for being a deputy marshal, and some of his exploits with desperadoes. For grades 2-4. Coretta Scott King Award. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Bad News for Outlaws: the Remarkable Life of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071397

Also available in braille BR19015

Martin Luther King Jr.; Man of Peace by Lillie Patterson

1 volume of braille

A biography of Dr. King that outlines his career and shows how he used the methods of Christ, Gandhi, and Thoreau to wage his non-violent war against poverty, oppression, and injustice. For grades 3-5.

Also available in braille BR001146

This Life by Sidney Poitier

Read by Fred Major

16 hours, 44 minutes

Autobiography of Academy Award-winning black actor Sidney Poitier (born 1927). The Miami-born son of Bahamian farmers, Poitier chronicles his childhood on the islands and move to New York City as a teenager. Describes his marriages and hard-fought journey overcoming racism and stereotypes to find success on stage and screen. 1980.

[Download from BARD: This Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063615

I Never Had it Made: an Autobiography of Jackie Robinson by Jackie Robinson

Read by Mark Ashby

9 hours, 7 minutes

Baseball legend's account of his triumphs and tragedies on the road to becoming the first African American to play major league baseball. Descended from slaves and sharecroppers, Robinson recalls struggling to overcome racial barriers before and after his 1947 debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Introduction by Hank Aaron. 1995.

[Download from BARD: I Never Had it Made: an Autobiography of Jackie...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058600

The Friendship by Mildred D. Taylor

Read by Carolyn Bird

45 minutes

Cassie Logan and her brothers witness a moving confrontation between Mr. Tom Bee an elderly black man, and Mr. John Wallace, the white storekeeper, in Mississippi in the 1930s. For grades 5-8.

[Download from BARD: The Friendship](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB027508

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR07258](#)

Also available in braille BR007258

The Land by Mildred D. Taylor

Read by Bob Moore

12 hours, 2 minutes

Mississippi, post-Civil War. Paul-Edward, the son of a white plantation owner and a slave of African-Indian heritage, follows his dream of owning his own land through hard work and determination. Prequel to Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (DB 50326), the story of Paul-Edward's granddaughter, Cassie Logan. For grades 6-9. 2001.

[Download from BARD: The Land](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053538

Let the Circle be Unbroken by Mildred D. Taylor

Read by Michelle Shay

11 hours, 3 minutes

Cassie Logan continues the story of her Southern black family in the depths of the Depression. The warmth and love of the family enable each member to stay proud despite poverty and injustice. Cassie and her brothers suffer paralyzing fear when one of their best friends is charged with a murder they know he didn't commit. Sequel to Newbery Award-winning Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (DB 10893). For grades 6-9.

[Download from BARD: Let the Circle be Unbroken](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB017849

Also available in braille BR006355

The Road to Memphis by Mildred D. Taylor

Read by Catherine Byers

7 hours, 57 minutes

Cassie, now seventeen, recounts the harrowing events of 1941. A high school senior, Cassie aspired to become a lawyer. Her brother Stacey, who works in a factory, has recently bought a car. Cassie, Stacey, and chums Clarence and Willie help their friend Moe escape north after he is provoked into attacking some white bullies. Sequel to "Let the Circle Be Unbroken." For grades 6-9 and older readers. Coretta Scott King award.

[Download from BARD: The Road to Memphis](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032965

Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World by Mildred Pitts Walter

Read by Earle Hyman

2 hours, 6 minutes

Justin hates housework and feels that the reason his mother and two sisters do it better is because it's "women's work." When he visits his grandfather on his ranch, he is taught, with understanding and humor, to feel differently about cooking and cleaning. He also learns about the history of his family and other "Exodusters" who moved West after the Civil War, and about several famous black cowboys. For grades 3-6.

[Download from BARD: Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB026053

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

Read by Erin Jones

5 hours, 25 minutes

High school junior Jade is tired of being singled out at her mostly white private school as someone who needs support. She would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Woman to Woman, a mentorship program for African American girls. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Piecing Me Together](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088750

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22201](#)

Also available in braille BR022201

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia

Read by Graci Ragsdale-Miller

6 hours, 2 minutes

1969. Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern travel to Alabama to spend their summer on Big Ma's farm. But they discover life is a bit different in the South, and the trio tries to keep the peace between Big Ma and her half-sister, Miss Trotter. For grades 4-7. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Gone Crazy in Alabama](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081548

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

Read by Miriam Wagner

5 hours, 30 minutes

Oakland, California; 1968. Eleven-year-old Delphine and her younger sisters Vonetta and Fern fly out from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, the poet Cecile, who abandoned them years before. Cecile resents their arrival and sends them off to a nearby Black Panther summer camp. For grades 4-7. 2010.

[Download from BARD: One Crazy Summer](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071082

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19326](#)

Also available in braille BR019326

P.S. Be Eleven by Rita Williams-Garcia

Read by Jill Fox

5 hours, 52 minutes

Sixth-grader Delphine and her two younger sisters spent the summer in California, visiting their mother and attending Black Panther summer camp. But when they return to Brooklyn, the newly independent sisters clash and Delphine longs for her mother's advice. Sequel to *One Crazy Summer* (DB 71082). For grades 4-7. 2013.

[Download from BARD: P.S. Be Eleven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077013

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Read by Jacqueline Woodson

3 hours, 58 minutes

In this autobiography told through vivid poems, Woodson explores her childhood as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s and her growing awareness of the civil rights movement. Reflects on the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite her difficulties with reading as a child.

Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Brown Girl Dreaming](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080026

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20541](#)

Also available in braille BR020541