Talking Book Topics for Teens

January and February 2023

Here are all of the books for junior and/or senior high readers listed in the January-February issue of *Talking Book Topics*.

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# Fiction

## Adventure

*The Letter for the King*

**DB102828**

by Tonke Dragt

read by Matt Addis

Tiuri answers a request to deliver an urgent letter to a distant kingdom across the Great Mountains – a journey that will threaten his life and teach him the true meaning of knighthood. Translated from the 1962 Dutch edition. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For junior and senior high readers. 2015.

*The Last Little Blue Envelope*

**DB103275**

by Maureen Johnson

ready by Emily Durante

Seventeen-year-old Ginny precipitously travels from her home in New Jersey to London when she receives a message from an unknown man, telling her he has the letters that were stolen just before she completed a series of mysterious tasks assigned by her now-dead aunt, an artist. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high readers. 2011.

*Sink or Swim*

**DB107375**

by Tash McAdam

read by Kristin Allison

Shy trans teen Bass reluctantly skips school and goes on a boat trip with his adventurous girlfriend, Rosie. When a sudden storm smashes their boat on the rocky shore of a deserted island, Bass and Rosie struggle to make it to safety. Bruised and battling hypothermia, the pair have to work together to survive. Strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Travelers Along the Way: A Robin Hood Remix*

**DB107294**

by Aminah Mae Safi

read by Shiromi Arserio

In this reimagination of the legend of Robin Hood, Rahma al-Hud and her older sister Zeena travel to Jerusalem for a final mission, and on their way they assemble a ragtag band of misfits and get swept up in Holy Land politics. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Family

*One of the Good Ones*

**DB103178**

by Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite

read by various narrators

After Kezi, and activist, dies under mysterious circumstances following a social justice rally, her family reels in the aftermath. But as Kezi becomes another immortalized victim in the fight against police brutality, Happi questions the idealized remembrance of her sister. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

## Fantasy

*Rule of Wolves*

**DB103174**

by Leigh Bardugo

read by Lauren Fortgang

As Fjerda’s massive army prepares to invade, Nikolai will summon every bit of his ingenuity and charm to win this fight, and Zoya must embrace her powers to become the weapon her country needs. Sequel to *King of Scars* (DB93918). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*In Every Generation*

**DB106638**

by Kendare Blake

read by Mary March

As Frankie learns magic from her mother, Willow, a new student shows up at New Sunnydale High School with news that the annual Slayer convention has been the target of an attack. Frankie must become a slayer-witch, prevent the Hellmouth from opening again, and find out what happened to her aunt Buffy. Strong language and some violence. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Chain of Iron: The Last Hours, Book 2*

**DB102962**

by Cassandra Clare

read by Finty Williams

Cordelia’s romantic dreams must be put on hold when a serial killer begins targeting the Shadowhunters of London, sending the Merry Thieves on the trail of a knife-wielding killer. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Wayward Witch*

**DB102843**

by Zoraida Córdova

read by Almarie Guerra

Before she can return home to help heal her broken family, teenaged Rose Mortiz must come to terms with her new powers and work with others to save the magical land of Adas. Sequel to *Bruja Born* (DB92131). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*The Puppetmaster’s Apprentice*

**DB103179**

by Lisa DeSelm

read by Liz Pearce

Pirouette, the puppetmaster’s daughter, races to create wooden assassins and bring them to life or face the same fate as her father. As she feverishly works to save her father and herself, Pirouette questions if her masterpiece may instead be a monster. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*Kissed: Includes Belle, Sunlight and Shadow, Winter’s Child*

**DB106901**

by Cameron Dokey

read by Elizabeth Rose

Collection of three books in the Once upon a Time Series. In *Belle* (2008), the protagonist must save her father from a Beast. In *Sunlight and Shadow* (2004), Mina is freed from the Dark. In *Winter’s Child* (2009), lifelong friends Grace and Kai drift apart. For junior an senior high readers. 2009.

*In the Serpent’s Wake*

**DB106924**

by Rachel Hartman

read by Katharine Lee McEwan

Tess sails south as a spy, hunting for evidence of politically motivated crimes, while also hunting for the last World Serpent that could save her friend, Pathka. Sequel to *Tess of the Road* (DB90513). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Lost Dreamer*

**DB107439**

by Lizz Huerta

read by various narrators

Indir is a dreamer, descended from a long line of seers; able to see beyond reality, she carries the rare gift of Dreaming truth. But the new king wants to bring the Dreamers to a permanent end. Indir’s destiny becomes entwined with Saya, an untrained seer, and they both defiantly resist the patriarchal state that would see them destroyed. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*A Queen of Gilded Horns*

**DB102882**

by Amanda Joy

read by Keylor Leigh

After learning the truth about her heritage, Eva is on the run with her sister Isa as her captive. But with the Queendom of Myre on the brink of revolution, Eva and Isa must make peace with each other to save their kingdom. Sequel to *A River of Royal Blood* (DB101472). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*The Wide Starlight*

**DB103068**

by Nicole Lesperance

read by Brittan Pressley

Eli was six when her mother disappeared off a remote glacier on Svalbard and under the glove of the Norther Lights. Now at age sixteen, she returns determined to discover what really happened. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Ghost Girl in the Corner: A Shadowshaper Novella*

**DB102820**

by Daniel José Older

read by Anika Noni Rose

Izzy and Tee suffer from relationship problems, but when a young girl goes missing, they need to break through their distance and reconnect before someone else is in danger. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior and older readers. 2016.

*Magic Dark and Strange*

**DB103278**

by Kelly Powell

read by Karissa Vacker

Catherine Daly’s ability to awaken the dead for a final goodbye goes awry when she and Guy Nolan, the watchmaker’s son, seek a watch but find, instead, a boy whose return from the dead draws danger to the three. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*The Queen’s Resistance*

**DB106948**

by Rebecca Ross

read by various narrators

Though Brienna has just survived a revolution, one that will finally return a queen o the throne, she faces another difficult challenge. She must prove herself trustworthy to the MacQuinns. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2019.

*Gallant*

**DB107935**

by V.E. Schwab

read by Julian Rhind-Tutt

Summoned from boarding school, Olivia arrives home – to Gallant, where no one is expecting her. But she is not about to leave, even if her cousin is hostile or she sees half-formed ghouls haunting the hallways. Olivia knows that Gallant is hiding secrets, and she is determined to uncover them. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Castles in Their Bones*

**DB107334**

by Laura Sebastian

read by Roisin Rankin

Royal triplets – Sophronia, Daphne, and Beatriz – begin arranged marriages to princes of neighboring nations to fulfill their mother’s intention to reign over the continent. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and holder readers. 2022.

*House of Hollow*

**DB102984**

by Krystal Sutherland

read by Eleanor Bennett

Something happened to Iris Hollow and her two older sisters, Grey and Vivi, when they were children that they can’t remember and that left them with half-moon scars. When Grey goes missing, Iris must decipher the mystery of their past. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*The Queen’s Secret*

**DB102883**

by Melissa de la Cruz

read by various narrators

Lovers Cal and Lilac battle dark forces apart from each other, and the strength of their love – and their kingdom – face the ultimate test. Sequel to *The Queen’s Assassin* (DB9674)

## Folktales

*Beauty Sleep: A Retelling of “Sleeping Beauty”*

**DB106899**

by Cameron Dokey

read by Elizabeth Rose

Princess Aurore’s family learns at birth that she is cursed to prick her finger when she turns 16 and sleep for 100 years. Forbidden from handling needles, Aurore is freed from sewing and embroidery duties. Instead she goes on adventures that prepare her to save her kingdom. For junior and senior high readers. 2002.

## Historical

*With a Star in My Hand: Rubén Darío, Poetry Hero*

**DB107490**

by Margarita Engle

read by Martin Untrojb

A novel in verse about the life an work for Ruben Dario, a Nicaraguan poet who started life as an abandoned child and grew to become the father of a new literary movement. Includes historical notes. For junior and senior high readers. 2020.

*The Shadow War*

**DB102990**

by Lindsay Smith

read by Cary Hite

A group of teenagers – Daniel, Rebeka, Simone, Phillip, and Liam – each dealing with personal demons, fight dark magic and race to control a portal to a shadow world filled with monsters before the Nazi regime can do the same. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

## Human Relationships

*Does My Body Offend You?*

**DB107687**

by Mayra Cuevas and Marie Marquardt

read by various narrators

Neither Malena nor Ruby expected to be leaders of their high school’s dress code rebellion. Meanwhile, the girls have to face their own insecurities and biases, as well as the ups and downs of their newfound friendship. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Heartbreak Symphony*

**DB107794**

by Laekan Zea Kemp

read by various narrators

In the Monte Vista neighborhood of San Antonio, teenaged musicians Aaron and Mia grow close as they share and struggle to overcome the emotional pain of their troubled home lives. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Test*

**DB107495**

by Peggy Kern

read by Phaedra Eason

After trying to forget about a brief fling with Oscar, sixteen-year-old Liselle worries that she might be pregnant and doesn’t know where to turn for help. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. For senior high readers. 2011.

*Kiss & Tell*

**DB107360**

by Adib Khorram

read by various narrators

On boy band Kiss & Tell’s first major tour, lead singer Hunter Drake grapples with a painful breakup with his first boyfriend, his first rebound, and the stress of what it means to be queer in the public eye. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Big Reveal*

**DB106829**

by Jen Larsen

read by Kristin Allison

Addie is a dancer, a true-blue friend, and a fat, fierce, and driven young woman. After her talent gets her into a prestigious dance academy for the summer, Addie realizes she can’t afford to go. Refusing to give up, Addie and her friends decide to put on a top-secret, invitation-only burlesque show to raise funds. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Required Reading for the Disenfranchised Freshman*

**DB107272**

by Kristen R. Lee

read by Kacie Rogers

Upon arriving at the prestigious Wooddale University, seventeen-year-old Savannah Howard comes face-to-face with microaggressions and outright racism – but if she stands for justice, will she endanger her future? Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Last Words We Said*

**DB107039**

by Leah Scheier

read by Mare Trevathan

Nine months after Danny disappeared, his closest friends, Ellie, Rae, and Deenie, deal with their loss very differently, but will have to share secrets about the night he disappeared to uncover the truth. Chapters alternate between past and present. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

## Occult and Horror

*Omens Bite*

**DB107847**

by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast

read by Cassandra Campbell

Torn apart by grief and anger, twin witches Hunter and Mercy Goode go their separate ways until Mercy’s focus on the Egyptian Gate and Khenti, the guardian of its Underworld, lands her in the kind of trouble from which only Hunter can save her. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Extasia*

**DB107931**

by Claire Legrand

read by Emily Lawrence

In a postapocalyptic world, sixteen-year-old Saint Amity joins a coven and sets out on a quest to summon the Devil in order to protect her village, which is controlled by a group of pious elders. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Our Last Echoes*

**DB102880**

by Kate Alice Marshall

read by various narrators

Lured by mysterious forces to her former childhood town, Sophia investigates the unsolved disappearances of Bitter Rock's thirty-one residents in 1973. Sophia is determined to find answers about them and her mother, who also vanished years later. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*The Taste of Night: Dangerous Girls*

**DB102806**

by R.L. Stine

read by Gabriella Cavallero

While Livvy embraces the thrilling vampire lifestyle, her twin, Destiny, refuses to be fully transformed. Only the recent increase in murders of vampires puts the divided family on edge. Sequel to Dangerous Girls (DB57708). Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For junior and senior high readers. 2004.

*For Better or Cursed*

**DB107415**

by Kate Williams

read by Phoebe Strole

When the Synod, the Sitterhood's governing circle, calls a once-in-a-generation Summit, Esme should be excited to get the answers she wants. But she is struck, instead, by a building sense of panic. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

## Romance

*Flirting with Fate*

**DB107934**

by J.C. Cervantes

read by Victoria Villarreal

Ava Granados arrives too late for her grandmother's deathbed blessing, and then Nana appears as a ghost asking for help. With the help of her two older sisters and bumbling spiritual guide, Medardus, Ava must befriend the mysterious boy who received the blessing the night of the storm. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Heart of the Impaler*

**DB106258**

by Alexander Delacroix

read by Peter Holdway

Beneath the shadow of impending war in fifteenth-century Wallachia, Ilona is betrothed to Prince Mircea. But her feelings blossom for her fiancé's cousin Andrei and younger brother Vlad Dracula. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Perfect on Paper*

**DB102881**

by Sophie Gonzales

read by Barrie Kreinik

When a classmate catches seventeen-year-old Darcy Phillips providing anonymous love advice through locker 89 to her fellow students, her only option is to help him get his ex-girlfriend back. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Kisses and Croissants*

**DB103113**

by Anne-Sophie Jouhanneau

read by Imani Jade Powers

Sixteen-year-old Mia travels to Paris to attend an elite ballerina program. Along the way she meets a cute French boy, finds an unexpected rival, and discovers the truth behind a family legend. Commercial audiobook. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet*

**DB103066**

by Laekan Zea Kemp

read by various narrators

When Pen, whose dream of opening a pastelería next to her family's restaurant Nacho’s Tacos, meets Xander, a new employee searching for his father, the two help each other and form a special bond. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*The Gentleman’s Guide to Getting Lucky*

**DB102819**

by Mackenzi Lee

read by Christian Coulson

Monty's epic grand tour may be over, but now that he and Percy are finally a couple, he realizes there is something more nerve-wracking than being chased across Europe: getting together with the person you love. Novella following the events in *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* (DB88941). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2019.

*Stay Gold*

**DB103180**

by Tobly McSmith

read by various narrators

Pony, who is concealing his transgender identity at his new Texas high school, and Georgia, a cisgender cheerleader counting the days until she graduates, develop a complicated relationship. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*Serendipity: Ten Romantic Tropes, Transformed*

**DB106658**

edited by Marissa Meyer

read by various narrators

Short stories that celebrate love at its most humorous, inclusive, heart-expanding, and serendipitous moments. YA authors in this anthology include Marissa Meyer, Julie Murphy, Leah Johnson, Anna-Marie McLemore, and more. Includes supplemental material. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*A Cuban Girl’s Guide to Tea and Tomorrow*

**DB102928**

by Laura Taylor Namey

read by Frankie Corzo

Seventeen-year-old Lila Reyes, furious when her parents send her to the English countryside to recover from grief and heartbreak, unexpectedly falls in love with a teashop clerk and England. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*Sing Me Forgotten*

**DB103102**

by Jessica S. Olson

read by Caitlin Kelly

A young woman born with the ability to manipulate memories through song must fight against both the outside world that fears her and the inner darkness that tempts her to save the man she loves. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*An Arrow to the Moon*

**DB107822**

by Emily X.R. Pan

read by various narrators

A new romance blooms between Hunter and Luna even as they navigate their families' enmity and secrets. Everything around them begins to fall apart, and all they can depend on is their love. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Love Is a Revolution*

**DB102792**

by Renée Watson

read by Susan Spain

Harlem teenager Nala is looking forward to a summer of movies and ice cream until she falls in love with the very woke Tye and pretends to be a social activist. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Cinder & Glass*

**DB107437**

by Melissa de la Cruz

read b Lauren Ezzo

After the death of her father, Cendrillon—now called Cinder—became the family's servant. Cinder manages to attend a ball, where she catches the eye of the handsome Prince Louis and his younger brother Auguste. Now the only way to escape her stepmother is to compete with the other women at court for the prince's hand. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Sci-Fi

*Dreams Bigger Than Heartbreak*

**DB107792**

by Charlie Jane Anders

read by various narrators

Three friends and fellow crewmembers—Rachael, Elza, and Tina—face new challenges. Rachael journeys into a dark void, Elza goes on a deadly spy mission, and Tina faces an impossible choice that could change all her friends' lives forever. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Victories Greater Than Death*

**DB102993**

by Charlie Jane Anders

read by Charlie Jane Anders

Tired of hiding in obscurity on Earth, Tina, the human clone of a brilliant alien tactician, pursues her destiny in space. But success is elusive until Tina and her best friend Rachael assemble a ragtag crew and set out to save all the worlds. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*The Words in My Hands*

**DB106281**

by Asphyxia

read by Mary March

Organicore, a company that produces perfectly balanced synthetic meals, replaces wild food. But sixteen-year-old Piper McBride, who is deaf, begins to wonder if natural food is as dangerous as Organicore's propaganda says. Schneider Family Book Award. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*Honor Lost*

**DB102940**

by Rachel Caine and Ann Aguirre

read by various narrators

Quick-thinking space renegade Leviathan pilot Zara Cole must stop a planet-devouring creature before it consumes whole civilizations, everyone she loves, and the entire galaxy. Sequel to *Honor Bound* (DB94024). Violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

## Short Stories

*Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town*

**DB103069**

by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

read by Erin Tripp

In a series of interconnected stories, teens living in small towns in Alaska and the American West deal with secrets, love, revenge, violence, and natural disasters. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

## Suspense

*What Beauty There Is*

**DB103121**

by Cory Anderson

read by various narrators

With their mother gone and their funds quickly dwindling, Jack needs to make a choice: lose his brother to foster care or find the drug money that sent his father to prison. But someone else is searching for the money, too. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*All the Best Liars*

**DB107803**

by Amelia Kahaney

read by Karissa Vacker

Childhood friends Syd, Rain, and Brie's final weeks of high school end tragically when one dies in a fire, another goes missing, and the third is left to pick up the pieces. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Lake*

**DB102945**

by Natasha Preston

read by Lillie Ricciardi

Best friends Esme and Kayla, former campers, return to Camp Pine Lake as counselors-in-training. But the dark secret they have been hiding for years is back to haunt them. Strong language and some violence. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Tell Me My Name*

**DB102953**

by Amy Reed

read by Jorjeana Marie

Eighteen-year-old Fern's life spirals out of control after troubled former child star Ivy Avila arrives on Commodore Island, ultimately forcing Fern to take agency over her own existence. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*League of Liars*

**DB107340**

by Astrid Scholte

read by various narrators

Following the death of his mother, Cayder wants to prosecute illegal magic users. When Cayder lands a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to apprentice under a premier public defender, he takes it. But when he meets the three criminals he’s supposed to defend, things become complicated. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Lost in the Never Woods*

**DB102878**

by Aiden Thomas

read by Avi Roque

When children start to go missing in the local woods, eighteen-year-old Wendy Darling must face her fears and a past she cannot remember to rescue them. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*These Deadly Games*

**DB107275**

by Diana Urban

read by Kate Rudd

Soon after receiving an anonymous message stating that she has twenty-four hours to play a game by the sender's rules or he will kill her sister, sixteen-year-old Crystal Donovan realizes that cooperating will destroy her friends' lives. She must figure out a way to beat the kidnapper at his own game before she loses everything. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

# Nonfiction

## Sports & Recreation

*Singled Out: The True Story of Glenn Burke*

**DB102885**

by Andrew Maraniss

read by Kevin R. Free

Profiles Glenn Burke, the inventor of the high five and the first openly gay MLB player, from his childhood growing up in Oakland to his journey to the MLB and the World Series. Describes his joy in discovering who he really was. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.