**Talking Book Topics for Teens**

**May and June 2023**

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

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# Fiction

## Fantasy

*Storm and Fury*  
**DB99944** 14 hours 23 minutes  
by Jennifer L. Armentrout  
read by Lauren Fortgang  
Eighteen-year-old Trinity Marrow, who is losing her sight, has a well-kept secret. She can see and talk to the dead and must remain in a special compound to protect her from demons. But a new threat emerges. Unrated. Violence, strong language and descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2019.

*Blade Breaker*  
**DB109440** 16 hours 56 minutes  
by Victoria Aveyard  
read by Natalie Naudus  
"Dom, a grieving immortal, strives to fulfill a broken oath. Sorasa, an outcast assassin, faces her past when it returns with sharpened teeth. Valtik, an old sorceress, summons a mighty power. And Corayne, a pirate's daughter with an ancient magic in her blood, steps closer to becoming the hero she's destined to be. Together they must assemble an army to face Queen Erida and Taristan's wicked forces. But something deadly waits in the shadows, something that might consume the world before there's any hope for victory." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Violet Made of Thorns*  
**DB109503** 11 hours 8 minutes  
by Gina Chen  
read by Emily Woo Zeller  
"Violet is a prophet and a liar, influencing the royal court with her cleverly phrased--and not always true--divinations. Honesty is for suckers, like the oh-so-not charming Prince Cyrus, who plans to strip Violet of her official role once he's crowned at the end of the summer--unless Violet does something about it. But when the king asks her to falsely prophesy Cyrus's love story for an upcoming ball, Violet awakens a dreaded curse, one that will end in either damnation or salvation for the kingdom--all depending on the prince's choice of future bride. Violet faces her own choice: Seize an opportunity to gain control of her own destiny, no matter the cost, or give in to the ill-fated attraction that's growing between her and Cyrus. Violet's wits may protect her in the cutthroat court, but they can't change her fate. And as the boundary between hatred and love grows ever thinner with the prince, Violet must untangle a wicked web of deceit in order to save herself and the kingdom--or doom them all." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Novice: Summoner, Book 1*

**DB109207** 10 hours 30 minutes

by Taran Matharu

read by James Langton

"When blacksmith apprentice Fletcher discovers that he has the ability to summon demons from another world, he travels to Adept Military Academy. There the gifted are trained in the art of summoning. Fletcher is put through grueling training as a battlemage to fight in the Hominum Empire's war against orcs. He must tread carefully while training alongside children of powerful nobles. The power hungry, those seeking alliances, and the fear of betrayal surround him. Fletcher finds himself caught in the middle of powerful forces, with only his demon Ignatius for help. As the pieces on the board maneuver for supremacy, Fletcher must decide where his loyalties lie. The fate of an empire is in his hands." -- Provided by publisher. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

## Gothics

*What Souls Are Made Of: A Wuthering Heights Remix*  
**DB109096** 8 hours 23 minutes  
by Tasha Suri  
read by Becca Hirani  
"Two lost souls cut off from their heritage find solace in each other in this remix of the gothic novel *Wuthering Heights*." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Historical Fiction

*This Rebel Heart*

**DB109031** 11 hours 36 minutes

by Katherine Locke

read by Steven Jay Cohen

"Csilla has felt protected by the Duna river her entire life, and especially during the Holocaust of World War II, but that magic seems to have broken when Communists took control of Hungary. When her parents are killed by the secret police, Csilla's deep feelings of betrayal and disconnection cause her to plan her escape from her unrecognizable homeland. They are posthumously exonerated, however, sparking a series of protests that make her reconsider whether she can leave it all behind." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Most Dazzling Girl in Berlin*

**DB109091** 4 hours 28 minutes

by Kip Wilson

read by Juliette Goglia

"On her eighteenth birthday, Hilde leaves her orphanage in 1930s Berlin, and heads out into the world to discover her place in it. But finding a job is hard, at least until she stumbles into Caf‚ Lila, a vibrant cabaret full of expressive customers. Rosa, one of the club's waitresses and performers, immediately takes Hilde under her wing. As the caf‚ denizens slowly embrace Hilde, and she embraces them in turn, she discovers her voice and her own blossoming feelings for Rosa. But Berlin is in turmoil. Between the elections, protests in the streets, worsening antisemitism and anti-homosexual sentiment, and the beginning seeds of unrest in Caf‚ Lila itself, Hilde will have to decide what's best for her future and what it means to love a place on the cusp of war." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Human Relationships

*Azar on Fire*

**DB109862** 9 hours 16 minutes

by Olivia Abtahi

read by Alex McKenna

"Fourteen-year-old Azar Rossi sets out to find her voice and win her local Battle of the Bands contest." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Vinyl Moon*

**DB109034** 5 hours 0 minutes

by Mahogany L. Browne

read by Bahni Turpin

"When Darius told Angel he loved her, she believed him. But five weeks after the incident, Angel finds herself in Brooklyn, far from her family, from him, and from the California life she has known. Angel feels out of sync with her new neighborhood. At school, she can't shake the feeling everyone knows what happened--and that it was her fault. The only place that makes sense is Ms. G's class. There, Angel's classmates share their own stories of pain, joy, and fortitude. And as Angel becomes immersed in her revolutionary literature course, the words from novels like *The Bluest Eye* and *Push* speak to her and begin to heal the wounds of her past." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*The Black Girls Left Standing*  
**DB109040** 8 hours 46 minutes  
by Juliana Goodman  
read by Ariel Blake  
"Sixteen-year-old Beau Willet has dreams of being an artist and one day leaving the Chicago projects she's grown up in. But after her older sister, Katia, is killed by an off-duty police officer, Beau knows she has to clear her sister's name by finding the only witness to the murder; Katia's no-good boyfriend, Jordan, who has gone missing. If she doesn't find him and tell the world what really happened, Katia's death will be ignored, like the deaths of so many other Black women who are wrongfully killed. With the help of her friend, Sonnet, Beau sets up a Twitter account to gather anonymous tips. But the more that Beau finds out about her sister's death, the more danger she finds herself in. And with a new relationship developing with her childhood friend, Champion, and the struggle to keep her family together, Beau is soon in way over her head. How much is she willing to risk to clear her sister's name and make sure she's not forgotten?" -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Smash It!*  
**DB101674** 9 hours 18 minutes  
by Francina Simone  
read by Zakiya Young  
Challenging herself to overcome long-held insecurities at the beginning of her junior year, Liv lands an unexpected role in her high school's musical production of *Othello* that helps launch her journey of self-empowerment. Unrated. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

*Boys of the Beast*  
**DB108769** 5 hours 33 minutes  
by Monica Zepeda  
read by Shawn Hertel  
"Three teenage boy cousins on a road trip through California and the Southwest come to terms with truths about their families and themselves." -- Provided by publisher. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*My Eyes Are Up Here*

**DB108721** 8 hours 35 minutes

by Laura Zimmermann

read by Kristen DiMercurio

"If Greer Walsh could only live inside her head, life would be easier. She'd be able to focus on excelling at math or negotiating peace talks between her best friend and everyone else. She wouldn't spend any time worrying about being the only Kennedy High student whose breasts are bigger than her head. But you can't play volleyball inside your head. Or go to the pool. Or have confusingly date-like encounters with the charming new boy. You need an actual body for all of those things. And Greer is entirely uncomfortable in hers." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers.

## LGBTQ+

*And They Lived...*

**DB109293** 10 hours 6 minutes

by Steven Salvatore

read by Kirt Graves

"Chase Arthur is a hopeless romantic, but he's also struggling to figure out his gender identity and recover from an eating disorder. When Chase starts his freshman year of college, he has to navigate being away from home and missing his sister, finding his squad, and will have to learn to love--and be enough for--himself, while discovering what it means to truly live." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Occult and Horror

*Frightmares*

**DB109249** 8 hours 47 minutes

by Eva V. Gibson

read by Barrett Leddy

"Dave is spending his final summer before college working at Frightmares House of Horrors, a struggling haunted house attraction held together by malfunctioning killer clown mannequins, a cheap replica Annabelle doll, and a lot of improvising. After a particularly disastrous shift ends in an employee walkout, Dave reluctantly takes over a role for his friend; however, he makes a horrifying discovery--a real dead body, hidden on set. But when Dave returns with help, the body is gone. Though the killer covered their tracks, Dave realizes they must know what he saw. Could he be their next target?" -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Lally's Game: Five Nights at Freddy's; Tales from the Pizzaplex, Book 1*  
**DB109502** 7 hours 7 minutes  
by Andrea Waggener and Scott  
read by Suzanne Elise Freeman  
"A forbidden artifact from her fiancee's past beckons to Selena. Jessica leads a double-life from her friends and coworkers in the children's wing of a hospital. Maya can't resist the temptation to explore an off-limits area of Freddy Fazbear's Mega Pizzaplex. But in the world of Five Nights at Freddy's, everything comes with a price to pay." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Katzenjammer*  
**DB109441** 5 hours 31 minutes  
by Francesca Zappia  
read by Lauren Fortgang  
"Cat lives in her high school. She never leaves, and for a long time her school has provided her with everything she needs. But now things are changing. The hallways contract and expand along with the school's breathing, and the showers in the bathroom run a bloody red. Cat's best friend is slowly turning into cardboard, and instead of a face, Cat has a cat mask made of her own hardened flesh. Cat doesn't remember why she is trapped in her school or why half of them--Cat included--are slowly transforming. Escaping has always been the one impossibility in her school's upside-down world. But to save herself from the eventual self-destruction all the students face, Cat must find the way out. And to do that, she'll have to remember what put her there in the first place." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Romance

*A Heavy Dose of Allison Tandy*

**DB109245** 9 hours 57 minutes

by Jeff Bishop

read by Robbie Daymond

"After taking painkillers for a basketball injury, eighteen-year-old Cam starts seeing visions of his comatose ex-girlfriend Ally, leaving him to wonder what her spectral visits really mean." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

## Science Fiction

*Padawan: Star Wars*

**DB109667** 7 hours 35 minutes

by Kiersten White

read by Gary Furlong

"Obi-Wan Kenobi has not been apprenticed long to Qui-Gon Jinn, and he is chafing at Qui-Gon's training style: all meditation, no action. Obi-Wan yearns to prove himself on a mission, but when he and Qui-Gon are finally set to leave on an assignment, Qui-Gon is nowhere to be found. Angered by his master's abandonment, Obi-Wan sets out on the mission alone, determined to prove himself. On a mysterious planet he encounters a pack of feral, Force-wielding teens who seem to be the planet's only inhabitants. As he experiences wild freedom with them and wonders if this isn't the life he was meant for, Obi-Wan can't escape the nagging sense that something is wrong with the Force there. Growing attachments, startling revelations, and a looming threat to both the planet and his new friends will bring Obi-Wan face-to-face with his worst fear: that maybe he was never supposed to be a Jedi at all. Can he connect with the living Force in time to save himself and everyone around him?" -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Suspense and Thriller

*Into the Sublime*

**DB109533** 10 hours 10 minutes

by Kate A. Boorman

read by Mary March

"Four girls from a defunct thrill-seeking group descend into a dangerous underground cave system in search of a subterranean lake that local legends claim has the power to change things for those who can confront their deepest fears." -- Provided by publisher. Strong language and some violence. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

*I Dare You*

**DB107867** 1 hours 28 minutes

by Jeff Ross

read by Stephen Van Doren

After a schoolyard fight video goes viral, two schoolmates convince Rainey to make another one about a mysterious figure in the woods. The teens decide to make a follow-up video, but then their prank goes horribly wrong. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

*Who We Were in the Dark*

**DB109153** 11 hours 41 minutes

by Jessica Taylor

read by Jeremy Carlisle Parker

"Donner Lake is famous for its dazzling waters, dramatic mountains, and the travelers trapped there long ago who did unspeakable things to survive. But for lonely Nora Sharpe, Donner was where a girl named Grace glided into her life one night and exploded her world. After that, every summer, winter, and spring break, Nora, her brother, Wesley, the enigmatic Grace, and their friend Rand left behind their real lives and reunited at Donner Lake. There, they traded truth and lies. They fell in love. They pushed each other too far. They came to know one another better than anyone in some ways, and not at all in others. But two years later, something has happened to destroy them. Grace is missing. And Nora must find her way through the unspoken hurts and betrayals of the last two years--and find her way back to Wesley and Rand--to figure out what exactly happened to Grace, the girl she thought she knew." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

# Nonfiction

## Animals and Wildlife

*Where Have All the Birds Gone? Nature in Crisis*

**DB109739** 3 hours 35 minutes

by Rebecca E. Hirsch

read by Kerry Dukin

"In the face of rapidly declining bird populations, read about the vast impacts birds have on ecosystems, food systems, and our mental health and what we can do to protect them. Birds are nature's essential workers, crucial members of ecosystems around the world. And they are disappearing. Since 1970, nearly 30 percent of all birds in the United States and Canada have vanished, due to city lights and tall glass skyscrapers; domesticated cats prowling outdoors; pesticides, and climate change. In short, due to humans. Hirsch helps readers discover the impact birds have on our world and explain how you can help save them." -- Provided by publisher. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2022.

## Biography

*Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life*

**DB109092** 2 hours 19 minutes

by Marilyn Nelson

read by Grace Angela Henry

"A powerful biography in poems about Augusta Savage, the trailblazing artist and pillar of the Harlem Renaissance--with an afterword by the curator of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture." -- Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2022.

*Wired Differently: 30 Neurodivergent People You Should Know*

**DB108988** 5 hours 52 minutes

by Joe Wells

read by Kathryn Markey

"This collection of illustrated portraits celebrates the lives of influential neurodivergent figures who have achieved amazing things in recent times. Showcasing these 30 incredible people, the extraordinary stories in this book show that the things they've achieved, created and inspired they did not despite being different but because they are different. From politicians, activists and journalists to YouTubers, DJs and poets, this book highlights a wide range of exciting career paths for neurodivergent readers." -- Provided by publisher. For junior and senior high readers. 2022.

## Medicine and Health

*Heads Up: Changing Minds on Mental Health*

**DB108602** 4 hours 20 minutes

by Melanie Siebert

read by Lindsey Pierce

"Featuring real-life stories of people who have found hope and meaning in the midst of life's struggles, *Heads Up: Changing Minds on Mental Health* is the go-to guide for teenagers who want to know about mental health, mental illness, trauma and recovery. For too long, mental health problems have been kept in the shadows, leaving people to suffer in silence, or worse, to be feared, bullied or pushed to the margins of society where survival is difficult. This book shines a light on the troubled history of thinking about and treating mental illness and tells the stories of courageous pioneers in the field of psychiatry who fought for more compassionate, respectful and effective treatments. It provides a helpful guide to the major mental health diagnoses along with ideas and resources to support those who are suffering. But it also moves beyond a biomedical focus and considers the latest science that shows how trauma and social inequality impact mental health. The book explores how mental health is more than just "in our heads" and includes the voices of Indigenous people who share a more holistic way of thinking about wellness, balancing mind, body, heart and spirit. Highlighting innovative approaches such as trauma-informed activities like yoga and hip-hop, police mental health teams, and peer support for youth, *Heads Up* shares the stories of people who are sparking change." -- Provided by publisher. Strong language. For junior and senior high readers. 2020.

## Social Sciences

*Understanding Suicide: A National Epidemic*

**DB108609** 4 hours 27 minutes

by Connie Goldsmith

read by Kathryn Markey

"Suicide is among the top three causes of death for young people ages 15 to 24. In fact, this global epidemic claims 41,000 lives per year in the United States alone. Suicide touches people of all ages--from those who consider and attempt suicide to those who lose a loved to suicide. Yet silence often surrounds these deaths and makes suicide difficult to understand. Looking beyond common myths and misconceptions, author Connie Goldsmith examines common risk factors and covers warning signs, ways to reach out to a suffering loved one, and precautions that can save lives. And survivors' personal stories offer honest examinations of both grief and hope." -- Provided by publisher. For senior high and older readers. 2017.