

Check It Out Column for Week of March 29-April 4

Try out our children's audio books.

By Beth Anne Cox, Children's Assistant

Nothing makes a librarian happier than to see a child heading straight for the book shelves, intent on finding the book of their dreams. We love helping them find the treasure hidden within jackets and covers. We love suggesting something we are certain they'll enjoy, a title or series they have never seen before, or a book we loved when we were their age.

But did you know we have another source of riches?

Audio books may be a parent's best friend during the rapidly approaching spring break. Are you planning to drive or fly to Disney World? Or perhaps a trip to visit grandparents, old friends, or some wonderful place you've never been to? Then you're already making lists of what everyone needs to pack.

One of the most important things for families traveling together are 'boredom busters'-- books, toys, and games to keep everyone entertained on the road. If you've never thought of trying audio books, think again. Your children love to be read to, and that's something you can't do while you drive. Check out Ramona, or Junie B. Jones, pop the disc into a portable player and listen to your child laugh at what they hear.

We have hundreds of titles—old favorites and new, in every genre—fiction, mystery, and science fiction! We have *Adventures in Odyssey*, stories that many children know from the radio programs. We also have audio books in Spanish. Plus, make sure you check out the special packets displayed on a hanging rack that combine a book and a disc or tape. Those are especially good for little ones who like to see pictures while they enjoy their stories. You might even find an audio book the entire family can listen to ...a nice change from music or talk radio shows.

So if you're checking things off your to-do list, make a special trip to see us. Go to the shelves where the audio books are, and explore them with your children. These special books can be checked out for the same 3-week period as a traditional book. We have them on both CD and on tape. You'll wonder how you ever traveled without them; since an audio book keeps right on working even when it's too dark to read in the car. It may be the easiest way you'll ever “read” Harry Potter.