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Dear Friends,

Recently we sent a young friend of ours a book about a favorite subject of his. He's 7. It's a picture book. His thank you note to us was "Thank you for the book. I like the pictures."

We've been hearing a lot about how the picture book is dead. We're told that "older kids" -- we're talking 6-8 year olds here -- are not interested in picture books and should be pushed beyond them to longer, text heavy books. And, of course, they should "read" these books on a device, right?

Don't get us wrong -- we're all for the advances in technology that have brought about exciting and new ways to read and listen, experience and learn. We have continued to release our recordings on all available formats -- CDs, Playaway units, downloads, and coming soon, enhanced e-books. (We still have cassettes for sale -- though once our stock is depleted this format will be gone.)

What is still critical to each recording that we produce, however, is the **BOOK**. Usually, it's a **PICTURE BOOK**. We produce readalongs -- audio meant to be listened to while reading along with the book. These recordings are carefully paced to allow time to hear and read the words, savor the pictures or photos that are an inherent part of the story being told. There are many studies to support why the combined auditory and visual experience is essential to language development and to building reading skills. But we think it's simpler than that. Good books inspire, entertain, enlighten -- and a good book with illustrations that complement and enhance the story are, quite simply, worth listening to, no matter what age you are!

We hope you'll give a listen to some of the wonderful new picture books we've released this spring and early fall. And maybe even venture back to some of the outstanding award-winning picture books that we have on our list, like Odyssey Award winners [Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken](#) and [Jazz](#); our Grammy winners [Mama Don't Allow](#) and [There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly](#). And classics like [Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs](#), and [Shrek](#) and [Blueberries for Sal](#).

Happy reading and listening,  
Debra Cardillo

## Picture Book Readalong Reviews

Hear that? It's the sound of applause. We're pleased to share some of our recent reviews.



"Based on Gordon Titcomb's song of the same name, [The Last Train](#) is an elegiac tribute to a different era, when trains rumbled across the countryside and a man could work for the railroads

all his life. Titcomb narrates gently, his subtle rural accent appropriate to the text. Authentic background sounds of train whistles and chirping country insects add atmosphere. ... Young train lovers will be fascinated." - **AudioFile**

"How do you improve Florence Minor's terrific book [[If You Were a Penguin](#)] about the creatures that fascinate children? Add delightful music, playful penguin sounds, and a narrator with a subtle British accent. ... A welcome addition to collections for young people ..." - **School Library Journal**



"**This Jazz Man** delights on several levels. ... The music-drums, piano, sax, trumpet, and bass-is as much the star here as Williams's narrative. Live Oak has added another winner to their Jazz series." - **AudioFile**

### Our Newest Audiobook

Fifty-four poems, all in different voices, written by one outstanding author. Residents of a fictional Harlem community, from motorman to teacher, from party girl to live-in maid, to jazz artist, a deacon, students, veterans and more - all embodied by thirteen remarkable narrators. Original musical recordings from the likes of Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Thelonious Monk. Each distinctive memory, reflection, thought or aspiration is evocatively presented in this stunning and memorable tribute to a beloved time and place.



#### [Here in Harlem: Poems in Many](#)

[Voices](#) written by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Muhammad Cunningham, Michael Early, Patricia R. Floyd, Kevin R. Free, Arthur French, Dion Graham, Nathan Hinton, Ezra Knight, Lizan Mitchell, Gail Nelson, Monica Patton, Robin Miles and Charles Turner; Introduction read by Walter Dean Myers

Coming in December ... [Looking Like Me](#)

Also by Walter Dean Myers, this collaboration with his son and artist, Christopher, is a poetic celebration of the child as an individual.

### Visit our new website!

Autumn, with all of its seasonal shifts, seems the perfect time for us to make changes here at Live Oak Media. We've [redesigned our website](#) and added some new features that, we hope, will inspire frequent return visits. In the **Video Corner** we'll offer short videos on producing our readalongs. We have a direct link -- **Digital Downloads** -- to all titles available for download. The category on the left sidebar "**See All Titles**" is an alphabetical listing of all the readalongs we offer. Click on **Behind the Scenes Interviews** for Q & A with our authors, narrators and staff. And, you can direct others to sign up for our regular eNewsletter ([eNewsletter-subscribe](#) box) which contains up-to-date information about new releases, special promotions, and ruminations about timely topics.

We will continue to tweak things as we go, but if there are improvements you'd like to see, we'd love to hear from you!

### Special Fall Promotion Still On

Need new holiday titles for your collection? Ready to purchase our new releases? Our special fall promotion continues -- [purchase over \\$100 and receive a 10% discount and free shipping on your order](#). Just use the [promotion code Fall10](#) when placing your order. But hurry, the offer expires December

15, 2010!

### Tell a friend

We hope you've been enjoying our newsletter. Please be sure to tell your friends to join the conversation by [signing up](#) for the newsletter.

Did someone forward you this newsletter? Skip the grapevine. You can sign up directly with us if you [click here](#).

Now you can read past newsletters [on our website archive](#).

To make sure our newsletters are delivered to your inbox, please add [debra@liveoakmedia.com](mailto:debra@liveoakmedia.com) to your email Address Book.

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### Questions or comments?

Please write us at [info@liveoakmedia.com](mailto:info@liveoakmedia.com) or call us at (800) 788-1121.

Debra and Arnie Cardillo  
Live Oak Media

*Live Oak Media has a 30-year tradition of producing distinctive readalong recordings of classic and award-winning children's literature for ages 3-12. As a small, family-owned company, we are dedicated to providing our young listeners with meaningful reading and listening experiences.*

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