

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

### "Tis the Season for On-the-Road Fun!"

With the holiday season now upon us, many parents and their children will be spending countless hours on the road in an effort to connect with long-distant family and friends. Being a dad of three adorable little ones under the age of ten, I know first-hand just how difficult and stressful these trips can be.

Over the years, however, my wife and I have discovered a few life-saving library resources that have helped make such van rides a bit more bearable for both us and our children. It should be no surprise to anyone that audio books are the first item on this list.

I cannot tell you how many times an audio book has come to the aid of my wife and I as we ventured to Grandma and Grandpa Hruska's in Schuyler or to Grandpa and Grandma Karel's farm in St. Edward, NE.

Audio books make great travel companions because unlike favorite radio stations, they will not silence out because of poor reception. The Columbus Public Library offers a number of great juvenile recordings like "Superfudge" by Judy Blume, "Adventure According to Humphrey" by Betty Birney, "Gregor the Overlander" by Suzanne Collins, "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis, "Holes" by Louis Sachar, and "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White.

Quality DVDs are another ideal travel resource that parents can use when dealing with little ones experiencing road-rage meltdowns. With more and more portable devices becoming available for vehicles, the library has an ever expanding children's DVD collection that parents can feel safe allowing their children to view such as "Magic School Bus-Bugs, Bugs, Bugs;" "Little Einstein's-Flight of the Instrument Fairies;" "Disney Princess-Sing Along Songs;" "Nick Jr.'s-Franklin and the Turtle Lake Treasure," "Disney's-The Prince and the Pauper," "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!;" and "Focus on the Family's-Adventures in Odyssey."

Another great travel resource that parents can take advantage of is e-books. Various chapter books can be downloaded through Overdrive, which can be found on the library's user-friendly website ([www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library)). So instead of lugging around a bag full of heavy books, families can download numerous titles to their lightweight e-readers, entertaining titles like "Al Capone Shines my Shoes" by Gennifer Choldenko, "Dragon Rider" by Cornelia Funke, "Out of the Dust" by Karen Hesse, "Scat" by Carol Hiaasen, and "Watch Wolf" by Kathryn Lasky!

Children can then have amazing titles at their fingertips, and moms and dads will not have to worry about getting back to town in time to return them because the texts will simply disappear once they come due.

So the next time your family decides to venture far from home, be sure to include the Columbus Public Library in your travel plans! We have a number of great resources that are sure to make the travel time more fun and less hectic for everyone in the family! If you have any questions about the items featured in this article or would like to learn about more great family resources that the Columbus Public Library has to offer, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.