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“Power On!” Now Available as Audiobook

The UCLA Computer Science Equity Project has published an audiobook version of its acclaimed graphic novel, “Power On!” for blind and low-vision readers.

Written by Jean J. Ryoo & Jane Margolis and illustrated by Charis JB, “Power On!” is an original graphic novel inspired by young people whose views need to be heard, yet who too often find that the technology they use every day promotes practices that keep them marginalized. The book brings to life the ethical complexities of technology and why young readers need the knowledge to be critical creators of technology, not merely users shaped and controlled by it. The issues raised in the novel are ever more relevant as AI floods into the educational system.

The audio version was inspired by the ideas of a blind student and the advocacy of her computer science teacher at a school for the blind, Gina Fugate. The new audiobook represents an effort to make academic research and ideas accessible to broader audiences including blind and low-vision readers.

“We wanted to make ‘Power On!’ truly accessible for all,” says Jean Ryoo, director of research for the Computer Science Equity Project at UCLA. “It has become this blossoming of connections, really rooting back to our original goal for the book, which is to make educational research, people's real stories, and issues around ethics and equity with today's technologies something that's speaks to more people.”

“This all started with wanting to translate our research that was in ‘Stuck in the Shallow End’ into something engaging and exciting for kids and their families”, says Jane Margolis, author of “Stuck in the Shallow End” and a senior researcher at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Following the 2025 publication of a Spanish translation of “Power On!” entitled “¡Contectados!”, the new audiobook reflects our thinking about all the issues of accessibility and using different mediums and languages to spread the word. It has been a journey.”

The audiobook version of “Power On!” was produced in collaboration with Prime Access Consulting (PAC), a global inclusive design firm created by Sina Barham. PAC's Director of Operations, Sam Shaw and Barham led a team of visual describers, sound designers, and talented storytellers in the production of the audio book. While the original graphic novel was based on the voices of young people reflecting on their experiences in Computer Science

classrooms, the audiobook also includes the literal voices of students, teachers, and others from the Computer Science education research community playing different story characters.

To promote accessibility, the audio version of “[Power On!](#)” is available for free on audiobook platforms across the globe including [Apple Books](#), [Google Play](#), [Tune In](#), [Kobo](#), [Libro.fm](#), [Chirp Books](#), and [Storytel](#). It is also available for a small fee on [Audible](#).

“[Power On!](#)” is published by MIT Press.

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