

Librarians Telling Tales Podcast Transcript- Episode 1

Quick Look Booklist:

Strega Nona & Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs by Tomie DePaola
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude C. Warner
Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss
Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
All-of-a-Kind Family by Sydney Taylor
The Duckling Gets a Cookie?! by Mo Willems
A Unicorn Named Sparkle by Amy Young
The Squeaky Door by Margaret Read MacDonald
The Yawns Are Coming! By Chris Eliopoulos
The Circus Ship by Chris Van Dusen
The Sandwich Swap by Kelly DiPucchio
Hair Love is by Matthew Cherry
Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell by Tanya Lee Stone
Hokey Pokey by Jerry Spinelli
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

Transcript:

Musical Intro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades and plays under.

Jennifer:

Hey bookworms! Welcome to our first episode of Librarians Telling Tales. We're so thrilled to have you joining us today where we introduce you to all things we love about libraries: books, people, and making connections. I'm Jennifer.

Amy:

I'm Amy.

Blair:

I'm Blair.

(0:27) Music fades out

Amy:

In today's episode we'll chat about our earliest memories of reading, and the books we loved having read to us when we were little. We'll also share some of the books we love to read aloud—to the very young children at storytimes and to kids and teens who visit the library with their school groups.

Music Transition: “Ascending-marimba-notification” by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(Description) Bright marimba scale.

(0:47) Section 1-Early Memories of Reading and Read-Aloud Books

Blair:

Alright, I guess I’ll kick us off. So, I distinctly remember when I was a kid, bedtimes were always like me and mom and the stories, and it was so much fun. We had a few things that we read over and over and over again. Which, I know, is for parents is like, “I can’t read that story one more time!” You know, but like for kids, that’s what they want. They want that repetition, they want that familiarity. And for me, it was *Strega Nona* and then *Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs*, which were both [by] Tomie DePaola. And, oh my gosh, those books, they were such a big part of my childhood. Particularly because I called my grandma, Nana, and so, for me, it was a really good connection to have that feeling, even though she passed away when I was really young. So it was always kind of like invoking her when we were having storytime and reading those books.

Another thing that I think was just amazing (chuckles) was in my 2nd grade class, Mrs. Lindsay—shout out, who I am still friends with on Facebook—was an amazing 2nd grade teacher. For one of her class reads we did *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. She gave us all in the class an individual chocolate bar and said that if we didn’t eat the whole thing before she finished reading us the book, then when we watched the movie together as a class—we would get a second one! And it was such a fun experiment, because there were so many kids who, like, they just ate the whole thing in one sitting, or they pieced it out and they ate one single little piece off the Hersey bar every single time they read a chapter, and then I just sat there and I just held it. I was just like “I’m just going to hold this; it will be my reward to have two!” (Amy and Jennifer laugh.) What about you guys? What about you, Jennifer?

Jennifer:

Well, talking about your teacher reminds me of my 1st grade teacher. I give Mrs. Chatman all the credit for opening the book world for me. We would sit on the reading rug and she would read *The Cricket in Times Square* [George Selden], she read *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* [Richard Atwater]. And most, in my memory, the most profound one was *The Boxcar Children* [Gertrude C. Warner], because she tied in an activity where we were all assigned to bring in something for the stew and we made a big stew. And it was all about the *Boxcar Children*, and so Mrs. Chatman is my hero. And funny enough, she actually came to visit Prescott Public Library a few years ago, and I said, “Here I am, Mrs. Chatman!” And it was really special, and she, long story short, she was actually the sister of one of my co-workers, and it was an *amazing* connection! But, I just told her “Here I am, I’m in books!” and I gave her so much credit for opening the book world to me.

And my parents did read to me, probably not as much as I read to my own children, but it was Dr. Seuss...*Hop on Pop* was really big. And I would get books in the mail, my mom had signed me up for some book club, so I would get that package in the mail...and it was usually a Dr. Seuss book or Disney book. But my dad was also read to me- *Tom Sawyer* [Mark Twain], classics like that, and I am so grateful. It was really neat; I had a really great childhood full of people, people who brought books into my world. How about you, Amy?

Amy:

I...well, with my brother and sister, we read, my mom read us a *ton* of books. Took us to the library all the time, we didn’t have air-conditioning in our apartment so...the local library—all summer long! And

one of my favorites was *Are You My Mother?* [P.D. Eastman]. And she read that to us all the time, and we always requested it. I don't know why we were so enamored of it, but we were. And I remember thinking, after doing some thinking about this, like, "Why didn't this bird know what his mother looked like?" Right?! Like a crane is your mother?! Um...but anyway, it was super sweet and charming.

And then in 1st grade for it was Mrs. Fisher reading us *Amelia Bedelia* [Peggy Parish]. (Giggles from Jennifer and Blair.) Mrs. Fisher was such a fantastic reader and she really brought us into the story. And I just remember thinking that, I was so, like, at home and comfortable, that I thought I was hiding, but I was sucking my thumb with my thumb in my mouth and my other hand covering over it, and I thought nobody knew what I was doing. But in fact, she did see what I was doing and sent a note home to my family saying, "Amy is sucking her thumb, and you know in 1st grade that is kind of not what we do." So that was that.

Blair:

Aww. But it's so sweet!

Jennifer:

Can I do one more shout-out? Because I think those library specialists at the schools need to be recognized.

Amy:

Absolutely!

Jennifer:

It reminded...listening to us talking about our teachers, also reminded me of a librarian in my school who would read to us, and, every time our class would visit, and she introduced me to all of the *All-of-a-Kind Family* (Amy, "Oh!") by Sydney Taylor and I still love those books so much. And she was so excited about the books, and I loved when she would read to us. And also my junior high school library specialist, he would ask me to read books and tell him what I thought about them. And so I just think that these people that we're talking about are so critical to our reading lives and I'm just so thankful to all of them. So, big shout-out: Thank you (**Amy** interjects: Absolutely!) to everyone!

Blair:

Oh, 100%! I still remember one of my favorite things about going to our summer place in Colorado was the public library and going to storytimes. We actually did have pajama storytime. I, it's funny; I was thinking about that the other day, it's like, I remember going to the library in my pajamas and having cocoa and having our librarian, Jackie read to me. I just, like, distinctly remember that. The whole town, because it was such a small town where I grew up, the library was kind of the heart of the town. And I feel like that library is part of the reason that I am still so connected to books and became a librarian. Because that kind of community place, that community feeling that comes with storytimes and books it's just...awesome.

(6:07) Section 2-Favorite Library Storytime Books

Jennifer:

Oh, that's a great segue into our favorite storytime books, or books that we like to read for little ones. What did you...what do you like to read to the little kids, Amy?

Amy:

Oh, one of my favorites to read are the Pigeon books, but in particular *The Duckling Gets a Cookie?!* [Mo Willems]. Those are just so fun and the drama is so rich with the pigeon being uber-duber jealous, like, “The duckling gets a cookie?!” and, like, all the antics that he, you know, employs to get himself a cookie. I just love that book, I love sharing it with kids. I like being super dramatic and like, “Noooooooooooo!” on the page, that’s one of my faves to read aloud.

Blair:

Oh yeah, anything silly—the sillier the better. I am sort of enamored with a book right now, which is *A Unicorn Named Sparkle* by Amy Young. And it is the cutest thing ever because this little girl wants a unicorn so-so-so badly and she gets a goat! And she keeps insisting that it’s a unicorn and playing with it like it is a unicorn, but it’s a goat! And it is my favorite thing right now, it’s just so cute. How can you not love that kind of irreverence that kids have? Anything can be a unicorn if you dream it (**Amy** laughs: Right!) hard enough!

(Laughter)

Jennifer:

Unicorns are all the rage.

Blair:

Very much so.

Jennifer:

I think when I read to the kids, I like reading the funny books. They like those funny books, especially the younger kids. And one of my favorites is *The Squeaky Door* by Margaret [Read] MacDonald, it is just so interactive, and it got so much suspense in it, and the audiences- the kids- are able to participate in it. And so I find that to be a go-to book quite often. I think, “Has this audience heard it? Okay, we’re going to read it again!” because it’s such a- it was such a great book. And I love that interaction that you can have at storytimes and so I tend to pick books like that.

Amy:

I’ve heard you read that and I love your sound effect.

Jennifer:

Oh! (laughs) ...which one?

Amy:

The squeaky door!

(Everyone laughs)

Amy:

Squeeeeeek...

(Everyone chuckles)

Blair:

Yes, that's awesome. That's just so much fun. When we were doing our storytime videos, I still think my favorite was *The Yawns Are Coming!* [Chris Eliopoulos] because I could just make the best noises.

Amy:
Mhm.

Blair:
It's just like...That's always fun when you can kind of just forget yourself in a story and be silly. That's, I think, part of what is fun too, is that, you know, really, they, they wanna be silly because they see you being silly and engaging with you.

Jennifer:
Now those are really fun books for littles, but what kind of books do you find reading to your older kids? Because we, as we know, picture books are for everyone.

Amy:
Absolutely!

Jennifer:
So you thought about books that appeal to your older audience?

Amy:
One of the ones that I have, love sharing with 3rd and 4th graders is Chris Van Dusen's *The Circus Ship*. It's based on like a true story of a ship that sunk while carrying animals that were part of a carnival of sorts. And the drama of the evil ringmaster...what is he in that? I forget...

Jennifer:
I think he is a ringmaster.

Amy:
And he is just so mean, and just the way all the rhyming and the fun. And then also, there are so many rich details on the pages—the illustrations, like... What happens is, the townspeople help hide the animals when he returns to pick them up. And he realizes, "Wait a minute, the ship sank, but all the animals did make it ashore!" And so he goes to look for them, and they are like hiding in plain sight. So you can really pour over those illustrations, even with the older kids, just hold the book open as long as you can, and they are like, "There's a camel there! There is the crocodile hiding there!" it's super fun.

Blair:
What about you, Jennifer?

Jennifer:
Oh, there are so many wonderful books! I think the one I tend to go back to a lot, I think it is really timely, is *The Sandwich Swap* by Kelly DiPucchio.

Blair:
Uhuh.

Jennifer:

Just a really beautiful story about friendship, but also being appreciative of other cultures. These two girls are best friends, but they come from different backgrounds, and they start realizing that they don't eat the same kinds of foods. And the kids in the cafeteria are suddenly starting to point it out that there is a real difference, and they start thinking, "Oh maybe I can't like you, because you don't like the same things I like." Anyway, it's a lovely story about friendship, and they have to go through a hard experience to realize that they really are good friends, and it is a wonderful story. I love to read that with an older group, and they seem to really receive it well. How about you, Blair?

Blair:

I think it is interesting, because I haven't had a lot of experience with the older groups. So, for me, it is about finding new things, finding things that are different. I like *Hair Love*, I like how, and that's- *Hair Love* is by Matthew Cherry, thanks to Amy for reminding me, because I was forgetting. It is something about finding those cultural touchstones, that, even if that's not your culture, you know, you don't have the same hair products, you don't have the same interactions about hair, but everybody still does their hair. And everybody still learns how to deal with their hair. And you know, as you're growing, you learn that from your parents, from the important people in your life, that personal grooming stuff. And so it's always nice to see not only the cultural differences, but the cultural similarities. And I think that is part of what makes it so much fun.

Jennifer:

Do you know what I love about that book? It's the father daughter relationship. It is so sweet. I was completely charmed by it, and at first I thought he was a single dad, and then...well, you have to read the book to see the surprise ending. But I just really loved that father daughter bond. It's a great book.

Blair:

Mhm. It was absolutely just so sweet to see. So those are the kind of books I like to find—once that are a little different, a little fun. It is so nice to see yourself and see other people represented.

Amy:

I heard you say that, like, your memories of like your mom and your folks helping you with your hair and self-look. Like, mine didn't! And they probably should have because I had those hamburger bun bangs! (Chuckles) Do you remember what I'm talking about? We called them a hamburger bun, because they were like, "ouuiiph"!

Blair:

Yeah, I mean, I still distinctly recall that it was always a sad day in my house when my dad was doing my ponytail...(Amy and Jennifer laugh)...because I was inevitably going to have hair pulled. It was going to be not super a pleasant experience for me, but it never came out during the day—to his credit—it never came out when he did it!

Amy:

The elastic stayed in!

Blair:

Oh it stayed in! And sometimes it was a little tight! Sometimes, sometimes it hurt!

Amy:

(Laughs) And little Blair had a headache...

Blair:

Yep, but it stayed!

Jennifer:

My mom did my hair so well, it didn't mean that...she braided it, played with it, I was really lucky. But then when I got on my own, I could do nothing! (Amy and Blair laugh out loud.) I don't know how to do anything with my hair! So...

Blair:

It's okay, my, my mom didn't teach me about makeup, I learned all my makeup from theater (Amy laughs), which explains a lot about how I wear makeup, I think... (Amy laughs)

(12:17) Picture Book Non-fiction

Amy:

I just wanted to jump in really fast too and mention, there is, um, a lot of great picture books nonfiction that I think are really fun to share with older kids. And one of my favorites, which I think is super shocking to today's kids because they are used to seeing more women in roles that in the past were only held by men, but it's *Who says women can't be doctors?* and it is *the story of Elizabeth Blackwell* by Tanya Lee Stone. And when she writes to all those-um, applies to colleges, rather- and is trying to get in for med school, and she is just constantly being denied. And the fact that all the men in the college voted to have her accepted as a joke, as a ruse, and that's how she got into college and was able to get her medical degree and become a doctor... When you read that part to the kids they're like, "What?! Like, she had...she was so smart and she graduated on top of her class when she was in med school, but they wouldn't let her in because she's a girl?! Like that was their only criteria?!" I think it is super fun to read those stories and share that, it certainly was an interesting role for everybody, you know. It's a simple way of communicating that, it is a really fun picture book.

Jennifer:

And the pictures are nice too.

Amy:

Mhm!

Jennifer:

It's very accessible.

Amy:

Absolutely!

Jennifer:

It has a great message and great pictures too.

(13:21) Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com (description) Bright marimba scale.

Blair:

Now we are going to hear from you, our readers and listeners! This is a fun segment where you tell us some of your favorite books—this is Readers Rave.

Readers Rave

#1- Connor:

Hi, I'm Connor May, I'm 15- almost 16. When I was younger I was a really big fan of *Hokey Pokey* by Jerry [Spinelli]. I really liked it, it was like a, just a fun adventure. It was like a kid's dream. The whole point was like a kid's paradise. It was something that I really liked when I was little, and it was a good book that I really enjoyed.

#2- Craig:

Hi! My name is Craig and I am 47 years young. I have worked in libraries for about 8 years, and love to be surrounded by books. One book I've loved for many years is *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. The book tells the story of a boy named Nobody, or Bod Owens who lives in a graveyard and is being raised and educated by ghosts. I enjoy the dark moodiness, and I appreciate the book's frank tone regarding death.

#3- Sarah:

Hi, I'm Sarah, and I'm 34 years old. One of my long-time favorite books is *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine. I love how the main character Ella seeks to break her curse of obedience while also staying true to herself, having a good heart, and just generally being awesome. I read and shared this book with my friends so many times that it ended up falling apart, and I had to buy a new one. And, I still love recommending it!

Music Transition: "Ascending-marimba-notification" by Alexander from Orangefreesounds.com
(description) Bright marimba scale.

Amy:

Do you want to be part of Reader's Rave? Call us at 928-777-1490 and leave a message with your first name, your age, a book you love, and what you love about it.

Jennifer:

Thank you for joining us today on Librarians Telling Tales. Don't forget to subscribe to catch our next episode in mid-October where we will be talking about our first independent reads, and what's flying off the shelf these days.

(15:26) Musical Outro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades in and plays under.

Blair:

This Podcast is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We would also like to thank the City of Prescott, Friends of the Prescott Public Library, and all our fabulous coworkers at Prescott Public Library.

Amy:

Be sure to like and subscribe to Librarians Telling Tales- and until next time, we'll see you in the library.

Musical Intro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com

(description)Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades out with cymbal crash.

Total Run Time (16:00)