

Librarians Telling Tales Podcast Transcript- Episode 3

Quick Look Booklist:

- **Section 1: Food & Family**
 - *The Enormous Potato* by Aubrey Davis
 - *Thank you, Omu!* by Oge Mora
 - *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown
 - *Nanette's Baguette* by Mo Willems
 - *I Really Like Slop!* by Mo Willems
 - *Are You a Cheeseburger?* by Monica Arinaldo
 - *More Spaghetti, I say!* by Rita Gelman
 - *Strega Nona* by Tomie DePaola
 - *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech
 - *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard
 - *Fresh-Picked Poetry: A Day at the Farmers' Market* by Michelle Schaub
 - *Kiss! Kiss! Yuck! Yuck!* by Kyle Mewburn
 - *Pie in the Sky* by Remy Lai
 - *Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte
 - *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater
- **Section 2: Holiday Traditions & Books as Gifts**
 - *Final Friends Trilogy* by Christopher Pike
 - *Love is a Special Way of Feeling* by Joan Walsh
 - *Flowers in the Attic* by V.C. Andrews
 - *The Hobbit; Lord of the Rings; The Silmarillion; The Father Christmas Letters* by J.R.R. Tolkien
 - *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
 - *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
 - *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson
 - *Frosty the Snowman* by various
 - *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
 - *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clarke Moore
- **Readers Rave**
 - *Dragon Masters* by Tracey West
 - *Keeper of the Lost Cities* by Shannon Messenger
 - *The Maze Runner* (James Dashner)

Transcript:

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

Blair:

Hey bookworms! Welcome to Librarians Telling Tales where we introduce you to all the things we love about libraries: books, people, and making connections. I'm Blair!

Jennifer:

I'm Jennifer!

Amy:

I'm Amy!

(0:24) Music fades out

Jennifer:

In today's episode, *our third episode*, we'll chat about books that celebrate food, family, and fun holiday traditions. You'll also discover why we think books make the best gifts.

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

(0:38) Section 1- Youth Books that Celebrate Food & Family

Amy:

Alright, I'll go ahead and get us started. This is a shameless plug for our Story Walk at Granite Creek Park because yesterday when we were installing the new Story Walk and talking to the teens about how many books we've done--and this is our 5th book there—I remembered *The Enormous Potato* (Aubrey Davis)...

Blair:

Oh yes!

Amy:

...*The Enormous Potato*, and what a fun story that is! This gigantic potato that grows in this family's yard and it takes everybody in the family to pull it from the garden—including their animals. And then the whole town comes together to delight in all that potato love!

Jennifer:

That reminds me of community, that book is so much about community, and one of my favorite books is, of course, you know: *Thank You, Omu!*

Blair/Amy:

Oo. Love that!

Jennifer:

...by Oge Mora. That is just a delightful book about this wonderful grandmotherly figure who's making this pot of stew and all these different people from the community come and knock on her door because they smell this wonderful smell.

Amy:

Mhm!

Jennifer:

...and I just love how everyone comes together in that book and celebrates community and a beautiful pot of stew.

Amy:

Mh!

Blair:

Oh yeah, and that's Stone Soup, that sharing concept, and sharing over food. That's such a...I think important part of why there's so much food...

Amy:

Oh yeah!

Blair:

...in kids' books, there's food in everything! It's crazy!

Amy:

I think because we're always hungry when we're kids. Growing up, I just remember thinking: "What's my after school snack going to be?! What's going to be in my lunch today?! Food!"

Blair:

(Laughs)

Jennifer:

I have to talk about one of my favorite books by Mo Willems, I think it is a lesser-known book, it is called *Nanette's Baguette*.

Amy:

Oh?!

Jennifer:

...and I think just the word baguette is a cool vocabulary word...

Amy:

Mhm

Jennifer:

...but that book is all about food as well and every word that rhymes with baguette!

Amy:

(Laughs)

Jennifer:

And you'll be surprised how many words rhyme with baguette! So if you didn't know about Mo Willems's other books besides *Elephant & Piggy*, and *The Pigeon*, you should check out *Nanette's Baguette*.

Amy:

That book does have some tongue twisters...all that baugette-ing! Haha! (Everyone laughs) But speaking of Mo Willems, the one I really love by him is *Piggy & Elephant's*, I think it's *I Really Like Slop*; where Piggy is trying to get Gerald to taste what she is making, and it is that nasty mix of goo and gross and chew and everything. And when Gerald does finally take a bite he does a back flip and his face turn bright orange and all kinds of weird signs comes out of his head, yes...because only pigs like slop, right?! (laughter)

Blair:

Right? One of the books that I was thinking about is this new one that we got in, which is *Are You a Cheeseburger?* (laughter) And it is by Monica Arnoldo, and well, it is leads into that...

Amy:

Sure!

Blair:

...because the main character is a raccoon who is digging through the trashcan and he find a seed, and the seed and him have this conversation, and the seed is like, "You should plant me!" and he says: "Why? Are you going to grow into a cheeseburger?" and so it is just this really cute journey of becoming friends with the seed and planting the seed and hoping and praying it is going to be a cheeseburger plant.

Amy:

Is it?

Blair:

No...

Jennifer:

Amy, you haven't read that?!

Blair:

Come on, you have to read it, it is sooo sweet!

Amy:

Oh no, I didn't see it!

Jennifer:

I thought you'd be the first one to read it.

Blair:

I had it checked out first for a minute

Amy:

Ah...see, Miss Blair...!

Blair:

I used it with my niece for storytime!

Jennifer:

That was a book that was unexpected. I read the title, I saw the back cover, which is a surprise, but when you actually read the book it is so different than what the title leads you to believe...

Amy:

I got nothing!

Blair:

It is so cute!

Jennifer:

Put that on your to-be-read-list next! There is also a lot of beginning reader books that are about food too, and one of my favorites—it is a really old one—it is called *More Spaghetti, I say!* by Rita Gelman. Have either you read it?

Amy:

Uhuh.

Blair:

No.

Jennifer:

It is very rhymey so it is great for those beginning readers. And it is just about this little monkey that loooves spaghetti—and I love spaghetti!

Amy:

Is that one on our shelves?

Jennifer:

It is. I actually have it right here with me.

Amy/Blair:

Ah..aha! (laughter)

Jennifer:

It is a great read-aloud, it's great to read with kids in a group, because of its rhymes, but also it's about friendship. The main character is putting spaghetti before her friendship and at the end she realizes that maybe she just has to be a good friend and share her spaghetti.

Blair:

Aww!

Jennifer:

It is very sweet and very fun, so...even in Beginning Readers you can find books about all kinds of food.

Blair:

That has that Strega Nona feel to it.

Amy:

I was thinking the same thing!

Jennifer:

Oooh, yes!

Amy:

Or, like Granny Torrelli Makes Soup, the chapter book by Sharon Creech, I think.

Jennifer:

I do love that new book about the Native American... *Fry Bread! (Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard

Amy:

Yes!

Jennifer:

The Fry Bread, that beautiful story with the beautiful pictures, I think it won a Caldecott Honor.

Amy:

It is beauuutiful!

Jennifer:

It is beautiful, and that illustrator, I believe, actually lives in Arizona. I think she lives in Scottsdale.

Amy/Blair:

Mhm

Jennifer:

...and I just love bread! Bottom line: I just love bread.

Amy:

(Laughs heartily)

Jennifer:

...so I love fry bread and I love that picture book, it's a wonderful book.

Blair:

One that I found that is also pretty new to our collection is in our non-fiction section and it is *Fresh-Picked Poetry: A Day at the Farmers' Market...*

Jennifer:

Mhm.

Blair:

...by, let's see...Michelle...somebody... I'll think of it...Michelle Schaub! It's really fun because they are going through the farmer's market, and there is poems about vegetables! There are poems about stalls, there's poems about people...and it is all short and really dynamic and it kind of feels like, you know, a really good representation...

Amy:

That's awesome!

Blair:

...of being at a farmer's market and I think that's nice to have kids also see, "Yes, it is not just the chicken dino-nuggies that I had for dinner last night..."

Amy:

(Laughs)

Blair:

...but it's like, "Look at the beautiful fresh eggplant and these beets and the nice baker who brought bread!"

Amy:

Mhm.

Blair:

You know, it is kind of that connection back to real food too.

Amy:

Turning us a little bit away from food and more into family and books about family. There's this one, unfortunately it is checked out right now otherwise I would like force you to read it after this, but is called *Kiss! Kiss! Yuck! Yuck!* (Kyle Mewburn). And it is about this little boy and his aunt coming to visit. And every time she comes she always gives him two kisses and he goes: "Yuck! Yuck!" and then one day she doesn't come as expected and he is actually really disappointed. And then when she does come you learn that she had an injury and that she's now in a cast. Uhm. And he actually wants the kiss kiss. So it's really a fun thing, your family visiting, because I was that kid that had the chubby cheeks, still do, and you know, everyone wants to pinch them and things, and it's like "Yo! No!" (Laughing)

Blair:

That is my space!

Amy:

So it wasn't so much that people want to kiss me, they wanted to pinch me! (Laughter.) I was like "No!"

Jennifer:

Is that a picture book?

Amy:

Thank you for asking, yes, it is a picture book.

Jennifer:

I have a great book about family that is a juvenile fiction book, it's called *Pie in the Sky* (Remy Lai), has either of you read it?

Amy:

I have, at your suggestion.

Jennifer:

Did you like it?

Amy:

I did!

Jennifer:

I think it is a beautiful story about these two brothers, it's a middle grade book. They're from China and their dad unexpectedly passes away. So the family moves to Australia. And the dad's dream was to have a bakery, so these boys secretly are baking all of his cakes. And they keep it a secret from their mom because they are just trying to move on and I think it makes her really sad. And it is about their relationship as brothers and ultimately about coming together with their mom and moving through the grief of the loss of their dad. But there are so many funny moments and all of the pies that they bake are so wonderful! And beautiful illustrations as well. I think it was written by Remy Lai? I am not sure how to pronounce the last name L A I, but it's a great. And I actually had a patron come in and ask for a book about baking and the middle grade section and I was very happy to tell her about *Pie in the Sky*.

Blair:

That's awesome.

Jennifer:

Mhm!

Blair:

I couldn't help to think of the first book we used for Inktastic Book Club, for my middle grade book club, which is *Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte and we were so lucky because she did an author interview with us virtually and it was so much fun to really hear her talk about her experiences with food and that connection to family. Because, in the book, the girl is moving from Taiwan to the United States and it is kind of this whole new adventure but she has to leave her grandma, and the connection she has with her grandma, her ama, is cooking. She comes up with this idea to bring her ama to visit is to enter a cooking competition so the whole thing is her doing this cooking competition to earn money for a plane ticket for her ama to come visit her.

Amy:

Aww, that's sweet...

Blair:

...and food is infused all the way throughout: Food is how she makes friends; food is how she connects with her family, and it's just this really nice kind of tie through of both things—I really love that. And it's a graphic novel, it's a gorgeous graphic novel.

Jennifer:

Oh, I have a teen book, actually, and this ties into a tradition for my family. Years ago, in the beginning of our teen book club we read the *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater, and in that book they talk a lot about November cakes, and we actually made it for book club and it was a big hit. And then my daughter Hannah loved them so much that every Christmas we make these November cakes.

Amy:

That's awesome!

Jennifer:

They are so wickedly good, I even wrote down some of the ingredients. There's a glaze, and there's a filling, and then there's icing, and if that doesn't already tell you how...

Blair:

Amazing!

Jennifer:

...amazing they are. They are just these wonderful rolls, and I actually have a quote from the book!

Blair:

Ooo!

Jennifer:

...that makes you want to make these November...

Blair:

Yes, yes!

Amy:

But wait, wait! First, is that recipe in the book?!

Jennifer:

Yes, it is, and Maggie Stiefvater, the author of the book, actually put it together and put it in the back of the book.

Amy:

That's awesome!

Blair:

Okay! We've got to make this!

Amy:

Yes, seriously!

Jennifer:

Yes, they are delicious. We make them every December because Hannah loves these. But there is this quote that I loved: "Finn finds my left hand, opens my fingers, and puts a November cake in my palm. It oozes honey and butter, rivulets of the creamy frosting join the honey in the pit of my hand. It begs to be licked."

Amy:

Yum!

Jennifer:

Doesn't that makes you want to make them?!

Blair:

Mhm!

Amy:

Makes me hungry!

All:

(Laughter.)

Jennifer:

The recipe is in the back of the book!

Amy:

Whose idea was it for a food episode?! (laughs)

Blair:

I'm not sure...

All:

(Laughter.)

Amy:

That is a fun one.

Jennifer:

It is a great great tradition, and so I decided I'd like to share that with you all.

Blair:

Absolutely.

Amy:

That's a great segue too to our next topic of conversation, right?

Blair:

I think so.

Jennifer:

Yeah.

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

(9:49) Section 2- Holiday Traditions & Books as Gifts

Blair:

So what other fun traditions around food and books do you gals remember for holiday season? Because that's what we're approaching, is holiday season.

Amy:

Holidays! In my family we didn't have a ton of traditions around books, but we did get books at the holiday- at Christmas, and for Hannukah. We celebrated both holidays growing up, and we got books as presents. And one of the ones that I thought was so amazing that it is still in the system—it is not at our library, but it is available through the catalog—is Christopher Pike's *Final Friends Trilogy*. That was a set of books that I got for Hannukah when I was in sixth grade, and I devoured those. They were spooky, and creepy, and teens getting into trouble, and maybe dying.... And yes, that was something that I just really loved, getting books at the Holidays.

Blair:

I think it was fun at Christmastime because my mother, at the beginning of December, so right after Thanksgiving, she gets headlong into Christmas season. She would put a pre-wrapped present on a high shelf near the Christmas tree that was called my 'be good to Christmas' present. And if I was really good

and didn't do any bad things I would get to open it on Christmas Eve. A lot of times it was a book. But my favorite thing about getting books from my mom is that she always inscribes in them.

Amy:

Ah, yes!

Jennifer:

Hmm.

Blair:

Always! There's always a personal note in them, no matter when I get it, but particularly Christmas and birthdays. And it's so fun. She really subscribes to the "something you need, something you want, and something to read" [adage]. That is how we give gifts in our house.

Amy:

Rock on!

Blair:

Yeah...

Jennifer:

That's why those gifts are so valuable, especially with inscriptions. Which, I brought a book that my daughter gave me. And it wasn't for a holiday, it was just- we had spent one summer in New Orleans...

Blair:

Yay!

Jennifer:

Which Blair can attest to how it's wonderful to just visit and travel there. And we had gone to that café where you can get a beignet...

Blair:

Café du Monde!

Jennifer:

Café du Monde—and we got a beignet and a carton of milk and we sat on the banks of the Mississippi River and we just talked. So then, after our vacation I took her back to the airport to go home to college, and she had given me this book—like a drop and run.

Amy:

Uh huh...

Jennifer:

She gave me this book, it was something she had bought at a thrift store called, *Love is a Special Way of Feeling* (Joan Walsh). So I was reading through it, and I was enjoying it, and then—I hope I don't get emotional at this—but at the very back she wrote me this long letter of how much she had enjoyed the trip and all the memories that we had made.

Amy:

Oh, wow!

Jennifer:

And so I keep it in my office, and whenever I am having kind of a down day or feeling a little low I pull this book out and read the back.

Amy:

That's really special.

Jennifer:

It's so valuable to me. And that book is just really precious to me.

Amy:

Wow!

Jennifer:

And that's why we talk about books being so valuable as not only gifts to give, but gifts to get, as well.

Amy:

Mmhmm, definitely.

Blair:

You can give somebody something they can play with or see for a minute, or you can give them, like a world that they can revisit over and over again.

Amy:

Yes! Absolutely! And hours of entertainment—like with Christopher Pike’s *Final Four Trilogy* (Final Friends Trilogy)- try it guys try it!

Blair:

Absolutely

Amy:

Final Friends! Not Final Four

Blair:

Okay! I was going to say, I loved Christopher Pike when I was in about the sixth grade range too. I loved Christopher Pike, so much fun.

Jennifer:

Never read him, never. I feel like I missed out on something.

Blair:

Yeah, well, I mean I also was reading a lot of V.C. Andrews at that time.

Amy:

Ditto..ditto

Blair:

I feel like that was...

Jennifer:

That’s the books that I read! The V.C. Andrews books the *Flowers in the Attic* series

Amy:

That is a family situation, but not the family situation that we’re talking about today...

Jennifer:

No!

Blair:

No...not at all.

Jennifer:

I have one other fun story for you guys. I don’t know if you know this about my husband, but he loves poetry; and he used to memorize poems. And when he asked me to marry him I said, “Well of course I’ll marry you, I love you, but I think we should wait. We have a lot of debt.”

Amy:

(Laughter)

Jennifer:

And he quoted me this poem about these two people who waited ‘til they could afford to get married and they were walking down the aisle with wheelchairs and canes. And so, of course I said, “Yes, alright we’ll get married.”

Blair & Amy:

(Laughter)

Jennifer:

(Laughing) But he loves poetry. And, so one of the gifts that our kids gave to him for Christmas one year was this book of poetry. And they also inscribed—

Amy:

Oh!

Jennifer:

Actually, it wasn't for Christmas, it was for his birthday— they inscribed to him, "I know how much you love poetry." And they saw these books and they thought it was a perfect gift for him. But, yeah. Darren loves poetry. You should ask him to quote you something next time you see him.

Amy:

I think it's so sweet too that you can see how cute their handwriting was when they were younger.

Jennifer:

Oh yes, yeah...

Blair:

Adorable.

Jennifer:

Jake was thirteen and Hannah was fifteen. And, yeah— so books really are just wonderful ways to bond with your family and let people know how much you care about them. Especially if you buy a book, and you really put some thought into what you're buying for that special person.

Amy:

Definitely! Actually, last year my parents got Matt, my husband, one of Tolkein's trilogy things. It's not one of *The Hobbit* or *Lord of the Rings*, it's something else... I can't think. *The Silmarillion* and a couple others. And so this year I'm going to get him—hopefully he's not listening to this right now—but Tolkein he also wrote letters to his kids at Christmas every year and *The Father Christmas Letters*... So I'm going to get that. It's available on Amazon. I was shocked that it's still available, so I'm going to get that for him for Christmas.

Jennifer:

So thoughtful.

Blair:

Okay, Matt is banned from listening to this until after Christmas.

Amy:

Well, I mean, we share an Amazon account, so he'll probably see the email come through. (Laughing).

Jennifer:

You know what I love about Tolkein too is that he told his kids bedtime stories, and that's really where a lot of the Lord of the Rings stories come from.

Amy:

Yes! Yes, because there's a movie about his life, and that's exactly it. That he says that it's the bedtime stories for his kids.

Jennifer:

A.A. Milne also did the same, and would tell stories about Winnie the Pooh to his children.

Blair:

Yep.

Jennifer:

Isn't that wonderful?

Amy:

It is.

Jennifer:

I love those family connections. Those stories that connect and bond us.

Blair:

For me, when it comes to Christmastime the books that I always have to, like, revisit and read: *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis.

Amy:

Mhmmm

Blair:

I love that. And I did also really love *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. And I like that they both have really important Christmas scenes in them too so they feel Christmas-ish, even without actually being Christmas stories. PBS aired the BBC versions that were done of those movies, which are still the best film versions of those movies. So I watch those too. In fact, their version of *A Little Princess* is why I still own a VHS player.

Amy:

(Laughter)

Blair:

Because it is not available on DVD. But I have my old VHS's of it and I have, I found another pristine one that I ordered off of eBay, as well.

Amy:

That's exciting.

Blair:

Mhmmm.

Amy:

And you've got a VCR.

Blair:

I have a DVD, VCR combo, thank you.

Amy:

Ah, that's fantastic.

Jennifer:

I don't think we can end this episode or finish talking about these books without talking about *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. (Barbara Robinson).

Blair:

Oh for sure!

Jennifer:

By Barbara...

Amy:

I cannot think right now!

Jennifer:

Oh, no! (Laughing) I should know the name.

Blair:

It'll be in the notes, it'll be in the notes, people.

Jennifer:

That is classic Christmas, and so much fun. And a great book to read and start a family tradition, if you haven't already started that.

Amy:

Mhmm. Whether you're reading fun books like *Frosty the Snowman* with some of those cool illustrations—because there's so many versions and varieties of that—or, you know, there's so many...

Blair:

Christmas Carol! (Charles Dickens) *Night Before Christmas!* (Clement Clarke Moore)

Amy:

A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens... that's a heavy read for a family, but yes.

Blair:

Okay, but there's so many radio plays that get done. We used to do a radio play at my local radio station every year. I was part of one for five years in a row.

Amy:

Of A Christmas Carol?

Blair:

Yeah.

Amy:

Oh, Blair that's awesome.

Blair:

Yeah, there were like 10-15 people from the community would get together and we would read it, and it would be live put on the radio, and then aired again for the proceeding week and a half.

Jennifer:

Which part did you play in that? Which voices did you read?

Blair:

I bounced around. I have been the narrator, which was really fun to be the narrator. I liked that a lot. I have played the majority of the women characters at one point or another.

Amy:

Any of the ghosts?

Blair:

Yes, I did do the Ghost of Christmas Present. I got to put on a real Father Christmassy kind of sound for a minute.

Jennifer:

So which part was the funnest to read?

Blair:

I really liked being the narrator. So, we've done that a number of times. That's—I feel like—part of our Christmas tradition too.

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

Blair:

We hope this episode inspires you to create family traditions around books and to consider giving books as gifts to the ones you love.

(17:35) Readers Rave

Jennifer:

Now we're 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.

#1- Ella

My name is Ella. I'm eight years old. I love *Dragon Masters* by Tracey West.

#2- Savannah

Hello! My name is Savannah. I'm eleven years old, and I have two books to share with you today. Um, my first one is called *Keeper of the Lost Cities* (Shannon Messenger). It's an amazing book with magic, thrill, and adventure, and I find it very enjoyable for children and teens. My second book is a book called *The Maze Runner* (James Dashner). It's an amazing story. It's scary and it's also an adventure book, and I found that one very interesting. And I don't recommend it for younger kids, but it is good for anybody over the age of eleven. Thank you!

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

Jennifer:

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. We can’t wait to hear from you!

Amy:

Thank you for joining us today on Librarians Telling Tales. For a full list of the books shared in this episode, please check the link in our podcast bio.

Blair:

Don’t forget to subscribe to catch our next episode in mid-December where we will be talking about all things fantasy; the different types of fantasy tales, our favorite fantasy books and series, and suggestions for readers who are looking for fresh new adventures. We’ll also share our BOOK CONFESSIONS—the books and series that we almost missed out on...

(19:14) Musical Outro: “Uplifting 2463” by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades in and plays under.

Jennifer:

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.

Total Run Time (19:43)