

Librarians Telling Tales Podcast Transcript- Episode 12

Quick Look Booklist:

- **Section 1: Nonfiction Tales**
 - *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- **Section 2: Nonfiction Books for Kiddos**
 - *Tiny Travelers* (board book series) by Steven Wolfe Pereira
 - *Sun! One in a Billion* by Stacy McAnulty
 - *Mars! Earthlings Welcome* by Stacy McAnulty
 - *How to Build an Insect* by Roberta Gibson
 - *Bloom Boom!* by April Sayre
 - *Best in Snow* by April Sayre
 - *Full of Fall* by April Sayre
 - *Being Frog* by April Sayre
 - *Who Has This Tail?* by Laura Hulbert
 - *Who Has These Feet?* by Laura Hulbert
 - Booklist in Catalog: Fascinating Facts for Curious Kids
- **Section 3: Nonfiction for Middle Grade Readers**
 - *Who Would Win* series by Jerry Pallotta
 - *Lion vs. Tiger*
 - *Tyrannosaurus rex vs. Velociraptor*
 - *Whale vs. Giant Squid*
 - *Who HQ* series published by Penguin Random House
 - *Who Was Anne Frank?* by Ann Abramson
 - *Who Is Bill Gates?* by Patricia Demuth
 - *Where Is the Bermuda Triangle?* by Megan Stine
 - *Where Is the Grand Canyon?* by Jim O'Connor
 - *Urban Legends: Don't Read Alone!* series by Virginia Loh-Hagan
 - *The Hookman*
 - *Bunny Man Bridge*
 - *Gravity Hills*
 - *Bloody Mary*
 - *Bermuda Triangle*
 - *Mary Celeste*
 - *History Comics* series published by First Second
 - *The National Parks: Preserving America's Wild Places* by Falynn Koch
 - *The Wild Mustang: Horses of the American West* by Chris Duffy and Falynn Koch
 - *The Great Chicago Fire: Rising from the Ashes* by Kate Hannigan
 - *Science Comics* series published by First Second
 - *Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield* by Falynn Koch
 - *Big Ideas that Changed the World* series by Don Brown
 - *A Shot in the Arm!* by Don Brown
 - *The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem* by Colleen Paeff
 - *Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America* by Gail Jarrow
 - *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary* by Gail Jarrow
 - *Ambushed!: The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield* by Gail Jarrow

- *Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease* by Gail Jarrow
- **Section 4: YA Nonfiction & Memoirs**
 - *The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, and Survival* by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess
 - *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose and Knud Pedersen
 - *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia* by Candace Fleming
 - *Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hillenbrand
 - *The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* by Daniel James Brown
 - *Notes from a Young Black Chef* by Kwame Onwuachi
 - *Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend* by Karen Blumenthal
- **Reader's Rave**
 - Dr. Seuss (author)
 - *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling

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.

Jennifer: In today's episode, we're going to talk about interesting, informative, and wildly engaging nonfiction books that will have kids clamoring to learn more.

(0:35) Music fades out

Section 1: Nonfiction Tales and Picture Books

Amy: All right, friends, let's talk about our first fun experiences with nonfiction.

Blair: Duh dun dun dun...

Amy: Dun. I'll go first. It's not really fun, actually.

Blair: Um, well, I mean, yeah, it's all relative.

Amy: It's funny in, in hindsight, I should say. It's funny now, but at the time it wasn't so funny. So, in third grade I had a book report project due about John F. Kennedy, former president. And anyhow, my parents had a home set of encyclopedias, and I was last minute doing this report and I decided that I needed pictures. And, of course, we did not have a home copy machine. So, I went ahead and cut the pictures from the encyclopedia. <laughter> Yes. And they were fantastic! And they went in my report, and I got a great grade. And then I brought the report home and showed my mom, and she said, "Honey, you cut those from the encyclopedia!" And I said, "I did." And I got in a little bit of trouble, but yeah, those encyclopedias, they were amazing.

Blair: I mean, really you only hurt those couple of pages, right? In the grand scheme of things, the encyclopedias were still very useful and they could just refer to your report for John F. Kennedy. <laughter> You just put your report in those pages.

Amy: They should have interfiled the report into the encyclopedia realm. That would've been cool.

Blair: That would have solved that problem.

Jennifer: You put them to good use.

Amy: I did.

Jennifer: Otherwise, they probably would've just sat there and gathered dust.

Amy: I agree. Cause honestly, I cannot think of a time that I actually, or any of my siblings, or even my parents, that we grabbed the encyclopedias for any level of reading.

Jennifer: I have to ask...

Blair: Just for pleasure.

Jennifer: ...did your parents buy them from a traveling salesman?

Amy: You know, I'll have to ask. I have no idea, but they were that hideous, olive green. They were so heavy. They were in the very bottom of the bookshelf, like holding things down. I don't know. And they smelled amazing like that old nasty musty smell. They were fantastic. I have no idea where they came from though. I should ask.

Jennifer: I just remembered those encyclopedia salesmen that would go door to door and all these housewives would purchase them, you know? And they were so expensive. So, I was just curious.

Amy: Was that a real thing?

Jennifer: Yes.

Amy: 'Cause I remember like hearing stories of like the vacuum cleaner salespeople and stuff, but...

Blair: No, the encyclopedia salespeople were real.

Jennifer: Very real.

Blair: I wanted the, like, beautiful, illustrated world book encyclopedia, kinda like the ones that we have, but in the eighties version. And my mother was like, no <laugh>. And so with the first book, like nonfiction book that I remember reading and being like, yes, I need more of this was *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne Frank).

Amy: Oh, yeah.

Blair: I was kind of fascinated with that period in history because of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. And then we went to the National Holocaust Museum and it's just been one of those terrifying, captivating things that I have read a lot about since then. And it's because of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Jennifer: My introduction to nonfiction was because I was trying to be entrepreneurial at the age of eight or nine years old, and I really needed to make money. So, I found this book about how I could have a lemonade stand. You know, have a baked goods stand, collecting cans. And I just devoured that book. I kept checking it out. And that summer we had lemonade stands and sold baked goods. And my dad played commercial softball. And we would always go with him to his games, not only to support him, but he was always good to take us for a Slurpee at 7- 11 afterwards. But during our can collecting phase, we would dig into trash cans and go under bleachers. I'm sure my mom was really not very happy. So we

just collected cans and it was all because that book gave me the idea. I was very thankful for that. I didn't realize it was nonfiction at the time. I just found it very helpful and informative to my needs as an eight-year-old, looking to earn money.

Amy: Dying to know- what were you wanting to buy?

Jennifer: We had a little club, we had a science club in my neighborhood, and the first thing we bought was a fishbowl. And I can't tell you why or what we did with it, but we had a little science club in our basement, and we bought a fishbowl so we could get a pet for our science club. So that is the first thing we bought was a glass fishbowl.

Blair: Cute!

Amy: That's actually really sweet!

Jennifer: So it was a great summer. It was a sweet summer and that book is still imprinted in my mind. I couldn't tell you the title, but I remember where it was on the lower shelf in the school library.

Blair: Nice.

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

(4:38) Section 2: Nonfiction for Kiddos

Amy: All right. So how about fun, compelling, interesting, informative nonfiction for the kiddos?

Jennifer: I think one of my new favorites is that board book series, the *Tiny Travelers* (Steven Wolfe Pereira) that has been appealing not only to little children, but adults as well with an introduction to world culture. They're exciting and colorful and quick facts. And so I think that has been a wonderful new addition to our collection in the nonfiction.

Blair: They are really nice.

Amy: Another series I think is so cool is Stacy McAnulty and her *Our Universe* series to include: *Sun! One in a Billion* and *Mars! Earthlings Welcome*. Those are so fun and informative. And they're friendly fact-sharers. They're just enjoyable to read. The sun one is so cool. Like here's what I power, here's what I do. And people once thought that the Sun revolved around the Earth and really! And it's like got a little bit of attitude and sass to it. It's so fun.

Blair: That's such a great series to introduce those concepts to kids at a young age, because they are like picture books in the way that they're compelling and they have that story driven, but the facts are all on the page.

Amy: They're really neat illustrations. Like even just the size comparisons.

Jennifer: I think those kinds of books have changed how people think and view nonfiction books. They're not dry and boring, but informational books are very exciting. So, you have these books that have beautiful illustrations, and they present the facts in a really fun and exciting way so that kids are wanting to read these books.

Amy: Definitely.

Blair: So I don't have a series, but I have a standalone that came in last year that I just loved. And it's *How to Build an Insect* by Roberta Gibson. And I love that book because it is also illustrated. It is not a

photo book, so you don't have to worry necessarily about like the photos looking dated or anything. But what's really great about the way the illustrations work is that they introduce all of those different aspects of what makes an insect an insect. So all the different parts of the body, the different ways that insects can be assembled to make beetles versus crickets versus, you know, all the different types of insects. And it's really cute, 'cause it's kind of like how to create your own insect just by looking at all the different insect anatomy.

Jennifer: Some of those wonderful books that you're mentioning, like the insects, we have actually made the choice to put them in our picture book collection. So they don't get hidden away in the nonfiction collection. And an author who we've pulled a great deal from in the nonfiction area is April Sayre. Her picture books, they're very informative about nature, like *Bloom, Bloom [Bloom Boom!]*, *Best in Snow, Fall into Fall [Full of Fall]*- because they're lovely photographs. And they're compelling as picture books, but they're very informative. So we want our patrons to find them quicker, not let them get lost. If our readers and listeners out there are looking for picture books and they see a lot of informational picture books in our collection, it's for that reason.

Blair: I was gonna say that I actually had *Being Frog* by April Sayre on my list because I'm gonna use that in storytime. We're gonna read *Being Frog* and look at all the pictures of the frogs, and then we're going to listen to frogs. So, you know, it's kind of fun. Even at that really young age, you can introduce the facts in addition to all the fun stories and pictures.

Amy: Which reminds me that Laura Hulbert has *Who Has This Tail?* and *Who Has These Feet?* You can say, "Who has these feet?" And you give a couple clues and then you show the picture, and they get to guess. And then the next page reveals who the animal is and how they use those feet or that tail in their life. And it's very interesting. Actually, in a couple of the first reads that I had as I prepped for a school group, I didn't know the answer! <laugh> I was like, I never actually considered what animal had that and then how they might use it to their benefit. I mean the horse one—yeah, you totally know it's a horse's tail! But like there were a couple that I, I think one's a beaver, but I thought it was something else.

Blair: But that's the way to really engage nonfiction. I feel like there's a lot more of those books that we can offer than we used to be able to offer because it used to be encyclopedias and you just went to the dry encyclopedias or the world record books, or Discovery Kids compendium that has all the pictures and all of the factoids, which are awesome. Kids love the compendiums that have like, here's all about knights or here's all about castles or here's all about whatever. They love those. And they have a place, but they're not the only thing out there.

Jennifer: Then you have the Smithsonian books too, that are so beautiful, and the kids are loving those because the pictures are lovely and the information is wonderful too, but they're just so compelling and they check out all the time

Amy: They do. And we actually have a book list on our website. I think it's like **Fascinating Facts for Curious Kids**. And it links to those fast fact books that are so fun and browsable. And so if you're listening and you are a library user, you're welcome to check out our list and see what you wanna put on hold for your family.

Blair: Yay!

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

(9:21) Section 3: Nonfiction for Middle Grade Readers

Jennifer: Well, I think we need to talk about that fun series that's gaining popularity—the *Who Would Win?*

Blair: Oh, my gosh! Yes.

Jennifer: So fun by Jerry Pallotta, the kids are just clamoring for those. *Who Would Win? Lion vs. Tiger, or T-Rex vs. Velociraptor [Tyrannosaurus rex vs. Velociraptor]* and so on. And I think that Jerry Pallotta must be writing more because now they're coming out in droves, but the kids are learning those fast facts about the different animals. Not that a lion or a tiger would ever cross paths, but they're getting those facts, and then figuring out based on their information, who would win if there was a rumble.

Blair: Which is a scientific process, right?

Jennifer: Scientific process, yes.

Blair: You get your information and then you present it and you determine based upon the information. So yay for scientific process too.

Amy: I have actually read a few of those and in *Whale vs the Giant Squid*, you're led in a certain direction. You think that it might be this one and I can't remember which way he has it, but then it ends up if they were ever to battle that it's actually the other that wins. And it explains why. And I was like, this is so cool, 'cause you're kind of thinking, oh, that one's bigger. Okay, it has sharper teeth. It does this, it does that, but actually the other is the victor. Way to engage kids, yeah.

Jennifer: And when you present it and I have presented it to a group of kids, I'll ask them right up front to predict, so it's a great book to use for prediction. Who do you think would win? And then by the end they learn those facts and realize, oh, they were right. Or they were wrong, but they're going to remember that information. I think it's a brilliant series.

Amy: Another sort of similar series on that vein is the *Who HQ* series, where it has the *Who Was*-es and the *Who Is*-es, so like *Who Was Anne Frank?* (Ann Abramson), *Who Is Bill Gates?* (Patricia Demuth), but also now the *Where Is*, so *Where Is the Bermuda Triangle?* (Megan Stine), *Where Is the Grand Canyon?* (Jim O'Connor), and there's a bunch of them. And they're so interesting and they're very well done for a third, fourth grade age range. They're topically interesting. If you're interested about people in history or places or things, they're really well done for the middle elementary years. And last book club, we read *Where Is the Bermuda Triangle?* and I love recommending it because some of those mysteries for what happens there in that Bermuda Triangle, they're fascinating. So I think they're worthwhile reads. But, listeners, we have a lot of requests for *Who Was* books in our biography collection. Do you think that we should have a separate pull-out collection for those *Who Was* and *Who Is* biographies to help kids find them faster? If you have an opinion, call our Reader's Rave hotline and let us know what your thoughts are.

Blair: The phone number is (928) 777-1490, and you can totally call and tell us all of your opinions on that, for sure.

Amy: Give us some feedback.

Jennifer: I wanted to share another series. It appeals to fourth to eighth graders. It's a hi/lo series where the interest level is higher, more mature, but the complexity isn't too hard. And that's the *Urban Legends: Don't Read These Books Alone* series. I think those are fascinating. It has *The Hookman*, the *Bunny Man Bridge*, *Gravity Hills*, *Bloody Mary*. And again, speaking of the *Bermuda Triangle*, *Mary Celeste*, all of those urban legends that might have a hint of truth. Those are the stories you would read

around the campfire or at a slumber party. And they are so fun. So that series is written by Virginia Loh-Hagan and they're throughout our collection. But, I love recommending those stories because I was the kid who liked having those stories on hand to have a good scare either when I was babysitting, I hate to say that I used them when I was babysitting, or just at slumber parties.

Amy: Definitely. I love urban legends. I actually preferred some of those books to the Allan [Alvin] Schwartz series.

Jennifer: Oh yeah. The kids who liked the *Scary Stories to Read in the Dark* [*Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz], they will love these urban legends.

Blair: I was trying to think of the actual series name for the new nonfiction graphic series that we have. There's *National Parks* [*The National Parks: Preserving America's Wild Places* by Falynn Koch] and *Wild Horses of the Plains* [*The Wild Mustang: Horses of the American West* by Chris Duffy and Falynn Koch] and *Great Chicago Fire* [*The Great Chicago Fire: Rising from the Ashes* by Kate Hannigan] and a whole bunch of different events and things in the U.S. and the histories are presented in graphic novel form.

Amy: I think they're called the *History Comics* (series).

Blair: Yes.

Amy: And there's also the *Science Comics* (series).

Blair: Yes.

Amy: And the *Science <Comics>* one, I think we have one that's like *The Plagues* [*Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield* by Falynn Koch].

Blair: There's the pandemic one [*A Shot in the Arm!* by Don Brown (series: *Big Ideas that Changed the World*)].

Amy: Yeah. And I thought it actually has the syringe on the cover, I think.

Blair: Yes, it does.

Amy: And I was like, this is really interesting and kind of timely. <laugh>

Blair: And I've read that one. It was really engaging and interesting in talking about how we first discovered that we could battle bacteria and viruses and talks about how we've been able to create inoculations and things like that. So it's really cool. And it's another really engaging way for that middle grade range to get tidbits of history that will engage them and draw them into more intense nonfiction books. Because once you're like, oh, that's really interesting. We've got a handful of other books that then you could go and read more intensely about, but you get hooked first with the graphic format, which the kids love 'cause not only is it a great way for them to quickly engage with information, but it also is a great bridge for people who are learning new ideas, new concepts, and maybe our reluctant readers. I mean, graphic novels have a great place in keeping reluctant readers engaged.

Amy: I'm just gonna take us in a whole different direction, but sort of similar about viruses and, and gross things. <laugh> We have a new book and I read it for this podcast. And I loved it. It's called *The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem* by Colleen Paeff. And it is so fascinating because back in the day, they used to dump their waste right out the window or directly into the Thames River, right out into the water supply. And then as more and more people began to live in the city, in London, that poop problem became worse and worse. And for a very long time, as cholera was becoming really widespread and people were dying and stuff, they thought it was an airborne illness come to find out it was from the water supply. So this kid who was around for the first outbreak of cholera and was interested in all of that and in engineering and stuff, became an engineer and was

the, the lead engineer on the project to create like a sewer system. And the pictures are great and the poop facts are great and how the waste was. And then I forget who it was like the Prime Minister, when they were finally ready to reveal this new solution to the poop problem of London, he came down and then they did all the bells and whistles and saw how this sewer system... Like, can you imagine going on a tour of the sewer system? Like, it makes you wanna call our city's wastewater treatment folks and be like, Hey, can I come by for a tour? Like I wanna know what you guys do back there. It's kind of interesting. But that picture book is so great. I mean, I really probably wouldn't have picked it up otherwise.

Jennifer: I think you might have, Amy.

Blair: I think you would've, because of poop in the title, you would've.

Jennifer: The title alone, yes. <laugh> Kids love reading books about things like that. And I'm just gonna add onto this because I found a new nonfiction author, more for middle grade, that I am really enjoying. Her name is Gail Jarrow. And she wrote, in an interesting way, about the Bubonic plague [*Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America*], Typhoid Mary [*Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary*], but she has a new series out called *Medical Fiascoes* and the first one is called *Ambushed* [*Ambushed!: The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield*] and it's about our president James Garfield and the plot to assassinate him, but the medical disaster that really cost him his life. Because at that time, we're talking about 1880s where there was not a lot known about sanitization or sterilization, Joseph Lister was just starting out on helping, um, doctors know they needed to sterilize their equipment. And Garfield had this bullet that was lodged in his back they were trying to get out, but they were poking their fingers in his back. They weren't washing their hands. So germs were just traveling and building up and he suffered for about three months before he finally died. So *Ambushed* talks about all of his...

Amy: He died of an infection as a result of the botched...

Jennifer: Yes.

Amy: ...retrieval of that bullet? Wow.

Jennifer: And not many kids, first of all, know about James Garfield, like who is that? <laugh> But they also don't know about how he just suffered in agony while the medical profession was trying to figure out how to dislodge this bullet and he could have lived. And nowadays they could have saved his life, but that was a medical fiasco. And she has another book called *Blood and Germs* [*Blood and Germs: The Civil War Battle Against Wounds and Disease*] and it's about how more soldiers in the American Civil War died from disease...

Amy: Dysentery.

Jennifer: ...and their wounds.

Blair: Yeah.

Jennifer: Yes. And how, because of that era, there were huge changes in medical technique and patient care. Fabulous and fascinating books by Gail Jarrow. And definitely a middle grade nonfiction book that I would recommend.

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

(17:26) Section 4: YA Nonfiction & Memoirs

Blair: So I think what happens for me when we look at YA books is that I get drawn into memoirs and biographies.

Amy: Definitely.

Blair: And I think it's partially because at a certain point when you're reading nonfiction, there's very little difference between adult nonfiction and YA nonfiction certainly in reading level and content those are very similar. So it starts to be kind of like a wash on a lot of subjects with the exception of things that are of super interest to them. But yeah, I love memoirs. I'm a huge fan of memoirs. And I ended up reading *The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, and Survival*. And that is by Dr. Amra Sabic-El-Rayess. And it was really interesting because I am a child of the eighties, nineties. And so I was a young kid. I remember all of the television coverage about the Bosnian War. And it was very intriguing for me to read this memoir about somebody who was a teenager who was living through it, having been the person on the other side of the globe, watching that conflict. So it was really touching. It was engaging for me. And I really enjoyed that story. And I think it's a great story for anybody who wants to know what it's like to be a teenager living in a war-torn situation.

Amy: I have to be honest. As a teen, I didn't read any nonfiction. I can't think of a single book I read that was like for pleasure. But reading for teens now so that you can talk about cool things that extend beyond the school world and especially in the summer when they have more free time for reading; one of the books that I read was *The Boys who Challenged Hitler (The Boys who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club)* by Phillip Hoose and Knud Pedersen. That is actually really interesting. And I thought that the book was handled so well for teen readers because it gives a little summary, more or less in every chapter, of what the Churchill boys did. And then you have Knud Pedersen's firsthand account of that particular incident. And like basically this group of middle school boys, they stole weapons from the Germans and they sabotage things intentionally because their country Denmark, the king of Denmark said, we'll partner with Germany after the Germans put a lot of pressure on them. And these boys were really angry that their country just gave in. And so they used Norway, who was resisting the Germans, as like their example. And they did some really wild things for their age group, and they did get caught. And they did serve time in jail. And, it goes through that whole period for them and it's really interesting because it's not like glorifying it, but it does say that when something's not right, you can do something, but there are consequences to doing something. So, be ready for all of that. And then like what happened later in their lives. They were all either changed by the experience of that resistance work or the time they spent in jail. It was really interesting. And I probably never would've picked that up myself as a teenager, but now I need to recommend this more.

Jennifer: That just speaks to how nonfiction is changing for older readers, because that story reminded me of Steve Sheinkin. Candace Fleming. They're writing nonfiction about historical events that makes history come alive. And I believe Steve Sheinkin even said that it was his goal to make history come to life for kids and still get the facts. And one of the things that I really strive to do when we do the Teen Battle of the Books is to have one nonfiction book. Because most of our teen readers have not read nonfiction and, invariably, they will tell me after the battle that they loved the nonfiction book. And over the years, it has just brought me great joy to be able to show them that there are these wonderful books. And one book that I wanted to share that has been beloved, and we did use it in the battle a few years ago, was *The Family Romanov (The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia)* by Candace Fleming. I love history in general, but I didn't know much about Nicholas the II, the last Tsar of Russia. And I'd heard the stories about Anastasia, and thank you, Disney, and all of that <laugh> but I didn't really know much. And Candace Fleming did incredible research and just brought that family to life for me. I actually felt for those girls. What would it have been like to have been a

teenager and to have suffered being the last family to reign in Russia? And the kids who read that book for the battle loved that book, but they told me they would never have picked it up, ever. And families were discussing this book, like one family said they talked about it while they were eating dinner. Kind of an interesting topic for dinner. <laugh> But the kids who were reading it wanted to talk about it, made them start to think. And I just love nonfiction books for teenagers for that reason. And if you've noticed a lot of the books written for adults, nonfiction books, are being adapted...

Amy: For young readers.

Jennifer: ...for young readers. We have a lot of those. I think we can probably name a few: *Unbroken* (*Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hillenbrand).

Amy: *The Boys in the Boat...* (*The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* by Daniel James Brown)

Blair: *Notes from a Young Black Chef* (Kwame Onwuachi), which I had actually had on my list today.

Jennifer: Oh, there you go. Nice segue, right there.

Amy: Well, and we were talking too, before you tell about your book, Blair and talking, like we are so curious now what changes publishers or authors make from the adult version to the young readers' edition? I would love to see the adult one, and if they had it in bold what was removed before they made it into the young readers' edition. I'm not gonna probably ever read both and, like side by side, compare them. So that's not gonna happen. And I'm actually curious what they do to change that, you know?

Jennifer: Well, I can tell you what I think for *Unbroken*. They took out a lot of the details because in that book for adults, a lot of details about the planes, how the planes were built. I feel like they just take the action part of the book and condense it, but they keep the most compelling part. So the story is moving and it's not being bogged down by extra details. At least, that was my experience with that particular book.

Blair: Yeah. I mean, in *Notes from a Young Black Chef*, Kwame Onwuachi is a fascinating individual for the fact that he's a normal kid, but he's a normal kid in Harlem. And in Harlem, when you don't have a lot of money, there are some choices that a lot of times feel forced upon you to make. I mean, dealing drugs and being in a gang. And so he did all of the things that should make somebody a bad person, right? So he did drugs. He dealt drugs. He was briefly in a gang. He went to college, but dropped out of college. He was in a really, really low place. And yet, by the age of 26, he had turned his life completely 100% around. He had started his own business from scratch, from selling candy on the subway to fund his first catering business, to being on *Top Chef* and then being a nationally well-known chef. And it's a testament to the fact that there really is an opportunity to turn your life around from any situation. And there really is an opportunity to say what you want out of your life and then go get it. It's a really engaging, interesting book, but because of the content, I have no idea what they cut because all of that hard knock story is still there. I have to assume that in the last 20 pages of the book, he talks about his fiancée. I was like, oh, they totally cut his love story with his fiancée. I don't know what else they could've cut. <laugh> I mean, because that was the only thing that kind of surprised me out of nowhere. It's like, oh, all of a sudden he has fiancée we didn't learn about, okay. Well, I don't know what else it was 'cause everything else was there.

Amy: Along the vein of the choices that you make in life and feeling maybe like things are forced upon you. I didn't really know the full story of Bonnie and Clyde, but I just read Karen Blumenthal's *Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend*. And it's hard to find really fact-based sources. She even says in the afterword how challenging it was. She had to use some family accounts, some police records, a lot of

newspaper things that came out. But after a while, the newspapers were realizing that their stories of Bonnie and Clyde, exaggerated as they may have been were selling papers. So they were printing more and more and maybe even adding to the legend of Bonnie and Clyde. So she had a really tough time, but she does a great job in this book of showing what their life was like and making you really question their choices. I think she does a great job of not glorifying their quote romance and what they did to other people. They killed people. They were found multiple times in stolen cars with 13 and 14 license plates to change out, to continue on their sprees. They were thinking about what they were doing and they were making the choices. And their family supported them throughout. Despite all of their crimes and their abilities to get away and they had, at times, lots of money and weapons stored, they never strayed too far from home. They always made sure to see their families and they had a whole secret code to go visit their families. It was a really fascinating story and it opened my eyes to the lore of Bonnie and Clyde, but also like what really happened back then.

Jennifer: Did it make you sympathetic for them? Because they were villains...

Amy: Quite the opposite. Hearing those accounts of them being arrested, they had foresight. I mean, they were planning these crimes. It wasn't just like a spur of the moment in every instance, like, yeah, they were villains and they killed people. They didn't just like steal stuff. I mean, they were not good people, but it's really interesting the stories that get shared with kids about them. And I think teens would be interested to read this.

Jennifer: There's just so many wonderful nonfiction books. So I think it's important that we challenge our listeners to go and find them or come and talk to us because there's wonderful books out there, wonderful authors that we can recommend.

Blair: We hope this episode inspires you to explore our nonfiction collection and add some informational titles to your next book haul.

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 Reader's Rave.

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

Landon: Hi, my name is Landon and I'm ten years old and my favorite book's Dr. Seuss because my brother reads it to me. Bye!

Seth: Hello, my name is Seth. I'm 12 years old and I love Harry Potter. I love it because the story is very different and it sucked me into the book. I could not stop reading it. Goodbye.

Amy: Do you want to be a 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.

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

Jennifer: Don't forget to subscribe to catch our next episode where we talk about the power of youth book clubs, plus some of the outstanding books we selected for this year's book clubs and why we love them.

(27:08) Musical Outro: "Uplifting 2463" by Twisterium from pixabay.com
(Description) *Upbeat, piano and percussion. Music fades in and plays under.*

Amy: This podcast is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives and 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, the Friends of the Prescott Public Library, and all of our fabulous coworkers at Prescott Public Library.

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

(Total Run Time 27:42)