Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

Episode 75: Unearth a Story

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. I'm Rachel.
Mary: And I'm Mary.
Rachel: We are here to recommend some roaringly good reads that tie in to this year's Summer Reading Challenge theme: Unearth a Story. Let me be clear: We're diggin' up dinosaurs! Before we break out the shovels, though, I want to tell you about this season's program lineup, because it is packed! We begin with the Summer Reading Kick-Off at Drexel Town Square the morning of Saturday, June 13th. There you can learn more about this all-ages annual challenge wherein you read for fifteen days to receive a prize. Your name will be added to the library's artful window mural simply for signing up. Online registration opens the same day—again, that's June 13th—at oakcreeklibrary.org/src. Do you enjoy story time? Boy howdy, do we have those in the pipeline. Music and Movement for ages two through three starts June 15th followed by Baby Story Time on Tuesday the 16th, Toddler Story Time on the 17th, and City Workers Story Time beginning the 25th. There are also Story Time sessions at the Farmers Market on June 13th, July 11th, August 8th, and September 12th. Not to mention Intergenerational Story Time held on select Fridays from June through August. Children in grades one through two or three through six can register to join separate STEAM Labs with themes including "Recyclosaurus," "Ancient Sea Monsters," "Ice Age Trail," and more. Grades three through six can join our Video Game Club and Art Club on Wednesday afternoons, as well. Children of all ages are welcome to attend Family Fun programs held every Thursday, LEGO Club on Tuesday, and a very special, one-off "Dinosaur Ranger Academy" performed by Dinosaurs Wild the afternoon of June 16th. Enjoy a live show full of educational content, puppetry, and audience interaction followed by a meet and greet. We haven't forgotten about you, middle schoolers! Students entering grades six through nine in the fall are able to register for a multitude of craft programs to create things like stone mosaics, zines, and board games.

Alas, the fun has to end eventually. This year, the Summer Reading Challenge is going out with a big bang! Somehow, incredibly, our Youth Services Department got hold of the Jim Gill to perform a Finale: Sing-Along & Play-Along Concert at Kids Night in Drexel Town Square. This is a huge deal, listeners. Jim Gill is famous in the children's music scene. You don't want to miss it. By the way, all library programs are free. Yes, you heard me right—free! In this economy? That's wild! We couldn't possibly have anything else to offer you…

Mary: Oh-ho-ho-ho, but we do! While these adult and all-age programs aren't strictly about dinosaurs, they are excellent ways to get out of the house this summer. Starting out strong, we have our OCPL Puzzle Race on July 10th. Teams of two to four players will race to complete their five hundred-piece Ravensburger puzzle the fastest. Next, Woof Gang Rescue will be back with some adoptable dogs to meet on July 18th which just so happens to be Dog Days in Drexel Town Square. So, you can see dogs outside and inside the Civic Center that day! Then, on August 22nd, the Meg Jones Author Fest is back in full swing. You can find local authors and their books available for sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Maybe some of their books will feature a dinosaur or two? If that isn't enough, throughout the summer months, you can find more author visits, informational presentations on things like buying your first home, internet safety, and brain health. Maybe you're looking for something more…crafty? We have you covered there, too! Join us for Stitching Circle every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Here, you can knit, crochet, sew, embroider, or cross stitch with like-minded peers. We have some supplies to get you started if you're a true beginner, so don't let that deter you. Your first project could be a little crocheted T-rex!

Rachel: Aww!

Mary: To get more details and to register for all of our events this summer, go to oakcreeklibrary.org/events. Hoo, that was a lot, but we hope to see all of you there this summer! To jump into some reading recs, my first suggestion is "Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time" by James Gurney. I loved the TB show when it came out in 2002. And the book? Wonderful. "In the year 1860, biologist and explorer Arthur Denison and his son, Will, set out on a sea voyage of discovery and adventure. When a powerful typhoon wrecks the ship in

uncharted waters, Arthur and Will are the sole survivors. Washed ashore on a strange island called Dinotopia, they are amazed to find a breathtaking world where cities are built on waterfalls, people have found new ways to fly, and humans and dinosaurs live together in harmony. With new discoveries at every turn, Arthur and Will embark upon their own separate journeys to unearth the mysteries of Dinotopia." There are several sequels including "The World Beneath," "First Flight," and "Journey to Chandara." The TV series has modernized it a bit with a plane crash instead of a shipwreck, but the premise is largely the same. Again, it did come out in 2002, so brace yourselves for the CGI of the time.

Rachel: (chuckles)

Mary: That being said, I highly recommend it!

Rachel: I have something else new and exciting to promo. Oak Creek Public Library recently added a collection of over sixty Tonies plus a Toniebox 2 in case you don't have your own at home. The Toniebox is an interactive storytelling device for kids ages 3+ while Tonies function as physical audio content. If you are familiar with Nintendo Amiibos, they're kind of like that. Our Toniebox kit comes with three Tonies, but you can always check out others. Just power on the box, pop a Tonie on top, and this device will scan it to read a story or perform music. They are super durable and specially designed for small hands. To find out more, please visit oakcreeklibrary.org/library-of-things. We will put a link in the show notes. But I'm not shamelessly plugging things. I brought this up for a good reason: We have, new, for checkout, the "National Geographic Kids: Dinosaur Tonie" character. "Get ready to turn back time and discover the most amazing creatures to ever walk the Earth! Using fossil record, travel back in time with paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim to uncover the fascinating world of dinosaurs. Meet prehistoric creatures as tall as houses and others that are as small as chickens. This Tonie teaches kids about herbivores and carnivores, the fossil record, dinosaur defenses, and geological time periods." You can start your child's obsession with paleontology off the right way and keep them entertained for a full sixty minutes with this Tonie. Worried that it's going to fly off the shelf this summer given our reading challenge theme? Don't sweat it! The Franklin, Wauwatosa, West Allis, and North Shore libraries also have this Tonie in their collections. That

is one of the many great things about libraries: There are usually multiple copies just waiting to be checked out. If you are in the mood for a more traditional format, we also have “Dinosaurs: Fossils and Feathers” by M.K. Reed and Joe Flood. This is part of the “Science Comics” series in our juvenile graphic novel collection, something I curated a few years ago and distinctly remember trying to add as many as possible of before moving on to other things. There’s something, like, thirty-five or forty published books in total in this series of which we currently have thirty. Interestingly enough, “Dinosaurs: Fossils and Feathers” is the very first in this series! “It covers the last 150 years of dinosaur hunting and illuminates how our ideas about dinosaurs have changed.” This comic is both informative and fun for children ages nine to thirteen.

Mary: My next recommendation is for all of you visual learners. It’s called “Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life,” and it’s published by the Smithsonian Institute. “The stunning visuals and authoritative text make [it] a fascinating and revealing encyclopedia that will appeal to the whole family. From the origin of life, through the age of dinosaurs stalked by the terrifying Tyrannosaurus rex, to the earliest humans, this book tells the story of life on Earth. Dinosaurs may be the stars of the show, but the book is truly comprehensive, with fossil plants, invertebrates, amphibians, fish, birds, reptiles, mammals, and even early bacteria conjuring up an entire past world. To put all of these extinct species in context, the book explores geological time and the way life-forms are classified. It also looks at how fossils preserve the story of evolution, and how it can be deciphered.” Every page has beautiful photos and illustrations that will keep you turning pages. The same publisher, DK Publishing Inc., has another book called “Prehistoric Life” by Douglas Palmer et. al. With just as many graphics, this book “profiles hundreds of fascinating species in incredible detail. The story starts in earnest 3.8 billion—with a B, folks—years ago with the earliest-known form of life on Earth, a bacteria that still exists today, and journeys through action-packed millennia, charting the appearance of new life forms as well as devastating extinction events.” Extinction events which Rachel might have some recommendations regarding.

Rachel: How did the dinosaurs die? An asteroid, right? An excellent source of information that can be used to supplement our knowledge of that particular event is Peter Brannen’s “The Ends

of the World." Did you know… "Our world has ended five times: it has been broiled, frozen, poison-gassed, smothered, and pelted by asteroids. Peter Brannen dives into deep time, exploring Earth's past dead ends and, in the process, offers us a glimpse of our possible future. Many scientists now believe that the climate shifts of the twenty-first century have analogs in these five extinctions. Using the visible clues these devastations have left behind in the fossil record, The Ends of the World takes us inside 'scenes of the crime'…to tell the story of each extinction." Will humans be responsible for the next 'end' of the world? Probably! To find out more about what that might look like, try "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" by Elizabeth Kolbert. "Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, descriptions of the fascinating species that have already been lost, and the history of extinction as a concept, Kolbert provides a moving and comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. She shows that the sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy." Bummer. But, perhaps, avoidable! If you don't want to go out like the dinos, I seriously recommend these two fascinating reads. Or play Hideo Kojima's "Death Stranding." Nothing will motivate you to try and reverse the causes of an apocalypse quite like facing down a personified Extinction Entity.

Mary: That's all we have time for this episode. We'll be taking a break next month but should be back after July with more reading recommendations. Please check out the show notes to see a complete list of the media we recommended today as well as our events calendar for all of the fun programs we mentioned. You can also subscribe to Not Your Mother's Library and be notified of the next episode's release. Until next time, happy reading. Bye!

(Brief outro music)