

EPISODE **103**

Excellent Nonfiction Picture Books

Guest: Gail Gibbons

- 2 Meet Gail Gibbons
- 2 In this Episode
- 3 Listening Guide
- 4 Quotes & Questions
- 5 Show Notes



Meet Gail Gibbons

Gail Gibbons has been called the master of children's non-fiction.

She created her first book at age 4, and began taking art lessons soon after. Since then, she has created more than 170 children's books.

Gail was awarded the prestigious Washington Post - Children's Book Guild Award for overall contribution to children's nonfiction.

In This Episode

Sarah and Gail Gibbons talk about creating nonfiction picture books for children, choosing engaging topics, and fitting big subjects into just 29 pages.

The Listening Guide

Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or listen to the entire podcast.

- 1:58 Meet Gail Gibbons
- 4:29 Creating non-fiction
- 7:45 Choosing topics
- 17:19 Fitting BIG topics into 29 pages
- 22:03 Gail's newest book
- 24:04 Gail's influences as a child
- 25:47 What's next
- 27:12 Let the kids speak

"When I started researching children's books I noticed non-fiction was pretty darn boring. It was black and white stick figures or photo essays that were boring ... I went to one publisher and I pulled out my slides from my television background and she said, 'Can you match up your art work with non-fiction?' and I said, 'Why not?'"

- Gail Gibbons

Quotes and Questions

* **Making picture books ...**

"I have to do research and put it down and just let my head do some work on it, sort of on a subconscious level ..."

* **A curious kid ...**

"As a kid I was curious about stuff all the time and I thought it was sort of funny when I did Clocks and How They Go because I remember as a kid I took a clock a part because I wanted to see how it worked ..."

* **On her new book about flowers ...**

"Kids don't live in the wetlands or the tropics a lot of them, and that should have been included in the book I thought, because they're so different than a tulip or a dandelion. So, I wanted to get all that information in there ..."

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Clocks and How They Go](#)
- [Zoo](#)
- [Gorillas](#)
- [Flowers](#)
- [From Seed to Plant](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Family](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [Gail's site](#)
- Get the FREE booklist and more - go to readaloudrevival.com or text BOOKS to 345345
- Get an invitation for [RAR Membership](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit ReadAloudRevival.com.