

23 - R. L. Stine and Patrick Carman Share GoKidGo.com

Original Air Date: 6/16/21

Purpose: The purpose of the transcripts is to provide readers and listeners with a written version of each episode of the UAGC Center for Early Childhood Education's Early Childhood Chatter Podcast so they can follow along with the audio content. www.uagc.edu/ece-center/chatter-podcast

Audience: Current Active & Enrolled Students

Episode Transcript

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: Hello everyone and welcome to Early Childhood Chatter with Dr. Shipley and Dr. Heald. We will upload a new episode every other week on Wednesdays.

Host Dr. Heald: Twice a month we come to you with a 10-minute professional development that you can quickly listen to for new ideas to try.

Don't forget to subscribe to the podcast for notifications about future episodes.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: So, we are so excited today because joining us we have American novelist Robert Lawrence R. L. Stine famously known for his young adult horror book series including the internationally acclaimed literary phenomena Goosebumps and Fear Street and New York best-selling award-winning children's author Patrick Carman whose best-selling titles include 13 Days to Midnight and Skeleton Creek. They are here with us today to discuss an exciting new launch of their latest venture Go Kid Go.

Bob and Patrick welcome.

R.L. Stine Speaker: Thank you. How nice to be here.

Patrick Carman Speaker: It's a pleasure and is this really a 10-minute podcast? This is great.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: It is and we're so excited to have you because we feel like what you're doing is so amazing. We've both been teachers and when I got on and looked at Go Kid Go, I just could not believe all the cool things that you all were doing.

So, give us just a little bit, whoever wants to start talking, about why this is so important to you, why this podcast tugs at your heartstrings.

R.L. Stine Speaker: Well, I just like scaring kids. That's really what's important to me and podcasts gives a whole new way, a whole new world of scaring kids and telling stories.

Patrick Carman Speaker: I don't think I can top that answer but I'm gonna try. So Go Kid Go. So yeah so R.L. Stine, Bob Stine, he has a podcast in the Go Kid Go universe called R.L. Stine's Story Club and those are stories that are, we call them, they come out of the vault, R.L. Stine's vault and they are stories that have never been in print before.

R.L. Stine Speaker: These are all new, all new, never told before.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah so, it's an anthology so each episode is about 15 to 20 minutes long. They're full cast so they're very immersive and just a lot of fun and they all have that signature twist ending that we love to get from R.L. Stine, books like Goosebumps and Fair Street.

So that's that one and then we have a bunch of other shows, two that are launched so far and then there's three more coming this year and those are all part of a big universe of shows that are really great for a six to a probably 11-year-old. One is called Bobby Wonder about an alien kid who lives in a town called Pflugerville which is also a Texas town which is

a totally different story but interesting that I thought I came up with the word Pflugerville on my own and then realized no that's actually a place in Texas. But anyway, so there's Bobby Wonder, there's Lucy Wow who's a maker and a builder and then there are other shows coming.

These shows are all interconnected, they're really fun, they're like the best way to describe them is that they're like listening to Nickelodeon. So as Bob said we want to just give kids a great time. It's not that we're not trying to necessarily teach kids anything big and exciting, but we do want them to enjoy not being on a screen and listening to a great story.

R.L. Stine Speaker: Yeah, just listen to a story happening right inside your head.

I mean that's to me that's the important part and the wonderful part of listening to audio stories. It's so close, the story is so close it's not happening out outside it's on a screen it's happening right inside you.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: Just introduce Bobby Wonder to us.

Patrick Carman Speaker: So, I'll... this is Pat. I'm going to go ahead and do that because... yeah, that's okay.

So, **Bobby Wonder** --- that's one of the shows. If you want to listen to it, these shows are all free. Just go to wherever you get your podcasts and put in **Bobby Wonder** or **Go Kid Go**.

The show is about a kid who, on his 10th birthday (right when the show begins in episode one), discovers that he's an alien. There's another alien kid in town who's also 10 and just got her powers. This is what happens in the story, when you turn 10, you get your powers. These two, Mighty Mila and Bobby Wonder, kind of go head-to-head in a little battle over Pflugerville. That whole show is all about that.

Then, **Lucy Wow** is a show about a builder and a maker. If you're somebody who likes to use Legos or, you know, take a big box and turn it into a rocket ship---or just make anything---this is a really fun show for you.

She makes all kinds of stuff!

One of the inventions is a mechanical pygmy goat, which becomes her sidekick. She creates all sorts of big inventions, and if you're into that sort of thing, it's a really fun show you might enjoy.

So, those are the two shows that are out right now, plus the **R.L. Stine Story Club**.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: I love it and I know you said that you'll be adding more so I cannot wait to get on and see what else you have so after a teacher were to use this in their classroom or a parent wanted to use it at home there's other things there's resources for teachers there's coloring pages tell us a little bit about those parts of the website.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah, so for each of the shows, there are discussion guides. This is a great opportunity if you're a teacher or an educator to just play an episode for your classroom. They're only about 15 to 20 minutes long, so it doesn't take very long time. Then there are discussion guides and activity guides for each of the shows that kids can participate in. There's also... we even have coloring pages for some of the younger kids.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: Yeah, in our in our pre-session we talked a little bit about just making reading fun and that's such an important concept in our world today especially like we said with the competition from just the screen time.

Can you give us some suggestions for families to possibly you know talk with their children after listening to the podcast?

R.L. Stine Speaker: Well, I would say with mine the stories I would ask them what's the story about? Did you think it was scary? Did you think it was funny? What was the funniest part? What part really scared you? What do you think what

else should have happened in that story? You know questions like that about this specific story. They're all very different so you're going to get very different answers.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah, and I would say the same for the *Bobby Wonder* or *Lucy Wow* show or other *Go Kid Go* shows that are coming up. But you can also ask young kids, you know, how is this experience different than when you're watching a TV show? What's going on in your head?

Because kids are very aware of that sort of thing---that something different is going on, that they're deciding what everything looks like as opposed to being shown---and I think that can be a really good way to kind of spark conversation, too.

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: This is amazing just kind of switching a little bit you have a lot of really big name actresses and actors coming on and doing the voiceovers. You want to talk a little bit about that and how they have helped you get this ready and how they make it so great?

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah so, we for so for R.L. Stine's show that's Arielle Winter is plays the part of a of the host her name is Ivy so she's the president of the club and Arielle Winter is she was on Modern Family. She's very familiar to a lot of young young viewers and so she sets up each show and she kind of plays like the role of a what would you say Bob like a big sister almost?

R.L. Stine Speaker: Yeah, I would say so, but she also adds a lot to the mysteries.

She's also a very good storyteller and gets kids involved in what's going on.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah, so you'll hear from Ivy at the beginning, then in the middle of the show, and again at the end. She's sort of like a club president slash guide to the story. Then we have a bunch of other really fun actors.

I don't... you know, kids may not know who these people are, but we, as adults, do. For example, Danny Pudi---for kids, he plays the part of Huey on the new *DuckTales* TV show. For adults, that's the guy who plays Abed on *Community*. He's also on a show called *Mythic Quest* and is just a really fun, fun guy.

Michaela Dietz, who plays Lucy Wow, also plays several roles on *Steven Universe*, a really popular animated show out right now. Then we have Richard Kind and Mark Evan Jackson---lots of these actors. What's great about it is kids will recognize these voices from other shows, like Nickelodeon shows that they've watched, so it will feel very familiar. But they don't get to watch it; they just get to hear it.

It's been great working with the actors. They've been really supportive of what we're doing. They all care about kids and understand that part of the equation to get kids back to books is to find ways to build a bridge back to books for a lot of these kids.

Dr. Stephanie Heald Speaker: You know, that's a great point. A lot of our audience is educators, and we want to, you know, give them some insight into what makes a good storyteller.

So, as you're writing these and as you're actually playing them out via audio, you know, what are some qualities that you look for in your storytellers? Obviously, you looked for that component of being, um, you know, actors and actresses, but what are other qualities of good storytellers?

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah, so it's a... it's an... the scripts are not that different from what you would find if you were to see a script for an animated TV show or even, really, just a TV show. The scripts are all, of course---because it is only audio---very dialogue-heavy. So, there's lots of dialogue between the characters, and then there's a lot of sound effects.

We have all these cues, where if you're going to listen to these in a classroom, what's great is they're really full-cast audio, where there's all kinds of sound effects and music going on all over the place. I think that all just kind of brings it to life in a way that... I don't think you could do that, um, if you were just reading a story out loud.

So, in that way, it's really... it's really fun.

But look, when I go to a school---and I've been to many schools---and I get in front of 300 kids in the gymnasium, I... you just have to get them laughing. That's a big part of it. A lot of it is just getting them engaged because they're having a good time.

We feel like these shows do that. They either do that, or, if you're listening to the *R.L. Stine* show, they hook you with the kind of mystery and "where is this going?" element of it.

R.L. Stine Speaker: Yeah, and to answer your question, you want the voices to be real enough so that the kids will identify with the characters. Because if the listener doesn't identify, the story won't be scary. You want these voices... you want them to say, "Oh, this sounds like a real person. This sounds like a real person in trouble," that kind of thing. So, you need that in the storytelling as well.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yeah, and Bob's got a really good ear for this sort of thing, where we'll make episodes sometimes and not recognize that there are two voices that sound too close together. When you're listening to something, if two characters sound kind of similar, then it's easy to confuse them. So, you really have to be careful about creating an audio experience with really distinct voices and not too many different characters. ****Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker:**** Okay, so as we wrap up, I'll tell you, I've been on the website, I've listened to several of the podcasts. The music is hooking, um, the actresses' and actors' voices are hooking, um, but the stories in general are just amazing.

So, I'm in my 40s, and I still loved them. They're still really great to listen to. As a teacher in the classroom, I would let my students, um, definitely listen to these, or have them listen to these.

I just want to commend you both for the wonderful job you've done, because I promise you, teachers are going to get out there and start using these. Families are going to start using these. So, thank you for what you're doing.

But is there one last final thing that you would like to leave about *Go Kid Go* and your podcast series?

Patrick Carman Speaker: Well, for my part, this is Pat. From my part, I really want every kid to have access to great storytelling that's not always on a screen. So, every *Go Kid Go* podcast is free. You can get it wherever you listen to podcasts, whether it's Apple, Spotify, or wherever.

And we just want you to enjoy it. We want you to come to these not feeling like there's a big lesson to be learned, but we really want to make sure you just have a great time and enjoy your time listening to a story.

R.L. Stine Speaker: and I would hope that kids who listen to the story club will want more stories and will turn to books and start reading more

Dr. Tisha Shipley Speaker: And that is the goal of, um, everyone working with small children, so thank you. But I want to leave everyone with this, too: This is called *Go Kid Go*, and you will find that at GoKidGo.com. That's their website with all the coloring pages, teacher resources, and all of the follow-up questions about the different stories.

You can also look and subscribe to *Go Kid Go* on your podcast, um, where Patrick said, like Apple, Stitcher, or wherever you find your podcasts.

So, R.L. and Pat, we want to thank you so much, so much. It's an honor to have been able to talk to you today.

R.L. Stine Speaker: thank you, I really enjoyed talking with you.

Patrick Carman Speaker: Yep, I enjoyed it too thanks you guys it was great!