



the world's
**STRONGEST
LIBRARIAN**



Study Guide

- by -
**GRETA
GEBHARD,
dramaturg**



Contents

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Pg. 9 | Meet the Real Josh |
| Pg. 10 | What Is Tourette Syndrome? |
| Pg. 11-12 | A Day in the Life of a Librarian |
| Pg. 13 | Fun and Games |
| Pg. 14 | You Can Make a Difference |
| Pg. 15 | Autographs |

Meet the Real Josh

An interview with
dramaturg Greta Gebhard

Josh Hanagarne is a father, librarian, author, and weight lifter currently living and working in Salt Lake City. His memoir, *The World's Strongest Librarian*, was the inspiration material for this new play written by Jeff Gottesfeld and Elizabeth Wong.

How do you feel about having your book be an inspiration for a play?

That's a great question that I still don't know how to answer. Ask me again after I see it!

What is your favorite part about being a librarian?

I love that I can learn something new every day. The job is constantly surprising.



What do you hope people will take away from seeing this show?

It's the same hope I always have when people engage with a book, a film, a conversation, or a piece of music: I want them to have something new to think about and new questions to ask.


How did you come to be a librarian?

I chose to work in libraries because I knew it would be a pressure cooker and a test for someone with Tourette's. I was right, but it's still one of the best choices I ever made.

What Is Tourette Syndrome?

This play introduces a character, Bruce, who has what's called Tourette Syndrome. It's also commonly known as Tourette's. According to the Mayo Clinic, "Tourette (too-RET) syndrome is a disorder that involves repetitive movements or unwanted sounds (tics) that can't be easily controlled. For instance, you might repeatedly blink your eyes, shrug your shoulders or blurt out unusual sounds." This disorder can make it hard to do things like sitting still or paying attention. All of these are things that Bruce struggles with in the play, and Josh tries to help him better understand Tourette's and how to work with it.

Just like this character, we all have pieces of ourselves that make life more difficult. Some people struggle with feeling sad all the time. Other people get really nervous when they're around big groups of people. Some people have a hard time motivating themselves to get things done. Whatever the case may be, these are all things that we can improve on, working with others and supporting each other.



What are things that you have been able to overcome in the past?

A Day in the Life of a Librarian

This is Joella! She works as a librarian at the Provo City Library, and she's going to show us a day at the library.

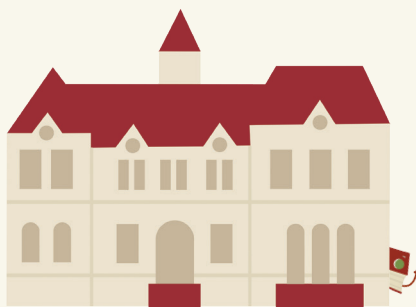
The first thing I do at the library is check my email—there's always so much to organize.

Then I get to go to my favorite section of the library—the picture book section. There are just so many good books there! This is where I find my current favorite book: *After the Fall* by Dan Santat.

My favorite part of working at the library is helping children find a new favorite book that they are excited to read. But it can be difficult to remember all of the books I could recommend when I'm put on the spot.



The library is a place that I love. I want everyone to come here and feel safe and free to explore whatever interests them!



Every spring, we have a special event called the Children's Book Festival, and we take the opportunity to celebrate all the books and authors that children like. We sometimes even get the authors to come visit our library!

Our library has a lot of reading programs like the Fairy Tea Party, Big Guy Little Guy, and the NEW Tween Academy. All of these are great ways for kids to get involved in reading.



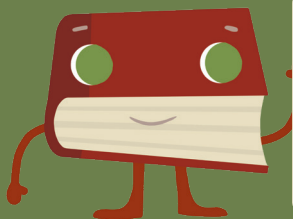
Fun and Games

This word search contains many famous children's book titles and favorite books of our cast members. Perhaps you have even read some of them. The word bank lists 15 of the book titles, but there are 7 bonus books not listed. Find as many as you can and maybe get some inspiration for your next visit to the library!

D O C R G T M M A T I L D A C Q S C
O C X R N O G A R E R E G W L P H W
H O L E S K N G J T E E N R L R O A
E C U T B I E I K N L G I I O O O B
T S H U E L V C N W T A S N V O T S
X E W R W L A T E P T M I K E B I G
S N A N S A H R M E I C R L R V N R
L O L T E M E E A T L A A E U T G N
M J K O T O L E G E T I Z I B I K W
B B T S T C B H S R R N N N Y B A P
U E W E O K A O R R A A A T L B B U
N I O N L I F U E A U M R I A O U N
N N M D R N D S D B T X E M V H L B
I U O E A G K E N B S U P E E E L D
C J O R H B J N E I O B S E N H S M
U C N T C I B I E T G S E A D T H I
L I S H A R R Y P O T T E R E I Y O
A Q N Y D D U B T O N D U B R K C M

WORD BANK:

BUD NOT BUDDY
BUNNICULA
ENDER'S GAME
ERAGON
ESPERANZA RISING
FABLEHAVEN
HOLES
JUNIE B JONES
LOVE RUBY LAVENDER
MAGIC TREE HOUSE
MANIAC MAGEE
RETURN TO SENDER
SHOOTING KABUL
STUART LITTLE
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
WALK TWO MOONS



BOOKS TO READ:

Hi kids! I'm Bobby Bookworm, and I've been hiding on every page of the study guide. Bet you can't find me! Use this space to write down the books you've read from the word search or books you might want to read in the future.

You Can Make a Difference



Kids all over the world are doing things to help their communities come together.

CNN recently posted a story about a group of kids aiming to change the name of a flavor of ice cream in order to make it more inclusive. Read more about their story here (<https://cnn.it/2M6PG6i>).

Other examples include kids starting food drives, visiting people in the hospital, and helping raise awareness of issues in their community (<https://bit.ly/20xYZxK>).

You can even make a difference with small acts. Here are three simple ways that you can make a difference in your life and in the lives of the people around you.

1. **Read!** Reading gives you the chance to step into someone else's life and empathize with their experiences.
2. **Serve!** There's always someone around you who could use a smile or a kind word, and your small action could make the biggest difference for them.
3. **Listen!** You change the world when you change your mind and discover new ideas.

I do believe something
very magical can
happen when you read
a good book.
-J. K. Rowling



Autographs!

Come meet the cast after the show and get their autographs!
You can even tell them your favorite book!

The World's Strongest Librarian

by Josh Hanagarne