25 Great Narrative Nonfiction Read Alouds

Here are some of terrific true stories that are perfect for sharing in 10 minutes or less.

All that Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and Our Problem with Stuff by Meghan McCarthy (Simon & Schuster, 2018)

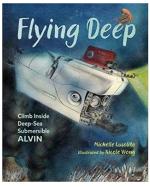
Beautiful Noise: The Music of John Cage by Lisa Rogers and Il Sung Na (Random House, 2023)

Before She Was Harriet by Lesa Cline-Ransome and James E. Ransome (Holiday House, 2017)

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdös by Deborah Heiligman and LeUyen Pham (Roaring Brook, 2013)

The Fire of Stars: The Life and Brilliance of the Woman Who Discovered What Stars Are Made Of by Kirsten Larson and Katherine Roy (Chronicle, 2023)





Flying Deep: Climb Inside Deep-Sea Submersible Alvin by Michelle Cusolito and Nicole Wong (Charlesbridge, 2018)

The Girl Who Heard the Music: How One Pianist and 85,000 Bottles and Cans Brought New Hope to an Island by Marni Fogelson, Mahani Teave, and Marta Álvarez Miguéns (Sourcebooks, 2023)

The Green Piano: How Little Me Found Music by Roberta Flack, Tonya Bolden, and Hayden Goodman (Random House, 2023)

Hedy Lamarr's Double Life: Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor by Laurie Wallmark and Katy Wu (Sterling, 2019)

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis mellifera by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann (Holiday House, 2020)

How Do You Spell Unfair? MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee by Carole Boston Weatherford and Frank Morrison (Candlewick, 2023)

Joan Procter, Reptile Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez and Felicita Sala (Knopf, 2018)

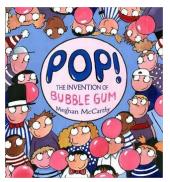
The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest by Heather Lang and Jana Christy (Calkins Creek, 2021)

One Million Trees: A True Story by Kristen Balouch (Holiday House, 2022)

Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere by Barb Rosenstock and Katherine Roy (Little, Brown, 2017)



Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré by Anika Aldamuy Denise and Paola Escobar (HarperCollins, 2019)



Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Megan McCarthy (Simon & Schuster, 2010)

Red-Eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley (Scholastic, 1999)

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating and Marta Álvarez Miguéns (Sourcebooks, 2017)

Stretch to the Sun: From a Tiny Sprout to the Tallest Tree on Earth by Carrie A. Pearson and Susan Swan (Charlesbridge, 2018)

Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott by Joyce Scott, Brie Spangler, and Melissa Sweet (Knopf/Penguin Random House, 2021)

Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton and Don Tate (Charlesbridge, 2016)

The World Is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, 2017)

Yoshi and the Ocean: A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home by Lindsay Moore (Greenwillow, 2022)

You're Invited to a Moth Ball: A Nighttime Insect Celebration by Loree Griffin Burns and Ellen Harasimowicz (Charlesbridge, 2020)

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