

StoryCorps Interview at Shaler North Hills Library
Joyce Mangis and her daughter Grace

Grace: What's your happiest memory at the library?

Joyce: Oh! You know what? My happiest memory just happened the other day, when I was teaching Book Babies -- and I was so afraid to begin to teach Book Babies because Ms. Joy taught Book Babies and she's, like, so beautiful and so wonderful and so warm and so legendary. So then, I had to take over because she was ill, and then I started to love it. I love the little kids, and just the other day, I walked in and this little boy walked over and gave me this big hug around my ankles. And I said to the mom, "That made my day!" And then at the Giant Eagle last week I saw a little boy in a cart and I said to the mom, "Hi, I'm Ms. Joyce, I'm from Book Babies." And then he looked right at me and said, "Bubbles." So I knew that he knew who I was.

Grace: That's cool.

Joyce: I think, because you're such a ravenous reader, I'm saying a big thanks to the library for that. Why do you like to read so much? Tell me about that.

Grace: I don't know. If I'm reading a fiction book, and it's taking place in another kind of area, some of the books make me feel like I'm in that place. The Septimus Heap series, there was a wizard tower, and a castle. There were other things that were cool and they were magical and they were like, charms, and there was an extraordinary wizard.

Joyce: I feel like, sometimes, when you read those, I just wish so much that was more like you because I am such a person that has a hard time reading things are magical and mystical and you always use your imagination, and I'm not very good at that. I like nonfiction books.

Grace: I like fiction books because nonfiction books are like facts, and I like facts, but I get them in school. So I like reading fiction books, just on my own, because it's not like I have to do it for school or anything.

Joyce: You just enjoy it.

Grace: Mm-hmm.

Joyce: That's great.

Grace: When did you start to work at the library?

Joyce: Well I only started to work at the library about, oh, a year and half ago. But, I volunteered at the library before that I came into the library way before that. You know when I was little, there wasn't a library really close by, so we would have to make a big plan of when you were going to the library. So we would say, "OK. Next Saturday we're going to go to the library." And then, when I was a teacher I always went to the library and I always took my class to the library. We had our own little library the

corner. And then I brought you and Emma to the library. You guys had your first friends here at the library.

Grace: People never really treated me like I was different so I always felt like I fit in, and I just feel really blessed to be able to have the family that I have, and to be able to have all of the friends that I have.

Joyce: Oh, that's so nice, Grace! I do, too.