This American Life



Guided tour for the Podcast

Good morning! Today we are going to listen to podcast and then you will have this guide to work on as we listen. This will help you to process the material and will make the experience of listening to the podcast more reflective and, therefore, more powerful. Enjoy!

Who is James Heckman?

What is the GED? 

What important question did Heckman ask about the GED that previously had been ignored?

What happened to the people who received their GED compared to people who went to high school when they studied their life over a very long period of time?

What is cognition? Write the definition here.

List some non-cognitive skills that Paul Tough talks about:

What factor does Ira explain is the cause for young people to not develop these skills?

Who is Nadine Burke-Harris, and what did she notice about her patients? 

What is the fight or flight response in human beings, what are symptoms that someone is in “fight mode”?

How could this response impact students behavior in school?

What was Kewauna experience in middle school? Describe some of the issues that she had.

Kewauna mentions that when was really angry she would “blank out”. Relate her story to your understanding of the bodies fight or flight response.

What was the “WINGS” program? Although this is an appropriate setting for some students, why was this so devastating for her?

Paul Tough talks about a study involving rats. What did they find about the development rats who were cared for by their “rat mother”?

What are some things that Barbara learned as young mom that will help build a better relationship with her daughter? How did she view her daughter at first?

What was Kewauna’s “intervention”? What happened as a result of this meeting?

After she was in a special program in school, what were some things she did in college to help her be successful? She says she has “no shame in her game”, what do you think she meant?