



Episode 3 - Cheat Sheet

Reading Aloud is Comfort Food

Guest: Tsh Oxenreider

Leveraging the Library with Your Kids

Guest: Pam Barnhill

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Meet Tsh Oxenreider



Tsh Oxenreider is the inspiring voice behind *The Art of Simple* and the author of several books, including *Notes from a Blue Bike*, *One Bite at a Time*, and *Organized Simplicity: the Clutter-Free Approach to Intentional Living*. She and her husband Kyle have three kids and are spending the 2014-2015 year traveling the world with their children.

Meet Pam Barnhill

Pam Barnhill is the author of *Plan Your Year: Homeschool Planning for Purpose and Peace*. A busy mom of three who loves to leverage the library, Pam gives us some strategies for making the library work for us in a short segment at the end of this episode.



In this Episode

Shared reading plays a major role in Tsh's family life, and she has a down-to-earth perspective on life, books, and how reading aloud is like comfort food.

At bedtime, each child picks a book and a parent reads.

Tsh allows simple books that just nurture enjoyment. She doesn't worry too much about the books all being highbrow fiction, especially for bedtime reads.

During quiet times in the afternoon, everyone reads.

They also read at breakfast—from the Bible, a chapter book, or they listen to an audiobook together. They like Jim Weiss.

This is who we are.

—Tsh Oxenreider

Cheater's Guide

Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or [listen to the entire podcast](#).

Reading Aloud is Comfort Food, with Tsh Oxenreider

- 6:00 What reading aloud looks like in Tsh's home
- 8:58 How reading aloud has changed as Tsh's children have grown older.
- 9:18 Does Tsh worry about wiggly kids during read-aloud time?
- 11:30 Thoughts on *Little House on the Prairie*
- 13:45 Reading aloud when her kids are in school vs reading aloud when she's homeschooling.
- 15:59 Tsh's family favorite read alouds
- 17:05 The best age to read *Winnie the Pooh*
- 18:05 Audiobooks!
- 20:00 Are audiobooks second best?
- 21:31 Where Tsh goes for ideas of what to read next.
- 22:40 Building up a collection of favorite authors.
- 23:10 What to do about twaddle?
- 24:41 Fluency stage and the importance of letting a child read below level.
- 26:00 Sarah, on choosing read-alouds or letting her kids choose them.
- 28:40 Twaddle on the bookshelves (and the art of purging)
- 30:58 Shared reading as family culture; after all, reading aloud is like comfort food.
- 32:21 Reading aloud while traveling

Leveraging the Library with Your Kids, with Pam Barnhill

- 35:59 What can we do to make the most of the library?
- 38:40 How to keep library fines in check.
- 39:48 What about library events?
- 41:56 Getting to know your library staff

Major Takeaways

1. Most of all, we read aloud to cultivate relationships and family culture. Everything else is just gravy.
2. Find a strategy for what to do about twaddle, and then make peace with your plan.
3. Leverage the library by following four simple steps:

Set a date and time and commit to it. Make it a priority!

Get everyone their own library card.

Hang out at the library. Attend events.

Get to know your library staff.

Show Notes

Sources for audiobooks:

[Audible](#)

[Librivox](#)

[Greathall Productions](#)- stories told by Jim Weiss

[Little House in the Big Woods](#) on CD, read by Cherry Jones (the whole series is fantastic!)

Books that Tsh recommended during the show:

[Story of the World](#) read by Jim Weiss

[The Child's Story Bible](#) by Catherine Vos

[Frog & Toad](#) series by Arnold Lobel

[Pooh's Library: Winnie the Pooh, The House at Pooh Corner, Now We are Six, When We Were Very Young](#) by A.A. Milne

[A Bear Called Paddington](#) by Michael Bond

[A Collection of Just So Stories](#) read aloud by Jim Weiss

[Honey for a Child's Heart](#) by Gladys Hunt (an excellent booklist!)

[City Dog, Country Frog](#) by Mo Willems

[The Wingfeather Saga](#) by Andrew Peterson

Other links:

[Mt. Hope Chronicles](#) (a blog Tsh likes to read for book suggestions)

[Traveling Through the Pages](#) (the summer reading program at Everyday Snapshots)

Many thanks to the kids on this episode's **Let the Kids Speak!** The books recommended are:

[The Penderwicks](#) by Jeanne Birdsall

[Little Pear](#) by Eleanor Lattimore

Action Plan

1. **Purge your twaddle! Make sure that you only own books you like reading.**
2. **Bookmark Librivox and other free audiobook resources.**
3. **Create a library plan. Put it on the calendar!**
4. **Go to edsnapshots.com and sign up for the FREE summer reading program...**

...even if it isn't summer . You'll get an email when the next summer reading program is ready. My kids LOVE this. It's quite honestly a major highlight around here.