

EPISODE **25**

# When Kids are Whiny and Other Questions You're Asking

Guest: Allison Burr

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## Meet Allison Burr



Allison Burr has been married to her husband Chris since 2000. They have four children who they classically educate. What that looks like on a practical level is a home filled to the brim with excellent books, a Latin-chanting toddler, fairytale tea times, and a whole lot of ballad-singing from the elementary students.

Allison loves expertly brewed mochas, reclaimed barn wood, and sentences adorned with properly used semicolons. You can find her at [Truth Beauty Goodness.net](http://TruthBeautyGoodness.net).

## In This Episode

### **Sarah and Allison tackle your questions:**

- How do you as a mother cultivate your own curiosity?
- How do you make time for reading aloud?
- Is it too late to start building our family culture around books?
- And what do you do when the kids are wiggly during read-aloud?

## The Listening Guide

**Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or listen to the entire podcast.**

- 2:20 Cultivating Your Own Appetite for Learning
- 6:38 Can you ditch a book if it's not a good fit?
- 7:54 The Pull of the Urgent
- 10:12 Creating Your Own Booklists
- 15:14 Getting Kids to Sit Still for Read-Alouds
- 22:09 Reading Aloud...Even If You don't Homeschool
- 26:38 Is It Too Late to Start Reading Aloud?
- 31:40 Keeping Track of All the Books
- 36:37 Is Reading Aloud Just for Fiction?

## Major Takeaways

- \* “I've talked about, Honey for a Child's Heart or Books Children Love for example, I don't know that I would love every single book that's in there. But I think we train ourselves to be able to choose good books and recognize the elements of good books when we use reliable book sources like that and then we can all deviate just slightly.”
- \* Sarah and Allison begin by talking about cultivating their own reading & learning habit and whether it's okay to stop reading a book that's just not a good fit.
- \* Sarah shares strategies for helping kids sit through a read aloud. She has a basket of projects for each child that they can work on during read aloud. It takes planning and thought to get things ready in advance, but it pays rich dividends.
- \* “What I would focus on if I was reading to kids that were in school is just in delighting in books together.” You can nourish a read-aloud culture in your family even if your kids go to school. Think about the fringe minutes waiting for things to end and begin. They could be spent sharing a book instead of looking at screens.

## Action Plan:

“The first thing I would say is absolutely that your kids have stuff in their hands. Let them do something with their hands....It's good to spend a little bit of time in forethought I think to think ahead of what they could be doing with their hands and then put those in an easy-to-grab spot.” Do your children play with Lego or practice handwork as you read aloud? What steps do you need to take beforehand to set yourself up for success? And remember it's going to look different at different ages and stages--what works for the 9 year old isn't going to be the same thing that works for the toddler.

“Fitting it in and making it a priority and the easiest way I know how to do that is to peg it to something that's already happening.” Melissa Wiley talks more about the idea of pegging in Episode 7. Can you commit to putting read aloud time on the schedule?

## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- Honey for a Child's Heart
- Honey for a Teen's Heart
- Honey for a Woman's Heart
- The Well-Educated Mind
- The Magic Tree House series
- The Harry Potter series
- The Series of Unfortunate Events series
- I Capture the Castle
- The Reading Promise
- Kristin Lavransdatter
- The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh
- Thornton Burgess Animal Stories
- James Herriot's Treasury for Children
- Jane Eyre
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings
- The Shadow of the Bear
- The Hunger Games
- Little House on the Prairie
- Farmer Boy
- Little Britches
- The Boundless

- [The Milly-Molly-Mandy Storybook](#)
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)
- [The Story of the World](#)
- [Benjamin Franklin](#)
- [The Green Ember](#)

### **Other links from today's show:**

- Find Allison's amazing blog and podcasts at [Truth Beauty Goodness](#)
- Sarah and Allison's prior FAQ podcast, [episode #18](#)
- Link to sign up for Sarah's free e-magazine, [Flourish](#)
- Brandy Vencel's blog post on [3 types of books moms should be reading](#)
- [The Well-Read Mom](#)
- Anne Bogel's website, [Modern Mrs. Darcy](#)
- Adam Andrews and the [Center for Lit](#)
- Learn more about the [Read-Aloud Revival Membership Site](#)
- Melissa Wiley's [blog](#)
- Mystie Winckler's blog, [SimplyConvivial](#)
- Utilizing audiobooks - [episode #14 with Mystie Winckler](#)
- More about reading with teens - [episode #23 with Julie Bogart](#)
- Sarah's (surprisingly organized!) [liturgical booklists](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit [ReadAloudRevival.com](http://ReadAloudRevival.com).