



Summer Reading: Making Memories (And Having Fun)

Sarah: You're listening to the Read Aloud Revival podcast. This is the podcast that inspires you to build your family culture around books.

Hello, hello! Sarah Mackenzie here, your host of the Read Aloud Revival podcast. This is the podcast that gives you the tools, inspiration, and the book recommendations you need to build your family culture around books. Thanks so much for joining me for episode 27. today, I'm going to be chatting with one of my very best friends, Pam Barnhill. Pam has a crazy awesome summer reading program we're going to chat about and honestly, she's just one of the best people I know to go to for great book recommendations and creative ideas. So we've got a wonderful show for you today.

Now before we start, I wanted to get you up to speed on a couple of important announcements. First, the podcast is going on a little summer break. We'll be taking about eight weeks off so this is the final episode of the Read Aloud Revival podcast until August. Now don't worry. When we come back in August, we're coming back with a bang. Our first guest for the Fall lineup is Susan Wise Bauer of Well-Trained Mind fame. She's someone a lot of you have requested. We'll also be chatting with Rea Berg from Beautiful Feet books, Dr. Joseph Price about some really solid research about read aloud's and their impact on family culture. Gosh! We've got a whole line-up of shows for the fall and winter and it's going to knock your socks off. So anyway, don't be surprised when new podcasts don't drop into your phone or mp3 player or however you listen over June and July. Just know we're working hard on some wonderful shows for you to start

back up in August to get your new school year off with a bang.

And we're also over at membership, making the membership site be awesome resource we want it to be for you as you build your family culture around books. In fact, very soon, you'll be able to find some brand new resources in the membership site, one that we're always ready to put up the best of LibriVox page. LibriVox of course is a site cram-full of free audio stories but the site can be a little tricky to navigate and a lot of the stories are read by multiple narrators which can get a little confusing and I don't know, I find it a bit frustrating. So what we've done is we've called the very best narrators in stories on LibriVox and we've put quick links to each of those on a page and it's going to go into the membership site very soon. That's going to be an awesome resource and we'll continue to add to that as we hear from you about other great LibriVox stories and narrators to add to that collection. And there are other good things happening in membership this summer too.

We have a live author event happening with Melissa Wiley, the writer of the Prairie Thief and a number of other fabulous books and just a whole bunch of other really good stuff we're working on. So if you miss us, head over to membership otherwise hit caught up on any podcast you may have missed and make sure you head to readaloudrevival.com and click that Join the Revival button so I can send you Friday emails and you can stay up to speed and stay encouraged to read aloud over the summer with your kids.

Now, I have something else for you today, something I'm so excited to share. I've created a resource for you that will hopefully put an end to asking that dreaded question, "did you like it"



after your kids have read a book. Isn't it the most frustrating conversation killer? I know this because in our Read Aloud Revival Facebook community, we hear this all the time. What on earth should I ask my kids after they read a book? All I can think of is, did you like it? And of course what happens when you ask that question is you get a yup or a nope. That's pretty much the end of the conversation.

But the truth is there are a few simple questions you can ask your kids about any book, any book at all from a picture book, from Dr. Seuss, all the way up to War and Peace that would open up some good discussions. You really don't need any special curriculum or tools or tricks. You just need to know the right questions to ask and I have a handful of them for you. So to help you with that, I've made you a guide. It's a PDF resource that you can use to help you know which questions to ask and how to follow them up so that you can have really wonderful conversations with your kids about any books you read together or books that they've read on their own. And the guide is free and you can grab it at readaloudrevival.com. So just go to readaloudrevival.com. You'll see how to grab yours... like I said, it's free. And a cool thing we did with those is it's not just a PDF resource but we created some bookmarks there at the end and so when you download your guide, you'll be able to print off the bookmarks at the very end of it. And those have the questions printed right on them so that you can tuck a bookmark into whatever you're reading and never be tempted to ask - did you like it? - at the end again.

One more thing, after today's interview we've got a treat because there are 10, yes 10, Let the Kids Speak recommendations on today's show. I absolutely love it when the kids call in and tell me

their favorite read aloud's. And I keep hearing that it's a lot of our listeners' favorite part of the podcast. So thanks to a tip from the Klause family. Thank you Klause family. We've decided to make Let the Kids Speak a longer segment of the show so we're putting 10 recommendations in today's show. Make sure you stick around after the interview so you can hear which 10 books the kids recommend today. Whew! That was a lot. Okay, let's dive into today's interview.

Sarah: Pam Barnhill is one of my very best friends and she's also the creator or ednsnapshots.com, a fantastic website where you can get homeschool solutions step by step. One of the best things Pam does on her site is run a summer reading program. It's my kid's very favorite summer reading program. She did it last year. She's doing it again this year. It's called Traveling Through the Pages and it's a really fantastic way to get your kids to read outside of their normal genres. So we'll talk about it more a little bit in the show.

She's one of my favorite people to toss book ideas around with and just to generally spit ball with about books and reading aloud. We do it all the time on the side actually. So I figured shoot! we should do this on air instead. Today, Pam and I are going to chat about summer reading, why to make it a priority, how to make it fun, what makes it memorable, and which books would make for excellent summer reads. The show notes for today's interview are packed. So you can head to readaloudrevival.com, look for episode 27. You'll be able to see all the books we recommend on today's show there as well as access to Pam's summer reading program and pretty much everything else we've talked about during the show. Here we go...



So Pam, thank you so much for joining me today. I'm so excited to have you back on the show.

Pam: Well, I'm excited to be here.

Sarah: Okay, so the first thing I'm so excited to tell everybody about is your summer reading program which was a huge success in our home last year. You came up with this chart of... I guess it was more like a Bingo chart where kids could read certain kinds of books and mark off their Bingo chart. My kids went crazy over that. I had no idea it would be such a success. Well it's so great. One of my daughters, well actually both of them I would say, were really pushed outside their normal genre. You know my oldest daughter is really into historical fiction. And then my second daughter is a fantasy nut. Well your program got them picking up different kinds of books and seeking now different kinds of books every time we went to the library. And it was something that kind of carried through the whole year so that was really fun.

7:47 Jessica Lawton's Great Idea

Pam: Yeah, I have to give props to my partner in crime with the summer reading program. Actually, she blogs with me all year. Her name is Jessica Lawton and she lives here in my town, one of my in real-life friends and we hang out and this was totally her idea. She loves children's books. She loves books and things like that and she said, wouldn't it be cool if we had a printable chart and had all of these different genres that the kids could read from. She was really disappointed in the reading programs, like at our library, the summer reading program is basically make a gold or read 10 books and read 10 books and it doesn't really encourage you to widen your reading net or anything like that.

Sarah: Plus my kids would like, especially my son. I could see him picking the shortest 10 common Garfield books and being like done!

Pam: Exactly. Yup mark this off my list. So it was her idea. It really was her idea. Can you make me this printable that I can give to my kids that has all of these different squares on there to really get them reading outside of the normal genres that they're read in. So that was totally why she wanted it and then of course I said Oh, we can put this on the blog. And so we made it for everyone and just added a bunch of stuff to it. Last year, we had the Reading Passport which was the Bingo grid that you were talking about and then we had some bookmarks and the certificate of completion and a reading log and some prize tickets that parents could use to give prizes to their kids for meeting certain goals. And yeah, just turned into this big thing and it was the most fun.

Sarah: So I was going to ask you this at the end but I'm going to jump it up right now because I'm curious. What's the theme for this year's?

9:30 This Year's Summer Reading Theme

Pam: Well, we're going to keep Traveling Through the Pages. But our theme this year is like reading an enchanted journey. And instead of a passport, we're going to have, it's a map. And I'm so excited about this. Well, I don't know if map is the right word. It's more of a game board but I'm extremely excited because we commissioned a local homeschool artist. She's an 11th grader. She babysits for us but absolutely wonderful artist and her name is Catherine Weaver and we commissioned her to do the



artwork for this summer. So this is completely custom artwork, you won't find it anywhere else. And she's drawn this kind of enchanted forest, a little path leading through it. And so instead of having a Bingo grid kind of passport that you mark off this year, the kids are going to get to mark off the books on the path as they go along. So we're super excited and we're going to leave all of the artwork black and white so the kids can... it's pretty detailed so they're going to have to get out their colored pencils. But they're able to color it all in with their colored pencils themselves.

Sarah: Okay, well let's talk about summer reading because I think reading looks very different for a lot of us. I have some friends who assign a whole slew of books for their kids to read in the summer. I've other friends who just let their kids read whatever their heart desires in the summer. Some families listen to a lot of audiobooks in the summer as they're traveling and as they're taking family trips or in the car a lot. And other families may be fine reading aloud together to be something they have more time for or less time for depending on what their family's culture looks like in the summer. And now it's looked a little different for us year by year. When we take a long road trip, we always listen to audio books. That's generally how we do it. But I kind of have a hard time with the read alouds in the summer. It's a little bit crazy because we spend a lot of time together and there's more daylight hours so I should have an easier time to fit it in but it just doesn't seem to work that way. So I'm curious to know what reading aloud looks like or reading looks like in your home in the summer.

11:30 Summertime Reading at Pam's House

Pam: Well, first of all, I did a schedule for the summer. I did like a little summer schedule for us that we're kind of following because I find like if we go with no schedule route, it's just like complete anarchy and we devolve into like watching television all the time. And so I made us a summer schedule that we're following here and one of the things that I was very specific about doing was putting in read aloud time and because of our summer weather, it's right in the middle of the day. It's like at one o'clock in the afternoon. Just the hottest part of the day where we're not even going to be at the pool at that point. It's too hot to even be in the swimming pool. And so right after lunch, kind of pegged it to that lunchtime, finishing up the lunch and dad leaving and going back to the office because he comes home for lunch.

But before quiet time, which starts at two, so I've kind of nestled it in there and that is the time that we're reading aloud and so far we've been doing it for about a week now. It's working really well for us to have that scheduled time at a very deliberate time of day.

Sarah: That kind of day actually might work really well for us too because the toddlers go down for their nap after lunch so maybe if I just... we put the toddlers down my wrangle, all the big kids we do... what do you do? Like 20 minutes or half an hour?

Pam: Yeah, something like that. Actually, right now we're reading *The Green Ember* and so it's one chapter of *The Green Ember*. It's pretty much what I'm doing at this point. Now, as far as independent reading in my house, I've had a couple of later readers of my kids who are able to



read. I've got one who is what I would call just past burgeoning reader. She's finally gotten some confidence in herself as a reader and she's reading bigger books. So I am going to encourage her to read from a wide variety of things and hopefully the summer reading program is going to do that for her. But I'm still going to give her a lot of free reign in what she's choosing to read because she's still building up that fluency. And right now, I believe at this point in her life, this summer, it's more important for her to read and read a lot than for me dictate exactly what it is she's reading. So we're going to go for worthy, but we're going to go for worthy and easy and super enjoyable.

Sarah: Okay, so I love that. Actually, I think that's probably what I'm going to do. My oldest is 13 but she's pretty good at choosing books to read although all my kids read some fluffy stuff which is totally fine with me. But I think what I'll do is just let them have free reign for the most part but we'll use your summer reading program to help them break out of their normal genre ruts. And then I think I'm going to assign one classic each. Just pick one that I really want them to read that I don't know that they would pick up on their own and they can read it one chapter a week all summer if they want or they can just binge read it in a week or whatever. But one classic and then your summer reading program to help them think outside the box and let them just sort of read whatever they'd like within reason.

14:48 Encouraging Non-confident Readers

Pam: And then, I have what I call a non-confident reader and I know you remember this. When they can read, the kid really can read. But if you were to go up and to ask him can you read,

he would tell you no. And do you remember this? And it's so weird and I don't know...

Sarah: It was not that far long ago for me.

Pam: Both of kids went through this stage where we were working through the reading program. He's an All About Reading Level Two pick and pick up any of those readers and go cold on a story and be able to read it. But if you ask him, can you read? He would tell you no. And so I don't know what it is yet. So I have made him a basket of books that I know he should be able to read fairly well and I just encouraged him each day to pick from that basket. I think he spends a lot of times with like the Usborne Animal Encyclopedia mostly looking at the pictures or he's really big in the light mine craft and and so he gets a mine craft book from the library which I totally allow. And he does look at the pictures a lot in there but he'll also try to read those captions because he's so motivated to read what it's saying. So for him, just all the encouragement in the world trying to find things that he can be successful with but also allowing him a lot of time to look at pictures like books with a lot of great pictures in them. Those Usborne books are wonderful for that with the little snippets of captions that he can go in and just look at.

Sarah: You know the other thing I think is probably really good for that is series books. I was just having a conversation with Cindy Rowlin about this and she had said she thought series are a really good thing to get your kids hooked on in the summer because they get kind of in this groove and they just want to read a lot of it even if it's not the most high brow. You could read The Bobbsey Twins or... My son went through this Encyclopedia Brown phase this last year where he voraciously read Encyclopedia Brown. Actually that was a turning point for us



from that stage that you're talking about where he didn't see himself as a reader and couldn't read very fluently to being able to read very fluently. I think Encyclopedia Brown was his companion in that transition. But Cindy said at the beginning of the summer or at the end of the school year, read the first book together aloud of a series book like Harry Potter or something. And then your kids will just get so excited about reading the rest of the series that they'll develop a habit of reading to themselves pretty quickly after that.

16:57 Pam Pulls an Andrew Pudewa!

Pam: Well you know it's funny you mentioned Harry Potter because I have to tell you that it's kind of been a turning point for us with my daughter is she had wanted to watch the movie and I pulled an Andrew Pudewa on her and said you can't watch the movie until you've read the book. When you're able to read that book completely by yourself, and I knew she was able to read the book. She just didn't have the confidence in herself to be able to pick up a book that big and do it.

Sarah: I was going to say the thickness of the book if you haven't been an avid reader yet to yourself yet, that could be a little daunting until you get into it and realize it's impossible to put down.

17:29 Celebrating Reading Wins with a One on One Book Club Meeting

Pam: Right and so that's what happened. And so I did a couple of things First of all, I did the whole you-can't-watch-the-movie-until-you've-

read-the-book and that worked. That got her in there. And it took her a while. It really did take her a while And she was reading some other things at the same time but she finally made it through the book and then was so excited to watch the movie. And then the other thing I tacked on to that was once she finished reading the book, we're going to go and have a mommy and me book club meeting. And so we're actually doing it today. But now we're on book 3. So... she's reading book 3 but we're still going to do the book club meeting for book 2. That's the book club meeting we're doing today. And so I'm going to arm myself with some of your great questions for kids and we're going down to just the local Barnes and Noble and we're going to discuss the book. And then when we're done, we're going to walk over to the children's book section and we're going to get her another book. And it might be something totally unrelated to Harry Potter or encourage her to pick up and read something else. But it will just be a great memory for her and it will encourage her to read another book and finish it so we can go back and do it again.

Sarah: Yup, exactly. Okay so what do you think... I know you've done some research on this so what's the big deal about reading in the summer or why should we even make it a priority?

Pam: Well, we should make it a priority because of something called a summer slump. I know that especially for those of us who are homeschoolers we're thinking oh man something else for me to think about, have to worry about during the summertime but there is such a thing as the summer slump and it greatly affects math which I know we're not talking about math here but...

Sarah: Thank goodness. I do not want a math podcast. Thank you very much.



19:19 The Summer Slump

Pam: Okay but I'm going to say that my children... one of the things on our schedule this summer is a little math practice everyday. Because a lot of kids lose... John Hopkins did a study and kids lose about 2.6 months of equivalency in math during the summer. Now they didn't find as much losses in reading for kids who were like middle class or above. The lower socio-economic groups of kids, students, lost about 2 months of reading as well. But the middle class and above level of kids didn't and I have a feeling that's because those families were either strongly encouraging free reading during the summer. They were doing their library summer reading program or they were reading aloud to them quite honestly. So whatever the case, that just proves that reading aloud to your kids and having them read on their own during the summer, that's going to be the thing that keeps them from sliding that two months worth of study over the summertime.

Sarah: Which actually speaking of math, we are doing math practice everyday too this summer only because I absolutely refuse. We worked way too hard during the school year for me to lose two and a half months of teaching, right? So I kind of think, reading is a lot more delightful than math but still, it's that progress that you make that just feels like oh my gosh do we really want to throw that all the way just because we don't want to carve out 15 minutes a day or something for either one.

Pam: And you know it doesn't have to be schooly. My kids are actually, they're doing a little program called Reflex for Math this summer, which I know we're not going to get off on the math thing. But we found this little program...

Sarah: Everybody just shut the podcast off.

Pam: No, they did not. You know, it's a fun, they've been begging me to do it. Hey mom, can I do some more Reflex? Mom, can I do some more Reflex? And this is not a commercial. You have to go look it up yourself. I don't get anything for pushing this but...

Sarah: Well put a link in the show notes because everybody's going to ask and besides, now I'm wondering what it is.

Pam: It's really cool. They're asking me to do it and it's just math facts fluency. There are games involved.

Sarah: Oh games are good.

21:30 Reading as the Default

Pam: And so we're doing it a few minutes a day and they're loving it and they're asking for it so that's great. But we need to do this same kind of thing with reading. If you have kids who are reluctant readers or they just don't default to reading. Some kids just don't want to especially I think boys in the 4th, 5th, 6th grade age range, they just don't want to sit down and read. They're too busy doing other things. So for kids who are either reluctant readers or just don't default to reading, we've got to do some things that will get them into that mode of spending a few minutes...

Sarah: That's a really good point. I think a lot of times we make the mistake and myself included here of thinking if we build this culture in our home where we're reading aloud. Books are an integral part of our family culture. Our kids will naturally default to being readers but I know way too many mothers who have promoted or created this culture of reading aloud in their home or reading in general in their home and their children



don't default to reading so I think that's first of all, a burden to just release ourselves from. It's not something wrong that you've done as a mother or as a parent.

Pam: You have not failed.

Sarah: You are not an abysmal failure I promise. But also, it's helpful to know that it's good to set up some strategies for those kids who maybe don't default to reading like your summer reading program. Something where there's a little bit more incentive, something that makes it more like a game. Or just actual, like intentional part of your day. Hey this is the 20 minutes a day or half an hour a day or an hour a day, whatever you decide that you're going to read everyday. And just because you have to set up those guidelines does not mean that you're not doing a good job of promoting a reading culture. Sometimes that's what it takes.

Sarah: So how do we do that then? How do we encourage reading? Some kids are going to be just... my second daughter is going to think summer is the best thing ever because she's going to have hours a day to read. My son's not going to think that. So how do we encourage reading in the summer or what are some strategies we can use to make that a more delightful piece of our summer?

23:38 Strategies for Reading in the Summer

Pam: Okay. Well I have a few. First of all, I think that one of the best ways to do this and it might be a little easier to do this in the summer than it is at other times a year especially for homeschooling families is think about it as we're all in this together and what I mean by that is that moms and dads need to be reading as well. They

need to be modelling that reading and so student reading success is tied to parents who are readers. The more parents you have in the house, well the more parents you have, all 20 men wouldn't that be great?

Sarah: I could use a few extra parents.

Pam: Can somebody please send some parents, that would be awesome.

Sarah: My ratio is so skewed the other direction.

Pam: You are playing zone defense for sure. Okay, so if have parents in the house who read themselves, then the students are going to be much more likely to be successful in reading. That's what the research is. So you want to read, and a couple of things you can do is you could make a family challenge where maybe you make a big chart and stick it up on the wall and say "As a family, we're going to read 100 books this summer." Or 500 books this summer. Make it whatever's appropriate for your family enough to stretch you guys a little bit but although somethings that's not going to be completely unattainable for your particular family and the number of readers you have in your home in your situation. So make some kind of chart and stick it up on the wall and/or add a gold star...

Sarah: So you're saying like 100 books and every time anybody reads any book, that counts for one of those books? Or in the books we're reading together?

Pam: No, not a hundred books you're reading together but just whatever your magic number is and make some kind of star chart or thermometer. You know, like when the United Way does their hullabaloo thing and there's a thermometer, whatever. Some kind of something that everyone can see and then everyone can



add to. Ring a bell. Ring a bell every time somebody finishes a book. And add a sticker to the chart. Mom needs to be adding stickers and dad needs to be adding stickers and all the kids need to be adding stickers and then when your chart is completely filled up, you need to do something to celebrate. And you choose. The family could go to the amusement park for the day or they could go out for ice cream. It's totally up to you. But make it something that your entire family would enjoy. But do it together and have mom and dad show their complete and total buy-in to how important this is by modeling it.

Sarah: Love that. I love that. And if you are wondering gosh I don't know what to read because I'm not really much of an avid reader, if that's what you're thinking, I'm going to link to Anne Bogel's summer reading guide for Modern Mrs. Darcy because she has just a fantastic summer reading guide that there's something. There's something on that list that will capture your interest. So if you've gotten out of a reading habit, don't beat yourself up. Just pick something good and get started.

26:29 Getting Back into the Reading Habit

Pam: Yeah, exactly. And you know what, sometimes I find that for me, because I get so busy. And I know you do too. And so it's easy to get out of that reading habit. Sometimes for me the best way to get back into a reading habit is to go back to an old favorite that I just absolutely love that I know is good and I know it's going to suck me in and read that one first and then I kind of all jazzed up to steal your term about reading again that I can go out and find something else to move along.

Sarah: Yeah I think reading begets reading. So when I get out of the habit, it's so much harder for me to just pick up a book and read. I don't know. It feels like this big hurdle I have to jump over but when I'm in the habit of reading, even just say 15 minutes a day. Like 15 minutes at 3 o'clock in the afternoon or whatever, or whatever would work for your family. That would be a terrible time of the day for me. But I'll have to rethink that. For our listeners who don't know, I have 6 kids and 3 of them are toddlers. So that would be a really bad time of the day. But let's say I decide that before bed, I'm going to read 15 minutes or whatever every single day, once I get into the habit of just getting over that first hump, once I'm in the habit, it's just so much easier. I read a book and then the next book is easier to pick up and the next book is easier to pick up and then my habit is not to pick up my phone and see what's going on on Facebook or in my inbox or whatever and instead pick up my book and spend that 10 or 15 minutes reading. You know who I'd also link to in the show notes to this podcast are Money Saving Mom Crystal Paine has some really great posts on how she makes time for reading and one of the things she says in one of those posts is to just use those little 10 minute periods of time where your tendency would be to pick up your phone or whatever just to read a couple of pages of a book. And she reads a ton of books and she is a very busy lady. And so, I found those posts really encouraging.

Pam: You know, I ended up because I used to read a lot on my phone but it was so easy to click over and do something else. And also, I realized that if my kids saw me on my phone, they never thought I was reading. They thought she's over there playing Candy Crush, Angry Birds or something. So I ended up buying myself a Kindle



for my birthday because I like to buy myself birthday presents so I could get what I want. And it's really made a difference because I don't do... I haven't added anything else to the Kindle. I've left everything else off of it. So it's just for reading. I don't go to the little browser that's there, anything like that. And so...

Sarah: That's a good point. I've actually moved back to physical books recently with a big... I used to buy a lot more eBooks than I do now mostly because what I would find is I would then bring my phone or my iPad up to bed to read in bed and then instead of opening the Kindle app, I found myself opening up everything else and I thought where is my self-discipline? This is ridiculous. I just need to bring a book and a book light and call it good.

29:26 The Family Book Club

Pam: Yeah, so I think it makes a difference. Okay, so everybody in the family read and chart and track it. So the next thing that you could do is have a family book club and so this would be where everyone in the family reads the same book and then you go out to dinner or even like maybe spread a picnic on the back porch or whatever you want to do. I would make it a little out of the ordinary in some way, either serve some kind of special food that you don't have all the time that everybody loves or have a special dessert or go somewhere. Set that dinner apart in some way. But discuss the book.

Sarah: Ooh I love that so this could be a book that you read aloud together or it could be a book that everybody reads on their own if you've got a family of people who could read. It could even be a picture book right?

Pam: Oh yeah. It could be any kind of book that you want but have.. get dad to buy into this. It needs to be something you know, dad's going to be interested in as well. So you might have to do like *The Hobbit* or *The Lord of the Rings* or...

Sarah: Try not to read like *Little Women* or something...

Pam: Yeah, probably not. *Ender's Game*. If you have older kids. You know those teen kids, *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card would be a great book because a lot of dads would probably get into that one. And then I've read that one. It has been a number of years ago now but I really enjoyed it. As somebody who doesn't normally even like science fiction, I really enjoyed it. And then it would be great. So I think that's a really good all around book.

Sarah: Okay and some other books that we've had success within our home, my husband really likes outdoor survival type books so things like *My Side of the Mountain* or *On the Far Side of the Mountain*, Gary Paulsen's books. A lot of those kind of outdoor adventure books, all of my kids love them. My girls love them too. So I think those make really good family type read aloud's or read alone's either way too.

31:14 Space for Read-Aloud Time

Pam: So get something that dad can buy into and read with you. And then have your family book club and everybody read it together. I think that's great. And then read aloud time, summertime, I think you said you didn't know if it was easier or harder. From us, I think it's a little easier because so many of our outside activities shut down during summertime.



Sarah: Because it's so hot in the south.

Pam: Well, not just that but you know we don't have ballet in the summer. Our church doesn't meet during the summer. We only meet during the school year on Wednesday nights. What else? I'm trying to think. Our coop doesn't meet during the summer. It just seems like our calendar is a lot less full of things we're having to go and do especially in the evening time. And so...

Sarah: I love the idea of reading in the evening in the summer because it's so nice outside you could lay a little blanket. Everybody could lay out and just relax and it's light for a long time. And if you live in a neighborhood, the other thing I was thinking about this with summer, a couple of people in our Read Aloud Revival Facebook community which is a crazy, wonderful place for ideas. A couple of the women in there were talking about how they were planning on doing these neighborhood read aloud's so they'd say every Wednesday at 1pm or everyday this week at 1pm or something, I'm going to be reading from Charlotte's Web. Everybody can come over here and get a popsicle and listen to the read aloud.

Pam: Oh fun!

Sarah: Yeah, attract neighborhood kids and I think that would work in the evenings too probably you'd be like the favorite mother in the neighborhood if you did that.

Pam: Yeah, I think so too. And just that reading aloud and the audio books and you mentioned this, listening to the audio books on the trip. A lot of times, even just because we're not running and going and we're not as busy, we have more time to linger over meals, And so that's a great time to put on an audiobook and say everyday at lunch or every evening at dinner, we're going to listen to

this book. Have it be one book that you're going to listen to during dinner time and play the audio book.

Sarah: Yeah, perfect. And we'll put some links in the show notes too for good places to grab audio books. My favorite's Audible because it's so easy to grab good books on Audible and then have them on all of our devices depending on where we are. But there's also some really good books on LibriVox and we'll put some links on the show notes for people who would like to try audio books but maybe haven't done that yet.

33:34 Celebrating Reading with Reading Parties

Pam: Okay so that's the first thing is to make it a family affair. Have the entire family be all in this together to encourage reading in the summer. The second thing that I think is important for a lot of readers is and if it's not important for them, they're going to love it anyway, is to make it really fun. I like to call it celebrating reading. I know some people have issues like reading should be its own reward, why am I going to give my kid a reward for reading. they should love reading for reading's sake. But I like to look at it as just completely and totally celebrating how wonderful this gift of reading is.

Sarah: Yeah, I like that.

Pam: So one of the things we like to do in the summer time is we like to use the extra time we have because we're not homeschooling, to have reading parties. And these are just a really fun way to... usually it ends up being our coop friends. And we invite them over to the house and last summer, we did two. We did a tea party which everyone absolutely loved. It was a poetry tea party and all the kids brought some of their



favorite poems and these were like... we're not talking about serious poems here. We're talking about Jabberwocky and a lot of selections from Ogden Nash's poetry book *The Zoo*.

Sarah: Oh fun! Jack Prelutsky or something like that.

Pam: Yeah, and Robert Lewis Stevenson. There were a number of selections by him and they either read them or they recited them. Some of them had memorized their poems. We did have a couple of Shakespeare recitations in there. So we had this really fun tea party, fun food. We made Ooey-Gooney train tracks and you know Ooey-Gooney was a worm, a mighty worm was he. He stepped upon the railroad track, the train he did not see. So we used these Graham cracker and cream cheese and pretzels to make the train track and then they got to put gummy worms on top of them.

Sarah: Oh that's hilarious!

Pam: And that was their dessert. And they ate it. And you know, it was really simple and then we had, there's an Ogden Nash poem about the chicken and the egg.

Sarah: I don't think I know that one.

Pam: And so, I cannot recite it for you. We'll just have to find it and look it up but we have a platter of egg salad sandwiches and chicken fingers, get it, chicken or the egg?

Sarah: Very funny, yes.

35:49 The Mad Scientist Convention

Pam: So we did like some fun themed food and everybody brought a dish. This was very low stress for me. These are all close friends so I

didn't have to go out of my way to get the house spic and span. We were meeting on the back porch. Everybody decided, we kind of threw around a bunch of ideas and somebody said oh i'll bring this and I'll bring this and everybody brought the food and the kids largely played in the backyard and we ate and they recited their poems. So we did that one last summer and then we also did what we called a Mad Scientist Convention. And so for that one we did a lot of science-themed food that found on Pinterest like Layers of the Earth Pizza and we had periodic table cupcakes and nobody wanted to eat the Arsenic one. I don't know why. But they were just really cute. And then the kids all got to demonstrate a science experiment that they had found in the book.

Sarah: Very good idea so that would give them digging around science experiment books to get ideas.

Pam: Exactly, so they all had found their science experiment in the book and then they got to get up and demonstrate it at the party. So this one was really popular especially with the boys. And then already, this spring we've done... we did it around Shakespeare's birthday party but it will actually, the post about it will go up during the summer reading program in June but we did a birthday party for Shakespeare. It could also be a Midsummer Night's Dream party because it was very midsummer night's dream themed. And we played "pin the head on bottom." We had like a donkey cut out and with the little donkey heads and we'd put the blindfold on the kids and we'd spin them around and they'd walk up to the little cut out and try to put the donkey head on top of the person. They loved it. They just thought it was absolutely...



Sarah: My kids would get such a kick out of that.

Pam: They thought it was so much fun and we also did Shakespeare Mad Libs. And so all of that is going up in June on the summer reading program. I'll link you to the cutouts, the printables we use to do the "Pin the Head on Bottom" and we'll put our Shakespeare mad libs up. One of the girls in our group made those and said that she would not mind sharing them.

Sarah: Perfect.

Pam: And you know we had a birthday cake and we sang happy birthday at Shakespeare and all the kids blew out the candles on the cake and they just think Shakespeare is the coolest guy ever because we got to do this birthday party and play all these cool games and celebrate him.

Sarah: I love that because those are the kind of memories that I think your kids aren't going to forget. They're going to grow up and there's going to be certain things they remember and certain things they don't but that's one of those things that's going to stick in their mind as one of their highlights I'm sure of it.

Pam: Yeah, and you know it's just we have a little extra time and so we'd spend a little extra time making it fun and just celebrating all of these wonderful things and honestly and I cannot stress this enough, we really throw these together. Like we were just talking about it a couple weeks ahead of time and decide who's going to bring what but a lot of times, I know that the morning of the party, we're all kind of rushing around, getting the things we need, and throw in everything together. And they usually just go off without a hitch and the kids love whatever we put out there. So these are not, they turn out a lot of

fun but we don't worry about making them high-stress Pinterest perfect.

Sarah: I was just going to say, I pretty appreciate that because I tend not to be somebody who does theme-based birthday parties or... it's just not something I really enjoy doing hunting Pinterest to get ideas for a Halloween party or whatever. So the idea that we could just kind of throw together a few things and make it really special the way you're talking about it. That I could probably do. So that's really encouraging to me.

Pam: Yeah, for our Shakespeare birthday party, we were having a good time one night, just the moms, going through Pinterest and looking at ideas and so one of the moms found this Elizabethan honey cake. And she said, okay well I'm going to make this Alyssa Beefin honey cake well it absolutely flopped. Sorry Jessica. The cake absolutely flopped. And she knew it. She got up that morning and she made this cake and for whatever reason it didn't work out. And so she sends me this text and she says, Oh the cake didn't work. I've got to go to the grocery store and get some cupcakes and she did. She went to the grocery store and bought a couple bags of cupcakes and that's what we had for...

Sarah: She still brought the cake?

Pam: It wasn't bad. But it just didn't turn out the way she expected it too.

Sarah: But the kids wouldn't care. They just want the cake and you know honestly, one of the things I've noticed about kids is that if you add sugar or a treat of any kind, they don't really care if it's thematic or not. I have this theory that if you add chocolate to absolutely anything, it is now a celebration. So...



40:36 Personalized Prize Tickets

Pam: There you go. So anyway, plans some parties or some celebrations, some special things that really kind of celebrate reading. Another great thing to do... with the summer reading program, we do include the prize tickets and parents can write whatever prize they want to on the ticket and we actually made the spot in the summer reading program, there's a square for you to write the name of the prize in and we made them that size because you can order those scratch off stickers from Amazon to go...

Sarah: Oh I didn't know that.

Pam: Right. And so what you would do is you would take your sheet of prize tickets and write your prizes in the squares. And we really encourage things like going to get ice cream or to the movies or going to buy a book at the bookstore is a great prize for having accomplished some kind of reading goal. Or trips with mom and dad, something that the kids would really want to do anyway like go and discuss the book with mom at the coffee shop or have a breakfast out with dad. So these don't have to be like you're not buying them video games or candy for reading. You're doing rewards that are things that build family together or encourage them to read more or have great conversations with their parents. And so anyway, you fill out your sheet. You write in the prizes on there and then you can buy these little stickers at... we got ours at Amazon, that you stick over the top of the square and you cut them up and then when a kid reaches one of their goals, whatever the goal is that you decide, it may be read 5 books, it may be complete the entire thing... they get to pick a ticket and then they have to use a coin to scratch it off.

Sarah: Oh that's so fun! Okay will you send me the link to those stickers so we could... oh actually that's probably in your summer reading program right?

Pam: Yeah, I'll have to find it.

Sarah: Okay.

42:32 Participate in Other Summer Reading Programs

Pam: Also, just because you're participating in our summer reading program doesn't mean that you can't participate in other summer reading programs that are out there. Really a lot of these summer reading programs kind of compliment each other. So do the ones... I realize that there are some out there that offer books as prizes that you're like eh, I really don't want my kid to have those books. That's okay. Pick a different one. Your library is going to have a summer reading program that you might choose to be involved in. Ours always gives out this fun packet of things where you can go to Chick-Fil-A which everybody loves to go to Chick-Fil-A and get an ice cream in the summer time or I don't know, there's usually five or six little things like Goofy Golf tickets and things in there that you can do.

Sarah: Fun! I heard there's like a Pizza Hut summer reading program.

Pam: Oh Exodus Books has a summer reading program.

Sarah: I just saw that the other day. Do you know much about that?

Pam: I just kind of glanced at it. I know it cost \$5 to join but you do... once they complete the summer reading program, they do get a gift certificate to Exodus Books. I can't remember



what the value of that is but you have to link to that one.

Sarah: Okay, we will. Definitely.

Pam: And it's pretty specific. Like you have to read... they have a list of books for each grade level. And in order to complete their summer reading program, you have to read books from their list.

Sarah: Which you know if you're trying to encourage your kids to read really good books, whatever books Exodus Books recommends are probably going to be really... I haven't looked at the list yet but their reputation and their tendency to have really good book recommendations is pretty strong. So I would think that would be a fantastic book list honestly.

44:10 Fun Places to Read

Pam: Yeah, I glanced at it and it really is. So another thing you could do is have a... actually we're going to do this for you. We're going to make a bucket list of places to read. And we're going to have this available in the summer reading program.

Sarah: Oh fun!

Pam: So this is just another way to add a little element of fun in addition to reading across the genres would be reading in different places. So it's going to be things like "read on the shore." Now it may be the beach, it may be the lake, whatever. Read in a hammock. Oh now that I'm saying this, I can't think of any of them. Read in a bunk bed. Read in a tent. Just all of these places where you might potentially read during the summertime and if your family has absolutely no plans to go camping for whatever reason this summer but "read in a tent" is on your bucket list

and you set up that tent either in the backyard or if you've got one of those free standing ones, you can set up in the house without stakes. And you call the kids to crawl in there with their pillows and you read to them one day - best mom ever!

Sarah: Yeah, totally! Yeah, absolutely!

Pam: And this was not hard. So summer bucket list of places to read just to get everyone out and about and reading in different places and having more fun.

Sarah: That sounds awesome. That sounds wonderful! Oh do you have any more?

Pam: I have one more.

Sarah: Oh good. See, you're so full of ideas. It's awesome!

45:32 One More Way to Help Kids Read

Pam: I try. Alright so three different ways to encourage your kids to read this summer. So we've got do-it-together as a family. Make it extra fun. And then the third one, I think maybe one of the most important ways. And that is help them find great books.

Sarah: Oh very good.

Pam: Scholastic did a study of readers, of kids who read, and the kids whose parents help them find books read on average 39.6 books a year compared to 4.7 books a year by kids whose parents don't.

Sarah: Wow! That's a huge difference.

Pam: That is a huge difference and you know we probably have some things going on as people who are building reading cultures in our home that our gap wouldn't be that big. But there's



probably a gap there if you're just turning them loose and not helping them find good books. So let's talk a little bit about how to do that and our summer reading program is one of the ways that you can do it. We're going to have a post that goes up every week in June that has a book list on it. And Jessica writes this post and she has read every book on this list.

Sarah: Oh awesome!

Pam: So she usually starts in about January and she starts going through and pulling out the stacks of books and discards a lot that she just doesn't think should make the list. So those are a really good place to go.

Sarah: Excellent. Okay we'll make sure... well we're going to be linking to the summer reading program anyway but I will be adding a link to each of those posts to the show notes as June progresses. So if you're listening to this podcast and it's past June, you can show to the show notes and you'll see links to all of these book lists that Pam's talking about.

Pam: Right. Getting involved with your library programs and going to the library often this summer is a really great way to... you know you're standing there. You're in the stacks with your kids and you're going to say things that you remember reading when you were a kid. And be able to hand it to them and say, I think you would like this book, this is great. Fostering that communication with your librarian if you have a really great children's librarian who can help you out who understands your family, your values, and the kinds of things that you like for your kids to read and can help you find them. So really taking advantage of the library is another way to help them find good books. And then just having conversations with your children about what they

like to read and noticing the kinds of things they're reading. And then that makes you better able as come across book either online or in a bookstore or in the library to say, Hey, I think this is something that Kid 2 would like to read because they're always reading books like this.

48:15 Pam's Book Recommendations

Sarah: So which books would you recommend off the top of your head if you could just spout off some that our listeners may be interested in just getting started with for summer reading?

Pam: Well, I have been looking at some more of the things from the scholastic. I thought that was so interesting. There are information from their reading study that they did because they actually asked kids what kind of books would they like to read and 70% of all kids from ages 6-18 said they wanted books that would make them laugh.

Sarah: Oh, very good. Very interesting.

Pam: Yeah, and some books that might make kids laugh, there's one called I Want My Hat Back.

Sarah: Oh my gosh! That book is so funny. It's a picture book. I can read that book ten times and the illustrations and the text working together. It is so funny.

Pam: Yeah, that's a great one and also, we read one last year and you're not going to believe this, it's a one word book. It's called Ball. And it's for all the dog lovers out there. Because I am raising a family of dog lovers and it is just hilarious. We laughed our way through that one-word book. The illustrations are just awesome. So if you like dogs at all, I highly recommend Ball. Another dog book Hank the Cow Dog.



Sarah: You know what, I have yet to read Hank the Cow Dog but I keep hearing it recommended so...

Pam: We've listened to the audio book and I know that there's some parents who read Hank and leave out a few words so I'm just going to warn you about that one. I can't remember what they were. I don't remember being scandalized by anything. But...

Sarah: I've heard the audio books are pretty well done and they're read by the author, right? And we've had some request to have him on the show so I might have to send him a note. And there's some guitar play. He's like a singing cowboy kind of, there's guitar playing in there if I remember correctly. So Winnie the Pooh.

Sarah: Oh yes! And they have to be a little bit older to appreciate the humor in there. Don't you think?

Pam: Yes, Winnie the Pooh. I was just about to say Winnie the Pooh gets funnier as you get older. I find it absolutely hilarious.

Sarah: I'll be reading it. We read a few chapters from one of them. I can't remember which volume. That was a couple of months ago. And I kept stopping to laugh. And even my 9-year old would look at me and think why was that funny. But my 13-year old thought it was really funny.

Pam: It's really funny that everybody thinks Winnie the Pooh is a really little kid book. But the humor there is much more mature. I mean maybe mature is not the right word to use. The humor there is you really appreciate it as you get older.

Sarah: Okay well Carole Joy Seid and I can't remember the episode number off the top of my head. But I had Carole Joy Seid on the show a few episodes ago and that's one of the books

that she said every child has got to read. There was three books and Winnie the Pooh was one of them.

Pam: Oh yeah, can believe that. And I can never talk about Winnie the Pooh without the caveat of if you struggle Winnie the Pooh out loud, you're not alone. Get the audio book. Is it Peter Dennis?

Sarah: Yup, Peter Dennis. And you can get that one on Audible. Yeah. Actually, we'll link to that Audible version because Peter Dennis is the person to read the book. I mean he's done such a fantastic job. So yeah...

Pam: So don't worry if you're one of those people who struggles with reading Winnie the Pooh out loud. A lot of us do. And just get the audio book and enjoy it.

So that's all kids Now kids who are from ages 6-8 in the scholastic study said they want to read books about characters who look like them. And so 6-8 year olds and obviously every family's going to be different. You have different cultural things going on to find books that look like your kids, you know characters who look like your kids. But some that might work Beezus and Ramona.

Sarah: Yes. Actually I think I find those books a little bit hard to read aloud but kids love reading that. I love reading that. I love reading them. I just think they're a little hard to read aloud but they're so much fun to read.

Pam: And that's something that's pretty easy to turn over to your average 7 or 8-year old and they can read that one. Fudge and Super Fudge.

Sarah: Of course, yup.

Pam: There's Amber Brown is Not a Crayon.



Sarah: I don't know if I've ever read Amber Brown before. It's a whole series right?

Pam: Yeah, there's a whole series there and that was one that was recommended by Jessica as an easier read for kids that age but very high interest. If you have one of those kind of emerging readers and you're looking for books for them to read where the kid may look like them especially if you've got a boy, Henry and Mudge. Those are some of those simpler books, not like... short, little chapters, larger text kind of thing. Those would be some of the ones that I would give over to my non-confident reader for this summer. And then Jessica also recommended a series of books called Doll Hospital.

Sarah: I don't think I've heard of that, okay.

Pam: And so it's about these dolls that represent different periods of history. And then Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. And you always want to relate mostly to Charlie in that one and not any of the other kids.

Sarah: Although sometimes my children act a little bit more like... I can't remember her name off the top of my head. But I want it now!

Pam: Okay so kids ages 9 through 11 want a mystery or a problem to solve in their books. And so, some things that might appeal to them would be Tuesdays at the Castle and this is also a series of books. And it's about a castle that changes. This was another one recommended by Jessica. I have not read it but I fully stand behind any of her recommendations and it sounds like it's a great series of books. She said they were wonderful. That was one of the books that we recommended in last year's summer reading program. I don't know about you guys but The Green Ember is doing this for me.

Sarah: Oh The Green Ember is a Read Aloud Revival favorite for sure so yes.

Pam: Yeah, and we're getting towards the end of the book where there are a lot of questions being raised. And so I can see some foreshadowing of this mystery that's going on in here and so I'm like not wanting to put it down.

Sarah: And the prequel to The Green Ember is coming out this summer from Story Warren Press. It's called The Black Star of Kingston. And you know at the beginning of The Green Ember, the prologue or the prelude?

Pam: I can't remember.

Sarah: Okay at the beginning, they kind of tease you about the history of what happened before.

Pam: Oh was it with wits and mariner?

Sarah: Yes, exactly. And so The Black Star of Kingston is the story. Now we got the pleasure of pre-reading that one and yeah I know.. I'm doing the neener-neener all over the internet. I got to read it. It's fantastic. So another really good one to add to your summer reading list and it should be... I don't know when this summer it's being released. But I do know that it's coming out this summer. So I'll be announcing it all over the internet when it comes out.

Pam: Awesome. And also speaking of this summer. In the membership site, The Prairie Thief has a mystery or a problem to solve.

Sarah: Okay Melissa Wiley, one of our all-time favorite authors totally love her and The Prairie Thief is such a good book, so much fun. I would say, probably the perfect summer read. I don't know why I would say that but just this seems like a perfect summer read. It's light. It's funny. It's easy to read. It's got a mystery element. So



she's going to be doing a live author event inside the Read Aloud Revival membership site on July 26th. We're going to be giving away some of her books and she's going to be live on screen. Kids could be asking her questions about the book. It's going to be so much fun because that book is just a rollicking good time so...

Pam: Yeah, so that's another good one for that age group. Encyclopedia Brown, especially if you have a kid who's that age but maybe their reading skills are lagging a little bit behind. And then another one Jessica recommended was Mandie and the Secret Tunnel.

Sarah: Yeah, my girls loved Mandie.

Pam: And the whole series of books. So that goes back to that get them hook with a series. Ages 12-14 want to read books with characters who are strong, smart, and brave. And so, I think Harry Potter falls in that.

Sarah: Yeah, I do too.

Pam: Because you've got Ron, Hermione, and Harry in there.

Sarah: We're probably scandalizing half of our audience by saying that.

Pam: I know but you know. I really do. I enjoy these books. Jessica recommended, oh she highly recommends this series of books it's called The Chronicles of Prydain by Lord Lloyd Alexander.

Sarah: Yeah, that's been on my to-read pile for a while,. I have not gotten to it. But I keep hearing about it.

Pam: And so I think I'm going to have a read to it because she keeps talking about it. King Arthur. Some of the King Arthur tales. Anne of Green Gables.

Sarah: Of course. Yes.

Pam: Gary Paulsen books, you know Hatchet and the other ones in that genre.

Sarah: Yeah I think there's a whole series. Tucket? Does it sound right? Anyway, we're going to be linking to all these in the show notes but he's got some great ones.

Pam: Red Wall

Sarah: Oh yeah. And okay, we've been getting this all. In fact, I think my Audible subscription, I think that's almost always bought with our credits. I keep having to buy more credits from Audible in order to fuel the Red Wall hunger in our home. But my son's been listening to these on Audible and they're really well done. The narrative is really well-done. The narration I mean is really well-done. And he just loves them, listens to them for hours.

Pam: We've got a teen. One of the teens in our coop here and he's just all about Red Wall right now. He's been devouring those books and so his mom said that was not really... 13-year old boy. Shout out to Ethan and Michelle. And his mom said, that's just really the Red Wall books is really what broke him for you to turned him on to reading and he's just been devouring one after the other. So right in that age group. Perfect. And for girls in that age group, we think of smart, strong and brave. Think about Little Women because those girls were exactly that.

Sarah: And all of the books really in that series, my daughter, my 13-year old's reading Good Wives right now. Just the whole series.

Pam: Jo's Boys, I mean I can remember reading that at about that age. So alright and then ages 15 to 17, they would like to forget about real life for a while. That's what they would like too. And



so Jessica has suggested one called Enchantress from the Stars. That's one of her books that she highly recommends. She says it's science fiction but it's not. It's for people who don't necessarily like science fiction. Ender's Game. That's another one. That's one that I recommend for older kids. Lord of the Rings, the entire trilogy, there's nothing that's going to make you forget about real life like Hobbits and Mount Doom. Pride and Prejudice if you want to go on a different direction. I know whenever I like to forget about real life, I go on to movies so the book would work out great too.

Sarah: I haven't read that. I think I may have admitted that on air before. I haven't read it. I'm totally reading it this summer because I have been so informed that my life is not complete because I have not read Pride and Prejudice. So...

Pam: I love Pride and Prejudice. Now I'm going to scandalize a few more people. I have read the book and I do need to read it again because I think I would appreciate it more now than I did the first time I read it. But Jane Austen to me is so dialogue-dense. It's almost like reading the Shakespeare play instead of watching it. And so I really love to watch Pride and Prejudice. If you've never watched the movie, I would say watch the movie first and then read the book. She's just got a lot of dialogue in there and interaction between the characters, I mean that's what makes the book. There's not action. It's characters and interaction. So even if you're going to have your 15-17 year old read it, have them watch the movie first. And then let them read it. I know I probably scandalized a bunch of people but there you go.

Sarah: So I want to throw a couple into this category because I don't know if you've read

anything by Elizabeth Marie Pope? She wrote The Sherwood Ring, The Perilous Gard. And Melissa Wiley is the one who recommended these years ago. I read them, loved them. And maybe a little bit lighter to read than Prejudice. They'd be easier to read. They don't need to be 15 to read those books but they're magical. They're page-turners. They're really good.

Pam: And you know who I just thought of? Regina Doman.

Sarah: Oh gosh! I got to meet her. Did I tell you that? I got to meet her in Cincinnati in April and she was just as wonderfully wonderful as I expected. I'm a huge fan of all of her fairy tales retold. And some of them need to wait until, like Rapunzel for example, needs definitely for older teens, young adults maybe. But in The Shadow of the Bear and some of the other ones are great for this age range. And we'll definitely link to those. Those would be fantastic.

Pam: Yeah, those were delightful reads and I love the fact that you can go to her website and read her age recommendation.

Sarah: Yeah, me too. Me too.

Pam: So be sure to do that before you just hand them over but definitely forgetting about real life for awhile.

Sarah: Thank you so much for joining me for the show today That was so much fun, it always is, to chat with you, but even more fun to chat with you on air.

Pam: Well, thank you so much for having me. I really had a great time.

Sarah: Very good. Well we'll all see you over at your summer reading program. And talk to you next time.



Now it's time for Let the Kids Speak. This is my favorite part of the podcast where kids tell us about their favorite stories that have been read aloud to them.

Hi my name is Selaney Barnes. I'm 12 years old. I live in Southern California. The book I just finished is called Horse. It's a fantastic book and I highly recommend it. It's about this boy who is trained to survive in this camp called Camp Greenlake. Very well rich and very suspenseful and it's very, very good.

Hello my name is Frial and I'm 9 years old and I live in Milford, New Hampshire. My favorite book is Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink.

Hello! My name is Jasper Klause and I'm from Milford, New Hampshire. And my favorite book is The Enormous Egg by Oliver Butterworth. He has an egg and a dinosaur comes out of it.

My name is Oliver and my favorite book is Thomas.

Hi! I'm Ezra and my favorite book is [distorted].

Hello! I'm Madeline. I'm 10 years old and I live in Franklin, Tennessee. Some of my favorite read alouds are written by Shakespeare. I love the tragedies, the romances, and the comedy. Two of my favorite stories are A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Taming of the Shrew. I love The Taming of the Shrew because Katherina is the cruel, mean sister to Bianca, her fair and beautiful and kind and gentle. But you would never guess that Katherina would be the real heroine the middle and at the end of the story she turns more gentle and a more loving sister. And Bianca turned into a disobedient wife to her new husband Lucentio. And I love Midsummer Night's Dream because there's all this mixed up love and all the lovers are running around trying to find a

true love and it's all Puck's fault. And all the fairies are trying to fix it up and during the end, all are going to find their true love and it ends happily.

Hi! My name is Sofia. I live in Franklin, Tennessee and I'm 8 years old. My favorite book that I've read so far is called Father Brown. I love it because it's full of mystery and often full of tragedy. But Father Brown, he will always right who the criminal is. He is a priest but he always knows the answer to the crime and who committed.

Hi! My name is Caitlin. I like when my mama reads to me some story. Like Brambly Hedge I like it because the...

My name is Mackenzie and I'm 7 years old. I live in Oregon and I like when my mom reads me [distorted] Princess. It's a book about a little princess.. but she is bright and the book turns out to have a happy ending.

My name is Jeremy. I'm 6 years old, almost 7. I live in Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. My favorite read aloud book is Birds in the Bushes, a Story about Margaret Morse Nice. What I like about the book is the birds. I really like birds.

Sarah: Thank you so much kids. That was wonderful and I'm really excited that we've made that a longer segment. So if your kids haven't called in and left a message, you can do that at readaloudrevival.com. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and you'll see how to do it. Very simple. If you're still waiting for your kids to get aired on the show, don't worry, they're coming. We use every submission that's made. And so we just air them in the order that they're received. Don't forget to head to readaloudrevival.com to grab your free guide on the 5 questions you can ask your kids about any



book and open up a good conversation. That's free at readaloudrevival.com. And then make sure you subscribe to our weekly emails while you're there so that we can keep encouraging you over the summer to build your family culture around books. Have a wonderful summer! Thank you so much for listening. We'll be here back at it at the Read Aloud Revival very soon.