

EPISODE **42**

Inspiring Parents in Children's Literature

Guest: Greta Eskridge

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Meet Greta Eskridge



She is the smart and creative woman behind [Ma and Pa Modern](#).

She writes about infusing your homeschool with adventure, lots of good books, and plenty of joy.

She speaks at homeschooling conferences like [Wild and Free](#) and shares more California modern loveliness via [Instagram](#).

In This Episode

Greta shares how she became a reader and the books that have shaped her most as a parent. We often reflect on the character building that books offer our children. But Greta talks about the stories that have changed her, made her cry, and influenced her work as a mother. Plus, Sarah tells a wonderful story from her own childhood about reading all the books!

“It’s valuable to remember that they are children and so these things that seem so simple and so silly to us are a huge deal for them and so if we can put ourselves in their shoes and we can help them of course navigate it and grow but at the same time not diminish their feelings and act as if it's nothing. Like to find that balance is really a hard thing to do but I think that's one of the greatest gifts we can give to our kids.” - Greta Eskridge

The Listening Guide

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

- 1:30 Where you can meet Sarah in person
- 4:00 More about Greta and her family
- 5:40 Art, nature, and reading aloud
- 6:30 Greta's mom
- 7:40 More time to read
- 10:00 Shelving books in 4th grade
- 10:40 Sarah's quest to read all the books in the library
- 12:00 Sharing the love of books with her children
- 14:30 How books have helped Greta become a better mother
- 16:05 Inspiring parents from literature
- 18:00 Being real with our kids
- 19:30 The genius of Ramona
- 22:00 The book-parents Greta wants to be like
- 24:10 The drudgery of the day to day
- 26:10 Nurturing who our children need to become
- 29:00 Children are born persons
- 29:50 Eskridge family favorites
- 32:00 Nurturing yourself through audiobooks
- 33:40 Doing something while you listen
- 34:30 Greta's book club
- 39:40 Book Club Kits to enjoy together
- 42:30 Wild + Free California
- 46:05 Let the Kids Speak

Quotes and Questions

* How to make readers

“My mom is a huge reader and she passed it on to each one of my siblings. All four of us are all big readers and I think that's just something we owe to her. She passed onto each one of us. There's a quote that I really love that says children are made readers on the laps of their parents and that is the story of my mom and her kids. She just gave us that love of reading and it's one of the greatest gifts that she passed on to us.”

Have you signed up for the completely awesome [Read-Aloud Revival Booklist](#)? Go! Do it now! That's a great place to find good books for creating and sustaining your young readers.

* How to make readers

“When I'm feeling like I'm struggling with my parenting, rather than pick up a how-to parenting book, sometimes I would just rather pick up *The Yearling* and look at Penny Baxter and say, okay now I feel refreshed....I would say another book that actually sort of does the flip side, it puts me in their shoes and reminds me of what it's like to be a child, is the *Ramona Quimby* books.”

(Stay tuned RAR fans! In honor of Beverly Cleary's 100th birthday in April, we've got a little something special planned! So now's the time to dust off your copies of *Ramona* and get busy reading. For an extra special treat, try *A Girl from Yamhill*, Cleary's girlhood memoir.)

* Advice from Dahl

“A stodgy parent is no fun at all. What every child wants and deserves is a parent who is sparky.” — Roald Dahl, *Danny the Champion of the World*

* Making space

Greta mentions that the day to day necessities of caring for children and homeschooling can make the best of us stodgy. What are you doing to protect that spark, to make a space for play?

“I think audiobooks are great and I love what you said about to do a coloring book while you listen to books because I'm the same as you like I'm doing the dishes or I'm working out or whatever. I'm doing something else because I feel like I don't have a moment to waste and so I always want to multitask.”

Have you tried Sarah's idea, slowing down enough to really attend to a story on audio with your children? [Here are a few great coloring sheets](#) to get you started—no purchase necessary. Just print one out, borrow the Prismacolors from the kids, and get busy.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [The Yearling](#)
- [Little Women](#)
- [To Kill a Mockingbird](#)
- [Danny the Champion of the World](#)
- [Caddie Woodlawn](#)
- [Understood Betsy](#)
- [Little Britches](#)
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)
- [The Hobbit](#)
- [The Swiss Family Robinson](#)
- [My Side of the Mountain](#)
- [Boxes for Katje](#)

Other links from today's show:

- Let's [grab coffee!](#)
- Am I [speaking](#) near you this year?
- Greta's [blog!](#)
- Greta on [Instagram](#). So good!
- Great's post [Homeschooling 101: Creating a Book Club for Kids](#)

READ-ALLOUD REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Episode 42

- The Wild + Free Conference
- That perfect quote: "A stodgy parent is no fun at all. What every child wants and deserves is a parent who is sparky. ~ Roald Dahl, Danny the Champion of the World
- My Hobbit confession!
- Audio books where the narrators make a BIG difference:
 - The Little House books read by Cherry Jones
 - The Ramona books narrated by Stockard Channing
 - The Lord of the Rings series and The Hobbit narrated by Rob Inglis
 - The Harry Potter series read by Jim Dale
 - A few lovely coloring books for moms: Secret Garden, The Calm Coloring Book, Creative Coloring Inspirations and this one, which is part coloring book, part homeschool organizer and part inspiration!
- Are you as excited about the official RAR Book List as we are? Sign up to get it FREE right here!