

EPISODE **46**

# Assigned Versus Free Reading

Guest: Mystie Winckler

- 2 Meet Mystic Winckler
- 2 In this Episode
- 3 The Listening Guide
- 4-5 Quotes & Questions
- 6-7 Show Notes

## Meet **Mystie Winckler**



Mystie Winckler is the creator of Work the Plan and Simplified Organization: Learning to Love What Must Be Done. She has authored several books including Paperless Home Organization, Habits of Productivity for Moms at Home, and Simplified Dinners.

She writes about classical homeschooling and practical homemaking at Simply Convivial and Simplified Organization and homeschools her five children in Washington.

## In This Episode

Sarah and Mystie talk about the difference between reading because it's an assignment and reading because it's a joy. Mystie shares from her own experience as a child who was homeschooled and how she now uses that experience as she homeschools her own children.

## The Listening Guide

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

- 3:30 A little more about Mystie
- 5:00 How homeschooling is changing
- 7:20 Reading—in and out of school
- 10:20 Making time for free reading
- 11:20 Reverse engineering why kids aren't reading
- 13:30 The ritual trip to the library
- 16:00 Troubleshooting why kids aren't reading
- 20:00 Reading fluff—the elephant in the room
- 23:30 Choosing to read the hard books
- 26:20 A later reader grows up
- 34:00 Light reading
- 37:10 Assigned vs. free reading
- 44:00 Creating a book club atmosphere
- 49:10 Let the kids speak

I don't want reading to be associated with the things you check off so that you can go do what you want to do. I want reading to be in the category of things you want to do. - Mystic Winckler

## Quotes and Questions

### \* Asking questions.

“I’m asking questions so that we can get to that end goal of them just wanting to pick up a book because the book looked interesting because they’re interested in something.”

### \* How can you use curiosity instead of accusation or blame to help you find solutions?

Mystie reverse-engineers a solution to the problem when she notices her children reading less.

### \* Go for the big picture.

“I saw that it was just the pattern of our family and the habits that we learned that just became a way of life and a way of doing things. And so I think those rhythms and those patterns and habits make more difference than how many books are being read or what books are being read and kind of more of those curriculum goals for the year type goals.”

### \* Different kinds of twaddle.

“There’s twaddle that I’m like well that’s just fun, fluffy, junk food reading that’s definitely never anything that would make any book list-type reading. And then there’s twaddle that contains content that I wouldn’t necessarily want my kids to be thinking about all the time or mimicking.”

### \* How have you navigated these waters in your family?

Are there trusted booklists that you draw from? Are you developing that sense that Mystie mentioned in the podcast of knowing that a certain book is going to be alright?

What happens when a child pulls a book off the library shelf that doesn’t meet our standards? How are we encouraging our children to grow in discernment?

### \* Making your home like a book club.

“I can remember my mom saying, ‘you should really try reading this, I think you would like it.’ Or ‘have you seen this book?’

And so then, it’s more like this conversation. Like we’re just both readers and I read this book and I think you would like it too.”

# READ-ALLOUD REVIVAL

## Cheat Sheet Episode 46

In Episode 44 N.D. Wilson talked about the strategies his mom used to help him expand his reading choices. And here at the Read-Aloud Revival we're big on creating a book club atmosphere in your home—moving the conversation around books beyond comprehension questions or even a teacher's lecture. We want to make our kids hungry to talk to us about reading.

The [Quick Start Guides and Book Club Kits](#) give you tools to begin the work.

## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- The Boxcar Children
- The Magic Tree House books
- The Secret Garden
- The Family Under the Bridge
- My Side of the Mountain
- Anne of Green Gables
- Emily of New Moon
- Little Women
- The Disney Fairy books
- The Cupcake Diaries series
- The Hardy Boys books
- Don Quixote
- The Count of Monte Cristo
- The Hound of the Baskervilles
- Mr. Putter and Tabby
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
- The Nancy Drew series
- The Sugar Creek Gang series
- The G.A. Henty books
- Little Bear
- All the Light We Cannot See
- The Pilgrim's Progress

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

- A \*NEW\* read-aloud challenge is coming. Find out more [here!](#)
- Episode 14 with Mystie: [For Parents Who Don't Like Reading Aloud](#)
- Episode 42 with Greta Eskridge: [Inspiring Parents in Children's Literature](#)
- Episode 43 with Daniel Willingham: [Raising Kids Who Read](#)
- Episode 13 with Marie Rippel: [What to do with Your Struggling Reader](#)
- [Series Books that Will Turn Your Struggling Reader into a Voracious Reader](#)
- [The RAR Quickstart Guide to Great Conversations with Your Kids About Books](#)
- [The RAR Booklist](#)

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