

EPISODE **54**

Sharing Experiences Through Stories

Guest: James Daniels

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Meet James Daniels



James is passionate about many things; his family, his church, good food, gardening, and education. More specifically, he's driven to make sense of educational philosophy and share his experience and knowledge with others. He does that as an education consultant and speaker, pulling from his previous work as the Head of the upper school at a private school in Alabama. James Daniels has a Master's Degree in Education, has served as a consultant to more than 35 liberal arts schools and has spoken at national conferences.

In This Episode

Sarah and James talk about the read-aloud that have made the most impact in his own family. He talks about the importance of not just reading for analysis but also for synthesis. James talks about how it's more important to lay a feast of good books instead of simply relying on a booklist.

The Listening Guide

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

- 1:30 Introducing James Daniels
- 3:30 Memorable read-alouds
- 8:00 The power of metaphor
- 12:00 Finding the best books
- 18:20 Reading for understanding vs. analysis
- 22:45 Building empathy through reading
- 25:30 Curriculum as a path
- 30:30 Let the kids speak

In regard to not losing that curiosity and that wonder, as kids see that we're excited and we haven't been jaded and we're doing the hard work and we're anticipating it too, that's contagious. - James Daniels

Quotes and Questions

* **A shared connection.**

“People enter into a trusting relationship by way of sharing experiences.”

A trusting relationship is of course what we all want with our children. And James is saying that sharing stories is a meaningful way to build shared experiences. *How can you prioritize read-aloud time and make space for connection?*

* **The beauty of Owl Moon.**

“One of my favorite books ... is Owl Moon and what I love about the book is it is so well done by way of illustrations and there’s just so much that’s just for writing a feast for a soul is laid before you before you even open the book.”

Owl Moon is such a luscious treasure of a book! Jane Yolen will be on an Author Access event in 2017. Do you read picture books with your children? Sarah says they’re a great way to read aloud because they don’t take a big time commitment!

Picture books are featured in Episodes [36](#), [45](#), and [55](#).

* **It starts with the child.**

“I have certain goals in relation to my child, these students, in terms of skills, ideas, and knowledge, that I want them to leave this year with, what are those?” and then “What books would be most conducive to cultivating those sensibilities, those habits and that understanding this year.”

Have you ever approached curriculum planning with these sorts of questions? How do you think it would affect the path that your child follows?

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Aesop's Fables](#)
- [Frog and Toad](#)
- [Chronicles of Narnia](#)
- [Notes from the Tilt-a-Whirl](#)
- [Death by Living](#)
- [100 Cupboards](#)
- [Harry Potter](#)
- [The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction](#)
- [The Weight of Glory](#)
- [Owl Moon](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR #41: Navigating Fantasy \(A Guide for Christian Parents\), Carolyn Leiloglou](#)
- [RAR #44: Magic and fear in Children's Books, N.D. Wilson](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit ReadAloudRevival.com.