

EPISODE **Bonus** - January 2017

The Best Books Written by Living Authors & Season 10 Announcement

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In This Episode

In this bonus episode Sarah debunks the myth that there aren't any good books being published for kids and that the best books are always the oldest books.

If you're only allowing your kids to read older books or if you have a tendency to feel like their reading older books is more worthwhile than them reading new ones, I would like to challenge that. - Sarah Mackenzie

The Listening Guide

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

- 2:00 Two swings of the pendulum
- 4:00 The other side of the question
- 7:05 Books that are mirrors and windows
- 8:30 Addressing modern issues
- 10:15 Book marketing
- 11:00 Sarah's challenge
- 13:10 The marvels of Andrew Peterson
- 13:30 The wonders of Linda Sue Park
- 14:20 The glory of Jennifer Trafton
- 15:20 The amazing Penderwicks
- 15:45 The miracle of S.D. Smith
- 16:30 The Ashton Place phenomenon
- 17:20 The genius of Kate DiCamillo
- 18:30 The astonishing Avi
- 19:40 The delicious worlds of Natalie Babbitt
- 20:50 The fascinating Patricia MacLachlan
- 21:10 The sensation of Claire Vanderpool
- 22:00 The feats of Lois Lowry
- 23:00 The sensation of Jonathan Auxier
- 25:15 Books are a gateway

Quotes and Questions

* **Mirrors and windows.**

“It is absolutely essential for our children to read books about kids who live in a world that’s similar to their own. Of course, they also need to read books about children who are living in a world very different from their own. This is what Grace Lin meant in her TED Talk when she talked about how children’s books serve as both mirrors and windows.”

You can find Grace Lin’s presentation right here. Are you thoughtfully making space for both kinds of books in your reading lists? C.S. Lewis once said that he read an old book for every new book he read. Could you read a window book for every mirror book?

* **RAR friend Sam Smith.**

S. D. Smith is a Read Aloud Revival favorite author.

You can find Sam’s podcast interview in Episode 21. And he was also an Author Access guest. His office is filled with great rabbit art!

* **The practice of commonplaceing.**

“I started reading Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes and realized I’m going to have to read this book with my commonplace journal right next to me.”

Do you use a commonplace book? Here’s a collection of pins and posts about commonplaceing. It’s a great project to work on while kids are busy with their own school work, but might need you close by. You can mark passages that stand out to you as you read and then copy them into a notebook while your kids do their seat work.

* **Conversations turn into meaningful connections.**

“When we share stories with our kids, especially the best stories we can find, we create an opportunity to have really meaningful conversations with our kids about books, and to transform them and shape them.”

Here’s where you can find the Quickstart Guide to Great Conversations. Conversations—natural, easy, generous conversations—really are a fabulous tool for forging deep connections through the books we are sharing.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Little Women](#)
- [All-of-a-Kind Family](#)
- [Cheaper by the Dozen](#)
- [The Wingfeather Saga](#)
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)
- [A Single Shard](#)
- [Johnny Tremain](#)
- [The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic](#)
- [The Princess and the Goblin](#)
- [Five Children and It](#)
- [The Penderwicks](#)
- [The Railway Children](#)
- [Goneaway Lake](#)
- [The Green Ember](#)
- [Ember Falls](#)
- [The Black Star of Kingston](#)
- [The Incurable Children of Ashton Place](#)
- [Mary Poppins](#)
- [Mercy Watson](#)
- [Because of Winn Dixie](#)
- [Poppy](#)
- [The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#)

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Bonus Episode - **January 2017**

- [Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH](#)
- [Tuck Everlasting](#)
- [The Search for Delicious](#)
- [Sarah, Plain and Tall](#)
- [Navigating Early](#)
- [Moon Over Manifest](#)
- [The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#)
- [Number the Stars](#)
- [The Giver](#)
- [Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes](#)
- [Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard](#)
- [100 Cupboards](#)
- [Death by Living](#)
- [Notes From the Tilt-A-Whirl](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [Grab our booklist!](#)
- [Get our picture book recommendations.](#)
- [RAR #21: Finding Allies in Imagination, with S.D. Smith](#)
- [Avi Author Access Event](#)
- [RAR #56: What's at Stake and Why Stories Matter, with Jonathan Auxier](#)
- [Tuck Everlasting movie](#)
- [RAR #44: Magic and Fear in Children's Books, with N.D. Wilson](#)

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