

EPISODE **58**

History, Heroes and Henty

Guest: Jim Hodges

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Meet Jim Hodges



Jim is a performer who is recording unabridged audiobooks for all 122 G.A. Henty novels. He also homeschooled his own children!

You can find out more about his growing collection of audio resources at his website, jimhodgesaudiobooks.com.

In This Episode

Sarah and Jim talk extensively about his recordings of G.A. Henty books—how he prepares, how long it takes to record, how he views his role as a reader and performer. Jim also describes about his recording work for younger children and other historical works. Jim shares tips from his own years as a homeschooling father and grandfather for reading aloud (let kids do something with their hands) and narration (keep it simple).

The Listening Guide

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

- 2:40 A little about Jim
- 3:45 Who is G.A. Henty?
- 7:15 Researching accents
- 8:27 How long does it take to record a novel?
- 9:50 A reading by Jim Hodges
- 11:30 The hardest part
- 14:30 The right age for a Henty
- 17:00 Books for younger kids
- 21:20 Jim's favorite book to record
- 24:00 Reading with your ears
- 30:30 Reading to kids who can read on their own
- 35:00 Let the Kids Speak

A lot of times kids need to be tactile. We would often let them color or play Legos or something while we were reading to them because God did not make children to sit with their hands folded on their lap. It's just not natural for a lot of kids. - Jim Hodges

Quotes and Questions

* Reading with your ears.

“If you’re hearing an unabridged recording and you listen to every word, for all intents and purposes, at the end of that you have read that book. There’s no reason, because it came in through your ears, that it’s any different than coming in through your eyes.”

Are you still not really counting audiobooks? Maybe because it feels too easy?

Jim Hodges adds his voice to those who say that the most important thing is getting rich language and nourishing stories into our kids. You can listen to Andrew Pudewa from [Episode 1](#) of the RAR Podcast if you need more convincing.

* Reading and listening for better understanding.

“I was reading Twelfth Night myself, and I enjoyed it but then one of the ladies in our group said, ‘You know, you should try listening to the audio while you’re reading.’ And so I did exactly what you said, and I was reading the play in front of me at the same time I was listening to it and it took on a whole other meaning.”

[You can get in on all the Mama Book Club goodness right here!](#) There are links to the audio edition that Sarah mentions using as well as our discussions in the Forum and a final live event with Ken Ludwig that will not disappoint.

* Simple narration.

“[Reading aloud] was just an enjoyable thing that we did at night before they went to bed, and what I would do, is I would sit down and I would say, ‘Where are we? What’s happening in the story?’ I wouldn’t pick up until they had brought me up to speed on the storyline.”

What a quick and painless approach to narration! Honestly, we can over-think these things. Sometimes, the best solution is the one that’s most simple.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Mary Poppins](#)
- [The Hardy Boys series](#)
- [The Complete Works of G.A. Henty](#)
- [Twelfth Night \(Folger\)](#)
- [Officer Jack](#)
- [Uncle Rocky - Fireman](#)
- [David Copperfield on audio](#)
- [Kidnapped](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [Jim's site](#)
- [The Lion of St. Mark](#)
- [Stories of the Pilgrims](#)
- [Four Great Americans](#)
- [American History Stories](#)
- [Uncle Wiggily Stories](#)
- [Uncle Rocky - Fireman](#)
- [Peter of New Amsterdam](#)
- [Richard of Jamestown](#)
- [Beric the Briton](#)
- [RAR #01: Reading Aloud to Older Kids, Andrew Pudewa](#)
- [Treasure Island](#)
- [RAR Twelfth Night Book Club](#)

READ-ALLOUD REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Episode **58**

- [RAR #49: Why We Should All Be Reading Aloud to Children, Rebecca Bellingham](#)
- [Rebecca's Tedx Talk](#)
- [Sarah's travel schedule](#)

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