



RAR #58: History, Heroes and Henty with Jim Hodges

You're listening to the Read Aloud Revival podcast. This is the podcast that helps you make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books.

Sarah: Well, Jim, welcome to the Read Aloud Revival. We're thrilled to have you here.

Jim: Thank you.

2:40 A little about Jim

Sarah: Before we get started, do you want to tell us a little bit about yourself and what you do?

Jim: I record books. I take classic literature and books that I have found that I really either enjoyed myself or have thought others would and I do a complete word-for-word unabridged recording. I act out the parts to the best of my ability. And the thing that I love about this business, number one, I'm an actor at heart, I love to perform, so for me to take a book and read it out loud and figure out what the personalities are of all of the different characters and bring that to life through an audio is just really fun for me. I love going to work.

3:45 Who is G.A. Henty?

Sarah: Jim, introduce our audience to Henty for anyone who may not know who he is. Who is G. A. Henty and why do you read so many of his works?

Jim: I chose Henty as an author not because I was personally so enamored of him, in fact, I had never heard of him when I told my friends, and we homeschooled our kids all the way through high school, we had a lot of homeschooling

families and friends in our church and we'd hang out with them and they knew I wanted to start an audio book business and I was getting ready to retire from the Navy and I said, "Who should I record? What should I record?" and family after family said you should record the Henty novels. And, I bought a couple of them from a friend who was a dealer of the books at the time and I read *With Lee and Virginia*, I read *In Freedom's Cause*, I read *For The Temple* and they were adventurous, they were historical, fiction but historically accurate. The hero characters were young men of sterling and noble character. They were Christian but they weren't trying to convert anybody, it was just part and parcel of the story, and so I went back to Ruby Reeves, the woman that I had bought the books from, and I said, "Are all of his books like this?" and she said, "They're all like that." I said, "How many did he write?" and she said "122." I said, "OK, I think I found my author" ...

Sarah: I think I know what I'm going to do with the next several years of my life.

Jim: The next couple of decades of my life. And, really, for me the primary reason was because of the character role modeling that goes on. Kids love a hero and these heroes, they're Christian heroes, they don't wear their faith on their sleeve but it is so part and parcel of them that it influences every decision that they make and every action that they take, and I love history, I love theatre, I love to read, and so all of this was just a perfect package for me and Henty fit that bill in a big, big way, and I think I'm working on title number 27 now, so when I finish the book I'm currently working on I'll only have 95 to go.

Sarah: I hope you have a big chart hanging up on your wall.



7:15 Researching accents

Jim: Oh my gosh, it's mind boggling to me. I consider myself fortunate if I can get two Henty's done in a year. Now, remember, I'm recording other stuff too, I'm doing the homeschool convention circuit and so a Henty will take about two weeks to a month to prepare; I'm reading the book, I'm making a list of all of the city names, people names, unusual vocabulary words that he's using, and I have to research online as much as I can 'how do you correctly pronounce this?' 'how would a local person pronounce [this]?' and so, fortunately, last year, I knew that I was going to be recording *The Lion of St Mark* which takes place in Venice. I also knew that my wife and I were celebrating our 35th anniversary and that was one of the places we were going to go on a trip, so I took my pronunciation guide with me and I found a shopkeeper who spoke English, and I said, "Would you read these out loud to me like a Venetian would read them?" and he said, "Sure." And this was four and a half pages of words. But I got a local to pronounce them so that I could draw up a pronunciation guide so I could, as much as I was able not being a native Venetian, pronounce these names like a Venetian would and I got to write off a portion of the trip because, you know, it was a business trip.

Sarah: Perfect! Of course it was.

Jim: If I could go to every country that I was recording a story about that would be perfect for me, and I would do exactly that. I haven't been able to do that but I've got French accents, British accents, German accents, Irish accents.

Sarah: I have to say that's an art because I am not very great with accents but I do like a killer *Mary Poppins*, a really great British accent, but no matter what book we're reading I always

sound British when I try to use an accent. It's an art to be able to do those little nuances.

Jim: It's funny to me because I don't feel like I do as good a job as I would like to be able to do but it seems like the people that listen think I do a fine job. So I'm happy with that.

8:27 How long does it take to record a novel?

Sarah: Exactly, that's perfect. So, you said it takes about six months to a Henty, right?

Jim: No, no, it takes almost a month of prep time ...

Sarah: Got it.

Jim: ... and I only record one chapter a day. And the reason I do that is because when you're doing half a dozen different voices in the same chapter, and we're talking men and women, young and old, brothers that kind of sound alike but they can't be identical, older gentlemen, etc., etc. work a day guys and nobles, that puts a strain on your vocal chords. So, one chapter of a Henty, by the time I'm finished recording is about 45 minutes long. Well, I want to make sure that I am fresh for every chapter. I want every time I say "Chapter six... Chapter seven... Chapter eight..." I want to sound in that chapter like I did on the first chapter and on chapter 25 like I did on chapter three, so I only record one chapter a day. Well, they're typically 20, 22, 23 chapters long so that's a six day work week for a month. And then I have to go back and re-record sentences that I messed up and insert those in and so that's two months now I've spent on this book, and then there's another month of finding the proper cover, working with the publisher to actually design the cover and get him the chapters, tracks, and



times, and all of that kind of stuff, and to give them time to produce it, and then get it back to me.

9:50 A reading by Jim Hodges

Sarah: I am totally going to spring this on you, I didn't ask you this ahead of time, but would you do a reading for us? Would you read a few paragraphs or something for us?

Jim: Sure, I can do that. "There was little sleep for the boys that night. A visit to London had long been one of their wildest ambitions, and they could scarcely believe that thus suddenly and without preparation it was about to take place. Their father had some time before promised that he would someday make request to one or other of the young Veres to allow them to ride to London in his suite, but the present seemed to them an even more delightful plan. There would be the pleasure of the voyage, and moreover it would be much more lively for them to be able to see London under the charge of John Lirriper than to be subject to the ceremonial and restraint that would be enforced in the household of the Veres. They were, then, at the appointed place a full hour before the time named, with wallets containing their clothes, and a basket of provisions that their mother had prepared for them. Having stowed these away in a little cabin, they walked up and down impatiently until Master Lirriper himself appeared."

Sarah: You know what, it's fun because I get to watch you read that, and it's fun to watch your body language like you're just feeling it.

Jim: I feel like I'm an Italian when I'm reading, but I actually had my arms crossed which is not typical, I usually just kind of leave them free but maybe I was feeling a little intimidated ...

Sarah: Oops, I was staring at you.

Jim: ... there at the end.

Sarah: Sorry. I'm a nice audience, I promise.

11:30 The hardest part

Tell me, what's the hardest part about reading aloud something like that?

Jim: There are certain words that I run across that are common everyday words but somehow, because of the order in which the author puts them, they don't come off the tongue easily. The most times that I have had to read a sentence before I got it right was seven times, because if you don't put the pause in the right place, if you don't emphasize the right word, if you don't put with your voice parentheses around a sub-portion of that sentence, by the time you're finished with it it may or may not make sense. There has to be the right pause and emphasis and asides and so, I consider my primary responsibility not to read the words to you. You can get a Kindle to do that. My job is to ensure that I read every word that the author wrote, I interpret it in the way that he intended, and you come away from that sentence with information in your head, not just words. You have to understand the idea of what he was trying to get across in that sentence; that is my primary responsibility. And to do it clearly, and to pronounce the words correctly, and read it with the right lilt and pause and emphasis so that it is engaging for your brain. The funny thing is, I am not, personally, an auditory learner. If I put on an audio book my brain wanders. I'm a reader.

13:00 Reading or listening

Sarah: OK, yeah.



Jim: But I am an actor, I'm a performer. So, I'm taking that word and bringing it to life. And I just can't believe that I get to do this. I just can't believe that this is my job.

Sarah: Well, I am an auditory learner ...

Jim: Perfect.

Sarah: ... I find that I read a lot of books but I listen to a lot of books too, especially, probably in part, I have become even more voracious in my auditory learning as a mother because I have lots of things to do like laundry ...

Jim: Sure, sure.

Sarah: ... which I can listen to a lot more books if I'm listening. But the way you read and when a reader gets, exactly like you said, the lilt and the cadence just right, it really makes the story come alive for me, it makes it so much easier for me to listen and enjoy it, rather than listen and feel like I have to ...

Jim: Follow and understand what it is that's happening.

Sarah: Yeah, exactly.

Jim: And you have to be able to picture this in your head. You have to be able to understand what's going through the mind of the characters and what's going through the mind of the author, and every now and then, it's really interesting, very rarely, maybe three or four times in all 27 of these books that I've record, or 25, Henty actually steps out of the story and tells you his opinion about something and then he comes back into the story. It's really interesting. I love it when he does it because it's always something neat and unusual for an author to do but he only does it when he thinks it's a really important thing to say. So, I don't know, I just love doing this. And, you

know, my goal as much as I can because the author's dead, he died in 1902, so I can't ask him what he meant by [this] but as much as I'm able to take his words and say them in the way that I think he heard them in his head when he was writing them.

14:30 The right age for a Henty

Sarah: Yeah, that's good. OK, so you said something earlier too, you said that you want to make sure you read every word. So, your books are always unabridged is that right?

Jim: Correct.

Sarah: And then, what ages do you think the G. A. Henty books are especially good for?

Jim: I think that 10 and older, 10 and up to adulthood. I think your average 10 year old can listen to a Henty, unabridged and enjoy it and gain information out of it and learn things and it will be beneficial. I have customers who have told me that they've got 6 year olds and 7 year olds and 8 year olds who love to listen to my recordings of the Henty novels. And they're learning vocabulary, for sure. They're learning how you change your voice and do the pause and emphasis and cadence and all of that to convey in motion and intent but I just can't see that there's too many 6 or 7 year olds who are really getting the story of a 10 ½ to 13 hour long book, it just doesn't seem likely to me. So I'm assuming they like the sound of my voice, more than anything, but 10 and up, 9 and up, 8 and up, I think is quite possible and quite reasonable. 10 and up for sure.

Sarah: OK.

Jim: The books themselves I would not typically hand them to a child who is any younger than 12



or 13 though. You can listen to things that are above your ability to ...

Sarah: Which is part of the benefit there.

Jim: Exactly.

Sarah: I was just going to say that the beautiful language that is read aloud by someone with a pleasant voice and the ability to read it well is, I know my little children will listen to things they don't understand (that I'm listening to with the older kids, for example) just because it's so enjoyable, I think, for them to hear it.

Jim: Yeah. I love the fact that I've also recorded a number of books that are appropriate for younger children, eight or 10 of them, and I've given them all to my daughter and her family. She has four kids now and every time I get in her van and she turns it on, I'm reading.

Sarah: Grandpa's reading to the kids. That's so good. I love it.

Jim: It's awesome. I love it. I just love it. And that was another reason that I'm so particular about who I record and what I record.

17:00 Books for younger kids

Sarah: You said there are several books of yours that are appropriate for younger children. Maybe, could you give us some of the titles so our listeners know? And, by the way, if you're listening to this, and you're thinking "Ah, I need to jot these down" we'll have them all for you in the Show Notes, so head to ReadAloudRevival.com and look for the episode with Jim Hodges and you'll be able to grab links to all of those. But Jim, why don't you tell us some of those books?

Jim: I have one that I sell every November and it's called, Stories of the Pilgrims and it's by

Margaret Humphries. It's actually a pretty popular title in homeschooling and just Christian schools, elementary schools, where she tells the story of the Pilgrims from the children's point of view, from William Brewster's kid's viewpoint. It's a perennial favorite, one of my best all time download sales. I've got Four Great Americans, I've got American History Stories which was really a series of four textbooks that were used in early elementary grades for American History, and there are 200 very short stories with kids as heroes and you're introduced to all the famous characters from American history. I did just record, and I don't think they're even on my children's page website yet, Uncle Wiggly Stories...

Sarah: Oh, I love those!

Jim: They're fantastic. I was at my daughter's house and she said, "Hey Papa, can you read to the boys?" and I said, "Yeah, sure, what do you got?" and so we pulled Uncle Wiggly off the shelf and I read three or four of them and it was like, "Oh my gosh, these are so entertaining. These are so fun." Great, moral stories but its animals that talk, you know. So I got one of those done, a gentleman approached me at a homeschool convention this year, he wrote a series of books about Firemen, it's called Uncle Rocky, Fireman...

Sarah: Oh, I've seen that. I have that on my shelf. They sent me one.

Jim: Are you kidding me?

Sarah: My boys, my little boys love flipping through that book. And we also have ... there's a policeman ... I can't remember the name.

Jim: There doesn't have enough in the policeman series, James Burd Brewster is the author's name, and he came to me at the CHAC



convention last year and we talked, and I said, “Dude, I would love to record these for you. These are fantastic.” So, there’s 24 of the fireman stories, there are only four of them that are in book form, but I’ve recorded all 24 of them and as he is able, he’s going to be publishing the rest of them. So that’s available.

Sarah: I’m looking at his website now, and we’ll make sure we put a link to this in the Show Notes because ... yes, Officer Jack is the policeman set.

Jim: Officer Jack, right.

Sarah: Uncle Rocky is the fireman. They sent me a few of these and before I even had a chance to look at them I had just set them down on the table and started doing something, probably making dinner or something, my two 3 year old boys were you could not take the books out of their hands after because they’re really well illustrated too.

Jim: Oh yeah, the illustrator is really good. I’m hopeful that he, unlike many other children’s book authors is able to retain that illustrator because you want the same look all the way through and so many people, the illustrator’s around for a few years and they say they want to move onto something else and now you got different ... anyway ... I hope he can hold onto the illustrator because those books, they’re so honoring of the profession and they’re not overtly Christian but all of the characters are obviously God-fearing people, every episode ends with “Glad to do it!” They’re really nice. So I’ve got a number of children’s books that I just issued. There are 19th century editions of Peter of New Amsterdam and Richard of Jamestown and these are stories of early American settlements through the eyes of young people. And I’m a big

American history guy so those are really good books, too. You learn a lot more that ... you know ... New York used to be New Amsterdam. Well, why did it used to be New Amsterdam, why is it New York now, who settled New Amsterdam? They bought Staten Island from the Indians for \$24; all of those stories are contained in these books as well. So there’s quite a bit of, quite elementary level recordings that are available also. I think I’ve got close to 50 now.

21:20 Jim’s favorite book to record

Sarah: What’s been your favorite book to record now, out of all of them? Can you pick a favorite?

Jim: I think it would have to be Beric the Britain. It’s a story of Britain (obviously), Monica and I and our kids were fortunate enough to have gone to London and Bath in England for just a couple of days many years ago. It was part of a longer trip, but we were at The Tower of London and we were in Bath and some of the buildings had date markers on them. And one of the date markers was 60. Six zero.

Sarah: Wow.

Jim: The Romans were there and had put baths, hot baths, together that natural springs coming up, so they hued a bunch of rocks and buildings and made pools. That was in Bath. So, it just blew my mind that they had been in England that long ago. Well, that’s the time period that Beric, the Britain is set in. And it takes place in Londonium and the native tribes rise up in rebellion against their Roman overlords and they are crushed and they are crushed mercilessly. And Beric is taken captive as a slave, and this is what Rome did. And this is, kind of, how you learn history. Rome conquers you, they rule you



for awhile, you rise up in rebellion, we crush you, you have to pay tribute, we take some of your young men and we train them in our way, and then if you keep giving us a hard time, we'll take more of them and make them as slaves. And so that's what they did. And so Beric is taken as a slave to Rome. While he is there he meets a family of Christians. He's trained as a gladiator. He goes as part of his training to the Coliseum to see what his job's going to be, go out there and fight and kill people, and he sees one of his friends, this young girl being taken out. And they're going to let the lions loose on them. So he jumps into the ring and he goes up to Niro and he says, "That girl is no threat to your empire. I'll fight the lion." And so he ties the lion up and saves the life of the young girl. It's just this great, great scene of somebody who's just willing to lay it all on the line for their friend. And he's not a Christian but he becomes one at the end of the book. I consider it ante magnum opus; it is not the longest recording but only by four minutes shy, the longest recording of the Henty novel. It was 399 pages.

Sarah: Wow, wow.

Jim: Took forever to get done but it's a great, great book. It really is. It's a great book. So that was probably my favorite.

Sarah: I haven't heard that one so I will have to add that one to our list.

24:00 Reading with your ears

So I have read that you've described listening to audio books as reading with your ears, which I love that because sometimes I think that as parents and teachers we have this tendency to think that listening to audio books is like cheating, it's not like real reading if they're not

reading for themselves. Which Andrew Pudewa from the Institute for Excellence in Writing debunked in episode 1 of Read Aloud Revival, so if you haven't heard that one, you want to go back and listen to it.

Jim: Really?

Sarah: So, tell me more about what you love about this concept of reading with your ears.

Jim: 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.

Sarah: Sometimes better, even. I know that with my son, who was a late reader, when he would encounter words that he didn't know how to read right away, he'd skip over them, like we do as grownups do, when we're reading something that we don't know how to pronounce, a lot of times

...

Jim: I don't do that. I've read so much and so much from different languages, not that I can read different languages, but since I've read so many Henty's I've been forced to be exposed to so many words from different cultures that I immediately try to figure out OK, what's the etymology of this word? Who's saying it? Where are we? How do I think a native would? And then I'll look it up because I'm a words guy. So, anyway, I didn't mean to interrupt you ...

Sarah: Oh no, no. I interrupted you actually. But yeah, I was going to say, when he's listening to an audio book and someone's reading it to him, he gets everything in the book. You can't skim an audio book.



Jim: I tell parents all the time, “If you can, have your kids follow along in the text,” because that will force them, it’s almost like grabbing them and pulling them up to a higher reading level because I’m doing all the heavy lifting. All they have to do is track. So, you know, you teach any skill, having someone with you while you do it, and then you hold their hands while you do it together, and then you let them go and do it on their own. So when a kid is 2 or 3, we’re reading to them, and then when they get to that age, you slow down and you put your finger across and you go “th-e c-a-t” and you start doing that. Well, what’s the difference between that and having the text of a Henty in front of you or Treasure Island which I’ve also recorded or those types of things and have them hear somebody else read it as they’re following along. It’s the same thing. And if they can learn that anybody else is able to take ink on paper and turn it into a lively story then all of a sudden they go, ‘Wow, I can do that in my head’ and all of a sudden a book is not a drudgery, it’s something that can be relished and looked forward to, ‘Oh, where is this book going to take me to today?’ and so that’s a great benefit.

Sarah: There are a couple of times in my adulthood where I’ve listened to audio books and really have completely understood why this is so beneficial. One was recently when I was reading for a Read Aloud Revival book club, a lot of the women in the group read Twelfth Night together, and as I was reading Twelfth Night myself 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.

Jim: Absolutely.

Sarah: I could visualize on the stage, because of course, it was dramatized by this brilliant Shakespearian actors and actresses...

Jim: Oh yeah, that helps.

Sarah: Yeah, it was great. And the other time I really feel recently was beneficial to listen is when I was listening to David Copperfield by Charles Dickens. And I think because maybe the way that they say words or I’m not really sure what it is that made that book come alive but if you’re struggling to make a classic come alive reading it on your own, even as an adult, listening to it while you’re reading especially can be so effective or listening to it while you’re doing the laundry.

Jim: Because the reader didn’t just pick up that thing cold and start reading it. He spent time with it. He already read it half a dozen times. He knows exactly, to the best of his ability, how the author heard it in his head when he was writing. He can figure out, ‘OK, this sentence doesn’t make any sense unless I emphasize this word.’ Or, ‘If I put a comma here and that is critical for – they call it analysis and interpretation of literature, they’re meaning it one way, I’m meaning it how do you read this so that it makes sense to the reader?’ and believe me, there are times when I look at a Henty sentence and I go, ‘I have no idea what you are trying to say here. I don’t get this’ because there is any punctuation, maybe. And so, I have to read it over and over and over and what I do is, and while I’m prepping I’m usually reading the physical book.

Sarah: OK.

Jim: But when I’m recording I have the text on the screen and I’ve got my audio recording software on the other half of the screen, and I can go through that text and I can put in a comma, I can highlight a word and underline it, and that



way I know if I emphasize that word then this sentence makes sense. When you're reading a work cold, you don't have the time necessarily to read that sentence over and over and over and over and over again.

Sarah: That's right.

Jim: But if you're listening while you're reading it and the other guy has done that, then that's what I'm saying, the reader's doing the heavy lifting, he's already done all of that work in his head and hopefully, and ostensibly has a natural or a trained ability to read things out loud in such a way that they're engaging and make sense and all of that, and that's what I do and that's what these guys were doing. They've read David Copperfield, they know the story, they've read this paragraph; they don't just go, "What are we recording today? Oh, Copperfield? OK. Where's the script?" They are not just sitting down cold, they've spend sometime with it and anybody who is wanting to go along with it to interpret that text by having somebody else read it out loud to them.

30:30 Reading to kids who can read on their own

Sarah: I love how you say it's doing the heavy lifting. Rebecca Bellingham was on the Read Aloud Revival. She's done a TedTalk called, Why We Should All Be Reading Aloud to Children, it's really a fantastic Ted Talk. We had her on episode 49 of the podcast so if you haven't heard her yet, you can go to ReadAloudRevival.com and look for episode 49 with Rebecca Bellingham. And one of the things that she said was why reading aloud is beneficial especially for kids who are just learning to read or who have just recently learned to read that's often the time when we stop

reading to kids because now they can read on their own...

Jim: Oh yeah.

Sarah: ...but they can listen at a higher level than they can read and all of that "heavy lifting" exactly like you said, the cadence, how to say something, how to pronounce a hard word, we do all of that hard leg work for them and then they can enjoy the story. And then if we want to grow kids who love stories, we want those early experiences just to be delightful.

Jim: I was reading to my kids long after they knew how to read. It was a nightly routine. Hardy Boys, Kidnapped, you know, just whatever. And the other thing that I loved to do, well, one thing that I love was "One more chapter, one more chapter" because I really didn't want to quit reading. We homeschooled our kids so that was part of our homeschool but it 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, which reinforced the story in them. It made them think about 'OK, I'm not just here to suck up information. If I'm not retaining it then I'm really not sucking information, I'm just listening.' So I made them mentally prepare by telling me back where we were in the storyline what was happening, and then I'd say, "Oh good. Now you know where we are." I didn't have to explain it to them, I made them come up with again and all I'd done is read it to them before, so it's obvious that they're getting the story even though they're not the ones reading. And we're talking middle school, I'm still reading to them because it was an enjoyable activity for both of us. Well, three of them and one of me.



Sarah: I love it when the one who tells you back what happened is the one you weren't really sure was listening.

Jim: That's another amazing thing. I can't tell you the numbers of times moms have told me, "You know, when I'm reading out loud to him, he doesn't even look like he's paying attention." And all I say is, "But..." Exactly! He's over there playing with legos or coloring or climbing on the furniture or something and if I stop reading his head snaps, "What'd you stop reading for?" "Well, you're not paying attention." "Yes, I am."

Sarah: Yeah.

Jim: That's an auditory learner and 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. My grandkids, all of them, if I sit down on the couch it doesn't matter what they're doing, and we had all seven of them together not long ago, it was just heavenly, and I sat down on the couch, and they were all playing in the living room and I started reading out loud, and within 30 seconds all seven of them were lined up on the couch ...

Sarah: So good.

Jim: ... and they wanted to follow along in the book and it's a great bonding experience, too. And it can happen with audio books as well as with books. It just can. Let them do something with their hands. Very often they're paying much better attention if you let them do something with their hands than if you make them sit perfectly still. And this way, you could be folding laundry or something like that, or everybody could be folding laundry or doing dishes, cleaning up in

the kitchen, while they're listening, and everybody gets something good out of that.

Sarah: Well, Jim, this has been wonderful and I knew it would be. I'm excited to introduce you to the Read Aloud Revival community ...

Jim: Thanks.

Sarah: And so I appreciate you coming to talk to me.

35:00 Let the Kids Speak

Now it's time for Let the Kids Speak. This is my favorite part of the podcast where kids tell us about their favorite stories that have been read aloud to them.

Child1: My name is Eric. I'm from San Antonio, Texas. I am 8 years old. My favorite book is Prince Caspian and my favorite part is when they found a lion.

Child2: [Mom: What's your name?] Elias. [Mom: How old are you?] 3. [Mom: What's your favorite book?] Farmer Boy. [Mom: What happened in Farmer Boy?] The pig had a sticky candy on his mouth and he ran. [Mom: The pig was running around with sticky candy in his mouth.]

Child3: [Mom: What's your name?] Emily. [Mom: How old are you?] 5. [Mom: Where are you from?] Texas [Mom: San Antonio.] Texas, San Antonio. [Mom: What's your favorite book?] Mouse and the Motorcycle. [Mom: What do you like about that book?] I like about the book the mouse is riding a motorcycle and he got vacuumed.

Child4: Hi, I'm Calvin. I'm 4 years old. I live in Ohio. [Mom: And what's your favorite book?] ?? [Mom: Why do you like that book?] Because of

Child5: Hi, my name is Sophia. And my favorite book is Betsy Tacy and I like it because they learn



how to fly and they jump off these boxes and they pretend like they're birds. They're best friends and they meet a girl and her name is Tibb and they all became friends, and I'm 6 years old, and I live in Maryland, and my name is Sophia.

Child6: Hi, my name is Duncan. I live in Maryland and I'm 9 years old and I'm in 4th grade. My favorite audio book is The Biggest Bear and I like it because it's a book about bears because I like bears, and it's a really good book about this boy who found a baby bear and he feeds it and takes care of it so it grows up to be the biggest bear, and I really like it because it's so cool and it's adventure and it has this old time where people shoot arrows to get their food and I've done my audio book.

Child7: Hi, my name is Owen. I am 9 years old and I am 4th grade and I live in Maryland. And my favorite book is Encyclopedia Brown. I like him because he's my age, he solves his own mysteries in this town, and his family is just like my family, and he goes in his car with dad and sometimes he solves mysteries about in this brick house in his kitchen or eating dinner.

Child8: Hello, my name is Kayla, I'm 6½ years old. I live in Illinois. My favorite book is Pippy Longstocking. I like it because it's about a funny girl, one funny thing is that she one time sends a letter to herself and another funny thing is that crying makes her happy.

We have the giggles today. That was so much fun. Thank you so much kids, those were wonderful. And hey, if your kids haven't left a message for the Read Aloud Revival to be aired on the show yet, go to ReadAloudRevival.com, scroll to the bottom of the page, and they can leave a message there. It's super easy to do. It's a click of a button. I love hearing from moms and

dads too, books that you've enjoyed, questions that you might want me to answer on air, I'll take them all. Head to ReadAloudRevival.com and leave a message there. I would love to meet you in 2017 and if you're going to be at any of the Great Homeschool Conventions in Fort Worth, Texas, Greenville, South Carolina, Cincinnati, Ohio, or Ontario, California or any of the other cities I'm speaking at in 2017, I would just love to give you a hug and meet you face to face. Head to the website so that you can find out where I'm going to be and when. Head to ReadAloudRevival.com, look for episode 58, and check the Show Notes there. I'll have a link to my speaking calendar so you can find out if I'm going to be coming to a city near you. Now, usually when I'm traveling we do Read Aloud Revival Member Meetups. So if you are a Read Aloud Revival Member, you want to meet other Revivalers in your area and get a little more access to myself at the event, then I would love to meet you at a meetup. They're so much fun. We have coffee, we sit around talk, we talk about books we're reading, and goodness! They are my favorite part of traveling. So, if you're a Member, make sure you check the Membership. Look on the menu bar under Membership and then Meetups and you will be able to see where we're doing Member Meetups all year long. Membership is going to be opening again soon, so you want to keep your ear to the ground on that. If you want to find out when we open those doors again, then you want to head to RARMembership.com and throw your email into the page there so you get word when we open. We'll only open the doors for 10 days so you don't want to miss it. OK, I think that's it for today. Hey, you know what? I love it when you join me. Thank you so much for joining me here,

and until next time, go build your family culture around books.