



RAR 60 – Sally Lloyd-Jones

Sally: When you read a story to a child, the way I look at it is you're like planting a seed, and the whole thing about a seed is you can't see it, it's hidden, nothing may happen for a very long time, and it's almost none of your business what's happening with a seed. Your job is to plant it.

Sarah: 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.

The first book that Sally Lloyd-Jones ever read was *The Complete Nonsense* by Edward Lear, and she says she hasn't been the same since. Sally, who so many of us know as the author of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, grew up in Uganda and was raised in East and West Africa. She even attended boarding school. A Brit who came to the U.S. for a few years but ended up staying, she currently resides in Manhattan and says she has the best bosses in the world: children. Her books include the critically acclaimed *How to Be a Baby*, the Christian Book of the Year: *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing*, and the one we all know and love, the Gold Book Award Winning *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, which, by the way, has sold more than 2,000,000 copies and been translated into 30 languages and it turns 10 this year. And my 4 year old Clara was just reading hers this morning. I am so thrilled to have a chance to talk with you, Sally, welcome to the Read Aloud Revival.

Sally: Thank you so much for having me, Sarah.

Sarah: Well, it is a complete pleasure. I am really excited to finally talk to you. I have been following you online and listening to some of the audio I could find from you and reading your articles for

a long time, so it feels like “a moment” here today, for me to get to talk to you.

Sally: Oh, that's so nice. Thank you.

4:00 A little about Sally

Sarah: Do you want to tell us a little bit about yourself and your work before we get started?

Sally: Sure. You did such a great summary that I don't know if I've got anything except, yeah, I'm a Brit who was born in Africa. And I came to America like you said, thinking I was coming for a year, but ended up staying. So my whole life started off as an adventure and I feel like, in many ways, that's the place I always need to be when I'm writing, especially for children. I think that sense of playfulness and wonder is really great to have. And living in New York City you walk out of your front door and there's an adventure waiting to happen at all times. I'm very grateful to live here. I would never have predicted it, but it's a great place to be as a writer.

Sarah: Well, I love what I've heard you say before about writing for children, which is that children's authors need to write up, not down to children. So could we talk a bit about that? What do you mean by that?

4:50 Writing up to children

Sally: Yes, that's one of my passions I feel very strongly about. I think, unfortunately, people underestimate children and it may just be that people are sometimes, I think, a little intimidated by children because they don't quite know how to relate to them. But I think they're just people, they're just little. And they have so much to teach us. Children are so polite, that's the other thing. The thing is, well, you can patronize them and



they'll just be smiling at you but I know that inside they're just bored...

Sarah: That's so true.

Sally: I think the key is if you talk to a child and you get down on their level that means you're on your knees and to me that sums it up. You come to a child with humility because children can teach us so much. We know this; Jesus himself treated children in that way didn't He? He had time for them when everyone else said they weren't important enough and they needed to go away. And Jesus was too busy. That's not at all what was the case; Jesus was never too busy for children, and I think, the feeling I have about writing is when you're writing for children, your job is not to dumb down and make it, sort of, really idiotic so they can understand it, it's the opposite. You're distilling, you're taking the truth and you're taking it down into its essence and putting it in words that young people can understand and hear. And that actually means you've got to work hard. So, I think, sometimes maybe it's laziness. I just think, really, if we believe that children are the way that Jesus looked at children then we should be working doubly as hard as writers for children because the responsibility is so much greater. What an opportunity, and we don't want to miss it. So I feel very strongly about that, that they deserve our best work.

7:00 Why do we read?

Sarah: OK, so that reminds me a lot of something else I've heard you say before, which is this idea that books don't exist to teach children lessons. And I think as adults we have this tendency, especially when it comes to school-life with our kids, whether our kids are

homeschooled or they're in a traditional school, we have this idea that children should read because it teaches them something. So, that's not what you're saying?

Sally: No. No. I think obviously there are books that teach us things and I think, obviously, there's a place for that in school, but if you're telling a story, a story is not a lesson. A story is a story. So, I think I would define it like that- when you're writing a story, if you've got some kind of agenda you're trying to get across and a moral lesson, it may be a very good lecture and it may be a very good lesson, but it's not going to be a good story, because the power of the story is the story and I think we tend to underestimate the power of story. And I think, and I speak for all of us, I speak for myself as well, and adults, we're all more comfortable with rules and programs and points and bullets because we're in control of all of those things, but you're not in control of a story. When you read a story to a child, the way I look at it is you're the one planting a seed and the whole thing about a seed is you can't see it. It's hidden. Nothing may happen for a very long time, and it's almost none of your business what's happening with a seed. Your job is to plant it. And telling a story is planting a seed. It really comes down to two things: do you believe in children and do you believe in stories? Because if you believe in both those things you will be able to give to children fantastically wonderful stories and let God work in them, not you trying to hammer it home and drill it down. When you read a story and you say, "Now children, what that means is ..." you've basically just killed the story.

Sarah: Yeah.

Sally: Now, we all do it and I do it myself and I tell this story on myself because I don't want anyone to think I know everything because I certainly



don't. I once was reading one of the stories from The Jesus Storybook Bible to a Sunday School class. And I'm very good at keeping children out of control but I'm not very good about getting them in control, so I was reading this story, and I panicked. No Sunday School teacher was around and I'd just read the story of Daniel and I just panicked, and I thought, 'What do you do in Sunday School? You have to ask questions and make it a lesson.' So without even thinking, I said, "So, children, what does this mean?" And while I was reading this story a little girl (I have to say this) she was so excited for this story, she was almost in my lap. She couldn't get closer to the story. She was full of wonder...

Sarah: Yeah.

Sally: ... and then I said, "Now children, what can we learn from this story about Daniel, about how God wants us to behave?" And the minute I said that it was like I laid this huge burden on this little girl and broke some kind of spell, and she physically slumped in front of me and hung her head. And I never forgot it because I realized that's exactly what happens to a child when you take a story and you turn it into a sermon.

Sarah: That's right.

10:00 What stories do

So, you wrote a beautiful article (and we'll link to this in the Show Notes, so if you're listening to this podcast and want to read the whole article, it's so wonderfully done) it's called, What Stories Do and in it, Sally, you said, "Stories don't tell the Truth confrontationally. They don't coerce you. They don't argue with you to believe them. They just are. The power of the story isn't in summing it up, drilling it down, or reducing it to an abstract idea. The power of the story isn't in the lesson.

The power of the story is the story. When God sent the prophet Nathan to King David in Second Samuel chapter 12, Nathan didn't confront David with a sermon about his sin but told him a story. David didn't see it coming. The story got by his defenses. And that's the thing a true story does - it doesn't come at you directly and raise a wall of defense. It comes around the side and captures your heart." Oh! I read that and just thought, 'Oh my goodness!' because I know I've heard before that Aesop's Fables they never actually had a moral at the end but at some point somewhere along the line the adults who were reading these and sharing these with children thought that they needed to have a moral spelled out at the end. And I think that's what we do so often. I do it with my kids even when I know better but I love this permission you give us to just share the story with our children and then let the story do it's magic on our child's heart and let God speak to our children through the story. It's such a freeing way to enjoy stories with our kids when we don't feel like everything has to be shaping them in some particular fashion.

Sally: Oh, well said. I think it's a lot of pressure on parents and the adults in the child's life to feel like they have to always be teaching, having a teachable moment. And there are, obviously, those moments but I think a story is the time you don't have to do that. And like you said, you can enjoy it and truthfully, the Bible is a story, and we're not in control of it. We like to focus in on the rules in the Bible because we can get a handle on them but it's a story and we're saved by story and I think stories are so wonderful. I think Eugene Peterson said we're story-shaped, our lives are story-shaped, beginning, middle and end. Everything about a story is so in us and God's done it that way deliberately.



12:20 Writing for children

Sarah: So, let's talk about your writing. Have you always written for children, or what drew you to writing to kids in particular?

Sally: Well, I had no particular plan. I knew I loved writing. You mentioned my first book that I read, *The Complete Nonsense*. Part of what was so wonderful about that book (and I recommend it to everyone, not that many people I've met in America seem to know about it)...

Sarah: I have never heard of it. I can't even believe this.

Sally: It's a really terrible loss. I'm on this one-person mission to get everyone in America to read it.

Sarah: OK, great. We'll put a link in our Show Notes.

Sally: It's so fantastic, and it's completely insane. So I open up this book as a 7 year old and I thought books, going back to that whole idea, were to teach me a lesson and I was a very dreamy child and I didn't always want to be learning a lesson because I felt like I wasn't clever enough, so I open this book and it's a revelation; it's all these silly drawings and funny limericks that he did himself (Edward Lear) who was a genius, of course. And I just didn't know that was allowed inside of a book, I didn't know you were allowed to have so much fun. That's what I think is what changed everything because from then on my poor family and friends, I started writing silly limericks and inflicting them on them and then whenever a child at my boarding school had a birthday I would do cartoons and illustrate them and write them myself and then we would put on plays and I would direct and choreograph and write, I was obviously completely mad, but

when you're a child you think you can do everything which I love about children, they don't limit themselves. So reading Edward Lear I was just having fun. Then I grow up and I study art history, I go to University, do art history, then I think, 'Well, when you've got art history you can either be art gallery person or a publisher,' so I applied to all those things and I get a job in publishing and I end up in the school textbook division. So all of this is seemingly completely random and haphazard but I started Oxford University Press and I'm trained in the school textbook division which was a great training; I had a wonderful boss and Oxford University Press was more like college than a job, but down the corridor was all this laughter coming, and it was coming from the children's picture book department and I then and there decided, this is literally what I thought, I thought, 'Well, I'd love to write them but I'd never be able to because I'm not good enough, I'd love to work on them, I'd love to work in picture books,' so that was my dream. And then I get a job in London and then I see a job advertised in America. And at the same time I see the job advertised in America, which was for a publisher, I was also applying to another job in London that was to work on picture books. So I was convinced that the job in London was going to get me my dream.

Sarah: Yeah, yeah.

Sally: I was still in interviews with them and I didn't get it, I got the one in America. So I came to America thinking, 'Well, I didn't really get that dream, because that would have been the way to even get close to writing picture books, but all these years later, I come to America and it's exactly ... I end up working in publishing, in children's books. I get to know the business. I'm not writing picture books but I'm in this packager



which is like a very crazy paced publishing company. As an editor you had to come up with all the content for these unusual format books. So you'd be told by your boss, "We want a book that can squeak and float, and we're going to have four titles in the series and you have to come up with a story," so that was my job. So through the backdoor I started writing all these texts. I didn't even think I was writing, I just was coming up with all these ideas all the time. So meanwhile I was writing one-act plays and thinking I would be doing that kind of thing and then my nephew was born and suddenly instead of writing these board books for an imaginary child I had a real child and that made all the difference, because suddenly I had Harry sitting in front of me and I thought, "I can't say that, he wouldn't like that." It suddenly made me really honest and I thought, 'How would I say it to him?' So all of these pieces (it's a very long answer) came together and I ended up finding my niche in children's, and I just also believe that I'm still a child inside, so that is part of why it fits so well for me.

16:20 Sally's first book

Sarah: So what was the first picture book that you wrote then?

Sally: So, it was called Handbag Friends which was a wonderful book, shaped like a handbag, 64 pages. It's out of print now but it's probably one of my favorite things I've ever written.

Sarah: Ohhhh!

Sally: Really. It's got a monster, it's got a song. And I adore it. I was just completely free in there to tell a story. It's shaped like a handbag and there are all these little friends, and the inspiration for that came when I was talking to my little

niece, Olivia, and she was about 3 and her brother was 5. And he only wanted to play trench warfare and guns and she didn't really want to play that but she didn't have anyone else to play with so she would go into battle holding this pink handbag and I just thought that's so sweet and I said to her, "What do you keep in your handbag, Olivia?" and she went, "My friends! Of course."

Sarah: Of course!

Sally: What was I thinking? Not lipstick or anything, friends.

Sarah: Friends. Of course.

Sally: So that was my first book. It was fun.

Sarah: That is fun.

17:50 The Jesus Storybook Bible

OK, so The Jesus Storybook Bible has to be the favorite children's Bible of pretty much everybody I know. I'm trying to think- we all love it. My 4 year old has several different children's Bibles and that's always the one she grabs first. It's always the one she wants us to read from.

Sally: Well, she's a very smart girl!

Sarah: She is.

Sally: Very discerning.

Sarah: Tell me what that was like. Was that your idea? Was that a publisher's idea? How did that project come about?

Sally: Well, again, with any book, there are so many different pieces that have to be in place, and the first thing is, I always say all of your life prepares you to do what you're doing, right? So everything about my life fed into that book; the fact that when I was little I knew Jesus as my best friend but I went to a Sunday School where



it was all about the rules and I hated it, so there was this passion in me to have no whiff of morality in that book, and that comes from my childhood. So that was one piece. Another piece was I'd had all this experience working in Christian publishing. When I was working in publishing I got a name for doing Bibles. I was writing them in that job where I was given those weird format books so I'd be told, "We want a Bible with a handle on it, now you've got to just write it because they didn't have money for the writers," so that was another piece. Then I also had a marketing idea that an agent came to me and said, "What about writing an older book?" because I had written lots of younger Bibles, very, very condensed ones, like two lines a story.

Sarah: OK.

Sally: And they came to me and they said, "What about writing for older?" And I was, at that time, at Redeemer where Tim Keller preaches, and he's my pastor here, and every single sermon he preaches always turns back to Jesus and every sermon shows how Jesus is in every story in the Bible especially in the Old Testament as much as the New Testament, so that was another piece. So all these pieces were coming altogether, and the other piece was that I needed the money because I didn't have any income. I'd been laid off in massive cutbacks from the publisher. I had no income. So God had me in this position, and I like to say this, because He will use the most mundane reasons to get you where He needs you to be in order to get you to do what He wants you to do so He presented me with this opportunity. I wasn't really excited, to be honest, because I didn't realize, I know my calling is to all children especially children who have never gone anywhere near a church, so I had no vision at that point because I don't believe I'd got the book yet,

I didn't realize that a Bible could fit into that category. I thought a Bible was just for the church.

Sarah: Yeah, right.

Sally: So I wasn't really excited because that's not my main passion. Obviously I'm passionate to reach people in the church but I feel that my ultimate main calling is to just reach every child so that was like, "Oh but I need to do it because I need the money" so God got me in that position. I start researching the book and it was probably a before and after moment. One day I would have said to you, "Yeah, I'm going to do a good job, I'll get the money and then I'll move on to the books I really know I'm supposed to be doing. This one's OK. I have to do it," but it felt to me well, it's kind of what I used to be doing and now I'm moving on to picture books. So that was my attitude. But then the next day I would have said, actually something changed, and I now believe it was the Holy Spirit just setting my imagination on fire and that's when I think I got the book. I know I got the book then because everything changed because I suddenly thought, 'Wait a minute, I could give this everything and then it would be amazing.' And from then on, I wasn't doing it for anything other than I loved it and I was passionate and I just thought what would C. S. Lewis do if he had to write a Bible story for children?

Sarah: That's a great ... wow.

Sally: And it suddenly raised the bar way higher and I was in it because my imagination was on fire so it was completely different thing, and I'm just so grateful that God will work with our humanity and He knew I needed money and He was very clever to get me in a position where I really had to do it otherwise, and He knew He



was going to give me the vision of what it could be, but I didn't have it when I started out. So I think it's almost like those disciples when He turns to them and gives them a few, tiny bits of bread and says, "Feed all these 5,000 people," they had to take that bread and turn around and go. I sort of feel like that's what it was. He multiplied it.

Sarah: And multiplied it, He did. Because now you can watch it on video and there's a wonderful audio version and, of course, coming out, by the time this episode airs, it will already be out, a beautiful cloth bound gift edition.

Sally: Absolutely, and it's gorgeous. And the other thing that's coming out, I don't know if you know this, is also a board book for the tiny tots where we've taken the paraphrase of the Lord Is My Shepherd, from The Jesus Storybook Bible and it's in a padded board book version with new illustrations which Jago has done.

Sarah: I didn't know that.

Sally: And it's fantastic.

Sarah: And that's available now?

Sally: February, same time as the other anniversary edition. And it's called Found.

Sarah: Was it a scary task for you to write? I can hear so much joy, like it was play, especially when you said, "What would C. S. Lewis do if he was writing a Bible for children?" which I love it.

Sally: It kind of raises the bar so high.

Sarah: It really does. It might be a little intimidating.

Sally: You know what it almost is like? It's almost like, what would you be proud of giving to someone like that? I mean, if you thought he was going to read it, it really makes you not settle,

and I think that's what changed in that moment. I was going to do a good job because I always wanted to do a good job but suddenly it was more like, 'oh gosh, this could be an amazing challenge,' and sort of like a wonderful puzzle to put it together and then you do it (don't tell the publisher) but I would have done it for free because it's never really about the money in the end.

Sarah: Could you ever have even imagined when you were writing it that it would be translated into more than 30 languages ...

Sally: No.

Sarah: and transforming the lives of ...

Sally: Oh, it's just such an honor. You know, I like to tell this story, and I can't remember exactly when it was but I think it was in the 18th century, in London there was a pastor who was interviewing a young guy who was coming to be part of his parish as a curate or something, and the young guy said in the interview, "You know, I don't think my preaching I could set the Thames on fire," and the older guy said, "I don't want to know if you can set the Thames on fire, what I want to know is if I dangle you in, will it sizzle?" and it's a great story. And I read that and what really spoke to me, and what God spoke to me through that, I think, was our job in our work is to be excellent and be on fire, and for me, with The Jesus Storybook Bible my job was to sizzle. I needed to be on fire. Passionate about what I'm writing. This is true of all writing unless it's something that really moves you it won't move the reader. You can't fool people, it has to come from that place that moves you so that it will have any kind of life, so that to me is my part of what God called me to do. But whether or not the Thames it catches fire is completely up to Him,



so in that sense with The Jesus Storybook Bible He set the Thames on fire, that was His doing. I know I had to sizzle but it could have easily not been that way. And so when I hear these stories it really moves me when I realize 33 languages and the newest language they're working on is Arabic ...

Sarah: Wow.

Sally: ... which I ask everyone to pray for because what an amazing ...

Sarah: Wow.

Sally: These translators are often risking their lives.

Sarah: Yeah, oh, absolutely.

Sally: It's just so fabulous. When I hear stuff like that, it's like, how lucky am I to get to hear that because often we do work we never know the impact, so whenever I hear a story like that I just think that was a gift to know to keep going.

Sarah: Yes, what a gift.

Sally: And also, I think, if I had known any of this I would have been so intimidated I never would have written it.

Sarah: Exactly.

Sally: So that I was another thing that God protects us, we don't have all that knowledge because then we can unselfconsciously do what we're called to do.

Sarah: So good.

What I think is so appealing about this Storybook Bible for children and for the adults who read it with their children is that it completely lacks that condescension that we sometimes feel when we're reading Bible stories.

Sally: Right.

Sarah: I love that also when you talk about "every story whispers His name," it's that whisper's a very important word there because you're talking about how it just whispers to all of us in a different way and reaches our heart and like you said it's like that seed that's planted that we have no business of knowing what it's doing in there, right? We're just supposed to plant it.

Sally: Yes, exactly.

26:30 Sharing faith with children

Sarah: So good. I wonder if there are other suggestions you can give or other thoughts you can share for parents who are looking to help explore their faith with their kids through stories in this way that really respects the child, like you're talking about.

Sally: Well, one of the things I learnt when I went to a wonderful school, it's the Mustard Seed School in Hoboken. I had a friend who was the headmistress and she invited me there and they celebrate imagination, and it was the sort of school I went to as a young girl that really was so good for me. It's not good for every child but for me it was fabulous and so I adore that kind of school where they value writing as much as they value math. I didn't really thrive in school where it was just the measuring of the math and the science and your writing didn't seem to count. Anyway, in this particular school I went to their Prayer in the morning, Assembly I guess and I learnt there something that's really helped me so I'll share it: what's really good is to ask "I wonder" questions. It's not that we don't ask questions of the story but "I wonder" questions are really good. So, for instance, if you're reading the story of the feeding of the 5,000, instead of saying,



“Now children, what does this teach us about how we should share our lunch?” which completely makes the whole story so dull and mundane, you say, “I wonder what would happen if I gave God everything that I had. What would happen if I gave Jesus everything I have? I wonder what Jesus would do with that.” And what that does is, again, you’re back on the level with the child, you’re kneeling with the child, you’re on their level and together you’re wondering at God’s love, because the truth is we don’t come at children from on high, we kneel on their level and together, we wonder at our Heavenly Father’s love, because we’re all children. So I think if you do that with children you’re respecting them and you’ve got a right-size view of them and of yourself before God.

28:30 The best conversations

Sarah: Oh, that’s so beautiful. And what I love especially about that is I feel like the best conversations I have with my kids about books of any kind, stories of any kind, are those where I’m not trying to get them to say a certain answer or trying to direct the conversation but it’s more like we’re allies or we’re just, sort of, on the journey together open-ended questions. I love that so much - I wonder - I’m going to remember that.

Sally: I think also we’re the ones who lose out if we want them to answer a certain way it’s kind of bullying them, isn’t it? We’re bullying them to do what we want, when really, what about this idea, what if we could learn something from them? What if what they say God speaks to us about it? So I think it goes back to humility; if you’re on a child’s level, you’re on your knees and you’re listening to them and they will teach you because a child, especially a younger child, they still have that wide open, like a dog has (and they’re

nothing like dogs) but there’s that thing that gets your heart when you’re with a little child and with a dog; they’re open and they’re trusting and sometimes I think they’re just more available to God and they’ll just say it. We don’t want to miss out on what God might say through our children.

Sarah: And when we violate that, I think we know right away. Just yesterday, just yesterday, my mother-in-law was over and asked my 4 year old what she wanted to be when she grew up and without missing a beat Clara said, “a robot,” and I giggled and she looked at me with these big wide eyes, kind of challenging me, and said, “Why are you laughing?” and I thought immediately, ‘Oh my, whoops!’ So I had to tell her I was thinking of something else that was funny.

Sally: It’s so hard.

Sarah: I know, because it was darling, right?

Sally: The thing is you weren’t mocking her, it’s that thing that children do to us, they just get our hearts, don’t they?

Sarah: Yeah, yeah, exactly. Exactly, they certainly do. Well, we are all so very grateful that you listened to the whisper in your own heart to write this for our children so that we can enjoy the stories, the Bible, with our kids in a fresh way and I would encourage anyone who’s listening to go check out The Jesus Storybook Bible if you haven’t yet. We’ll have links to all of the gazillion different versions in the Show Notes, so all you need to do is go to Read Aloud Revival, look for the newest episode and you’ll find them there. Sally Lloyd-Jones, thank you so, so very much for coming to chat with me today.

Sally: Oh, well, thank you so much for having me. It was a real pleasure.



31:00 Let the Kids Speak

Sarah: 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: Hi, my name is [**] and my favorite book is Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea and my favorite part is chapter two and chapter three. [Mom: And how old are you?] 5. [Mom: And where do you live?] Texas. Bye.

Child2: Hi, my name's Amelia and I live in Texas and I'm 9 years old and my favorite books are The Chronicles of Narnia and I love them because my Dad read them to me and it's fantasy. Bye.

Child3: My name is Claire, I am 5 years old. I live in Tennessee and my favorite book is Trumpet of the Swan and my favorite part is when Serena and Louis fall in love.

Child4: Hi, my name is Carol. I live in Fairfield, Connecticut. I am 9 years old. My favorite book is Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince. I like it because it's scary, interesting, and funny.

Child5: Hello, my name is Patrick. I am 7 years old. I live in Fairfield, Connecticut and my favorite book is Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. I like the part where Harry battles the basilisk.

Child6: My name is Alison [**] Fairchild. I'm from Alabama and I'm 5. And my favorite book is Where the Sidewalk Ends because it has a lot of different poems and it has a unicorn one.

Child7: My name is Noah. I'm 3. I live in Australia. And my favorite book is Hairy Maclary. And I like Hairy Maclary books: Scarface Claw and Zachary Quack.

Child8: My name is Jacob. I'm 6 years old. I live in Australia. My favorite book is The Mission Fox series. I like it because it has snake stories in it and I really like snakes. It's very fun.

Child9: My name is Laurel and I'm 4 years old. And I live in San Antonio, Texas and my favorite book is Frosty the Snowman. Because there's a note on his bench and it says, "another time his friends will come."

Child10: My name is Rylan. I am 7 years old. I live in San Antonio, Texas. My favorite book is Hank the Cow Dog. I like Hank because he is funny. He gets things mixed up a lot.

Thank you so much, kids. Love hearing your messages. If your kids would like to leave a message to be aired on the Read Aloud Revival, just head to ReadAloudRevival.com, scroll to the bottom of the page and you'll see how easy it is to do that. Listen, don't forget to head to the RARshop.com, it's the Read Aloud Revival shop where you can find hand thrown pottery mugs, cozy t-shirts, durable book bags and support the podcast at the same time. We so appreciate it when you do that. And you know what? We so appreciate it when you listen and when you share the podcast with your friends. You are what make the Read Aloud Revival worldwide community so wonderful. We're grateful for you. We'll be back again in two weeks with another show. Until then, go build your family culture around books.