

EPISODE **64**

Helping Resistant Readers Fall in Love with Books

Guest: Laura Martin

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Meet **Laura Martin**



She is the author of The Edge of Extinction series of middle grade novels.

As a former 7th grade language arts teacher, Laura has a passion for finding the perfect book to turn any child into a reader.

She lives in a big blue house with her family and two bulldogs. You can find lesson plans for her books and connect with Laura at her website, lauramartinbooks.com.

In This **Episode**

We get to listen in as Sarah's son Drew and her daughter Allison talk to one of their favorite authors. Then Sarah and Laura talk more about the kind of books that turn kids into readers, matching reluctant readers with the right books, and the special joys and benefits of listening to audiobooks.

The Listening Guide

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

- 4:30 Where the story came from
- 8:40 Learning about Loch Ness
- 11:00 Alison's questions
- 14:00 Teaching middle school
- 16:30 The book that turned Laura into a reader
- 21:00 The someday list
- 25:30 Gateway books
- 28:30 Barriers to reading
- 30:30 Audiobook goodness
- 36:00 Encouraging a love of reading
- 37:00 Writers should listen to books
- 39:30 Let the kids speak

I'm a huge believer in that there's one book out there that will catch a kid and not let him go and it will turn the tide because once they have that experience of like really falling into a book and having it speak to them at a gut-deep level there's no going back. - Laura Martin

Quotes and Questions

* **Laura's genre organization system.**

"If it was a realistic fiction book it had an orange sticker, if it was fantasy it had a blue sticker, if it was science fiction it had a green, and my whole library was color coded so that kids who went, 'You know what, I really like science fiction books' could easily find more."

How are the children's books organized at your local library? And what about at home? Do your kids know how to find what they want? Is there a system for getting the books back on the shelves?

Different solutions—book baskets, coffee table displays, bedside book tables—are going to work in different seasons.

Spend a little time thinking through how to empower your children to find what they need.

* **Keeping a Someday List.**

"Kids would get out their notebooks and I'd have them keep something called *A Someday List*, a book they want to read some day. I said, 'You should always have a list going of this great book that you want to get your hands on so that when you go to the library you have in hand 15-20 books.'"

Do you keep a *Someday List* for all the books that you want to read? Do your children keep one? It can make finding the next favorite book a little easier. And it might turn out to be a really neat record of what was catching their attention.

* **A new approach to sharing books.**

"One of the best ways to do that as a parent is to come from a really authentic place of 'I just read this, I really think it's cool, it has [this] in it, this character reminded me of your uncle,' and those kinds of things will bring a kid in and go, 'OK, I'll read it.'"

Instead of endless lists of books to read and curriculum to finish, what if we approached reading as a joy? What if it was our job to share that joy with our child—trading recommendations, discussing what we were reading over tea?

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Edge of Extinction: The Ark Plan](#)
- [Edge of Extinction: Code Name Flood](#)
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)
- [Fablehaven](#)
- [The Magic Tree House series](#)
- [Don Quixote](#)
- [The Hound of the Baskervilles](#)
- [The Harry Potter series](#)
- [The Cam Jansen series](#)
- [The Giver](#)
- [Tales of the Cryptids](#)
- [The Alfred Kropp series](#)
- [Mr. Tucket](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR #56: What's at Stake and Why Stories Matter, Jonathan Auxier](#)
- [RAR #01: Reading Aloud to Older Kids, Andrew Pudewa](#)
- [Laura's site](#)
- [Laura on Instagram](#)
- [Laura on Twitter](#)
- [FREE Ark Plan teaching materials from Harper Collins](#)
- [The Ark Plan: Edge of Extinction on Audible](#)
- [Visit the RAR shop here](#)

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