

EPISODE **71**

The Research & Inspiration Behind Fascinating Historical Fiction

Guest: Caroline Starr Rose

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Meet Caroline Starr Rose



Caroline Starr Rose writes picture books and middle grade novels, and has written two novels in verse including *May B* and *Blue Birds*.

Her most recent books are *Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine* and *Ride On Will Cody*.

In This Episode

Caroline and Sarah talk about Caroline's two newest books, as well as her research and writing process. Caroline also recommends some novels in verse for younger readers.

The Listening Guide

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

- 3:25 Meet Caroline
- 5:40 Caroline's first picture book
- 7:00 Meet Jasper (One of Sarah's favorite new books!)
- 9:22 'A book about a boy ...'
- 13:40 Researching Jasper
- 18:12 Ride On, Will Cody
- 21:07 What's a book in verse?
- 22:49 How long does it take to write a book?
- 28:02 Introducing novels in verse to our children
- 32:10 Let the Kids Speak

My favorite thing to say about writing is that **writing is never efficient, but no effort is ever wasted.**

- Caroline Starr Rose

Quotes and Questions

* **Legends and puzzles.**

“The third thing that was part of this story is a man here in New Mexico, an eccentric millionaire named Forrest Fenn, around the time I was starting to work with this book, this man had published a poem, a cryptic poem. He claims to have buried hidden treasure somewhere north of Santa Fe ... It’s somewhere north of Santa Fe and somewhere south of the Canadian border, somewhere in the Rocky Mountains and his treasure box has gold, it has gems, I mean, it’s like something from a storybook.”

Are there any legends or puzzles like this where you live? Sharing a real-life adventure with your kids can spur all kinds of writing! Even letterboxing or just pursuing interesting local history together could give your kids lots of ideas for their next writing project!

* **The value of research.**

“I typically take six months before I do any writing researching.”

Do your young writers get tripped up by this part of the process? How can you encourage them to research topics they are interested in?

* **What’s a novel in verse?**

“When we say a book written in verse that’s a book written in poetry. Rhyming verse, of course, are poems that rhyme, and then Caroline Starr Rose’s historical middle grade novels *May B* and *Bluebirds* are both novels written in verse but they’re non-rhyming.”

* **How to read poetry.**

“Poetry should be seen and heard and ideally, seen, heard, and spoken.”

Even young kids can follow along as you point out each word on a page! Let your kids sit with you while you read a novel in verse for young children like *Gone Fishing*.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [May B](#)
- [Blue Birds](#)
- [Over in the Wetlands](#)
- [Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine](#)
- [Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#)
- [Ride On, Will Cody](#)
- [Gone Fishing](#)
- [Love That Dog](#)
- [Little Dog, Lost](#)
- [Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie](#)
- [The Crossover](#)
- [Brown Girl Dreaming](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR Premium Membership - Get on the waiting list now](#)
- [RAR #15 Poetry Read-Alouds for Parents Who Are Intimidated by Poetry \(Caroline's previous episode!\)](#)
- [To Build a Fire by Jack London](#)
- [More about Forrest Fenn's Riddle](#)
- [Book darts!](#)
- [Caroline's site](#)

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