

EPISODE **77**

What the Scholastic Reading Report Means for You

Guest: Andrea Pinkney

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Meet Andrea Pinkney



Andrea David Pinkney is Vice President and Editor at Large at Scholastic, and the best-selling and award-winning author of books like *Sit-In*, *Let it Shine*, *Bird in a Box*, and a special favorite here at the Read Aloud Revival, *A Poem for Peter*.

In This Episode

Andrea and Sarah talk about The Kids & Family Reading Report, a national survey of children ages 6–17 and their parents that explores attitudes and behaviors around books and reading.

The Listening Guide

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

- 2:03 Why Scholastic created this report
- 3:45 Key report findings
- 5:45 Building a home library
- 7:00 What the report says about reading aloud
- 9:32 Connecting kids with books they'll like
- 12:45 Reading for fun
- 13:58 Avoiding the summer slide
- 15:41 Diversity in children's books
- 19:03 Helping kids cultivate a reading life
- 22:52 'Reading Resolutions'
- 24:30 Let the Kids Speak

The power of choice! They are more likely to finish that book if they chose it themselves, and they're more likely to enjoy it. - Andrea Pinkney

Quotes and Questions

* **'Kids see what they see, and they don't see what they don't see.'**

Andrea says it's so important for kids to see books in their homes, and Sarah shares that she tries to keep books in every room.

Are there spaces in your home where you could add more books ... even unexpected places like near a window along with a few pillows, out on the porch or in a kitchen cabinet (for when you're making dinner!)?

* **How can you build a home library affordably?**

Andrea and Sarah share some simple ways to build a library without making a huge investment. Check out library sales, used book stores, Amazon (for used copies), book swaps and yard sales!

* **Keep reading aloud to your kids!**

The Scholastic Reading report highlights the importance of reading aloud to kids of all ages ...

Need a suggestion or two? Make sure you've downloaded your copy of the [RAR Booklist!](#)

* **Helping kids choose books.**

The report shows that kids love choosing their own books, but sometimes kids need a little help. Andrea suggests helping them dive deeper into a topic that has interested them, or even choosing a few books and then letting them choose from that smaller selection.

She also encourages parents to talk to teachers and librarians and to have our kids talk to other kids about what they are reading.

Another option is to start a book club for kids! Try lots of different genres, and eventually you can let the kids choose the books!

* **'It is a complex world today, and we want to help kids become citizens of the world. We want to help them navigate that. And books with diverse characters and themes are a really great way to take complex information and make it simple.'**

Andrea shared some of her favorite diverse books in the episode. Here are more [Diverse Picture Books to Celebrate the Everyday](#).

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Poppy audiobook](#)
- [Bud, Not Buddy](#)
- [A Poem for Peter](#)
- [The Red Pencil](#)
- [Sit-In](#)
- [Let It Shine](#)
- [Bird in a Box](#)
- [The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963](#)
- [Happy Dreamer](#)
- [Refugee](#)
- [Why Am I Me?](#)
- [Elijah of Buxton](#)
- [The Madman of Piney Woods](#)

Other links from today's show:

- Hear Andrea make an appearance in [this RAR episode!](#)
- [The Kids and Family Reading Report](#)
- [RAR #65: How to Best Use and Support Your Local Library](#)
- [The RAR Booklist](#)

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