Guide for Families to Raise Thoughtful, Engaged, Brave Kids through the Simple Act of Reading Aloud Together

Host of Read-Aloud Revival Podcast and Mother-of-Six Shares the Transforming Power of Reading; Offers Advice and Reading Lists for Every Age

Grand Rapids, Mich., January 2017 — Sarah Mackenzie knows the value of reading aloud with your kids. She has read out loud with her six kids and seen her family bond over inside jokes and common experiences they never would have experienced outside the pages of a book. From starting with a baby nestled in your arms to reading chapter books with grade schoolers to connecting with teenagers, reading together helps parents connect with their kids in a meaningful way that will stand the test of time.

In The Read-Aloud Family: Making Meaningful and Lasting Connections with Your Kids, Mackenzie inspires busy parents to make time for reading – even if ten minutes is all they can spare – to see lasting effects.

“Reading aloud with our kids is indeed the best use of our time and energy as parents,” writes Mackenzie. “It’s more important than just about anything else we can do. Our young readers – yours and mine – can love with abandon, show unexplainable kindness, shake the hand of a person they’d rather avoid or give a hug to someone who is experiencing hardship.”

Many parents stop reading out loud when their children can read themselves, but reading out loud to every age, from baby to high schooler, has proven benefits. It’s never too late to start and with Mackenzie’s advice, parents will feel equipped to start a new tradition and create a book club atmosphere in their home to make reading fun.

The final chapters of The Read-Aloud Family are dedicated to specific age groups, from 0-3 all the way to the teen years. Each section includes advice for overcoming challenges at each age, activity suggestions to keep them busy while listening and curated book suggestions.

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Sarah is available for interviews and can discuss:

- How books can win the battle with screen time
- Becoming your family’s literary matchmaker and finding great reads
- How to talk with your kids about books with ten compelling questions that work for every book
- Strategies to get wiggly toddlers and moody teens to listen and engage
- Jump starting reading out loud by reading *A Wrinkle in Time* before the movie premiere in March

**Sarah Mackenzie** is an author, speaker and podcast host. On the immensely popular Read-Aloud Revival podcast, she helps parents all over the world make meaningful connections with their kids through books. She lives in the Northwest with her husband, Andrew, homeschools their six kids, and loves making sure her family is well-stocked in the best books she can find.

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Possible Interview Questions for Sarah Mackenzie,
Author of The Read-Aloud Family

1. Let’s start with an easy one. What are some of the benefits of reading out loud with your kids?

2. What if I can’t get my toddler/grade schooler/teen ager to pay attention?

3. Lots of people stop reading out loud to their kids once they can read themselves. What advice do you have for the parent who wants to start reading out loud but doesn’t know how to start?

4. *A Wrinkle In Time* is a classic and the movie is coming out in March. Do you have suggestions on how families can get more out of the movie by reading the book together?

5. How can parents create what you call a “book club culture” in their home?

6. Do I need to be the one reading? Or can we listen to an audio book together?

7. Do you really do this every day? How do you have time for this?

8. Picking a book can be overwhelming. How do you decide what to read together?

9. How have you seen your family bond over reading together?

10. You provide ten compelling questions that can be adapted to ask kids about what they’re reading. Can you give us one example that will help parents start a meaningful conversation?

11. I love the story you tell in *The Read-Aloud Family* on how reading *The Wizard of Oz* started a debate with your kids over what is more important your heart or your brain. How was that conversation richer because you were reading together?

12. You host the Read Aloud Revival podcast – what type of advice/interviews do you offer on the podcast?

For an interview with Sarah Mackenzie, please contact Robin Barnett at (616)698-3251 or robin.barnett@harpercollins.com.