

EPISODE **97**

# The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to Teens

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## In This Episode

It's all about connection! In this episode, Sarah shares why we should continue reading to teens. There are book recommendations - and Sarah even suggests that we keep reading picture books with our oldest kids!

## The Listening Guide

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

- 1:03 Book surprises
- 2:34 Reading aloud with teens = magic
- 4:39 What to know
- 6:20 Assignments versus book clubs
- 8:28 Continuing picture books
- 9:29 Book recommendations
- 12:53 Read-alouds versus read-alones
- 13:48 3 Book ideas
- 18:53 Let the kids speak

‘The things we’re looking for when we’re looking for books for our teens are primarily we want to expand our child’s horizons.’



## Quotes and Questions

### \* **Teens don't want to feel like your project.**

“So, this is something that trips us up: we tend to want to do things for our kids that will help them become better humans, help them become better adults, and functioning adults, but our kids don't want to be our projects—so **if they feel like we're reading to them or sharing books with them because we're trying to improve them they will resist, but if they feel like reading is something we do for pleasure and because it's a part of our family culture, that's different.**”

### \* **Book club culture.**

“Especially with teens we want to treat their reading lives a lot more like a book club and a lot less like they're used to having it treated in a classroom ...”

*In what ways can you create a book club culture in your home? Can you add snacks? Can you read the book at the same time as your teen and discuss over coffee?*

### \* **Conversation counts!**

“Conversations with our teens actually matter at least as much, probably more than actually, the reading ... if you can only read-aloud half as many books with your teenager in order to make room to talk in your schedule, to talk with your teenager, that is a good call.”

### \* **Another reason to raise readers.**

“There are studies that show that people who read fiction are more compassionate, empathetic people than those who do not read fiction.”

### \* **Read to connect in the teen years.**

“Reading is still primarily about connection when we're reading with our teens. That is still the number one benefit from reading aloud, is connection. Never forget that.”

## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- [The Lord of the Rings](#)
- [Pride and Prejudice](#)
- [The Hiding Place](#)
- [Echo](#)
- [Fever 1793](#)

### Other links from today's show:

- [Order The Read-Aloud Family](#) now anywhere books are sold
- Get the audio version of The Read-Aloud Family (read by Sarah Mackenzie) [right here](#)
- Use the hashtag #readaloudfamily to share photos on social media
- RAR #93: [How to Create a Book Club Culture at Home](#)
- RAR #94: [The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 0-3 Year Olds](#)
- RAR #95: [The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 4-7 Year Olds](#)
- RAR #96: [The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 8-12 Year Olds](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit [ReadAloudRevival.com](http://ReadAloudRevival.com).