

EPISODE **113**

Why Reading Aloud to a Wide Range of Ages is Difficult (and How to do it Without Losing Your Mind)

- 2 In this Episode
- 3 Listening Guide
- 4 Quotes & Questions
- 5-6 Show Notes



In This Episode

Today's episode is all about finding the read-aloud sweet spot when you have a wide range of ages in your family! Plus, Sarah shares 15+ book recommendations.

The Listening Guide

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

- 2:28 Don't be afraid to separate
- 3:24 Shoot for the middle
- 6:36 Keeping them engaged is the key
- 7:55 Books under your kids' reading level
- 10:09 'Life's greatest delights'
- 11:39 Family and animal stories
- 14:08 Historical recommendations
- 17:06 A touch of magic
- 18:59 Fantasy books
- 21:50 Go on a literary journey ... together
- 22:44 Let the kids speak

“We want them to see reading as one of life’s greatest delights. So we want to really protect that delight and enjoyment of reading, then we can choose some books specifically that will do that—that will meet kids at all different ages, differently, that will appeal to everyone, that everyone can follow the storyline and that will really guard that delight and love for reading.” - Sarah Mackenzie

Quotes and Questions

* **Look at YOUR family ...**

"You need to look at your own kids and your own situation, your own family dynamics, and see how you can choose books that will appeal to the most number of people and specifically to the kids who have not yet fallen in love with books."

* **Spreading a feast ...**

"The idea is spreading a feast—when you lay out a big feast you don't spoon feed each individual item of food into your child's mouth, making sure they get exactly a quarter cup of mashed potatoes, four tablespoons of peas; we don't do that. We spread out this feast so everybody takes what they're fit for. And that's what we're doing when we're reading aloud with a wide age range. We're spreading a feast."

* **So much benefit ...**

"We don't need to be afraid of reading things that are under our ... oldest children's reading level, and if we let go of that fear realizing that they can still get so much benefit from the books we're reading aloud to them, even if they're not above their reading level, or even at their reading level, that opens up the doors to enjoying so many other books as a family."

* **C.S. Wisdom ...**

"I can't imagine a man really enjoying a book and reading it only once." - C.S. Lewis

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Anne of Green Gables](#)
- [The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#)
- [The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street](#)
- [The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden](#)
- [The Penderwicks](#)
- [Poppy](#)
- [The Little House series](#)
- [Little House books on audio](#)
- [Happy Little Family](#)
- [By the Great Horn Spoon](#)
- [On to Oregon](#)
- [Half Magic](#)
- [Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat](#)
- [The Bark of the Bog Owl](#)
- [The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic](#)
- [Where the Mountain Meets the Moon](#)
- [The Green Ember](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR #67: Reading for the Bigger Story, Jonathan Rogers](#)
- Get the FREE booklist and more - go to readaloudrevival.com or text BOOKS to 345345

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