

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

- Sarah Mackenzie: [00:12](#) You are listening to the Read Aloud Revival podcast. This is the podcast that helps you make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [00:29](#) Hello. Hello, Sarah Mackenzie here, and you've got episode 124 of the Read Aloud Revival podcast. Today, I've got a conversation with Camille Andros. She is a picture book author I'm very excited to introduce you to. She's also a mother of six, and she's got a brand new book coming out today. But her books, her picture books have been some of my favorites, so I'm excited for you to meet her. Now, before we do have a couple other things I want to talk to you about.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [00:55](#) First of all, I just got back from the Great Homeschool Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. So much fun and I'm going to be at all the rest of the great homeschool conventions this year. There's one in Greenville, South Carolina, St. Charles, Missouri, Cincinnati, Ohio, Ontario, California, Rochester, New York and Jacksonville, Florida, and if you live anywhere near those cities, I would love to meet you. You can find details and get your tickets at greathomeschoolconventions.com. I'm giving four sessions.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [01:27](#) I'm going to be teaching for an hour about Teaching From Rest in the Early Years, all about homeschooling kids under eight. I'm going to give a session called Loving Your Life as a Homeschooling Mom, and if homeschooling has lost its shine, you are not alone. I think it's really easy to get caught up and all that dailiness of demanding tasks. And somehow, in the thick of it, the homeschooling lifestyle we were excited about starts to seem like a drag. So we're going to walk through what's standing in our way of falling in love with our homeschooling lives. That's loving your life as a homeschooling mom. I'm very excited about that one. I'm also giving a session called How to Talk to Your Kids About Books Even if You Haven't Read Them Yourself. And I'll be on a mom panel and this is a question and answer panel with a couple of my favorite speakers, Colleen Kessler and Pam Barnhill.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [02:16](#) So once again, if you want to join me at the Great Homeschool Conventions, I'd love to meet you there. Find out details, location, states, get your tickets@greathomeschoolconventions.com. Now, before

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

we launch into the conversation with Camille, I wanted to answer a question that came in from Catherine.

Catherine: [02:34](#)

My name is Catherine and I live just outside of Chicago. My question is what are some of the things that you look for particularly in text in children's books to identify that it is a "good book." I know you've talked a lot about illustrations, in particular, making adults and children look at them longer, and you're intrigued to know more about the details in the illustrations. But what are some of the things that you look for specifically in the text to know that it is a book?

Sarah Mackenzie: [03:08](#)

Oh, I love this question, Catherine. Thank you for asking. If I am trying to decide if a book is worthwhile based on its text, I'm going to read a sample of it. And what I'm looking for in particular are rich varied vocabulary from that sampling. So that means if I'm at the library or a bookstore and I find a book, I'm going to flip it open and read maybe the first page, or the first few pages if it's a picture book. And then I'll flip to somewhere around the halfway mark, and I'll read another page. Again, I'll just read a couple more pages if it's a picture book. What I want to see is a wide range of words. Words that I want to say out loud because they'll taste good in my mouth. Do you know what I'm talking about? The words that are rich that you just want to hear with your ear, and you want to say out loud.

Sarah Mackenzie: [03:58](#)

I don't want to see oversimplified language. I don't want to see text that seems dull or like it's talking down to children. In fact, looking for that rich vocabulary is part of the three question test that I talk about in chapter nine of my newest book, the Read-Aloud Family. We'll put a link in the show notes for you to the book, but that's simple three question test shows you how to pick up a book at your library or bookshop, read a small sampling and then just ask three questions about it to decide if the book has earned a spot in your library bag or on your home bookshelf. But the basics of it was, especially when it comes to the text, is that I read a small sampling, and I see if it sounds delicious. Does it sound varied? Does it feel like a book that's over simplified or talking down to me? And then that's the key for me is a rich, varied vocabulary. Thank you so much for your question, Catherine.

Sarah Mackenzie: [04:54](#)

Hey, if you have a question you'd like me to answer on an upcoming episode of the podcast, head to

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

readaloudrevival.com, scroll to the bottom of the page and then look for. Got a question for Sarah Mackenzie. You leave your voice message there, and I'd love to hear your question, so I can possibly answer it on an upcoming episode of the podcast.

- Sarah Mackenzie: [05:23](#) Today's guest says that bringing life to characters in her head is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Camille Andros is the author of two picture books my kids and I all love. One is called Charlotte The Scientist Is Squished, and the other is The Dress and the Girl. She's also a traveler. I hear that she always carries a small black notebook on her travels to record the stories she imagines. She's an EMT, and she is the mother of six. So am I, so, of course, I could not wait to talk to Camille. She said that she recalls feeling completely secure while reading with her parents. She loves recreating that feeling snuggled in by the fire with her own children. So she sounds like she's going to fit right in here at Read-Aloud Revival, right? Camille, welcome to the Read Aloud Revival.
- Camille Andros: [06:11](#) Hi, Sarah, thank you so much for having me.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [06:13](#) Oh, it's a treat to talk to you. I discovered The Dress and the Girl and fell in love with it. And then after that, you were so kind to send me a copy of Charlotte the Scientist Is Squished. And I don't know if it's because I have a large family myself, but I just loved ... I mean I love both of them, but I just loved Charlotte The Scientist Is Squished, I think, my kids share bedrooms. I've got three girls in one room and three boys and another. I think my kids can really relate to that and so can I write that desperate need for personal space.
- Camille Andros: [06:44](#) Yeah, we have everybody sharing rooms here in at our house too. And my husband's the six of 10 kids. He has one older brother and eight sisters and so that's what I was originally thinking of when I started writing it. But then someone mentioned that it was actually about me and I think that's probably pretty accurate.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [07:06](#) Okay. So the first question I have, I know a lot of our listeners are probably already wondering because I introduced you as an EMT and a mother of six and a writer and a traveler. So can you tell me about how you fit writing into your days?

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

- Camille Andros: [07:19](#) To be clear, I'm not working as an EMT right now. I have in the past, but I'm not right now. That's not one of the things to have to work around.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [07:29](#) But it probably gave you all kinds of life experiences, right? That you draw on actually?
- Camille Andros: [07:34](#) Oh, yeah, definitely. I worked primarily in the emergency room in the emergency department of a hospital. Before I started writing, I had planned to go to PA school and when my youngest was in kindergarten, and you have to have about a thousand patient care hours before you can do that before you can even apply to school. So I was working in the hospital to get my patient care hours for that, but then before I could do that and go to PA school I thought, "Well, my youngest," she was about one and a half and I thought, "Well, I've also always really wanted to do this book writing thing, so I'll just give it a try and see what it takes." And it took off in a way that I couldn't have expected or imagined and I'm so excited. But back to your question is writing. I wake up really early and I go to bed really early. That's a pretty boring answer. But I wake up between 4:45 and 5:30.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [08:35](#) Oh, that's like earlier than early.
- Camille Andros: [08:38](#) Yeah, depending on when I was able to get to bed. So this morning I woke up at 5:15 because I went to bed at 10:15, so that's kind of my thing is I'm trying to get seven hours of sleep because sleep is really important for me too. Because if I don't then I am a grouchy mom.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [08:54](#) I can relate.
- Camille Andros: [08:56](#) I do get up early, and I write ... I spend that morning time on something that takes ... Usually, it's a novel, that's what I'm doing right now is I'm working on a novel and so that's when I do my novel writing time. Then I'll work on that until about seven and then I have to get some kids up for school. My older kids get themselves off and so they're up and getting out the door while I'm working in the morning. They get up really early and then the middle school and elementary kids get up. I get them up at seven and get them off to school, and I my hat's off to the homeschool moms. I have several really good friends that do that and I think it's amazing and I am grateful for sending my kids to school.

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

- Sarah Mackenzie: [09:43](#) Well, I think there's this mutual respect though because I will say getting my kids up and fed and dressed and out the door anytime always feels like this heroic feat. So I think those of us who homeschool all have that sort of mutual respect for those of you who pull off getting the kids to school every morning. So then do you, well, actually let me back up a little bit because you said you're working on a novel, and you've just done the two. Am I right in that you've just under two picture books so far?
- Camille Andros: [10:10](#) Those are the ones that are out, but it's funny. There's such a lag time with publishing that I have three more contracted that aren't out yet, but that are contracted for the next few years. I'll have two books out in 2019 and then hopefully, 2020 but I don't have a date for that third one yet. And then I'm working now on three other three or four other picture book projects that we're going to pitch shortly to be getting in the pipeline. And then I've got several novels that I'm working on too. So there's just a lot of things-
- Sarah Mackenzie: [10:42](#) At different stages. Okay.
- Camille Andros: [10:44](#) Yeah.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [10:45](#) I think I've heard that your love of picture books actually came from sharing books with your father. Is that right?
- Camille Andros: [10:51](#) Yes, definitely. My dad is a filmmaker and he owns his own production company and so he writes and he produces, directs. He does it all. He's super brilliant creative mind. And he would sit me down at night. I'm the oldest of seven kids and he every night would just get a pile of picture books and he would let me too, of course, but some as well, which I'm really grateful for because he exposed me to some of my most favorite beloved picture books that there is. He would sit and spend a long time on each page and that kind of was annoying to me at first because I wanted to know what happened in the story. But he was looking at the art and he would start pointing things out to me in the art and so eventually I was able to notice that too and not be so worried about story and know that we would get there, but I could appreciate what was being told in the story through the art on each page too.
- Camille Andros: [11:55](#) And that was, I never outgrew that. I never outgrew that love of picture books and sitting down and reading them.

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

I collected them my whole young life and adult life before kids and then after kids obviously, for sure. And then now it's and I never even set out saying, "I'm going to write a picture book." It was, "I want to tell this story." And the picture book format lends itself best. That art form is the best way to do it for me. I'm a really visual person and I will often see, a spread is what they call it, a layout of the pages of what it will look like in my mind even before words come. I'm not an artist so, so I can't make, I can't draw what I'm seeing but I can write about it.

Sarah Mackenzie: [12:47](#)

I even think the way you string together your prose really speaks out. Like I was saying before that I really feel really good picture books read like poetry. And yours, I mean I'm just going to read the first page from *The Dress and the Girl*. "Back when times seemed slower and life simpler, there was a dress. A dress, much like many others made for a girl by her mother." Just that alone. I mean I have all these images and then, of course, the images by Julie Morstad are beautiful in the book, but also just that those words, I bet our listeners have a beautiful picture in their minds. Just hearing those words and that is an art that you don't get with a novel that only comes out I think in poetry and in picture books. So I think you're writing really lends itself well to that picture book format and that is the highest compliment we can give at the Read Aloud Revival.

Camille Andros: [13:40](#)

Thank you, thank you so much. It was so fun to hear you read it. I don't know if anyone has read me my book before. That's so lovely. Thank you.

Sarah Mackenzie: [13:50](#)

Do you remember books that you read with your father in particular that were special to you?

Camille Andros: [13:54](#)

Yes. I love the *Angelina Ballerina*, and I loved the illustrations in those books. I loved *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton that's probably my ... That the books that made me want to write my own books. This one's really funny. It's called the *Bumper Book*. I actually looked it up today to see if you could still find it. It was published in the 1960s, and it's a compilation of different poems and short stories and it has art in it. And so I would get to choose one or two pages from the *Bumper Book* at night before bed sometimes.

Sarah Mackenzie: [14:34](#)

I've never heard of it.

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

- Camille Andros: [14:35](#) Oh my goodness. Okay, I looked it up. I think it's \$100 on Amazon to buy an old used one now or something. But that, I loved that. But also I feel other books that were read out loud to me like The Great Brain Series, do you know the Great Brain?
- Sarah Mackenzie: [14:53](#) Oh, yeah.
- Camille Andros: [14:54](#) So as we, as our family grew up, we kind of evolved from reading picture books on my dad's lap to we would every Sunday night we would have family book. Sunday nights we knew that we would gather around, we got treats or whatever and just find a comfy spot on the floor. The couch and dad would read us if the book that we're reading together as a family and it was family book time. So we went through a lot of different books over the years that way. But The Great Brain Series is such a fun read aloud. Those are really quirky, funny books. Also, newer ones that I think are amazing read alouds that I love ... Because I'm doing it now with my kids. Right. I'll read, I read aloud to my kids every night and whether they like it or not. They're getting a little older, but I'm like, "I don't care. We're still doing this," and my friend Karina just did the Pen- or, no I'm mixing up.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [15:52](#) The Vanderbeekers.
- Camille Andros: [15:53](#) The Vanderbeekers, thank you, of 141st Street. Oh my goodness. I feel like that's like a new classic.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [16:05](#) I'm curious about what your writing process is like because I think writing a picture book especially seems something of a mysterious process too many of us. Because you think in your head, "Okay, this isn't that many words," but the story has to be so perfectly executed. The language is always very purposeful and it's like poetry really and so many times I think with a picture book, the words are way more important than it is even for a novel. I'm just curious as to what that process looks like when you're taking an idea from the first seed and then turning it into a 500 word or however many words story. Can you tell me a little bit about what that looks like for you?
- Camille Andros: [16:43](#) Sure. Yeah, and every book is different, at least is what I'm finding. So for Charlotte The Scientists it actually started really, really, really short. It was only 79 words and then I built it up to what it is. So that was a little bit different and the process evolved to. At first, it was

READ-ALLOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

about a bunny named Seymour and it wasn't even a scientist, it was just about a big bunny family and that was kind of my husband, his family. But then it evolved and became Charlotte The Scientist and then we wanted to include more of the scientific method. Once it's sold, it didn't even have the steps of the scientific method in it. It just kind of referenced it.

Camille Andros: [17:29](#)

Then I worked with my editor and we put the steps in there, specifically. So yeah, that one evolved from tiny really, really short to longer. And then like for *The Dress and the Girl* that was over, oh my goodness. I think the first version I have of that is pages and pages long, so long. And it's actually also the first book I ever, the first picture book I ever tried to write. And so there was a really big learning curve there for me to learn that, "Oh guess what, you can't write a picture book that's 2,500 words. No one's going to buy that." You have to learn the rules of picture book making, you know.

Sarah Mackenzie: [18:09](#)

It's such an art, it's a craft. It's deceptive because it looks, from the outside, like it could be simple until you try it yourself and you realize, "This is an art form," and it is not nearly as easy as someone might think if they just pick up a picture book and read it in 10 minutes with their kids, which I think most of us listening to this podcast appreciate and respect that because we read so many of these wonderful big with our kids. But still, I mean it's sort of deceptive how difficult that must be to pull off a story in so few words and to do it really, really well, which you've done with both of yours.

Camille Andros: [18:40](#)

Oh, thank you. I appreciate that a lot in. Now, if a word is in there that doesn't move along or add to the story then it's out of there. Even if it's beautiful. But if it doesn't fit in with the story and move it along, there's just not enough words in a picture book text to keep stuff that doesn't have to be there.

Sarah Mackenzie: [19:03](#)

Yeah, yeah. So, and I think I heard somewhere that *The Dress and the Girl* you worked on and off for close to 10 years, is that right?

Camille Andros: [19:12](#)

Yeah, almost. I think it was about eight years, I think so that's a long time.

Sarah Mackenzie: [19:18](#)

But it's such a beautiful book. In some ways, it reminds me of the book, and I wonder if you've seen it by Jim

READ-ALLOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

Aylesworth illustrated by Barbara McClintock called Grandfather's Coat?

- Camille Andros: [19:29](#) Oh yes. Yeah, I'm really familiar with that. That's a lovely book. Thank you. That's a nice comparison.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [19:35](#) I just discovered that book last year and I'm a big fan of both Jim Aylesworth and Barbara McClintock's work but that book, I don't know, it's the idea of the passage of time and connection across generations and distances and what it means to love something. All of those things I see in *The Dress and the Girl*. I mean, I think *The Dress and the Girl* is poetic in a different way than *Grandfather's Coat* but both of those books have really resonated with me. Now, was *The Dress and the Girl* based on a family story?
- Camille Andros: [20:02](#) In part. It was inspired by two things. One, the first one was a tea party that my friend threw and she liked to be fancy and so she wanted people to come dressed in tea party outfits, which I didn't have anything like that. But someone that came to the party did. And she wore this vintage 1940s tea party gown or dress or whatever and it was just stunning. She walked in and I was like, "Oh, my goodness, where has that dress been and what would it tell us if it could talk?" So that was the first little seed of the story and like, "I want to tell a story about a dress."
- Camille Andros: [20:48](#) And then my husband's parents were living in Greece at the time and we were going ... My husband and I planned a trip to go and visit them because his. My husband's great-grandfather immigrated to the United States from Greece and he was the only member of his family that came here. He was one of 11 children, and came through Ellis Island, and never saw the rest of his family again. And worked on the railroad and sent money to them for the rest of his life, but he never got to see them again.
- Camille Andros: [21:21](#) So we were able to go, my husband and I and his parents, up to that little village that his great-grandfather immigrated from and visit. And it was a really amazing experience. We drove up this tiny little road up into the mountains of Greece and pulled up in our car in the middle of the town where pretty much everyone knew that we were there. That's how small the town was. It's got the older gentleman playing chess, sitting there right in front of us and they look at you. We didn't speak any Greek and they didn't speak any English.

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

- Camille Andros: [22:02](#) We walked over to the cemetery and we were trying to find the family plot and see if there was anything more that we could learn about our family that we didn't know, we hardly knew anything about. A few minutes later a man started shouting to us about 100 yards away in his yard and motioning for us to come over to him. We were worried that we had done something wrong or my in-laws could speak enough Greek to kind of say who we were and why we were there. He motioned for us to follow him into his home and we walked in and he pointed to a picture on the wall and it was of a younger man, that was him when he was younger, and then he pointed to my husband and they looked like the same person, barely. And he kept saying family over and over in Greek and he was a member of our family that we had never known about and that he lived up there and he and his wife set out this amazing feast from their garden for us.
- Camille Andros: [23:09](#) It was like being in the movie *Mama Mia* or something like that. It was the most surreal, amazing thing. And we've kept in touch with them and his daughter ... He got his daughter on the phone who did speak English, and so we are able to communicate a little bit better with them. That's been just the neatest connection to be able to find and rediscover and the book is actually dedicated to the family. My last name is Andros and it was shortened from Androutsos, when my husband's great-grandfather came through Ellis Island, so the book is dedicated to the Androutsos family, especially Harry, who is his great-grandfather, who made my life possible because he sacrificed and came, left his family and came to the United States. So I have my family because of what he did.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [24:00](#) That's amazing. Now, I know you love traveling and I'm wondering if you're traveling impacts your writing?
- Camille Andros: [24:06](#) Oh, for sure, definitely, but I think it's just any new experience, right? It can just be going on a hike somewhere that you haven't been before or any new experience I think fuels my creativity at least. I think that as you do and see new things, that's always great creative fodder. I was just in New York this past or last week and was able to be there with my agent, an illustrator who's working on one of my books. We're working on a book together and just having that experience of being in a new city and seeing and talking to new people. We came up with three new book ideas together just having that creative energy. I think there's

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

definitely something to being in a fresh setting or in a setting with other creatives that has that great creative potential and energy. I love it.

Sarah Mackenzie: [25:05](#)

Yeah. It kind of helps you see the world fresh. Right? When you start a new project or you have a seed of an idea and you start to write the story, whether it's a picture book or novel, did you kind of know where it's going or do you just write and find out?

Camille Andros: [25:29](#)

Yeah, I've heard that people say you either write to discover or either you know where you're going when you sit down and write it or you have to sit down and write it to know where you're going. Right. But it depends on the project. Sometimes I will, I had for a certain book, just an image come to mind and it was just a character and I was like, "Oh, who is that and what do I need to know about her?" And I wrote to figure out who she was for that story. But sometimes like with nonfiction, I have a nonfiction book coming out next year, that's about Eliza Hamilton, a picture book biography and that, I mean, you already know where that's going. And that was kind of easier in a way because I didn't have to make up any story. I mean I did, but there are facts of her life and I wrote that nonfiction in such a way that it sounds like it's a storybook still.

Camille Andros: [26:29](#)

I hated growing with nonfiction books that were so long and we're just full of facts and information and those are good but that was not something that interests me or kept my attention. So I wanted to write the kind of nonfiction book that I wanted to read and it was one that tells the story. And so I write that way for that, but for novels, I'm finding that I need to know how it ends and I need to know how it begins because I think those kind of mirror each other. But the middle part is a little bit trickier for me and I have to just sit down every day and write it to find out what's going to happen.

Sarah Mackenzie: [27:12](#)

Yeah. How you're going to get there. Okay.

Camille Andros: [27:12](#)

Yeah, how I'm going to get there. Every book is different. I wish I had a formula that was like, "This is how you do it." I don't have one of those because every book is different.

Sarah Mackenzie: [27:32](#)

Now it's time for Let the Kids Speak. This is my favorite part of the podcast where kids tell us about their favorite stories that have been read aloud to them.

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL



Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

- Audrey: [27:41](#) My name is Audrey and I'm six years old and I love the books and my favorite book is All the All-of-a-Kind Family. [inaudible 00:27:58] and all good.
- Speaker 5: [27:59](#) Where do you live, Audrey?
- Audrey: [28:00](#) I live in Lakewood, Texas.
- Speaker 5: [28:03](#) Good job, sweetie.
- Bella: [28:05](#) My name is Bella, I'm from Taggert, Oregon. I'm five years old and my favorite book is The Penderwicks because it's adventurous. I like the book and it's a fun book and I like the characters.
- Amity: [28:17](#) My name is Cynthia, I'm eight years old, I live in Taggert, Oregon and I have several books and lots of stories because the characters are fun and they go on adventures and it's really funny.
- Janet: [28:32](#) What's your name?
- Amity: [28:33](#) My name is Amity and I'm five and I live in Melbourne, Australia.
- Janet: [28:36](#) And what's your favorite book?
- Amity: [28:41](#) Amelia Bedelia.
- Janet: [28:43](#) And why do you like Amelia Bedelia?
- Amity: [28:45](#) Because I like the part where she gives the boy a pen and he draws his blood.
- Janet: [28:53](#) Very good.
- Emmer: [28:55](#) My name is Emmer, I'm six years old and I live in Montana. My favorite book is Boo Boo and the Three Gruff by Jerry Pickney.
- Speaker 10: [29:05](#) The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Jerry Pickney. What's your favorite part in that book?
- Emmer: [29:11](#) Billy Goat, the troll, and the biggest billy goat fight.
- Sebastian: [29:16](#) My name is Sebastian, I am eight and I live in Alaska. My favorite book is Scout the Secret of the Swamp, something I like about it is that it takes place in a war. The kid and the dog are very daring and that the dog got

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

to be trained to do many things. That basically, the main characters of the book is Scout and his owner.

- Janet: [29:42](#) My name is Janet, I'm five years old and we live in Alaska. My favorite book is Gentle Ben and what I like about it is that the kid makes a deal with his father and then the father gives him a bear and then every time after school he feeds the pets lots of sandwiches.
- Elle: [30:10](#) My name is Elle Anderson, I'm 11 years old. I live in Orem, Utah and my favorite book is Wonder by RJ Palacio. I love it because it teaches me not to judge other people and it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside, it just matters what you look like on the inside.
- Eleanor: [30:27](#) Hi, my name is Eleanor, I'm four years old. I live in Kansas, and my favorite book is Aesop's Fables. My favorite story is The Gnat and the Bull.
- Andrea: [30:48](#) My turn, my turn.
- Speaker 17: [30:55](#) What is your name?
- Andrea: [30:57](#) Andrea.
- Speaker 17: [30:58](#) How old are you?
- Andrea: [30:59](#) Twelve.
- Speaker 17: [31:00](#) Where do we live?
- Andrea: [31:01](#) Belgrade, Montana.
- Speaker 17: [31:03](#) What's one of your favorite books?
- Andrea: [31:06](#) A Pigeon's Tale because I breed pigeons.
- Sarah Mackenzie: [31:12](#) Ah, thank you so much, kids. I always hearing from you. Hey, don't forget if you are anywhere near those great homeschool conventions I'd love to meet you there. To find out exact locations and dates and to grab your tickets. Go to greathomeschoolconventions.com. I'll be back in two weeks with episode 125 of the podcast. We're going to be talking all about what to do when your kids don't love reading. I know that never happens to you in your house, right? Mine either. We're going to talk all about it. We're going to dig into what to do if your kids don't love reading in your heart is just breaking. So meet me back here. Same place, same time, but in the

READ-ALLOUD REVIVAL

Episode 124: Camille Andros on Being a Mom AND a Writer

meantime, go make meaningful and lasting connections
with your kids through books.