



EPISODE **129**

Storytime with Jim Weiss (and how to read aloud better!)

Guest: Jim Weiss

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Meet Jim Weiss



Jim Weiss is a master storyteller and a voice so many of us recognize. Find more storytelling tips and Jim's recordings at jimweiss.com.

In This Episode

Sarah and Jim discuss what to do when you are intimidated by really good audio recordings and audiobooks, how to handle interruptions and how to clarify stories without “breaking character.” Jim also shares two favorite audio stories with us - Stone Soup and a Sherlock Holmes tale.



The Listening Guide

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

- **1:53** A special episode
- **3:22** Stone Soup
- **5:14** 'A little trick will do it'
- **8:03** 'The Mona Lisa of soup stones'
- **10:22** 'Beef. It needs beef.'
- **12:33** 'Everybody get a bowl'
- **13:43** 'You'll always have some stone soup'
- **15:13** Welcome Jim Weiss
- **15:28** Not any good at reading aloud
- **18:11** Reading aloud as an act of love
- **22:28** A living element
- **24:00** Keeping kids in the story
- **27:09** 'More fairytales'
- **29:12** Translating for clarity
- **32:50** Vocal strain
- **36:38** The Mazarin Stone
- **38:53** A wax dummy
- **42:13** 'I want you to see this coming'
- **45:47** 'Thank you, Count'
- **46:31** 'Suddenly, I'm quite famished'



Quotes and Questions

* Better than you know ...

"Well the first thing is **you're probably better than you know**. Nobody sounds good to themselves. At the beginning of this, I have the vision that when Meryl Streep's daughters were kids, they probably said to her, "Oh mom, do we have to do this again?" When she started reading to them."

* Sharing time together ...

"What matters is that you are sharing a story, sharing learning, **just sharing time together as a parent with a child**. Those moments, your kids will remember and even if they don't remember the content of everything you read to them or tell to them, they will always remember that element of it."

* An act of love ...

"Really **it's an act of love to sit down and share a story**. To pause all of your schedule. To stop everything else you're doing and just sit in a story with your child."

* Jim's two rules for sharing stories with kids

"These are the two things: The first thing is that you should only be telling stories or reading stories aloud that you like yourself because people can tell, consciously or not if you're not into it and if you're not into it and you start reading it to your child she's not going to be into it either."

The second thing to think about is to think about two whom am I telling this or reading this? Which opens up a whole lot of things for parents who are readers.

* A living element ...

"One of the special things about sharing a story with your child coming from you, the parent, is that you're that living vessel for your child and you can watch their reaction just like you just said, and see if they're completely lost. There's been a lot of times where I've been reading with my kids and look up and realize, oh yeah they have no idea what's going on. So then you can kind of stop and go, okay let's see. It adds this living element to story telling ..."



Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Fairytale Favorites In Story and Song](#)
- [Sherlock Holmes for Children](#)
- [Galileo and the Stargazers](#)
- [Animal Tales](#) (includes The Tortoise and the Hare)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR #04: Tips & Tricks for Reading Aloud, a Conversation with Jim Weiss](#)
- [RAR #05: The Importance of Reading Aloud Imperfectly \(with Jim Weiss\)](#)
- [Jim's site](#)
- [Jim's workshop handouts](#)
- [Get the RAR book list](#)

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