



EPISODE **130**

# Reading Aloud as an Obstinate Act of Love

Guest: Meghan Cox Gurdon

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## Meet **Meghan Cox Gurdon**



Meghan Cox Gurdon is a mother of five and has been the Wall Street Journal's children's book reviewer since 2005

She's the author of the new book, this year it just came out, The Enchanted Hour: The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud in an Age of Distraction.

## In This **Episode**

Sarah and Meghan discuss what happens when we read books to our kids again and again, the value of conversations around books and whether reading aloud to older kids is “cheating.” (Hint: It’s not!)



## The Listening Guide

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

- 1:37 Reading aloud during the summer
- 6:47 Meet Meghan!
- 7:35 A 'Rich Vocabulary'
- 9:54 Interacting with your kids through books
- 11:31 Reading the same books again and again
- 14:52 'Dialogic reading'
- 17:56 Powerful silence
- 18:33 'The Rough Patch'
- 22:13 Is reading aloud 'cheating?'
- 26:14 Reading with eyes and ears
- 28:33 Problematic books
- 35:35 Let the Kids Speak

"It is really one of the most consequential and beautiful and nourishing things we can do. The list of good effects of reading aloud is almost without end."

- Meghan Cox Gurdon



## Quotes and Questions

### \* The process of storytelling ...

"Honestly, **you can even argue that listening to a story is not only more natural, but is almost more human** than taking in a story through your eyes, because, because speech, what we process, which is how we of course process storytelling, which is someone reading aloud to us."

### \* The Invitation ...

"**Maybe that is part of the power of reading aloud is that it is this invitation into, here, come sit next to me, let's do this together, or let's dive in together.** Rather than here, go read this, it feels a lot more like being handed a plate of vegetables, especially if it's hard, you know? Which a lot of the classics are."

### \* Something substantial

"**We can't always know what's happening inside the mind or soul or heart of our child, but we can trust that when we're sitting there reading with our kids, something is happening there.** And sometimes it may be a lot more substantial or formative than we even realize, especially when it's a book they want to hear over and over."

### \* A portal ...

"**A picture book is a portal to the human heart.**"

### \* More voices ...

"If the problem is that some literature expresses old fashioned views, the solution is to read our children more books of every kind. **The more reading, the more voices. The more voices, the more imagination.** The more imagination, the more opinions. The more opinions, the more the freedom of thought. And the more children engage in freedom of thought, the better."



## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- The Enchanted Hour
- Winnie the Pooh
- House at Pooh Corner
- Frog and Toad are Friends
- Frog and Toad All Year
- Frog and Toad Together
- Princess Cora and the Crocodile
- Rabbit Ears - Jeremy Fisher
- Rabbit Ears - The Velveteen Rabbit
- Rabbit Ears - How the Rhino Got his Skin
- The Story of Babar
- Fritz and the Beautiful Horses
- Piper
- Goodnight Moon
- The Rough Patch
- Johnny Tremain
- The Untold Story of the Talking Book
- Little House on The Prairie
- Little House in the Big Woods
- Caddie Woodlawn
- The Birchbark House
- The Hundred Dresses



- [A Kite for Moon](#)
- [Owl Moon](#)

**Other links from today's show:**

- [Audible Deals](#)
- [Books to Help Your Grieving Child: Picture books about Loss](#)

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