

READ-ALOUD
Revival
PREMIUM

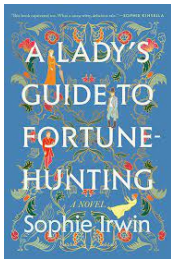
BOOKS TO
NURTURE
YOUR OWN
Reading Life

Not Sure What to Read?

Sarah Mackenzie has gathered a list of a dozen favorite books that are likely to make you fall back in love with your reading life. We recommend having a couple of choices on hand, so that you can switch books depending on what you're in the mood for.

This list is also available online: <https://readaloudrevival.com/booklist/books-to-nurture-your-own-reading-life>. Books marked with a  are especially great on audio.

FABULOUS FICTION



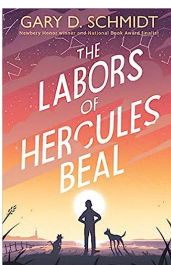
A LADY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE HUNTING BY SOPHIE IRWIN

A totally clean and utterly hilarious historical rom-com that made me hungry for more by this author. For Jane Austen fans who want a quick escape. One of my favorite reads of 2023 so far. The narrator, Eleanor Tomlinson, is exquisite.



MISS BUNCLE'S BOOK BY D.E. STEVENSON

A little like Jane Austen, a little like Mitford, a little like Anne of Green Gables. I listened to this while walking my dog and lost count of how often I burst out laughing. The characterization alone is enough to keep you riveted! Highly recommended for mamas who need to get swept up into a good story.



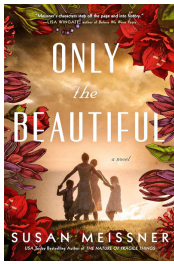
THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL BY GARY D. SCHMIDT

If you know how much I love Gary Schmidt, you'll know it's really saying something to suggest that this is his best yet! This book will make you want to read Greek myths, listen to Vivaldi, and watch a sunrise on Cape Cod. The audio version is absolutely stunning.



THE STAR THAT ALWAYS STAYS BY ANNA ROSE JOHNSON

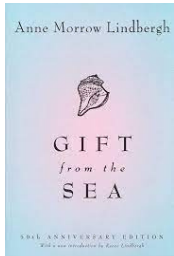
The inspiring and heartwarming story of Norvia, an Ojibwe girl making her way through upheaval in her family life. A book full of sweet sibling relationships, soda shops, and literary references that will make you smile. I loved it. (Pssst... this book was written by an RAR Premium member!)



ONLY THE BEAUTIFUL BY SUSAN MEISSNER

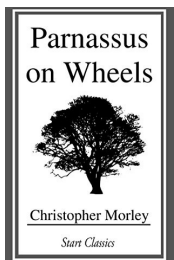
This is Susan Meissner at her best. I love everything she writes, but in particular, this story explores eugenics through an American girl with Synesthesia and an Austrian girl with physical deformity. It's astounding and unforgettable. Heads-up for one open door scene that is, in fact, necessary for the story (and handled extremely well by the author). I'd recommend this one for 18+.

FAVORITE SHORT READS



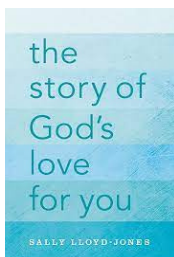
GIFT FROM THE SEA BY ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH

I reread this nonfiction book every few years, whenever I feel hungry for a slower, saner pace. It always inspires me to slow down, make life beautiful, and delight in the world just as it is. A mere 144 pages. (nonfiction)



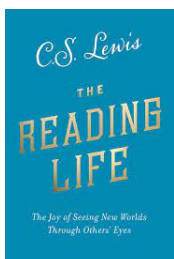
PARNASSUS ON WHEELS BY CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

First published in 1917. Utterly delightful and totally readable. I think it should have been titled The Revolt of Helen McGill, As Told By Herself. One of the best reads of the year, easy. It's only 75 pages long. I wish more books were like this one! (fiction)



THE STORY OF GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES

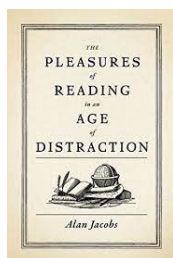
It's the Jesus Storybook Bible... for older kids and grown-ups. I could listen to it on repeat. The audiobook is narrated by David Suchet (fabulous) and the whole thing is only 3 and ½ hours. Highly recommended. (nonfiction)



THE READING LIFE: THE JOY OF SEEING NEW WORLDS THROUGH OTHERS' EYES BY C.S. LEWIS

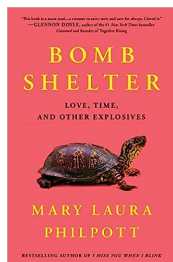
A collection of essays, articles, letters, and passages from the works of C.S. Lewis reflecting on the delight and depth that reading gives our lives. My favorite chapters were "Why Children's Stories Are Not Just for Children" and "On Encountering a Favorite Author for the First Time." (nonfiction)

INSPIRING NONFICTION



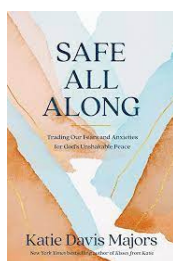
THE PLEASURES OF READING IN AGE OF DISTRACTION BY ALAN JACOBS

Alan Jacobs is one of my very favorite nonfiction writers. I feel smarter after I've read his books, and like my soul has been spiffed up, too. Don't miss my conversations with Alan Jacobs on the [RAR #145 The Importance of Reading at Whim](#) and [RAR #163: A Reader's Guide to a More Tranquil Mind](#).



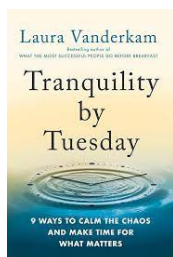
BOMB SHELTER: LOVE, TIME, AND OTHER EXPLOSIVES BY MARY LAURA PHILPOTT

Oh, to write like Mary Laura Philpott! Mary Laura is one of my new favorites, and in this memoir she tackles the biggest questions we face as mothers in a way that'll make you both laugh and cry. Heads up: there's some bad language, and one slightly annoying essay that you'll know I didn't like when you read it. 😊 The rest? Gold.



SAFE ALL ALONG: TRADING OUR FEARS AND ANXIETIES FOR GOD'S UNSHAKABLE PEACE BY KATIE DAVIS MAJORS

Our lives are full of anxiety, but what might we experience if we truly understood that we were safe all along? This book (by the author of *Kisses from Katie* and *Daring to Hope*) is balm for a weary mama's soul. It's the kind of book you need when you want a big sister to tell you the truth you knew all along, but forgot.



TRANQUILITY BY TUESDAY: 9 WAYS TO CALM THE CHAOS AND MAKE TIME FOR WHAT MATTERS BY LAURA VANDERKAM

Simple, engaging, and very helpful. My favorite chapters were Rule Four: Three Times a Week is a Habit and Rule Six: One Big Adventure, One Little Adventure. Reading this book feels like a good idea at the start of a new school year.



ALL IT TAKES IS A GOAL BY JON ACUFF

One of my favorite reads of 2024! I was delighted by this audiobook, and even [talked to Jon Acuff on the Read-Aloud Revival](#) about the practice of creating a Best Moments List afterward. Highly recommended.

MORE BOOKS FOR MAMA





Read-Aloud Revival

• PREMIUM •

Make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books.

Join Sarah Mackenzie's online community and become the peace-filled, joyful homeschool mama you're called to be.

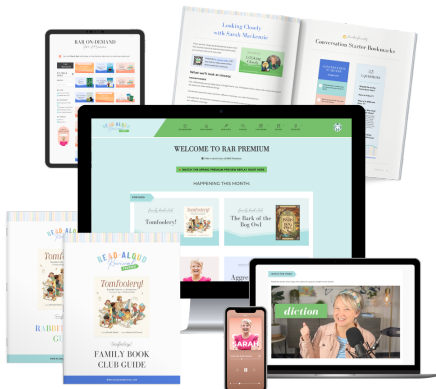
FAMILY BOOK CLUB

IT'S BETTER THAN A CURRICULUM. IT'S A CULTURE.

At RAR Premium, we believe the culture you create matters more than the curriculum you use.

When you focus on relationships, you form warm, memorable connections.

The icing on top? You raise kids who love to read.



CIRCLE WITH SARAH

SARAH'S HOMESCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM

As a busy homeschooling mama, you worry you're not doing enough.

But the key to a successful homeschool is a peace-filled, joyful homeschool mama.

Circle with Sarah equips you with the encouragement and tools you need to become the homeschool mama you're called to be.



LEARN MORE & JOIN US AT [READALOUDREVIVAL.COM](https://readaloudrevival.com)