

EPISODE **56**

What's at Stake and Why Stories Matter

Guest: Jonathan Auxier

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Meet Jonathan Auxier



Jonathan Auxier is a NYT Bestselling author. His first novel *Peter Nimble and his Fantastic Eyes* was an ABA New Voices pick and a BookPage Magazine "Best Book" of 2011.

His bestselling *The Night Gardener* is a Junior Library Guild selection, an ABA IndieNext pick, an Amazon Editor's Pick of the Month, and winner of the TD Book Prize and ILA Book Award. His newest novel, *Sophie Quire & the Last Storyguard* is available now.

He lives in Pittsburgh with his family.

In This Episode

Sarah is joined by her daughter Alison as they interview Jonathan.

They talk about the year Jonathan was homeschooled and the books that turned him into a reader. Jonathan stops Sarah so he can figure out just how many children she has! Then they dish on favorite books and favorite children. And trade Chesterton quotes.

The Listening Guide

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

- 3:45 A little about Jonathan and his family
- 6:45 Jonathan's reading habits as a child
- 11:50 Recommendations from the year of homeschooling
- 15:45 Jonathan's favorite book
- 17:40 Alison's favorite book
- 20:00 Where did Peter Nimble come from?
- 22:50 What happens when we turn our back on a story
- 27:00 Connecting kids with the joy of stories
- 29:50 Jonathan's mission at book signings
- 33:00 Dark characters in children's stories
- 39:30 Jonathan's favorite author
- 42:30 Let the Kids Speak

When the right reader finds the right story something almost mystical transpires and it can actually transform who they are and their perception of the whole world.

~ Jonathan Auxier

Quotes and Questions

* Finding joy in children's books throughout your lifetime.

"That's always been, sort of, a through line in my life as a reader, even as I've dabbled in other kinds of story-telling, children's books have always played a huge role in my life."

One of the hidden joys of reading aloud is actually getting to enjoy children's stories ourselves. Gretchen Rubin reads a children's book every month. Do you revel in your read alouds? Do your kids know how much pleasure you taken sharing these stories with them?

* Are you kids seeing YOU read?

"I think it is essential for our children to see us reading."

So how about it? How often do your children see you reading? How often do they see you prioritize stories instead of screens?

Jonathan has [an intriguing list](#) of children's lit titles on his website from the MFA class he teaches.

* Collecting quotables.

Sarah said, "I copy out quotes from books all the time, but so do my kids."

Collecting quotes in a commonplace book is an excellent way to help deepen our experiences of the stories we read. [Here is a pinboard](#) of ideas that RAR collected to help inspire and inform your practice.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [The Night Gardener](#)
- [Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes](#)
- [Sophie Quire and The Last Story Guard](#)
- [The Harry Potter series](#)
- [The Cam Jansen series](#)
- [The Hardy Boys series](#)
- [The Nancy Drew series](#)
- [The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales](#)
- [Matilda](#)
- [Book of Three](#)
- [Treasure Island](#)
- [The Wingfeather Saga](#)
- [Origami Yoda](#)
- [Wonder](#)
- [Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#)
- [Nathan Hales Hazardous Tales](#)
- [The Jumbies](#)
- [Coraline](#)
- [Fifth Business](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR #36: Christmas and Advent Read-Alouds, Elizabeth Foss](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Revival shop - OPEN NOW!](#)

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Episode **56**

- That C.S. Lewis [quote](#) that Sarah shares
- [On Three Ways of Writing for Children](#) by C.S. Lewis
- That G.K. Chesterton [quote](#)
- Jonathan's [website](#)
- Jonathan on [Facebook](#)
- Jonathan on [Twitter](#)

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