

EPISODE **61**

Highlights from Read-Aloud Revival Author Access

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In This Episode

In this episode Sarah takes us inside Author Access events—exclusive live interviews where kids get to meet their favorite authors. We get to hear from six different writers: Andrew Clements, S.D. Smith, Candace Fleming, Laura Purdie Salas, and Andrea Davis Pinkney.

The Listening Guide

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

- 3:30 Andrew Clements on making books for kids
- 7:10 S.D. Smith on the formative power of story
- 10:15 Where Candace Fleming got the idea for Boxes of Katje
- 14:30 Laura Purdie Salas on choosing what to write about
- 17:30 David Macaulay on research
- 22:10 Andrea Pinkney on becoming a writer
- 30:30 Let the Kids Speak

Science topics just happen to be the ones that get a really visceral, I can feel it in my stomach kind of reaction, and usually a topic that makes you feel that way, that's a topic that you're going to like writing about and you're probably going to be better at writing it. You'll have more patience to dig into the research and you'll just really attack it with passion and that's a great thing in your writing. often. - Laura Purdie Salas

Quotes and Questions

* **Worthy of contemplation.**

“What deserves to be a permanent part of this kid’s childhood?’ I feels it’s a big responsibility and I take that responsibility seriously as a writer and I know that all the people who are inside on a Sunday afternoon listening to some guy like me instead of out there doing all the other things I know that everyone watching takes books seriously.”

What an interesting and empowering way to choose books and curriculum! Charlotte Mason encourages us to give our children books and materials worthy of contemplation. As you select next year’s curriculum, perhaps the question “What deserves to be a permanent part of this kid’s childhood?” can guide you.

* **Take action.**

“I want to challenge you and me, and all of us, grownups and kids alike, to think about our lives as stories and to receive that with humility but also with kind of a little ‘Yeah, this is an opportunity.’ It’s an opportunity for me to take action, for me to make decisions, to take action, to not be passive but to take action and change my story.”

Are you the hero of your own story? Are there actions you need to take to change the story? How can you equip your children to live their own stories?

* **Opening doors.**

“I will tell you that when I was about your age my daddy gave me a notebook. And he said, ‘I want you to write everything in this notebook.’”

Sometimes the smallest gesture, the slightest encouragement, the simplest tools will open a door for a child. Brainstorm a list of ways you might support each of your children this month.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [On the Edge of the Dark Edge of Darkness](#)
- [Where the Mountain Meets the Moon](#)
- [Frindle](#)
- [The Seven Silly Eaters](#)
- [The Snowy Day](#)
- [Boxes for Katje](#)
- [Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!](#)
- [Oh No!](#)
- [Castle](#)
- [Cathedral](#)
- [Pyramid](#)
- [The Way Things Work](#)
- [A Poem for Peter](#)
- [The Mysterious Howling](#)
- [When the Sea Turned to Silver](#)
- [The Green Ember](#)
- [Ship](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [RAR Membership](#)

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