



RAR 71 - The Research and Inspiration Behind Fascinating Historical Fiction, Caroline Starr Rose

Sarah: You're listening to the Read-Aloud Revival podcast. This is the podcast that helps you make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books.

Hey, hey, hey, Sarah Mackenzie here, your host for the Read-Aloud Revival podcast. I have got a great show for you today. So it can be hard to connect with our kids in this busy, noisy world, right? But we know that sharing books with our kids gives us a chance to be fully present. I'm a busy mom of six and I totally know that when life feels crazy spending just a couple of minutes reading to my kids, those who are little and also the big ones, those are the best minutes I can spend all day. It's the most important thing I get to do all day. The great news is that connecting with our kids through books is a lot easier than it seems. In Read-Aloud Revival premium access membership we do it in three simple steps: first, we equip ourselves (the parents) with master classes, cheat sheets, and booklists; second, we inspire our kids with live video streams with the best authors and illustrators around; and then third, we connect with other families who are doing the same thing, who are making meaningful and lasting connections with their kids through books. Enrollment to Read-Aloud Revival premium access opens just twice a year and we're opening the doors again in October. So if you want to make sure you don't miss out when that happens get on the waiting list. No commitment or anything, it just makes sure that

you know when we open the doors. You can do that by popping your email into the page of RARMembership.com. Today's guest and I have some awesome book recommendations for you. Remember you don't have to keep track of them all, all you have to do is head to ReadAloudRevival.com and look for episode 71. We've got all the notes from today's podcast for you right there and I bet you'll recognize her if you're a longtime listener to the podcast. This is the second time we've had today's guest on. Without further ado, let's go take a listen.

If you're a longtime listener of the Read-Aloud Revival podcast you might remember today's guest, Caroline Starr Rose. She was way back at the very beginning of Read-Aloud Revival in season three. She joined us to talk about her first novel in verse which was *May B* and her second novel in verse, a beautiful historical novel called *Bluebirds*. And on the podcast we talked about poetry read alouds for parents who are intimidated by poetry. We'll put the link to that episode in the Show Notes so you can listen. I am thrilled to have her back today to talk about two newer books and just to chat with her about her writing process, about sharing poetry with kids; I know we have lots of listeners at the Read-Aloud Revival that are young writers, aspiring writers, kids who are writing stories and drawing pictures and love to tell stories with words. You're going to love today's podcast, I cannot wait to share Caroline with you. So, Caroline, welcome back to the Read-Aloud Revival.

3:27 Meet Caroline

Caroline: Thank you, Sarah, it's so fun to be chatting with you again.



Sarah: Oh, I love chatting with you so I've been excited for awhile, ever since we got this on the calendar. So remind everyone who may not have listened last time and anyone who's knew to you about your work, about you and your family. Let's start there.

Caroline: Alright, so I am a mom. I have two boys and actually my 16 year old is up at school today registering for his junior year.

Sarah: WOW!

Caroline: I know. And yesterday I took my 14 year old to register to be a freshman, and so I've got two hulking teens and I absolutely love this age. It's really, really fun.

Sarah: I love that you said that because I have a couple of teens now, too, and I keep thinking, 'this might be my favorite yet. Teens are so much fun.'

Caroline: I'm telling you there's kind of this dialogue that goes back and forth; they're at an age where we can really play with our conversations and it's just fun. I enjoy them as the young men that they've become so it's been really special. So my husband, Dan, and I have been married for 22 years and he's a pastor. I am a former teacher and I have taught in New Mexico, Florida, Virginia, and Louisiana. You can't see me but every time I have to talk through those states I have to point out in an imaginary map to make sure I get all those places, but we are back in our hometown now in Albuquerque which is a thrill for us each day we wake up and look at the beautiful Sandia mountains and think, 'I can't believe we're actually here again.' So it's a real thrill. I'm an author of five books; my fifth comes out in October. I write middle grade novels so books for 8-12 year olds or sometimes classified as 10 and up, and then also picture

books. And this summer marks 19 years of writing for me. The summer of 1998 I sat down, this was in Florida when Dan was in seminary, and for years I always said I wanted to write a novel so I sat down and tried it and it was awful but it was a fabulous learning experience and that summer set me up for the process of writing through the summer time, editing, and then sending out to editors during the school year - 19 years later here I am.

5:38 Caroline's Picture Book

OK, so tell us about your picture books as well.

Caroline: Yes. My first picture book is called *Over in the Wetlands* and it came out of the time we lived in Louisiana. We moved to Louisiana just under two years after Hurricane Katrina and I remember flying into New Orleans and it really looked like the storm had just passed through maybe a week before. I know that our town, Homer, is an hour and a half southwest of New Orleans and it was just part of daily conversation; two years later the storm was still part of daily conversation. And what really struck me was to discover how the wetlands of the Louisiana coast, the entire gulf coast, were slowly being destroyed. This just felt like news that I should have heard in other parts of the country but I had never heard this before and so I felt like I really wanted to write a story that celebrated the plants and animals of Louisiana, this really amazing place that I had come to love, but also brought information about the plight of the wetlands. *Over in the Wetlands* is a story, long story short, about the animals of Louisiana preparing for a hurricane.

Sarah: And the illustrations are so gorgeous. I love this picture of ...



Caroline: Aren't they lovely? I love it.

Sarah: One of your brand new books, *Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine* is one of my very favorite reads all year. I loved this book! *Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine* is a story about the Klondike gold rush in Alaska which is something I didn't know anything about. I loved this book so very much, it flew to the top of several of my favorite read aloud lists and read alone lists; I actually read it on my own as I was traveling, I couldn't put it down, and I was telling my son about it, "You have to read this book!" Tell us a little bit about ... well, first of all, maybe let's just give the listeners a quick little summary of what the book is about then we'll talk about the research because I'm imagining that you had to do a lot research for this book.

7:40 Meet Jasper

Caroline: So, Jasper is an 11 year old boy living near Seattle, it's 1897, and he has a big brother named Melvin, and they're living in a house that's kind of a sad place; life is rough for them right now. Melvin comes home from work one evening with a newspaper that is going to change their lives. In this newspaper it announces that gold has been discovered in the Klondike region of Canada and Melvin decides he's going to go and get this gold. Now for years the boys together have talked about getting away from home so Jasper assumes that he is included in Melvin's plans. He's not. Melvin leaves on his own, Jasper runs away from home to follow him and along the way when the boys are reunited they hear a legend about a man named One Eyed Riley and according to this legend Riley had a mine worth millions of dollars in gold, he became so wealthy he was willing to give this mine away to the first person who can find it. In order to find the mine

somebody must first discover and then solve five riddles that will lead a person directly to this mine. So Jasper is determined he and Melvin will be the two to find One Eyed Riley's mine.

Sarah: OK, and the riddles are so much fun. I just found myself staring out into space and then I would realize what I was doing and what I was trying to do is piece them together and think, 'Wait, did I miss something?' You know, like trying to piece them together and solve it as I was reading. So much fun. So, first of all, where did the idea for writing the book come from?

Caroline: This actually came from three, or actually I should say, three and a half things. So first of all, my boys, Noah and Caleb really wanted me to write a book about a boy. My first two novels are about girls. I think they both separately said to me in a couple of different occasions, "Mom, are you ever going to write a book about a boy?" So I thought that is something I should honor. I definitely need to consider doing that. So that was, kind of, the first seed. The second seed was planted actually years before that. Before the boys asked for a book about a boy I had been researching *May B* which is a book that takes place in Kansas on the frontier. But before I knew it was going to be in Kansas I knew it was going to be a frontier story I just didn't know especially where it would take place so I was reading really broadly and when I mentioned to my mom that I was researching the frontier she handed me a book about Alaska because that's the ultimate frontier, right, the last frontier on the United States. And in that book, the book was called *The Women of Klondike*, so it was about both Alaska and Canada. And just for a little bit of background on the Klondike gold rush, the actual Klondike region is just across the border of Alaska so the miners were in both



areas, they had to travel through Alaska to get to Canada, so really, in some ways Alaska claims the gold rush as their own as well. So I was reading this book and I just thought, ‘Oh my gosh, this is so fascinating.’ I really didn’t, just like you, I really didn’t know anything about the Klondike gold rush, the only thing I could remember from my school days learning about it was reading the Jack London story, *To Build a Fire* which is so fabulous – I love that story. It’s really bleak but I love bleak things because I’m strange that way.

Sarah: I don’t think I’ve read that one actually.

Caroline: Oh my gosh, go read it, Sarah!

Sarah: OK. I’m not sure I’m big on bleak but, OK, I’ll read it.

Caroline: You’ve got to warm to bleak. So that just really intrigued me; the setting, this far off place that was just kind of mysterious. I thought someday, maybe I’ll write a book about it. And then the third thing that was part of this story is a man here in New Mexico, an eccentric millionaire named Forrest Fenn, around the time I was starting to work with this book, this man had published a poem, a cryptic poem. He claims to have buried hidden treasure somewhere north of Santa Fe (he’s from Santa Fe). It’s somewhere north of Santa Fe and somewhere south of the Canadian border, somewhere in the Rocky Mountains and his treasure box has gold, it has gems, I mean, it’s like something from a storybook.

Sarah: Wow.

Caroline: And this poem is supposed to direct you to the treasure. So the first person who can crack the code very much like One Eyed Riley in my story gets to keep the treasure. No one has

found it yet. Unfortunately, two people perhaps even a third I read recently, somebody has been lost and not yet discovered but at least two people have lost their lives at this point trying to find the treasure...

Sarah: Oh my goodness.

Caroline: But a more positive note, Forrest Fenn’s poem and his treasure were part of the idea behind *Jasper*. So, a book about a boy, the Klondike because I was fascinated with it, Forrest Fenn’s treasure, (that’s my three), and then the half thing that is connected is *Huckleberry Finn*.

When I committed to writing a book about a boy I thought back through my mind about the most amazing boy character I could ever have thought up or anybody has ever thought up (I couldn’t have thought this guy up) and my mind immediately went to Huck Finn. He is just a remarkable kid, but a great character from the book that many people consider the Great American Novel and so I decided that Jasper would be based on Huck. And so that’s where the story comes from.

Sarah: I think I’ve heard you say that before that *Jasper* was based partly on Huck and as soon as you said it, I thought uh-huh, I can totally see it now. I love it.

Caroline: I really hope that kids someday, of course they would read *Huckleberry Finn* later in life than they would read *Jasper* but I hope there’ll be kids that will first read *Jasper* and then later read *Huck* and think, ‘Oh, this kind of reminds me of that book I read when I was younger, that one called *Jasper*.’



13:39 Caroline's Research Process

Sarah: What was researching this book like? Or maybe the better question I should ask especially for our young listeners who love to know the nitty-gritty behind writing a book, how long did you spend researching and what kind of things did you do to research the book?

Caroline: That's a great question. I typically take six months before I do any writing researching. And I think for this book it was that length of time. I know for *Bluebirds* it took me nine months before I started writing anything. *Jasper* was a little tricky before it was part of a two book deal, so the first book that I sold was *Bluebirds*, the second book was *Jasper*. So I had to learn how to both do the research and the drafting for *Jasper* while I was also while I was also working on *Bluebirds* so that was a pretty steep learning curve for me, but what I did was set aside roughly six months of time just to immerse myself in the Klondike. And what I like to do for each new book that I work on is to get myself a brand new journal (I really love blank journals) and that becomes my place to capture everything; I write down questions, I write down all sorts of facts, I paste in maps, all sorts of things. So I went back through my notes in preparation for this discussion and I see that I read 13 non-fiction books to learn about the Klondike. Oftentimes I start with books for kids. I got to the juvenile section of the library because you get a really quick and good overview of whatever time period or whatever topic you're selecting, but also in the back in the Bibliography section you will find a great list of meatier books that you can then dig into and so that is a great place to always start, in the children's section.

Sarah: I would not have even thought of that. That's brilliant.

Caroline: It's great. It really is great. And then I watched two television series about the Klondike. My husband and I actually took a cruise to Alaska which was really exciting for our 20th anniversary, so this is the first time I have ever got to visit a place that I've written about ...

Sarah: Cool.

Caroline: ...we [**Inaudible** 15:34] park. Yes, it was a thrill – and that was at Skagway which ends up in the story. And then I also read five novels and one thesis in preparation for the writing; one of the novels was, of course, *Huck Finn*. I wanted to re-read that to get a sense of the storyline, Huck's character, his language because that's something, again, the way Jasper speaks is in a lot of ways a hat tip to Huckleberry.

I read some other gold rush books. The thesis that I read was from a student in a Master of Fine Arts program at a school called the Vermont College of Fine Arts which specializes in degrees for children's literature and it was called *Huck's Legacy: The Complex Nature of the Humorous First-Person Storyteller* so I was really fortunate to have access to this thesis all about characters that have been based on Huck Finn; what they're like, what his makeup was- his strengths, his weaknesses. It really, really was -- I struck gold, Sarah!

Sarah: You struck gold. Love it! And while you're reading and doing all this research, you're taking notes in that journal just things you don't want to forget, things that strike you as surprising, whatever?

Caroline: Yes. And one thing I like to do is I start with library books but if I can I like to purchase



books so that I can ... the easiest way for me to read is first to read and highlight along the way and then I go back and write down quotes from the books that I've highlighted in my journal. So it's like I'm reading twice, essentially. With the book from the library I'm happy to take notes along the way but I prefer to own the books so I can mark it up.

Sarah: Yeah, I'm a book marking person, too, for sure. This is totally a tangent but do you use book darts? Have you seen them?

Caroline: I have seen them but I have not used them. They look really fun though.

Sarah: They are really fun. My friend Annabelle got me hooked on them a few months ago and now I buy, I compulsively buy more tins because all the books I read have these book darts in them. The idea being that you use the book dart – it's like a thin metal arrow, a tin full of them – and you slide them onto the side of your page and they point directly to the passage you want to remember. So I'll keep them near me while I'm reading and I'll stick them in and then afterward I can go back and take the book dart out and copy the passage into my reading journal.

Caroline: Nice!

Sarah: Yes, which is great when it works, and unfortunately I have a lot of books that have book darts in them that I haven't copied yet into my reading journal. I like it. I like it especially because my girls do not like it when I mark in books and it keeps me from writing in them although I still prefer to write in the book if it's mine. I'll write in it till the cows come home.

Caroline: Well, with library books I reuse and reuse and reuse stickies. There's only so long

those guys are going to stick so this is a good idea.

18:11 Ride On Will Cody

Sarah: So now let's switch gears just a little bit and talk about a brand new book that hasn't been released yet. We're going to put a link in the Show Notes so that anybody listening can preorder it. I'm really excited about it. I've got a little sneak peek at pieces of it but it's called *Ride On Will Cody*. Tell us about this picture book.

Caroline: Oh my goodness this book. I say this with every book but I actually deeply, deeply mean it. This one is really close to my heart. So *Ride On Will Cody* came about as a result of a family trip that we took in 2012. We went up to Denver together in the summer for a week or so and we had a daytrip up to Golden which is north of Denver and along the way I happened to see a sign that was pointing a certain direction toward a Buffalo Bill museum. And I thought, 'What in the world? Why is Buffalo Bill in Colorado?' I had no idea. So I said, "Hey guys, can we just go up to this museum for some time. Indulge me for a moment." So we drove up this mountain to the crest and there was this museum. Evidently Buffalo Bill spent his last days in Golden, Colorado and his grave is there so that was really kind of fun to see. This museum was fascinating and it's just all the sorts of things I love to write about. As I was walking through the exhibit I saw lots of grit and determination and you know, just a larger than life character. And I, kind of, put in the back of my mind, I'd like to write a Buffalo Bill story someday. So the following January I pulled all sorts of books from the library; again, starting with children's nonfiction and just read as broadly as I could about his life. I expected my story was going to focus on his older years when he had his



wild west show but what I was really drawn to was a Legend (and we're going to use a capital L for this legend because according to historians now they're pretty sure it's not true) ...

Sarah: OK.

Caroline: ... but according to Legend Buffalo Bill claimed to have ridden for the Pony Express two different times. He said when he was 14 and then he went home for a time and then he came back when he was 15. And this story is supposed to recount one of those rides that he had when he was 15. He claimed to have the third longest ride in Pony Express history; it covered 322 miles, it took over 21 hours and required 21 horses.

Sarah: Oh my goodness.

Caroline: I know. Now, a typical ride for a full day of work for a Pony Express rider would be about 70-75 miles so just imagine what that would have taken; the stamina, you know there was no rest, the only time he stopped was to switch horses. So whether it was actually his story or not, whoever took this ride it's just an incredible thing.

20:52 Verse vs. Prose

Sarah: And this is a picture book that's written in verse, right?

Caroline: This is, yes. And my two picture books are in rhyming verse, so the only thing I've rhymed up to this point is in my picture books.

Sarah: OK, and let me distinguish that for our young listeners, actually. So when we say a book written in verse that's a book written in poetry. Rhyming verse, of course, are poems that rhyme, and then Caroline Starr Rose's historical middle grade novels *May B* and *Bluebirds* are both novels written in verse but they're non-rhyming. And then *Jasper and the Riddle of Riley's Mine* is

your first book you've written in prose. Is that right?

Caroline: Yes. And that was a huge change. There was so much to learn.

Sarah: So, prose, kids, is a book that's written not in poetry or not in verse. It's what you're normally reading when you're reading a chapter book or a novel – you're reading a prose. So tell me, Caroline, I'm really interested, what's harder for you: writing in verse or writing in prose?

Caroline: Prose is absolutely harder for me. So the first three manuscripts I wrote out (I won't call them books because they never became books) but the first three manuscripts I wrote were prose. And it wasn't until I wrote *May B* that it just felt like the most honest, close to the bone piece of writing I've ever created and it was really like I was coming home to my first language. I don't know how else to describe it. Since then, now that I have written a prose novel and actually published it and had to do all the hard work with an editor who kindly pointed out all the ways that I needed to improve it, prose is the challenge but with a poem you have you're working with the white space as well as the language and so it's just more brief, it's more spare, and it's just the way that I think, I guess.

Sarah: One of the questions we hear kids ask all the time is how long does it take you to write a book? So I'd love to hear how long it took you to write both *Jasper* and *Ride On Will Cody*.

Caroline: As I said earlier *Jasper* was part of the two book deal so it was one of those unique situations where before I'd written a word I hadn't even told my editor my idea, that was both flattering and terrifying at the same time to think that I had a new project under contract that didn't even exist in my mind yet.



Sarah: Yeah.

Caroline: But that book sold in April 2013 and then came out in February 2017, so that's four years.

Sarah: Yeah, wow.

Caroline: Just somebody pointed out to me at my launch party for the book. She said, "You know, that's basically a college degree." I'm like, you know what? That's right!

Sarah: That is right! I'm just thinking my twins just turned four and I feel like it's been a long four years.

Caroline: That's a perfect comparison. That's actually funny because now let's compare it to *Ride On Will Cody* I wrote that in January 2012 and it was on submission for 35 months, so that's one month less than three years.

Sarah: Wow.

Caroline: So I thought about a young child the whole time that book was out there, thinking, 'I could have given birth to a child and had a full blown toddler in the length of time ...'

Sarah: He'd be like potty-trained by now!

Caroline: And this book, this is really interesting, I have to share this. So remember what I said? The third longest ride in Pony Express history? This book basically took three years to sell. Do you remember how many hours and how many horses that it required? Over 21 hours and 21 horses. I got 21 rejections for this book before I found my "yes."

Sarah: WOW!

Caroline: It still gives me goosebumps because I think about I was sure this book, actually the spring I guess it was last year the book sold, that

spring I took a week off of writing. I was just really discouraged. I had several manuscripts and several of them are still out there circulating. I'm not sure if they ever will have a future or not but hope springs eternal but, I really had to come to the point and grieve this book. I felt like it's one that maybe is not going to have a future, you need to be able to let it go and maybe just not write for a little bit. I spent some time reading and grieving and just getting my head in a healthier place. And just a few weeks later my agent contacted me and said, "You're book is going to acquisitions" which means it's passed through the first two rounds at a publishing house; first it needs to meet with the approval of the editor that you've sent it to and then at many houses the next step is the editorial board which all the editors in the house will come together and talk about manuscripts, it passes on to the final step which is the acquisitions board - that includes the publisher and marketing department, basically everybody. Now, here's the trick though. So while it was on submission one editor (I got all these no's) did send a note to my agent asking for me to resubmit and rewrite. So it's called and R&R. Basically she made no promises but she gave some direction saying, "If you will consider looking at the book again and making some of [these] changes I would like to see it a second time." So I spent several months making changes, as much as verse feels like my first language, when I'm rhyming I set a lot of limitations. Limitations actually bring me a lot of freedom; I know that sounds weird but this story uses rhyme, repetition, and rhythm. Rhyme, rhyme, and repetition- those are the three r's I have used in both of my picture books up to this point. And somehow those limitations help me find the story. I feel like it's a puzzle that I'm trying to put together and knowing that these



boundaries are in place means that someday I will be able to find which piece belongs where, that a solution will come about. But it does mean that sometimes it takes a lot of work to find exactly the right words to tell the story. So I spent a few more months working on that- sent it back to my agent, she sent it back to the editor. She held onto it for 10 months and ultimately said no.

Sarah: Wow.

Caroline: So that was really disappointing.

Sarah: Oh yeah.

Caroline: But, you know what, when the book sold, I sent her a quick note saying that I want you to know that the book sold and I really think a large part of that is because of the hard work that you had me do, so thank you for helping me to improve the book. And she was really gracious about that. So you know my favorite thing to say about writing is that writing is never efficient, but no effort is ever wasted. You are constantly learning and while it might not seem you're producing a lot especially while I'm writing a picture book. My picture books are both around 300 words, so to spend weeks and weeks first producing 300 words and then months revising 300 words, I mean talk about inefficient. But that effort was not wasted. Even if the book had never sold that effort would have not been wasted because I was improving my work, I was improving my voice, my ability to communicate, and just experiencing a story, being in the midst of the writing, there's deep satisfaction in that.

28:00 Introducing Novels in Verse

Sarah: In our Read-Aloud Revival premium access forum we had a question from Sarah Gentry and she wants to know when a good age, you think is, to introduce kids to novels in verse?

She says she knows of many great ones but they seem targeted to kids ages 10 and up, do you have any to recommend for kids under 10?

Caroline: I do. Now I can't promise that I've read all these. I have to tell you I still have tons to learn about, well, basically everything in the world, in this particular moment we're talking about verse novels so I still have so much to learn, but I have pulled up for that skew for the younger side of middle grade, so maybe around eight, so you know as early as second or third grade if your reader is astute. I can recommend *Gone Fishing* by Tamera Wissinger, *Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech, *Little Dog Lost* by Marion Dane Bauer and *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* by Julie Sternberg.

Sarah: That's a hilarious title. I have never heard of that.

Caroline: And I haven't read that one but doesn't it make you want to pick the book up?

Sarah: It does. It totally does. OK, so we'll put all the links to those books in the Show Notes for episode 71. So if you're going "Ah, I didn't have my pencil" just go to ReadAloudRevival.com look for episode 71 and we'll have them all there for you. Do you think there's a particularly good age to start reading verse novels? And actually, I should mention that the last time we talked I think one of the things you recommended that I've really tried to do with my own kids is that when you're reading aloud a novel in verse having your child sit next to you and looking at the page because verse says as much by how it's laid out on the page, so it's important to see it as well as to hear it. Right?

Caroline: I used to tell my students "Poetry should be seen and heard and ideally, seen, heard, and spoken" so that you really experience



poetry most fully when you're engaging a couple of different senses and getting to see the words on the pages is excellent because you get to see how the story's communicated. Now, I have to tell you, Sarah, since then, I've always felt really strongly about this but I listened (it took me this long – it took me, gosh, I think it was last winter) I listened to my first verse novel on an audio book and it was the spectacular (we've talked about this book before online) *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander. So, I was driving home from a school visit in a small town in northern New Mexico and I took this book as my companion on the way. When the book ended I wanted to pull over and applaud it was that magnificent. The language was incredible. And the thing is I have not yet seen this book as a book, I've only listened. So if I was able to get that much from the story simply by listening imagine getting to see it as well. So I don't want to give the impression You Must Never Listen to Poetry, we can, but I think you can even gain more in seeing it as well as hearing it.

Sarah: I have heard that *Brown Girl Dreaming* read aloud is read aloud by Jacqueline Woodson herself. Actually, funny story about reading it, I was reading it to myself in bed. My husband comes up to go to bed and he kind of looks around the room and he says, "Are you reading aloud to yourself?" And I said, "Well, it's in verse, it wants to be said out loud." But you could see that as I'm reading it silently to myself it's like I couldn't just leave the words on the page I had to speak them, it's like it begs me to read aloud, so I was reading aloud the book to myself. But I want to listen to it read by Jacqueline Woodson too because I can just totally see how even just listening to those on a drive or on a walk or something would be really moving.

Well, this has been such a wonderful conversation. I'm excited for *Ride On Will Cody* to come out. Again, listeners, we're going to have links to all the books and things we've talked about today at ReadAloudRevival.com. Look at episode 71. And definitely check out Caroline's website which is CarolineStarrRose.com. We'll have a link to that in the Show Notes as well. There's a lot of really great resources there at her website. Caroline, thank you so very much for coming on the show.

Caroline: It was absolutely my pleasure, Sarah. Thank you.

32:15 Let the kids speak

Now it's time for Let the Kids Speak. This is my favorite part of the podcast where kids tell us about their favorite stories that have been read aloud to them.

Child1: Hi my name is Matty. I am 9 and I live in Medford, Oregon. My favorite book is *The Geronimo Stilton series* because they're hilarious books. Bye.

Child2: Hi, my name is Hosanna and I live in Minnesota. And I'm 4 1/2 and I'm going to be 5 in May 15 and my sister's **[**inadudible**]** so funny and my favorite book is **[**inadudible**]**. I like it because Irene gets covered up with snow and gets to the ball.

Child3: Hi, my name is Elsa. I'm 3 years old. **[**inadudible**]** Happily Ever After. [Mom: And what book is that in?] In *Beauty and the Beast*.

Child4: Hi, my name is Miles Crawford. I'm 9 years old and I live in Missoula, Montana. My favorite book is *Ember Falls*. I like the part where Pickett flies over the battlefield.



Child5: Hi, my name is Jasper. I am 6 years old and I live in Missoula, Montana. My favorite books are *The Nate the Great series*. I like it when Oliver's trash can is somehow tipped over. Nate the Great tries to find out why.

Child6: My name is **[**inadudible**]**. I'm 9 years old. I live in Lisbon. My favorite book is *Treasure Island* by Amy Flighton.

Child7: My name is **[**inadudible**]**. I am 11 years old. I live in Lisbon first of all. My favorite book is **[**inadudible**]** *the Milk* book by Neil Damond.

Child8: Hello, my name is Georgia. I'm 5 years old. I live in Tennessee and my favorite book is *Where's my Sweetie Pie* because I can read most of the parts and I like when you open it up and the animals are in this pocket **[**inadudible**]** thing and there I am.

Child9: Hello, my name is Ella. I'm 4 1/2 years old and I live in Florida and my favorite book is *Brambly Hedge*. And my favorite characters are Primrose and Wilfred. I like what they have and what they do and I like the illustrations . And that's what I really like, so bye.

Child10: My name is Leslie **[**inadudible**]** and I'm 5 years old. I live in Lexington, Kentucky. My favorite book *Little Mommy* because I like how she teaches her dollies.

Child11: Hi. My name is Gabriella. I live in California and I'm almost 9. My favorite book read aloud to me is *The Green Ember*. Every chapter ends in a cliff hanger. It's full of action and excitement. Heather and Pickett are siblings but when disaster strikes they have to leave their home. This tells all about their adventure and the war going on in their world.

Sarah: Awesome. Thanks kids. Love it. I love hearing the books that you like to read. If your

kids would like to leave a message for the Read-Aloud Revival, go to ReadAloudRevival.com and look for the "Start Recording" button in the lower left hand of the page. We can edit and clean those up so if you have a really young child and you just need to have a conversation with them that works too. You can coach your child and they can repeat after you – all that good stuff. We can make it sound great. Everybody in our Read-Aloud Revival community loves hearing from your kids. So make sure you do that, ReadAloudRevival.com. Don't miss your chance to join Read-Aloud Revival premium access membership. It's truly where we have the very best resources to help you make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids. You can get on the waiting list so that you don't miss that announcement when we open the doors by going to RARMembership.com. You want to do that soon because once we open and close the doors in October we don't do again until spring, so you don't want to miss it. We have ... just wait ... I cannot wait to tell you about all the people we have coming – authors and illustrators we have coming to Read-Aloud Revival premium access next year. So get on that waiting list so you don't miss those announcements. Alright? Hey, until next week, go make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books.