



RAR 88 – Don't Miss this Book: The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street

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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.

Hello, hello, Sarah Mackenzie here with episode 88 of the Read-Aloud Revival podcast. Today, I want to introduce you to someone I just met not too long ago, but who I'm certain is going to be discussed here frequently on the Read-Aloud Revival. She's one of my new favorite authors. I can't wait to tell you about her new book. It's her first book. It came out last October so it's not like crazy new but it's her first book, but it's called, *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*. It's the story of the Vanderbeeker family which is a family of 7, a mom, a dad, and five of their kids who live in a brownstone in New York's Harlem. And, at the very beginning of the book the Vanderbeeker family finds out that their rather curmudgeonly grumpy, hermit-like landlord, Mr. Beiderman isn't going to renew their lease. And, this is devastating to their family and those five Vanderbeeker siblings band together to try to get

him to change his mind. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves *The Penderwicks* by Jeannie Birdsall. I want to say it's a throwback novel but it's not because it's set in the present day. It's set in present day New York City. It feels like it could be of the same era as Edward Eager's *Half Magic*, or Elizabeth Enright's *The Saturdays*, or E. Nesbit's *Five Children and It*, but it's set in the here and now, so the parents use Smartphones and the Wifi goes out, things like that, but the siblings, oh the sibling relationships are so well done. And, each of the sibling characters are really uniquely loveable and wonderful, so I can't recommend this book highly enough. I would hand it to any child, I'd say 7 and up, that can read on their own. Or just read it aloud with everyone. In fact, I read it myself over Christmas and then immediately started reading it aloud to all six of my kids. My oldest is 16 and my youngest are 4 year old twins—everybody's listening; that's how good it is. I was so thrilled with this book that I asked the author if she would come to the Read-Aloud Revival to talk about writing it and she came. She's here today. You are in for a treat.

Karina Yan Glaser says her proudest accomplishment as a mother is that her kids can't go anywhere without a book. So, I think she's going to feel right at home here at the Read-Aloud Revival. I just had to have Karina on the podcast after reading her book, *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* which is one of my new absolute favorite books. If you follow the Read-Aloud Revival on Facebook or Instagram you probably saw a picture of it. I just devoured this book and then couldn't stop talking about it. Actually, I read it myself and then immediately started reading it aloud to my kids; so we're going through it again. I enjoyed it that much. It



was even a 2017 New York Times' notable children's book and Karina has taught and implemented literacy programs in homeless shelters and she's a contributing editor at Book Riot where she writes a weekly newsletter called, *The Kids Are All Right* that gives children's book recommendation posts. So, you know we're definitely going to ask her for some recommendations while we're on the show today. She lives in Harlem with her husband, her two daughters, and an assortment of rescued animals. Karina, welcome to the Read-Aloud Revival, I'm so glad you're here.

Karina: I'm so happy to be here. Thanks for having me on.

Sarah: Oh, you're welcome. You know, I've told you before already, how much I loved this new book. And, I'm just certain that Read-Aloud Revival listeners are going to love *The Vanderbeekers* as much as I do. First of all, I mean, we were destined to love *The Vanderbeekers* because you, the author of the book, have a dog named Ginger Pye, right?

Karina: That's correct.

Sarah: And anybody who names a pet after a character in an Eleanor Estes book is considered family around here, I'm thinking.

Karina: That's awesome, because not everyone understands the relationships, so sometimes when I tell people our dog's name is Ginger Pye they are very confused and then they wonder if it's a dessert or they start calling her Apple Pie, so it's nice not to have to explain it.

Sarah: That is so funny. And then, how old are your daughters now?

Karina: So, one is 8 and the other one is 9, she'll be 10 next month.

Sarah: Awesome. And you live in New York?

Karina: Yes.

4:59 Brownstones as characters

Sarah: Which is fabulous because you paint such a vivid picture of Harlem in *The Vanderbeekers*, in fact, I was telling my husband the same day I read it, it's like the house that the Vanderbeekers live in, and in fact, the whole neighborhood are even more characters in this story, and then as I was digging around last night before our conversation peeking around to see what else I can find out about your writing I saw some other people said the same thing, so I think there's that reader experience that we all share of experiencing the brownstone house that the Vanderbeeker family lives in, and the neighborhood that they live in in Harlem as characters of the story, and I just love that so much.

Karina: Yeah, that was really fun to write. So, actually in the beginning when I was writing the story I wrote a lot more about the brownstone and I just think it's really fascinating, the history of brownstones in Harlem and where the materials were mined and a lot of these brownstones are very old, a lot of them are built a hundred years ago and there's a lot of historic areas in Harlem and throughout New York City and with these gorgeous brownstones that thankfully have been preserved over the years, and just living anywhere but because I live here just walking by those and wondering what's the history of the people who have lived there. And, the neighborhood has seen so many generations come through it and it really made me think about the different things that could have happened over time, and when I was brainstorming ideas



for the title of the book I was even thinking about bringing in some kind of language with the brownstone in it as well, so it was definitely in my mind to character. And, when I was writing it the different people who had read they all really latched on to those parts of the story where I had written about the brownstone coming to life and in my mind I was wondering is this strange or is this working? And, it was nice to get that feedback that it was working in that people wanted even more of that. So, it was really fun to experiment with making the brownstone a character and have it react to the children and, I think, it also helped build some suspense around why it was so important that the kids stay there because the brownstone loved the family and they loved the brownstone and so, it was great. It was a really fun adventure to explore in my writing. I had a really good time with it.

7:01 First book!

Sarah: OK, so this is your first book, right? Is this the first book that you've ever written or is just the first book that you've ever published?

Karina: It's the first book I've ever written and the first book I've published.

Sarah: That's amazing! OK, so when I was poking around last night I found out that you wrote the first draft of *The Vanderbeekers* during Nanowrimo. So, for any listeners who don't know, Nanowrimo is National Novel Writing Month, and it's basically this movement of people—anybody can sign up in November, lots and lots of writers try to write an entire novel in the 30 days of November and there's just a lot of energy and camaraderie around writers all working really hard toward a very big goal every November. And, my daughter actually did Nanowrimo this last year;

my kids have done it on and off over the last years but I was so inspired when I read that you wrote the first draft during Nanowrimo because this is an amazing book and I guess I would have thought there's no possible way that it could have come out of such a short period of time. I mean, I know it probably percolated in your mind for a lot longer before that but actually, I'm going to stop talking and ask you about that. So, how did that ... Instead of just theorizing over here ... how did that, sort of, come about? Tell me about the process of creating *The Vanderbeeker* book.

Karina: So, the idea to actually write a book didn't really ... it was a long time in coming, so I was writing a blog just about our family and just experiences of being a mom and raising kids in New York City, and it was only really shared with my close family as a way to share because none of my family were living here so it was a way for me to connect with them and they could read stories about what was going on here and also see pictures of the kids growing up. And, my husband's uncle, he was following blog very closely, and it was really sweet, because he doesn't read a lot of fiction, his main books of choice are historical biographies and [****inaudible****] and those kinds of things ...

Sarah: OK.

Karina: ... so, he would wake up in the morning, he would read the news, and then he had saved my blog on his browser so he could check that everyday and he told me that, I had no idea, and he told me that when we were visiting him in Chicago one year and he said, "I know what you need to do next." And, I asked him what his thoughts were—he has a lot of opinions, and he said, "You need to write a book." And, I just laughed it off, I didn't really think he was being serious but then he told me he was being serious,



he thought I should really write a book, and that the next time I saw him I should have a book ready for him to read. So ...

Sarah: Oh my gosh!

Karina: ... and so, it just made me think because it was around that time my younger daughter was starting to go to preschool a few days a week and it was only for a few hours and my other daughter had just started kindergarten so there was a bit of space in my life that I hadn't had in the previous few years, and so when I dropped my daughter off at preschool I would run to this coffee shop and start dabbling in writing and work more on my book and just, sort of, mess around with short stories in my head, and then I signed up for writing—a children's book writing class, and that's when I found out about Nanowrimo, people throwing around this word I had no idea what it was, and so I looked it up and I told my husband, "I'm going to do this challenge." And, he thought I was completely nuts to do that, because I still had the two kids and we were very busy but it was a great challenge because it forced me to just write and not self-edit or be self-critical of what I was writing, so I liked the way that Nanowrimo has a philosophy of just write, don't erase anything, don't delete anything, just write. And, I think that's a really great way for people who get stuck in writing. I know, I get stuck when I'm writing something and I'm like, that's not what I wanted to say or that's not how I wanted to say it or the language is not the way I wanted to write it, and I think that can stall us as writers and prevent us from moving forward, so I love how Nanowrimo just tells you just go for it and just write 50,000 words and it can be messy if that's what your vision is for, just get the story down, get your ideas down, and I completed the challenge and

then I did a lot of revision. It took about two years before I was able to get an agent and then after getting an agent it was very fast to getting an editor. So, I thought it was a very helpful challenge because that's how I think about writing now even as I draft other books, that I just need to get the story down, I need to get my thoughts down and it's not going to be good and a lot of it is going to be revised and I think about the first book, *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* and I think probably about 80% of it changed in some way; the whole plot changed, the characters were the same, the story of the five kids living in the brownstone with parents—that was all the same, but a lot of other things changed, and so that was my experience. I think it's a great challenge; I encourage everyone to try it at least once.

13:50 Writing class lessons

Sarah: So, that is so inspiring to me. So, you took a children's book writing class—was that online or was it somewhere in your local community?

Karina: So, in New York City there's a school called, *Gotham Writing Workshop* (I think) and so I went there and took a children's book class and that was about two or three months, and we met every week, and that's when I learned about sharing my work and not being shy about getting critique because I think that's another thing that holds writers back is that we can be so self-critical and then to get a critique from other people can feel like ...

Sarah: A personal attack, kind of.

Karina: Right, exactly. Like, you're a failure, or your writing's not good.

Sarah: Yeah, yeah.



Karina: So, I learned in that class to not take things personally and people will give you critiques and some of it might be very good and some of it might be things that aren't helpful advice, and it was good to take that class because I learn how to sift through advice and also learn how to not be afraid of sharing my work. And, so now, it's been great because now I want a lot of people to read my drafts and give me feedback and it's been great because I feel like when you have a group of people who are supporting you as a writer and supporting your work that they want the best for you and if they have questions about things in your manuscript then other people, other readers, will have questions about it as well, so it's things that you might not have thought about when you were writing it but it brings up questions in other people and I think it's really good to get that feedback and to respond to it.

15:03 Karina's writing process

Sarah: Well, I guess my next question is, I don't want to spoil anything for our listeners, I don't want to spoil any of the story, but I'm curious to know if you knew where *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*, where that particular story was going when you started? I guess I'm asking if you outlined ahead of time or if you just wrote into it to figure out what was going to happen next?

Karina: OK, so I knew the climax of the story before I started and I knew, sort of, the main thread about the children; that was pretty much all I had. And, I'm not really an outline-r, I spend a lot of time thinking about it but not necessarily creating a solid outline. I think all writers do it really differently; some people can only write if they have a solid outline, and I am more of just like a, I keep a notebook with me at all times, if I

have an idea or if I think of something as I'm walking I'll write it down, and the story sort of comes, sort of, shapes itself over the course of time, and I like to write chronologically, a lot of writers will write different parts at different times and then piece it all together. And, I like to write chronologically, so even though I knew what the climax of the story was going to be I didn't write it until I got to that point.

17:21 The Read-Aloud Family

We'll get back to today's episode in just a moment. But, I wanted to take a quick minute to make sure you know about *The Read-Aloud Family*. This is a new book I wrote just for you. Here's what I know: you will never, ever regret the time you spend reading to your kids. Connecting deeply with our families can be, kind of, difficult, right, in our really busy and technology-driven world? But reading aloud is one of the best ways to be fully present with our kids even after they can read to themselves. In the new book, *The Read-Aloud Family* you'll find the inspiration you need to start a read-aloud movement in your own home. You'll discover how to prepare your kids for academic success, how to develop their empathy and compassion, all through reading aloud. You're going to learn how to find time to read-aloud in the midst of your really busy day; school, sports, dinner dishes, all those pressures on your time and attention. And, you'll learn how to choose books across a variety of sibling interests and ages. The best part is that you'll discover how to make reading aloud the very best part of your family's day. *The Read-Aloud Family* also offers age-appropriate book lists from infancy all the way through adolescence. So, from a toddler's wonder to your teenager's resistance, you're going to discover practical



strategies to make reading aloud a meaningful family ritual. The book releases wherever books are sold, March 27, 2018, but if you order the book before March 27 you're going to get some extra gifts and I am so excited Zondervan let me do this, because I made you a brand new video Master Class to show you how to choose books for your kids. So, you know that feeling when you walk into a library or a bookstore or maybe you're cruising around online or something, and you don't know if a book is worth your time or attention or your child's time and attention? In this video Master Class you're going to find out exactly which two characteristics make a book worth reading and you'll find out the three question test I use to decide if a book deserves a place on my family's reading stack. So order *The Read-Aloud Family* before March 27, 2018 to get a promo code to access that Master Class for free. I am thrilled Zondervan is letting me do that. Go to TheReadAloudFamily.com to grab your copy. I can't wait to get it in your hands.

19:03 Middle grade book love

Sarah: When your uncle said you should write a book and you started to think maybe I could try that, did you immediately think middle grade or what made you land on middle grade? And, actually, I should clarify that for our listeners. I think a lot of you know this but some of you may not; that children's books are divided up into different audiences; we all know we have picture books, we have easy readers for kids who are just learning to read on their own, in the chapter books or I should say novels for kids, they're often divided into middle grade or YA [young adult], and middle grade is often for 8-12, sometimes it's for 10 and up, and then YA is for teens, or teens and up, but middle grade,

oftentimes, means for 8-12 year olds or at least that's the target or obviously I loved *The Vanderbeekers* every bit as much as any 8 or 12 year old. So, how did you land on middle grade?

Karina: Middle grade is my absolute favorite type of books to read, in general, even as an adult, and I think the reason why is because when I was growing up I was a voracious reader and sort of, the point in my life where I started to love reading was around that age, around 7 to now, so ...

Sarah: Yeah.

Karina: ... so, I think middle grade is a great time for kids because they start learning how to read independently and also, a lot of the books in middle grade are about independence and about kids trying new things or facing a conflict or solving a problem, and I just love the way that that helps kids to ... I know it helped me growing up to, sort of, examine things in my own life that I could change or ways I wanted to be and, for example, *In a Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, I love that book, and I think one of the reasons I love that book was because the main character, Francie Nolan was this huge lover of books and I remember reading that section about her going to the library and wanting to read all the books in the library, and for me, that was such an amazing thing to read about—this other girl who loved to read just as much as I did, and who loved to read so much that she wanted to read every single book starting with A in the library, and so, middle grade books taught me about the kind of person I wanted to be and even now, the kind of mother I want to be, the kind of wife I want to be, and how to shape my kids and how to build character, so middle grade was never a question in my mind that I would write middle grade, I think my uncle was surprised, because I don't think he reads



children's books at all, so I don't even know if he read my book, but he probably did, so ...

Sarah: Middle grade is my favorite, too, and it is what I would default – no matter what, if there was a shelf of books and someone said you can pick anything from here to spend the rest of the day reading I would pretty much always choose middle grade myself, so I totally get that. Which books did you love most as a child?

23:16 Karina's favorite books as a child

Karina: I loved a lot of New York City books. I grew up in southern California and there's just something about New York City that just seemed so mysterious and exciting to me as a child. I loved a lot of those classic stories about big families living in New York City, so *All of a Kind Family* by Sydney Taylor, I loved *The Saturdays* by Elizabeth Enright, I also loved (like I mentioned) *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith, and I also love stories about quirkier characters, so *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery was one of my favorites, and I loved a lot of books where kids were doing a lot of stuff on their own, like *The Little House* books where they were producing a lot of their food, so I loved that sort of pioneering books.

Sarah: That's really fun. So, I had a feeling that we were probably inspired by similar authors. You know when you read a book and you think, 'OK...' this is what I thought when I was reading *The Vanderbeekers* was, '... anybody who loves *The Penderwicks* needs to read this book,' and then I would read a little bit more and then be like, 'Actually, anybody who loves *The Penderwicks* and Elizabeth Enright should read this book.' And then I would keep reading and

go, 'OK, anybody who'd read *The Penderwicks*, Elizabeth Enright, or Eleanor Estes should read this book.' And so, to hear you name those same authors is pretty fun because I could, kind of, see their influence in your writing which is really, really neat.

Karina: Yeah, there's something about those classic stories that are just so timeless and I know that it's not as popular now, those folks like *The Saturdays* or *Ginger Pye*, at least, from what I've heard at libraries is that they don't circulate as much as they used to. My kids read them and loved them and I read them out loud to them, then we listened to them on audio, and they still read them now, but it was fun to modernize it a little bit in *The Vanderbeekers* and sort of, reintroduce those classics. I know in my daughters' school library they put together a display of these family stories which was really exciting to me because they would just make my heart so happy to see other kids read *All of a Kind Family* or *The Saturdays* or *The Moffats*.

25:53 'Mom' as a writer

Sarah: Absolutely. Actually, speaking of your daughters, what do they think about mom being a writer?

Karina: Oh, they are thrilled. They're just the best fan club, they're so sweet about it. When the review copies came they were just so funny, I have a video of them dancing around with *Ginger Pye*, holding the book, and waving it around. It was just precious. So, they're very excited, and it's really sweet too, because I didn't let them read it until the review copy was out because I wanted them to see it as a bound book with a cover and not just a pile of paper, and it was great when it came out in the review copy I read it



to them out loud and they were so happy about it, and then the audio book also came out the same day the book released and I put it on their iPod and they listen to it at night before they go to sleep. So, it's really sweet. I mean, they must have heard it and read it dozens of times by now they can recite parts of it. Sometimes, I'll be talking and then they'll just recite Oliver's line or something, it's really hilarious to me. It's great.

Sarah: Did they get pieces of the book as you were writing? You said they didn't read the whole thing until the review copies came.

Karina: Right. So, I did not let them read any of it, although I probably, I think they probably looked over my shoulder once in a while when I was writing, because they would ask questions like, "How old is Oliver?" or "Is there one that's sort of like me?" I think they had an idea of some of the characters and I think I did tell them a little bit about the plot, but I tried to save it until the review ...

27:47 A character like Karina

Sarah: Yeah, yeah, that's good. One of the questions kids at Read-Aloud Revival always ask our authors when we have them come visit for our Author Access Events is "Is there a character in the book that is most like you?" so I bet some of our listeners would like to hear that.

Karina: So, I've got this question a few times in the past and I think it changes a little bit. I think growing up I was a lot like Hyacinth—I was shy and I also loved to make things, I was really crafty, so when I was growing up I was a lot like her. Now, I think I still have aspects of her, but I'm a lot less shy now and I'm probably more like Isa. Isa's very—I sort of see her as the family administrator, she's very organized, and she's

good at gathering the kids up and executing things, and so I guess I sort of feel like that right now in my life stage right now with the two kids, and just juggling everything.

Sarah: Yeah, I can see that.

28:50 Advice for Writers

OK, so before we go, do you have any advice for listeners who are maybe young aspiring writers or maybe parents who are aspiring writers and listening and have been inspired by your story as well, any best advice for people who want to write?

Karina: Yes, so I always tell people that the best way to learn how to write is to read really widely. I'm lucky because I get to review children's books for Book Riot and I get to put together this newsletter every week so I always have a lot of reading material and get a lot of stuff that's really current. So, I would suggest that people who want to write more and want to develop their craft that you would read a lot, that you would read across genres, and also to read a lot of things that are published recently, sort of, to see what writing is like, how people are writing now versus maybe books that you enjoyed when you were younger, if you're an adult, and also a thing that I try to do frequently is purposely turn on creativity, because I think sometimes all of us are very busy and we have a lot of things to do and I think, kids too, they're busy, they're doing their work, and they have sports, and music, and sometimes I think that we lose that time to really just focus on being creativity and not worrying about what comes out of that. And, I spend a lot of time thinking when I'm walking Ginger Pye and just sort of letting my mind wander and I think that's sort of how *The Vanderbeekers* came to life



came to life in my head when I was walking Ginger Pye and passing by all these brownstones and wondering, you know, these brownstones look like brownstones that *All of a Kind Family* could have run out of, and hmmm, I wonder why there are not a lot of big families in New York City, and what would a story look like in New York City with a big family? And, so that's how things developed, and if I didn't leave that space in my mind to be creative, I don't think that story would have come out of me. So, actively pursue that and to just let your mind embrace it and see where it takes you.

Sarah: I love that, because you're saying that you're walking your dog and you start asking questions about the things you're seeing, right? You're seeing the brownstones and you start asking questions and that leads to this wonderful story. So, I wanted to ask (I almost forgot) since you are writer for Book Riot (and I'll put a link in the Show Notes to anybody who wants to get Karina's newsletter from Book Riot when she gives children's book recommendations, it's called *The Kids are All Right*—that comes out every week, right?

Karina: Yes. Every Sunday.

32:09 Karina's favorite recent books

Sarah: Every Sunday. OK, awesome. And, do you have some favorites? You just mentioned the importance of reading really widely and including books that are coming out now, because we talked about a lot of classics that we love but what are some of the books that have come out more recently that you've loved? Can you give us any recommendations there?

Karina: Definitely. So, there's this series by Louise Erdrich called *The Birchbark House* and she wrote that one a while ago but she's been continuing the series on, and I think there are five books right now and I think one of them came out last year, and those are beautiful. They're set during when *The Little House* books were set but it follows a Native American family, and I love those stories. And, one of my favorites from 2017 was *See You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng. I thought it was a really creative, beautiful story. *The Calpurnia Tape Books* ...

Sarah: Oh yeah, I love those.

Karina: I love those. So, they're also a new series following *Calpurnia Tate* for younger readers, so probably around 6-8 year olds.

Sarah: I didn't know that.

Karina: They're so good. They're illustrated—beautifully illustrated, and so they would be illustrated chapter books for younger readers. And, I think so far there are three, and they are just so fun, and if you love *Calpurnia Tate* and her scientific mind it sort of like when she was younger and it's really sweet.

Sarah: So, what's next for you, and for *The Vanderbeekers*?

Karina: So we have a second book coming out in September [2018] and that is called (we haven't formally announced it, but I noticed it is up on Amazon the other day, so I thought, 'OK') ...

Sarah: Don't you just love that?

Karina: I guess I can share it. It's called, *The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden*.

Sarah: Oooh.

Karina: So, I just finished going through first past pages, which is when they lay it out as it's going



to be printed, and I'm working with the copy editor just to make sure grammatically and everything is working well, and submitted all my final illustrations for that, which feels really good to have that off my plate. And, right now I'm drafting third *Vanderbeekers* which, hopefully, will come out in 2019 if I can get it written quickly. And, so that's what's going on. And, I have a stand alone book that I think is coming out in 2020, another middle grade that has nothing to do with *The Vanderbeekers*.

Sarah: OK.

Karina: So, that's what I'm working on write now. So, I just keep going.

Sarah: Awesome. Great. Well, I just preordered it as we were talking because there's not even... I've already got it so I'm so excited, and I am so excited to see what you do next. I'm really grateful for the time that you took out of your schedule to come chat with us, and listeners, we'll have links to where you can sign up for Karina's newsletter at Book Riot in the Show Notes as well as links, of course, to *The Vanderbeekers* book and to her website. So, go to ReadAloudRevival.com/88, so you can get to those Show Notes. Karina, thank you so very much for joining me.

Karina: Thanks for having me. This was great.

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: [Mom: what's your name?] Oaks. [Mom: Oaks, how old are you?] 2. [Mom: and where do you live, Oaks?] You say with me. [Mom: Ledville.] Ledville, Colorado. [Mom: in Ledville, Colorado. And, what's your favorite book, Oaks?]

Construction by Sally Sutton. [Mom: *Construction* by Sally Sutton. What do you like about that book?] Sounds. [Mom: you like the sounds; slip, slap, sled.] And, bing, bang, bong. [Mom: bing, bang, bong.] Yes. [Mom: Yes, that's fun.] Yeah.

Child2: Ryan, and I'm 6 years old, and my favorite book is *Old Town in the Green Groves*. [Mom: what's your favorite part?] When Grace is born. What is *Old Town in the Green Groves*? It's a *Little House* book that Laura didn't write.

Child3: I am Adeline and I'm 3 year old. [Mom: no, you're not 3. How old are you, you just have a birthday. You're 4. What's your favorite book?] *The Princess and the Peas and the Carrots* [Mom: what's your favorite part?] Because she pushes her plate away. [Mom: when she pushes her plate away.] Yeah. [Mom: why is that your favorite?] Because ... [Mom: it's silly.]

Child4: Hi, I'm Lindsey and I'm 6 years old and I'm from Dallas Texas. [Mom: and what's your favorite book?] *Old Town in the Green Groves*. It's a part of *The Little House* series and the baby brother dies in it and they have another girl named Grace. [Mom: and why do you like it?] Because they have another girl.

Child5: Hi, my name is Clinton. I'm 7½ years old. I live in Boise, Idaho, and my favorite book is *The Defenders*. I like when they're defenders because [****inaudible****] it's cool when the Indians fight the Americans.

Child6: Hi, my name is Evan and I'm 12 years old and I live in Arizona. And, I like *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place* because my mom reads it to me and it's exciting and has a lot of mystery.

Child7: [Mom: what's your name?] Cray. [Mom: and how old are you, Cray?] 5. [Mom: where do you live?] Iowa. [Mom: and what's your favorite



book?] *The Boxcar Children*. [Mom: and why do you like *The Boxcar Children*?] Because I like it when they found the boxcar and they fixed it all up.

Child8: [Mom: what's your name?] Kip. [Mom: and how old are you, Kip?] 3. [Mom: you're 3. And where do you live?] Iowa. [Mom: Iowa. And, what's your favorite book? *The Cir...*] *The Circus Ship*. [Mom: and why do you like *The Circus Ship*?] It has good pictures. [Mom: it has good pictures.]

Child9: My name is Levi. I'm awesome. My age is 8. I live in Lampasas, Texas. My favorite book is *Percy Jackson* because there is a lot of fighting and Grover's funny.

Child10: My name is Josiah. I am 11. I live in Lampasas, Texas. My favorite book read-aloud to me was *Echo* because there's three different stories all connected in one with the harmonica.

Child11: Hi, my name is Libby. I am 7 years old. I live Waccamaw, Washington. My favorite books is *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* by May Williams. I like it because the dinosaurs try to catch Goldilocks but she realizes ... I also like **[**inaudible**]**.

Child12: Hi, I'm Nellie. I'm 6 years old. I live in Waccamaw, Washington, and my favorite book is *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. I like it because Peter, Susan, Edmond, and Lucy play hide-and-seek and Lucy goes into hide, and then she goes into Narnia real quick. I like the adventures, too.

Child13: Hi, I am Rosie. I'm 4. I live in Washington, and my favorite book is *Little Wolf's First Howling* because he howls funny and sometimes he says, "Skips, skops, skooter doo."

And his dad helps him. And when the dad does it funny.

Sarah: Alright, thank you very much, kids. I love listening to the books that you're loving. If your kids would like to leave a message to be aired on the Read-Aloud Revival head to ReadAloudRevival.com, scroll to the bottom of the page, and that is where you will find the button to leave a message. It's really very simple. We love getting those messages. If you have not yet, you definitely want to grab the free Read-Aloud Revival book list. And, if you haven't done it yet, what you waitin' for? It is a really great book list—we spend a lot of time curating the best books we can find. We even include a monthly picture book list for every month of the year. So, your library trips can be really simple and wonderful every time you go, no matter what month it is. You get the whole thing by going to ReadAloudRevival.com and popping your email in there, or if you're on the go, do this instead: just text the word BOOKS to the number 345345, we will send you the book list along with some other fun surprises and yeah, that's it. You know what? I'm going to call it a day here today but we're going to be back next week with episode 89, I know you're going to love it—can't wait to share it with you. It'll be out next Tuesday, but between now and then, I hope you go make meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books.