

EPISODE **89**

Why Reading Aloud Matters, What to do About Literary Analysis, and... What if My Kids Want Me to Read all of Their Schoolwork to Them?

Guest: Andrew Pudewa

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Meet Andrew Pudewa



Andrew Pudewa is the director for the Institute of Excellence in writing, a father of seven and one of Sarah's favorite people on the planet! He was also the very first guest on the podcast almost 4 years ago.

In This Episode

Andrew and Sarah talk about what reading comprehension really means, how we can encourage our kids (even our late readers) to read richer books and when to start literary analysis with our kids.

The Listening Guide

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

- 3:31 Welcome back Andrew Pudewa
- 5:14 The start of the Read-Aloud Revival
- 6:49 Why read aloud with older kids?
- 10:15 What is reading comprehension really?
- 13:03 Encouraging kids to read richer books
- 17:58 The Read-Aloud Family
- 20:16 When should I worry about my late reader?
- 24:09 Should I read aloud my child's assignments?
- 25:04 Literary analysis
- 28:43 Homeschooling high school
- 33:23 Let the kids speak

There's two approaches (to when to start literary analysis with our kids). One answer: I would start from *never* and then work backwards. The other answer I would start with *from the beginning* and work forwards. - Andrew Pudewa

Quotes and Questions

* **How do you learn?**

"How do you learn something? Well, you experience it, you get an explanation, you re-experience it, you integrate that explanation with your re-experiencing of it, and then now you understand it a little better."

* **Creating reading comprehension.**

"This activity of reading and then talking about what you're reading, and if you're doing that at a level slightly above the child's own decoding level, you're actually creating reading comprehension."

* **Audiobooks and literacy.**

"He spent four years of his most formative period of language development doing nothing but listening to audiobooks pretty much all day long. And so what I found fascinating was that when he started to read more fluently and when he started to write fluently at 14 and 15, his writing was more eloquent, more sophisticated ... his actual literacy was higher because he couldn't read, which meant he never read the junk."

Andrew bought his son an iPod and loaded it with audiobooks! Want to hear more about why audiobooks count? Check out [Episode 66](#).

* **Treat them like individuals.**

"One of the worst things we do is we attach grade level to age, and then we assume because a child is a certain age, he should have certain knowledge or skills or ability and it never works out that way ... Let's treat kids like individuals and not get attached to the age-grade-ability paradigm that's so destructive."

* **What lights them up.**

"It reminds me of the Charlotte Mason philosophy to give your child something to think about, something to do and something to love ... Giving them the time and space and opportunities to figure out what's going to light them up."

What does your child love? How can you best support them in that?

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [The Read-Aloud Family](#)
- [The Story About Ping](#)
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#)
- [Encyclopedia Brown](#)
- [The Bark of the Bog Owl](#)
- [Bridge to Terabithia](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [The Institute for Excellence in Writing](#)
- [RAR #01: Reading Aloud to Older Kids, a Conversation with Andrew Pudewa](#)
- [Nurturing Competent Communicators](#)
- [RAR #81: Eavesdropping on the Soul, a conversation with Katherine Paterson](#)
- Order [The Read-Aloud Family](#) before March 27 to get your pre-order bonus!
- Get the RAR Booklist [here](#) or text the word "books" to 345345

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