

EPISODE **96**

The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 8 - 12 Year Olds

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In This Episode

Sarah shares tips and tricks for reading aloud to 8- to 12-year-olds. She offers a few recommendations for books, and talks about when to introduce classics. There are even resources mentioned for talking to our kids about books with heavier topics.

The Listening Guide

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

- 1:28 'A mom-to-mom connection'
- 3:54 Reading with 8- to 12-year-olds
- 6:19 Potential pitfalls
- 9:14 Feel silly reading to 'big kids?'
- 10:15 Introducing the classics
- 11:30 Choosing books
- 13:08 Funny books, heroic books and more
- 16:22 Heavier content and talking things out
- 18:45 More resources
- 20:04 Let the kids speak

Picture books are not something we outgrow.
They're like another genre ... they have a place at
the table.

Quotes and Questions

* **Read to your older kids.**

“We have this tendency to value and prioritize reading on their own over reading aloud and that is a huge mistake. I go into why that is in the book, *The Read-Aloud Family*, so get your hands on that if you want to find out more about why it’s so critically important to continue reading aloud to kids who can read to themselves.”

* **Heavy topics and conversation.**

“This is an age where a lot of times we’re starting to have a little bit harder conversations with our kids about tough stuff in the real world, and picture books can be a really good way to start tackling some of that ...

If you feel like you’re a little bit lost and don’t know how to have conversations with your kids about the books they’re reading on their own, or that you’re reading together, **look at chapters ten and eleven in *The Read-Aloud Family*** because chapter ten is all about the art of conversation, the importance of discussion, and the absolutely critical role it plays in connecting with our kids.”

* **Delight, delight, delight.**

“Above all, remember at this stage: delight, delight, delight. Don’t let the skill of reading or whatever school assignments your child has related to reading, or any need or desire you have for your child to read at a certain level, get in the way of their love of stories.”

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [A Bear Called Paddington](#)
- [The Trumpet of the Swan](#)
- [The Lord of the Rings](#)
- [The Hobbit](#)
- [Stella by Starlight](#)
- [I'm Just No Good at Rhyming](#)
- [Cilla Lee-Jenkins Future Author Extraordinaire](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [Order The Read-Aloud Family](#) now anywhere books are sold
- Get the audio version of The Read-Aloud Family (read by Sarah Mackenzie) [right here](#)
- Use the hashtag #readaloudfamily to share photos on social media
- RAR #94: [The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 0-3 Year Olds](#)
- RAR #95: [The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 4-7 Year Olds](#)
- RAR #64: [Helping Resistant Readers Fall in Love with Books, Laura Martin](#)
- RAR #83: [Why Read Picture Books with Older Kids?](#)

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