READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet by **Kara Anderson**

EPISODE **99**

Meet Lola Dutch! (She is Just Too Much!)

Guest: Sarah Jane and Kenneth Wright

Meet **The Wrights**

Kenneth and Sarah Jane Wright are the creators of the Lola Dutch series of books.

Sarah Jane is an artist and an illustrator - her work can be found at SarahJaneStudios.com

Kenneth teaches junior high school, and is storytelling every day.

The couple says Lola Dutch was born from their parenting philosophies and experience with stage and theatre.

In This **Episode**

Sarah and the Wrights discuss the Lola Dutch series - where the idea came from, how it was brought to life, and how the couple works together to make books.

The Listening **Guide**

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

2:16   Dust jacket puppets

6:32   Meet the Wrights

8:58   Collaborating on Lola

10:56   Lola's companions

13:15   Giving kids creative courage

14:44   A series!

17:30   The Read-Aloud Family

19:16   First experiences

20:33   The process of making a book

24:17   Naming Lola

25:46   Julia Child

27:28   Book surprises

31:15   Let the kids speak

"When you create from a real, authentic, honest place, that's usually when you're going to get the most universal appeal, and that's the irony—is that you feel like you're creating something so specific ... I was surprised by how many people said, 'I'm Lola Dutch,' because when we wrote it I was Lola Dutch, you know?" - Sarah Jane Wright

Quotes and **Questions**

✷ **Remaining curious …**

"Kids, when they're small, they tend to just want to try stuff and try new things, and if the parents just get out of the way and give them the encouragement they'll do that of their own volition. We notice some kids as they started to get a little bit older they started to lose a little bit of that drive, so Lola Dutch, in some ways, was made to give encouragement and give a pat on the back to the kids that are still enthusiastic and still on fire, and still curious about the world."

✷ **This feels familiar.**

"As we get older and we, sort of, lose touch with that creative, whimsical side of ourselves, I think that's something that the adults who are reading Lola Dutch to their children will light up with, because they'll recognize that there is a Lola Dutch inside of them. This feels familiar. That's right, I forgot who this was."

✷ **Creating from an authentic place.**

"When you create from a real, authentic, honest place, that's usually when you're going to get the most universal appeal, and that's the irony—is that you feel like you're creating something so specific ... I was surprised by how many people said, 'I'm Lola Dutch,' because when we wrote it I was Lola Dutch, you know?"

✷ **Helping us love each other …**

"That's the beauty of it, I think, too is that we all feel a little more like each other and it's always helpful for us to find familiar and similar things in each other because it helps us all love each other a little more."

What other books have you read that have this effect?

✷ **No intention …**

"Honestly, I was sitting down and I just had this image in my imagination and I just drew a picture. And it really had honestly nothing to do with any intention of writing a story ... with a personality that big I needed her to have more, I don't know, like hands. Does that make sense?"

Remind kids who love to draw that they don't always have to start with a plan - sometimes once the drawing is created, a plan will form with it!

Show **Notes**

Books from today's episode:

- Lola Dutch

- Julia, Child

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

- loladutch.com

- Lola resources

- Sarah Jane Studios

- Lola Dutch Creativity Kit

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