

EPISODE **110**

S.D. Smith Live!

Guest: S.D. Smith

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Meet **S.D. Smith**



From his site sdsmith.net: S. D. Smith lives with his wife and four kids in West Virginia, because it would be weird to live with someone else's wife and four kids in West Virginia (or anywhere else, right?).

Sam is the author of the middle-grade adventure fantasy novels, *The Green Ember*, *The Black Star of Kingston*, *Ember Falls: The Green Ember: Book II*, *The Last Archer: A Green Ember Story*, and *Ember Rising: The Green Ember Book III*.

In This Episode

Recorded LIVE during the five 2018 Great Homeschool Conventions, Sarah interviews Sam about writing for children; Sam interviews Sarah about connecting with our kids through books, and Sam teases Sarah about when she met her “other favorite author,” Kate DiCamillo.

The Listening Guide

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

- **3:45** Are you heading to a Great Homeschool Convention?
- **5:40** Meant for reading aloud ...
- **7:25** Writing for children
- **8:27** If S.D. wasn't an author ...?
- **13:37** S.D. makes fun of Sarah for a bit ...
- **16:33** Going full-time
- **20:00** His heart's desire ...
- **22:25** S.D. takes over the podcast
- **25:47** Vision and heart for reading aloud
- **29:10** Why did people respond?
- **30:12** A new tagline
- **33:52** Kids' questions
- **41:44** Let the kids speak

"The thing that I love about kids, and maybe kids that we meet at these kinds of things are so generous, they're so sweet, they're so special, they're considerate, they're kind, and I think that that extends to the sort of the way they behave in person but also the way that they're thinking about stories, that they're ready to welcome, hopefully, good things into their hearts and that they're ready to, I mean, surrender to it in a good way as in, like, just get lost in the story." - S.D. Smith

Quotes and Questions

* In the middle ...

"The truth is that we live in the middle part of a story."

* Practice.

"One of the things that I think is so powerful about reading stories with our kids is that we get practice. Every time we read a story we encounter a character who has to overcome obstacles. So if we give our kids stories and stories as they're growing, by the time they're grown when they face those obstacles in their lives they'll know, they've seen, and they've borne witness to heroes finding what they need in themselves and in God to meet the obstacle, to overcome the obstacle."

* Book journeys

"You're going on real journeys together ..."

What's the last book that took your family on a journey together? That gave you shared language, references, jokes or feelings?

* Writing to be read aloud ...

"As you know, the books began as stories I told my kids. So, they were read-aloud, **they were improvised in the moment, they were just stories, they were definitely audible.** They were stories that I told them on walks and at bedtime and that kind of thing, so it was definitely an out loud kind of a thing."

What other books do think were just meant to be read aloud?

* A tremendous impact

"I think when parents who care about their kids and their relationships with their families with everything they are find that they can make such a tremendous impact from this simple act of opening a book and reading a little bit with their kids we almost become fanatical about it, right? **It becomes like a part of who we are.**"

* The point is the children

"I thought I was writing a manifesto, basically, on reading aloud. And then as I was writing it I realized it was more like a manifesto on connecting with our kids and reading aloud ends

up being the avenue we do that with. **But the point isn't the books the point is the children, right?"**

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [The Green Ember](#)
- [Ember Falls](#)
- [Ember Rising](#)
- [The Black Star of Kingston](#)
- [The Last Archer](#)
- [Teaching From Rest](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Family](#)
- [The Lord of the Rings](#)
- [The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#)
- [Bridge to Terabithia](#)

Other links from today's show:

- [S.D. Smith's site](#)
- [Great Homeschool Conventions](#)
- [RAR #44: Magic and Fear in Children's Books, N.D. Wilson](#)
- [Nurturing Competent Communicators, Andrew Pudewa](#)
- [RAR Membership](#)
- Get the FREE booklist and more – go to readaloudrevival.com or text BOOKS to 345345

To find more resources for building meaningful and lasting connections with your kids through books, visit ReadAloudRevival.com.