

EPISODE **121**

# Kate DiCamillo on Reading Aloud for Connection

Guest: Kate DiCamillo

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## Meet **Kate DiCamillo**



Kate DiCamillo is the author of many beloved and award-winning books: *The Tale of Despereaux*, *Flora and Ulysses*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Raymie Nightingale*, the hilarious *Mercy Watson* series, and a brand new beautiful book called *Louisiana's Way Home*, as well as new picture book called *Good Rosie*.

## In This **Episode**

Sarah and Kate dive deep into the magic of reading aloud. They also chat how to best discuss books with our kids, and Kate shares a few writing tips.

## The Listening Guide

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

- 1:28** Reading aloud with kids in school
- 5:35** Kate DiCamillo is here!
- 9:29** 'Same side of the table'
- 10:54** In a new light
- 12:03** Trying to get to the table
- 15:12** How we talk about books
- 18:45** Not getting in the way of the story
- 25:11** The Great Conversation
- 28:19** Themes and stars
- 32:02** Microscopes, telescopes and flashlights
- 34:21** Character wants versus needs
- 36:16** More Mercy
- 37:10** Writing advice
- 39:01** A coffee invitation
- 41:01** Let the Kids Speak

"Reading aloud ushers us into a third place, a safe room. It's a room where everyone involved: the reader and the listener, can put down their defenses and lower their guard. We humans long not just for story, not just for the flow of language, but for the connection that comes when words are read aloud. That connection provides illumination. know?" - Kate DiCamillo

## Quotes and Questions

### \* **On the same side of the table ...**

"I think it just reminds us that we're all on the same team, we're all on the same sides. We forget that we're rooting for each other. It places us hand in hand when we can't manage to do that any other way." - Sarah Mackenzie

### \* **'Get out of my own way.'**

"I have no idea what I'm doing, so the story is smarter than I am, and my job is to get out of my own way." - Kate DiCamillo

### \* **Tilling soil ...**

"We should approach our writing as a far more tilling ancient soil not as a miner digging for gold." - Jonathan Rogers

### \* **Rest for their weary souls**

"But when I write a story it is not an attempt to make children good and wise. Nobody but God can do that and even God doesn't do it without the child's cooperation. I am trying in a book simply to give children a place where they may find rest for their weary souls." - Kathrine Paterson

### \* **Precious light**

"Stories are light. Light is precious in a world so dark." - The Tale of Desperaux

## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- [The Tale of Despereaux](#)
- [Flora and Ulysses](#)
- [Because of Winn-Dixie](#)
- [Raymie Nightingale](#)
- [The Mercy Watson series](#)
- [Louisiana's Way Home](#)
- [Good Rosie!](#)
- [Ribsy](#)
- [Bud, Not Buddy](#)
- [Island of the Blue Dolphins](#)
- [Great Joy](#)
- [Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#)
- [Bridge to Terabithia](#)
- [A Sense of Wonder](#)
- [Sweep](#)
- [The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane](#)
- [Jayber Crow](#)
- [A Piglet Named Mercy](#)
- [If You Want to Write](#)

### Other links from today's show:

- [RAR #81: Eavesdropping on the Soul, a conversation with Katherine Paterson](#)
- [RAR #34: Reading Aloud Around a Traditional School Schedule](#)

# READ-ALoud REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Episode **121**

- [Kate DiCamillo on The Magic of Reading Aloud – PBS.org](#)
- [Kate on Facebook](#)
- [Andrew Peterson music](#)
- [RAR #56: What's at Stake and Why Stories Matter, Jonathan Auxier](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit [ReadAloudRevival.com](http://ReadAloudRevival.com).