



EPISODE **122**

# Picture Book Biographies We Love

Guest: Kortney Garrison and Kara Anderson

- 2 Meet Kortney and Kara
- 2 In this Episode
- 3 Listening Guide
- 4 Quotes & Questions
- 5 Show Notes



## Meet **Kortney and Kara**



Kortney Garrison is RAR Community Director. Find her [here](#) and on [Instagram](#).

Kara is RAR Podcast Manager. Find her [here](#) and on [Instagram](#).

*This photo was taken in Seattle, right before Sarah made Kortney and Kara go with her on a giant ferris wheel.*

## In This **Episode**

The team is talking picture book biographies in this episode. Listen in as the team talks about why picture books are for all ages, what makes picture book biographies special and how the best biographies can help us learn history, research a new subject, discuss difficult topics and more.



## The Listening Guide

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

- 1:18 Bigs & littles
- 5:17 The team is here!
- 6:53 Picture books are worthy
- 11:26 Gather 'round
- 12:22 Storybooks and picture books
- 14:35 Jen Bryant's books
- 15:33 Exploring difficult topics
- 18:37 An invitation
- 19:39 Kara's picks
- 21:19 Sarah's picks
- 21:58 Kortney's picks
- 22:55 Barb Rosenstock's books
- 25:45 Let the Kids Speak

“A picture book is an art gallery you have in your lap ... with your child that you get to just spend time with on your cozy couch while you’re sipping cocoa and talking about the story. It’s a beautiful experience of story in words and in pictures.” - Sarah Mackenzie



## Quotes and Questions

### \* Ten minutes of good connection ...

"For the busiest people you can always squeeze in a picture book. You're not committing yourself to a big, long novel that's going to take weeks and weeks to read aloud. You're committing yourself to maybe ten minutes of good connection with your kids."

### \* Good practice.

"You can practice thinking about the way stories work. You can talk about what does the main character want and why can't they have it. And getting into those habits, even with our youngest kids, really pays off when they're older and tackling their books."

### \* Picture books for all ...

"A lot of times we tend to think that picture books are for little kids and we don't even realize that they're, oftentimes, written at a higher level than most of the middle grade novels or YA novels that we're handing to our teenagers."

### \* Step into a character's shoes ...

"By stepping into the character's shoes through a picture book (kids) really get the idea of what it was like to live during a certain time, so it's one of our favorite ways to study history."

### \* Visceral and personal ...

"What does it feel like to be Louis Braille? What does it feel like to be Abe Lincoln? What does it feel like to be Thomas Jefferson and creating the first library? I mean, all those questions are answered in a 32-page picture book in a way that feels a lot more visceral and personal than maybe a longer narrative could possibly do."



## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- [Balderdash](#)
- [Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books](#)
- [Apples to Oregon](#)
- [Dear Mr. Washington](#)
- [6 Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille](#)
- [Snowflake Bentley](#)
- [Emmanuel's Dream](#)
- [The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#)
- [Hidden Figures](#)
- [Hidden Figure Young Readers Audio](#)
- [The Boy Who Loved Math](#)
- [Nothing Stopped Sophie](#)
- [Blockhead: The Life of Fibonacci](#)
- [Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine](#)
- [The Boy Who Drew Birds](#)
- [Emma's Poem](#)
- [The Noisy Paint Box](#)
- [Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library](#)
- [Vincent Can't Sleep](#)
- [The Camping Trip That Changed America](#)
- [The Streak](#)
- [Blue Grass Boy](#)

**Other links from today's show:**

- Find [Kortney](#) on [Instagram](#)
- Find [Kara](#) on [Instagram](#)
- [RAR #71: The Research and Inspiration Behind Fascinating Historical Fiction, Caroline Starr Rose](#)
- [The Dress and The Girl](#) (not a biography, but mentioned for reference)
- [William Kamkwamba TED Talk](#)

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