



Podcast Episode 180  
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## “How to Encourage a Child to Read (Even if Your Child Is Older and Hates Reading)”

**David Loy:** Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I'm your host David Loy. And with me as always is the one and the only, the amazing.

**Andy Andrews:** In our heart, we're glad, he's not born to lead us. Hi David, how are you doing?

**David:** I'm fine Andy, how are you?

**Andy:** Good, good, good.

**David:** That's so funny. What did you say, aren't we glad there's only one?

**Andy:** Yeah, I mean, the one and only, everybody thinks that sounds great but you know, but sometimes it's great, the one, the only Adolf Hitler. Thank God. Thank God there was only one.

**David:** I was just wondering, is that what your mother would say when you were younger?

**Andy:** Yeah, my mother would definitely say, the one, the only, so. Because when I was growing up, man, I look back on that and I'm sure I had parents who were, like, that looked at each other like, seriously? I mean, really, seriously? Because I just, you know, one of the things, my parents were these eat everything on your

plate kind of people. Or you know, then I turned them into, well you're going to try. I mean, I gave them so much grief that I think it was too much to ask for me to eat everything on my plate. I know that was too much to ask but they weren't going to deal with it. And so it became a try everything on your plate. And then of course, I don't know if I've ever told you about the big liver standoff of 1967? But I gave my parents so much grief that when my sister came along, it was just like, yeah, you ain't gonna eat nothing, just you know, whatever.

**David:** Totally different set of rules.

**Andy:** Yeah, we're not doing this again. I look at Chrissie and go, how did you get away with all this stuff?

**David:** You paved the way.

**Andy:** She said, well, it was pretty easy, you caused them so much trouble, they didn't even try with me.

**David:** That's so great.

**Andy:** How did we get off on this?

**David:** I don't know.

**Andy:** The one and only, that's why.

**David:** Hey, we have had, I believe it was episode 170, which was several months ago, but it was focused on the topic of reading and teaching your children to read, the importance of reading. This is something you've talked about in many

different contexts for years, about how successful people read and why, even if you don't want to, it's something you should be doing. But anyway, the episode, like I said, I think it was number 170, has gotten so much feedback, we continue to get follow up questions, people asking specific situation issues that they're going through, that I wanted to bring it back up. Because this is a hot button topic, and this is a unique question that I think you can provide some good insight on.

So let me read a question that we got from Cathy, that puts a little bit different spin on the whole reading topic. Cathy says, Andy, I have three kids, 21, 17 and 15. They all enjoy sports but have not been into reading outside of school. I wish I had done a better job of having them read when they were younger. Is it too late to do anything about it now? Cathy that's a great question, we have been focused on, primarily, I guess, Andy, children that are in the home, that are still at a very teachable, trainable age but Cathy's coming at it, from a perspective of, these are older kids that are making their own decisions, at least one if not two by now, out of the house or close to being out of the house. Is there anything that she can do at this point?

**Andy:** Yes, there is. And I know for a fact that there is because number one, I am dealing with this every day with adults. I talk to adults who don't read. And you know, somehow managed to convince a lot of them to read and to enjoy it and all like that. Because I know how important it is, just like Cathy knows how important it is. But the other reason that I know for a fact, that it's not too late to do anything about it now, because you have three kids 21, 17 and 15. And I was 23 when Jones found me under the pier and I was not a reader. And so, you know, he knew obviously that, that was a critical component to becoming a successful adult and a well-rounded adult, and a valuable adult. And so knowing that, I mean, I look back on this and I remember when he gave me, in fact I'm looking at two of them right here, these are not the exact ones but somebody has found

these things. And there were three orange biographies. I don't know why they're orange, but hard covers without the paper on them, so the material was orange. And they were biographies. And I knew they were biographies because all they had on them were names. And I recognized the names. It was Winston Churchill, George Washington Carver and Will Rogers. And I remember, I was always kind of a sports, I'm a sports person just like your kids are. I was kind of a sport's illustrated, field in stream, outdoor life sports kind of person.

So I just, I didn't read books and I really hated biographies. And I hated biographies because they made me read them in school and they gave us tests on these things. And you know, I never saw any value in them. Well a part of the reason I never saw a value in them Cathy was because number one, nobody ever explained the value, right. I mean, in my school anyway. They just said, this is your assignment. This is what we're going to be studying and you're going to be tested on this. Nobody ever gave me, nobody ever told me what kind of life do you want to live when you're an adult. When you're 25 years old, how do you want to live, where do you want to live. Do you want to live in a house, you want to live in the apartment, you want to have your own business, you want to have a job, you want to own five businesses? How much money you want to make, what kind of car do you want to drive? How much time do you want to have, vacation you want to go? I mean, nobody ever asked me anything about what I wanted or anything. And then if somebody had known what I wanted, nobody ever said, ok, let me tell you why you want to read this. Because everybody that says, experience is the best teacher. Well it's not. Other people's experience is the best teacher, ok.

So, you know, if you're going to go through a minefield, let somebody else go through it before you. Somebody's going to get blown up, let them get blown up and then you walk where you know there are no mines. And that's what, and nobody ever said, that's what a biography can do. That you can read three or four

of these things and be assured that you will make more money because you will know more. And because you know more, and you know where to go through the minefield, you'll make fewer miss steps, you'll be more valuable to other people. And so this is why you want, this is why, and nobody ever said that. So I just hated biographies. Now, at that point I'm living under a pier. And so, I'm sure Jones knew better than to talk to me about my future life and success and how do you want to live. You know, I was so mad at the world at that point I just wanted to escape. I had periods of fear, periods of hard work, periods of boredom. That's pretty much kind of what my life was about back then. And so he was able to describe value for somebody who was afraid and bored and tired, he was able to provide value. Because when I saw this, I didn't know what to say so I said, biographies? And he said, no, no, no, these are adventure stories. These are mysteries, romances and thrillers. And I said, oh. He said, yeah, they're from the library, when you get through them, take them back. And so I took them and now here's a crazy thing. He put that in my mind. Ok, now, I did not think for a minute, that I believe they were anything other than biographies at that point. That kind of just blew past me, it's like, yeah, this old guy, whatever.

But he was the only person in my life that paid any attention to me. So for whatever reason, I started reading the Churchill one. And honestly I can tell you for sure, I did not intend to read the whole thing, I just wanted to read a little some of it so that when he said, hey, you're into books. I can say, yeah, I'm reading Churchill. I just wanted to be able to answer that like that. And I didn't intend to read the whole thing. But it was short chapters so it didn't intimidate me, but the very curious thing is, right of the bat I read in the book that Winston met this girl named Clementine. And Winston didn't know it then but Clementine was to become the love of his life. And I'm like, oh, there's the romance. And then every chapter would end with something like, and if Winston only knew what was in the

next room, he would have never opened the door. And then the chapter end and I'm like, oh come on. Alright, you know, I start to read, to find out what's in the next room. And that happens a several times and I kind of laughed at myself and go, well, I guess, that's the mystery part of this. And you know, I kept reading till I get to the part where he's, you know, they're fooling people and the spy, and World War II, and just like unbelievable what's going on. I'm like, well this is the thriller, an adventure story. And it occurred to me very quickly that, well, that's what he said, and I knew and here's something very curious, I knew that I was thinking those things because he said them. I knew I was. And yet I was still thinking those things. That's what was amazing to me at the time. I knew I was thinking those things because he said them but I also knew I was still legitimately thinking them. And so, you know, rather than a biography all of a sudden, these became kind of like stories. And I was bored and there's no TV under a pier. And so I'd find myself going, I had to quit reading when somebody was fixing to stab that guy. And so what happened? You know, I'd pick it up and start reading again. And so, he provided that value, right. Because he knew, he was a kid who's scared, he's tired, he's bored. And you know, I'm not going to try to say, here, read these, they'll be good for you or read this and I'm going to give you a test. I still say, I mean I grew up hating history of all things and here, that's like a passion of mine. I grew up hating history but it also makes me really, I can get really frustrated and aggravated when I think, man if I had only had a history teacher growing up who just walked into a class one day and said, ok, alright, we're not gonna do history today, today, I'm gonna tell you a story. And get this, the story I'm gonna tell you, it's absolutely true. I mean, then, I would've been like, alright, tell me.

So Cathy, what I'm saying is, everything will have to do with what it's in it for them, ok. And what makes sense to them, ok. You know, with an older child, you can still, if there is, now I wouldn't do this with everything, ok. But David, your

dad came to you and said, here's a book that I want you to read and I want you to read it immediately and read it this week, and I will pay you a 100 dollars.

**David:** Yeah, that's right. And that was not the first time he'd ever offered to pay for me to read a book. But you're right, it's not, you can't do it in every situation. But what's the thing you always say about parents pay their kids to do certain things?

**Andy:** Yeah, I mean, a lot of parents say, well, I won't pay my kid to read. Really, ok, what do you pay your kids to do? Well I pay them to make their bed, to take out the garbage. Alright, well, you pay your kid to take out the garbage, I'll pay my kid to read.

**David:** There you go. So Cathy you can't do that in every situation but find something that resonates and maybe put that offer out there.

**Andy:** And just to understand, Cathy, people, I believe that people do not think, in most cases, people do not think to the foundation, ok. That people have very surfaced thoughts about what they like and what they don't like and what they do and what they will do and what they won't do. And very few people think to a foundation. I want to give you a specific example then I'll shut up. But it is amazing to me how many people will say to me, well I don't like to read. Oh, alright. I hear that all the time. I really do in one form or another, I'll hear somebody say, well I don't like to read. I hear that at least once a week. I don't like to read or my husband hates to read or whatever. Or my wife just won't read, she doesn't like to read. And I'll say, what do you mean, she doesn't like to read? Well, she doesn't like to read. So, can she read? Well yeah, she can read. What's her favorite magazine? Oh, she gets Garden and Gun. She like Garden and Gun? Well yeah. So what does she do, she like, only looks at the pictures? Well no, I

mean, she reads Garden and Gun. Ok, so that, is she reading, she doesn't like to read? Well I guess not. It's just that whatever somebody has handed her to read or whatever she's having to pick up to read, it wasn't interesting? Let me ask you this. You take a group of people and say, how many of you guys don't like to fish? You'll have a ton of people raise their hand. I don't like to fish. Really? Now seriously, seriously, you don't like to fish? No, I don't like to fish? So you're telling me that you can stand there with a kid, holding a pole with a cork there and kid going, look, look, something's grabbing. That cork's kind of bubbling like that, the kid's going, get it, be ready. Now that cork goes under and the kid says, pull, pull, and you pull and then that thing go running around and jumps up. And the kid's screaming and you pull him out of the water and the kid jumps on that fish. And you tell me you don't like that? Oh, well, yeah, I like that part of it. But you know, sit out there for three hours to do that one time. Oh, so you're not telling me you don't like to fish, you're telling me, you don't like to wait. I don't like to wait either. I mean, who wants to wait. Hey you want to go waiting today? What do you mean? Oh, we're just going to go out and sit under a tree and wait. Well no, I don't want to do that, nobody wants to do that. So don't tell me you don't like to read. You're telling me you have never read, you've never read something that made you laugh out loud? You're telling me you never read something that made you cry? You're telling me, you never got an email that you read this email and then you send it to everybody on your email list? You're telling me you never read something like that? Well yeah, I've read stuff like that. Ok, so what you're telling me is, when you say you don't like to read, that for whatever reason, the three or seven or two or one, or twenty books that you picked up and started to read, they were just boring? So find something you like to read.

**David:** Cathy, are you going to make your kids listen to this?

**Andy:** I don't mean to like, that I'm about to come through the phone.

**David:** No, that's good. And they would benefit from this. And Andy thank you for sharing your thoughts on that. Cathy thank you for that question. And again, this is just another great chance for us to remind people, if there's anybody in your life that's struggling with this issue or any other issue that we've covered on this podcast, bring them into the fold. Send them a link to these emails or to the iTunes page. Get them involved, this is a great free resource and people can benefit from this. People's lives can be changed and you can be the catalyst that starts that by sending them a link or getting them signed up on Andy's email list. You can do that at [andyandrews.com](http://andyandrews.com). If you've got a question you want Andy to address, send us an email [intheloop@andyandrews.com](mailto:intheloop@andyandrews.com). Or leave us a voicemail 1800 726 2639 and we'll address those questions on future episodes. Andy thank you for your passion and your perspective and we will talk to you again next week.

**Andy:** Thank you buddy. Thank you for your time David, I'm going to get of here and go find something to read.

**David:** Are you going to go waiting or are you going to go fishing?

**Andy:** I'm going to go fishing. I'm going to read about fishing and skip the waiting.

**David:** Alright, we'll talk to you next week.

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