
Subject: Re: Children's Reading List
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 28 Mar 2007 19:21:23 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

>
> So I thought if you wanted to send me your two or three
> favorite children's books, I'd publish the list anonymously.
> I have a feeling there are quite a number of IDL programmers
> out there who would appreciate some fresh material to read
> to the little ones. :-)

I'll broadcast mine to the world:

"The Little Captain" (De Kleine Kapitein) by Paul Biegel. Good luck getting an English version of this classic.

"The Phantom Tollbooth" by Norton Juster. Now, I'll be off to jump to (the Island of) Conclusions followed by a dinner of some nice hot Subtraction Stew. :o)

cheers,

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ride lots.
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC Eddy Merckx

Subject: Re: Children's Reading List
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 28 Mar 2007 20:50:10 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

> I'll broadcast mine to the world:
>
> "The Little Captain" (De Kleine Kapitein) by Paul Biegel. Good luck getting an English
> version of this classic.
>
> "The Phantom Tollbooth" by Norton Juster. Now, I'll be off to jump to (the Island of)
> Conclusions followed by a dinner of some nice hot Subtraction Stew. :o)

Thanks, Paul. But bad news. Coyote just published his book list.
We may not want the children visiting this page. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Children's Reading List

Posted by [Karsten Rodenacker](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2007 08:16:09 GMT

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Hi David,

what do you mean with children's books?

One of my favorites (Grimm's Fairy Tales) is by far not a children's book.

Proof, many editions of Grimm are cutted down and corrupted in an unbelievable way. I think six hour of tv daily is better than these 'editions'.

Also a fairy tale hour is very often much better recommended for the so called full grown and adults!

Many years ago I read The Infinite Story (Die unendliche Geschichte) from Michael Ende. There was a reading hour from Ende himself. I visited it and found, very surprised, mostly children! That was the time of the books of Castaneda! Fairy tale books today?

I think some 'children's books' deliver often a very interesting representation of the world.

Regards

Karsten

Am Wed, 28 Mar 2007 21:44:16 +0200 schrieb David Fanning
<news@dfanning.com>:

> One thing that I've learned about IDL programmers is
> that (for whatever reason) they read a lot of children's
> books! But, of course, they are reluctant to discuss
> this aspect of their lives, preferring instead to offer
> a gruff "Bevington, Data Reduction and Error Analysis"
> instead.

--

Erstellt mit Operas revolutionärem E-Mail-Modul: <http://www.opera.com/m2/>

Subject: Re: Children's Reading List
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2007 12:45:03 GMT
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Karsten Rodenacker wrote:

...

- > Many years ago I read The Infinite Story (Die unendliche Geschichte) from
- > Michael Ende. There was a reading hour from Ende himself. I visited it and

A better translation would be "The Neverending Story"; or at least,
that is how it has been translated into English for both the book and
the movie of that name.

I never noticed that the author's name was "Ende". I wonder if that
had something to do with the book's name?

Subject: Re: Children's Reading List
Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2007 13:52:59 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

- > So I thought if you wanted to send me your two or three
- > favorite children's books, I'd publish the list anonymously.
- > I have a feeling there are quite a number of IDL programmers
- > out there who would appreciate some fresh material to read
- > to the little ones. :-)

I've no shame at all in nominating A.A. Milne's The House at Pooh Corner
and Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in The Willows as books up there with the
best of them at /any/ level, including the 5 I nominated in my previous
list to David.

Pete.

--

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Subject: Re: Children's Reading List
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2007 14:44:41 GMT
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Karsten Rodenacker writes:

- > what do you mean with children's books?
- >
- > One of my favorites (Grimm's Fairy Tales) is by far not a children's book.
- > ...
- > I think some 'children's books' deliver often a very interesting
- > representation of the world.

I couldn't agree more. In fact, my favorite memory of raising children is the year I spent voicing Gandalf, Strider, Frodo and all the other characters in the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, one chapter at a time. It is an indelible family memory for every one of us.

I think what I really mean by "children's books" are those books that are given meaning to us by being tied up with powerful memories of sharing them with our children.

It's a broader definition than the one used by the International Library Association, but what the heck, it's our list. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Children's Reading List

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 29 Mar 2007 14:57:40 GMT

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Karsten Rodenacker writes:

- > That was the time of the books of Castaneda! Fairy tale
- > books today?

This is an interesting way of looking at those books, which has a great deal of merit, I think. I first read those books as a young man, and they were constantly on my mind as I rode my bicycle from Phoenix to Fort Collins, having many an adventure along the way. I'm sure I spoke to every Raven that crossed my path on that trip!

But several years ago now I pulled all the books off my shelf and read them again, start to finish, and they had

a completely different effect, even more powerful. (This was in a stage of my life when I was transfixed with ideas of altered states of reality and shamanism. I thought I was going crazy because I couldn't stay out of the New Age section of the bookstore!) They certainly had the *effect* of Fairy Tales, explaining your life experiences, leading you on the dangerous journey of self-exploration, explaining the terrain in metaphorical terms.

Humm. I may have to read them again... That's the wonderful thing about getting old. You can go back to old, forgotten books and find them wonderfully fresh and insightful. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Subject: Re: Children's Reading List
Posted by [btt](#) on Fri, 30 Mar 2007 13:31:02 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

- > Since children's books get read, in
- > my experience, THOUSANDS of times (a week!) it is helpful
- > to have ones that don't annoy you to death. (All the Berenstain
- > Bears books, with their idiotic father figure, mysteriously
- > disappeared from my house late one night, never to be found
- > again.)
- >

Aha! So that is how those damn things ended up in my house! Hmmm.
Maybe I'll ship the boatload of 'em to Cool's house. Don't let him know.

Ben
