

Adults - Take a Journey through Children's Novels

An adult patron recently brought his book to me at the children's desk to check out. With a sheepish grin on his face, he said "every time I find a book I want to check out, it turns out it's down here in the children's department!"

I quickly assured him that it was okay; actually some of the best books in the library are down here. After all, we are home to *Charlotte's Web*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and of course *Harry Potter*.

Since I started my job in the children's department roughly two years ago I have happily rediscovered as an adult the joy to be had in reading kid's books. I'm not talking about reading picture books to your kids, I mean leaving all of those adult titles behind and remembering what it's like to be 10 again and discovering *Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory* for the first time.

Many parents like to read what their children are reading, and what starts out as a desire to monitor content often turns into a golden opportunity to share something meaningful with your child.

Older children often continue to need encouragement with reading and a good way for parents to do this is to familiarize themselves with children's literature so they can be there to say "Oh I just read this great book, I think you're going to love it".

Just imagine being the only parent on the block who knows the names of all of Harry's friends, who the Dragon Rider is and how you really eat fried worms. Show your kids that you value what they are doing by exploring their world yourself!

I have always been a voracious reader and enjoy many adult authors, however when I tire of reading about adult angst, courtroom drama and family dysfunction, I find myself browsing the shelves of the children's department for tales of adventure where evil is always apparent and good always wins. Here you will find fantastic tales of talking mice who lead rebellions, and everything you ever wanted to know about koalas in 32 pages or less.

So next time you visit the library, come down to the children's department and take a vacation from adulthood for a while. We'll go on a quest to find Zeus's lightning bolt, rescue a few damsels in distress, and even meet a few giants. I promise you'll be back in time for supper.

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