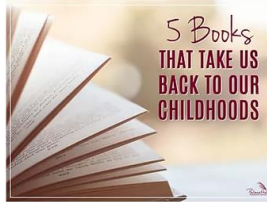


An interactive community for writers.

5 Books to Remind You of the Hardships and Joys of Growing Up

November 11, 2016 | Katina Robinson - Editor in Chief



No one ever said growing up was easy. However, on the way to becoming a young adult, one can experience intense beauty while trudging through the muck.

Can't quite remember what I'm talking about? Read the following coming-of-age novels, and your memory will soon be refreshed.

1. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky

Meet Charlie, a complex teen who's navigating his way through high school and to adulthood. If you don't fall in love with all three of the main characters, I'd wager that you'll find a kindred spirit in at least one of them. And the book involves *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*...so of course that's an added bonus and (in my opinion) makes this a must-read.

2. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Betty Smith

If you weren't assigned this classic novel in school, it's time to pick a copy up and give it a read. Set during the turn of the century (1899 to 1900, to be clear), *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* follows Francie Nolan as she evolves into a young woman while enduring a plethora of bitter-sweet experiences. Yes, it's set during a time that's foreign to us now, in the 21st century, but the heart of the novel and the themes driving the story are timeless.

3. *Charlie No Face*, David Seaburn

Jackie's an eleven-year-old kid who is intrigued by the area's boogiemani: Charlie No Face. And during the summer of 1957, Jackie becomes acquainted with the disfigured hermit, learning a lot about life, death, and being misunderstood as their friendship grows. The novel's warm-heartedness makes it the ultimate feel-good read.

4. *The Big Hole*, Lyn Harden

If you're a suspense junkie, then this is the perfect coming-of-age story for you. Taking place during the summer of 1975, *The Big Hole* follows Rachel as she tries to enjoy her last days "before being forced into high society" by her mother. A new neighbor throws a wrench into Rachel's summer plans, but the two grow close—and become entangled in a web of mystery, adventure, and potentially fatal danger.

5. *White Oleander*, Janet Finch

The protagonist of this novel, Astrid, faces issues that many adolescents unfortunately must deal with. After her mother is imprisoned, Astrid floats around the system from foster home to foster home, each one different from the last. Over the years, Astrid grows from a naive young girl into something of a wise old soul. This is one coming-of-age story you won't soon forget.

It's undeniable that each person faces a unique journey toward adulthood. These five books act as slices of life, providing readers with insight, delight, and—in many cases—nostalgia.

What are your favorite stories about growing up? Share in the comments section below!

Tags: [The Perks of Being a Wallflower](#) [A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#) [Charlie No Face](#) [The Big Hole](#) [White Oleander](#) [fiction](#) [childhood](#) [young adult](#) [coming of age](#) [novel](#)



Follow Us!

Never miss a blog

Subscribe Now

Featured Posts



Vanity Presses, Self-Publishing, and Traditional Publishers: Oh My!
March 1, 2016

Recent Posts

Exclusive Interview with Road to Antietam Author Tom E. Hicklin
September 4, 2018

How to Format Your Book to Streamline the Editing Process
August 24, 2018

Using Social Media to Reach More Readers
August 14, 2018

Ode to the Comma
August 10, 2018

Why a Writer's Group is Important and How to Find Your Fit
August 7, 2018

Shutting Up Your Inner Editor and Getting That First Draft Written
July 24, 2018

Fantastic Kids' Fiction from Palmetto Publishing Group
July 20, 2018

Writing Exercises to Charm the Muse
July 6, 2018

Make Serious Progress on Your Writing Project with Camp HoloWrite
July 2, 2018

Exclusive Interview with Alphabet Adventures Author Erica Nnemdi