

children?

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 26 Oct 1999

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shannon wilde — 26 Oct 1999, 16:13

--- shannon wilde <swilde_99 at yahoo.com> wrote:

Date: Tue, 26 Oct 1999 16:07:26 -0700 (PDT)

From: shannon wilde <swilde_99 at yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: children?

To: urth at best.lists.com

Forgive me, all, I couldn't resist replying to the "survival as kiddy lit" bit. I myself was turned onto _Fahrenheit 451_, first the book, then the movie, when I was approx 5-6 yrs old. By third grade, I had read all of _The Lord of the Rings_ and had read both _Dune_ and _The Dispossessed_ by age 11. Of course that goes for _The Metamorphosis_ and some of Borges, too. Not bragging, really. My point is that good, and great, literature is both timeless and ageless for those with the mind's eye to see. Heck, I read Grimm's and Calvino's collected fairytales, and Rudyard Kipling, with even more pleasure than I did as a child. Admittedly, Proust et al might be a bit much for most youngsters (and adults) but if TBOTNS had been published when I was shorter, it would surely have been "gold" to me, even as _The Dying Earth_ and so much of Vance was. You all were probably pretty exceptional folk throughout your lives, so you know what I mean. Like Bryan Cholfin (formerly editor of Crank! mag) Wolfe was formative to my critical and aesthetic appreciation of modern literature. I wonder how those solitary tots of today will be entranced by the many wonders of Urth and sky...presumably w/o the tall, grey-robed figures abducting them.

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Daniel Fusch — 26 Oct 1999, 23:32 · follows shannon wilde

Shannon,

(snip)

My point is that good, and

great, literature is both timeless and ageless for
those with the mind's eye to see.

Good point! I also discovered many of my favorite books at an early age...Lord of the Rings at age 8, A Wrinkle in Time at age 7 or 8, Kipling shortly afterward, and so on.

Great literature IS ageless/timeless! Maybe, then, we should hope that all the great novels--past and present--survive into the future as children's lit!

Daniel