

Best book choices

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 02 Aug 2001

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Joel T. Sieh — 02 Aug 2001, 15:05

I noticed that a few people listed _A_Wizard_of_Earthsea_ as one of their best books. I was just curious why.... I read it and thought it was a pretty good read, but I didn't think it rated -that- well. It's been a while since I read it, but I remember feeling like I was watching a movie that was shot completely from one far-away angle. By this I mean that I didn't feel like I could get close to the characters or even really know them or see them as anything more than 2-dimensional.

I haven't read many of the other books people listed (including Pullman, which is one of the next books on my list, after I reread LotR). I did read Susan Cooper's _The_Dark_is_Rising_, however, and at the time was more impressed with some of the books, most notably

_The_Grey_King_ than I later was with _A_Wizard_of_Earthsea_.

I think I'd also put _A_Wrinkle_In_Time_ up there, and

_The_Phantom_Tollbooth_ by Norton Juster. I guess I'd put

_The_Hobbit_ and maybe even the rest of LotR, even though LotR is probably better suited for adults. The only reason I'm really including LotR, though, is because it was sort of like a weird Book of Gold for me. In elementary school I couldn't resist walking up to the "big kids" bookshelf in our school library and grabbing the large, slightly tattered, forbidding black books branded with the red ring and eye. Much later I picked up Shadow and Claw because of that same forbidding look (and because I read the first chapter, which was wonderful).

--Joel