

the beauty of Wolfe's writing

The Urth list — 18 messages, 9 voices, 21 Mar 2010

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/5564>

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Stuart Hamm — 21 Mar 2010, 00:00

Meant to reply to Bene's post..

The Latrp books never resonated as deeply with me, but "Silk Nodded" almost made me cry I'm afraid to say..maybe because i was sad/happy that I'd made it through the 12 books!

"Sorcerers..." is an OK read, liking it better then AEG which really did nothing for me and the puzzlebox aspect is offputting at times...gonna restart the Sun series...

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Skype? stuart.hamm

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aaron — 21 Mar 2010, 02:09 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

I am really enjoying "Sorcerer's House" so far. And by the way Stu, I am a longtime fan of your bass playing. My favorite has to be off the Satriani album "Flying In a Blue Dream". A song I cannot recall the exact title to, but something like "Back to Shella-Bal"... Sound familiar?

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John Watkins — 21 Mar 2010, 02:31 · in reply to aaron

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Stuart Hamm — 21 Mar 2010, 03:12 · in reply to John Watkins

yes, Shala Bal was Norrin Radd (the Silver Surfer's) wife....am working on a bass choir version of a Ladysmith Black Mombazo song called "Back to Shabalalla".....joseph Shabalalla is/was the lead singer of the South African band....

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From: John Watkins <john.watkins04 at gmail.com>
Subject: Re: (urth) the beauty of Wolfe's writing
To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>
Date: Saturday, March 20, 2010, 7:31 PM

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Aaron Singleton

Subscription/information: <http://www.urth.net>

-----Inline Attachment Follows-----

Son of Witz — 22 Mar 2010, 14:25 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

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John Watkins — 22 Mar 2010, 14:30 · in reply to Son of Witz

Do you have D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths?

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Allan Anderson — 22 Mar 2010, 15:43 · in reply to John Watkins

I remember that one fondly, but even more so--D'Aulaire's "Norse Gods and Giants"...or I think it's been re-titled "Book of Norse Myths"

Andrew Lang's color fairy books are good stuff; I read many of them as a kid myself.

Consider Michael Berenstain's "The Troll Book" as well.

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From: James Wynn <crushtv at gmail.com>

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To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>

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Andrew Bryant — 23 Mar 2010, 02:27 · in reply to Son of Witz

My kid is negative 3 months and I'm already looking forward to reading through this list with him. Is it too early to build up the library?

Anyway, thanks for the ideas, James, and everyone. I will only contribute one title - "World Tales" by Idries Shah, the out of print illustrated edition, makes great bedtime readings and the illustrations are amazing and haunting, by about 30 different artists.

Costs about 30-40 bucks on Amazon.

http://www.amazon.com/WORLD-TALES-Shah-Idries-ed/dp/B000JN9PQI/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1269311124&sr=8-4

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Let's see (for what it's worth)...

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[http://www.amazon.com/Golden-Treasury-Legends-Adapted-Classics/dp/B000P4HH9S%3FSubscriptionId%3D15HRV3AZSMPK0GXTY102%26tag%3die8suggestion-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3DB000P4HH9S](http://www.amazon.com/Golden-Treasury-Legends-Adapted-Classics/dp/B000P4HH9S%3FSubscriptionId%3D15HRV3AZSMPK0GXTY102%26tag%3Die8suggestion-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3DB000P4HH9S)

You shouldn't miss the opportunity to read all the Winnie the Pooh stories to your kids. It's extremely enjoyable for adults but there is an age when a kid won't tolerate it.

The Wizard of Oz stories are obvious choices. You get 14 volumes IIRC by Baum, but then after him there's Ruth Plumly Thompson's stories (whom Wolfe has identified as an influence).

David Hartwell (Gene Wolfe's editor) produced the twin volumes "Masterpieces of Fantasy and Wonder" and "Masterpieces of Fantasy and

Enchantment". They collect fantasy stories from the 19th century to modern times that are all just a little bit skewed from all the fantasy that is squarely in Tolkien's shadow. The collection includes Wolfe's "The Detective of Dreams" for instance. But each volume also has a story by Frank Stockton. "The Bee Man of Orn" is a story Wolfe would write if he could write stories for children. Also fantasy stories by Baum, Horace Wapole, George McDonald, Lafferty, and Philip K. Dick.

If your son enjoyed Pyle's King Arthur then he would probably be able to appreciate Kenneth Morris' "The Book of Three Dragons", a free retelling of the labors of Manawyddan. The scene where Manawyddan confronts the literary critics is perfect.

There's the Gormenghast trilogy. Some kids (and adults) *really* like it and some don't at all.

The Complete Grimm Fairy Tales has almost a year's worth of nightly readings. The Windermere Series "The Arabian Knights Entertainments" is perfect for reading to kids. It includes the stories kids are most likely to be familiar with (unlike Richard Burton's translation which are almost unreadable and certainly unreadable to children). But perhaps a better choice is a large volume called "The Enchanted World: The Greatest Folk and Fairy Tales" which combines stories from the Grimms, Arabian Nights, Lang, Charles Perault, William Griggs, and others.

Speaking of which, don't roll your eyes but the 20 volume Time Life Enchanted World series is absolutely *packed* with readable stories from all over the world. Some of them are really creepy, which is appealing to boys. And the illustrations are phenomenal. You can often pick the volumes up at used bookstores for as little as \$2.

Also, the graphic novels by Jim Fitzgerald on the myths of Ireland.

I tried hard to convince my wife we needed more kids, and the opportunity to read to them and teach them to read was probably my impetus.

J.

Adam Thornton — 23 Mar 2010, 03:26 · in reply to Stuart Hamm

Stuart Hamm wrote:
My 10 year old is allowing me to re-read her "The Phantom Tollbooth"...sigh...happy days!

Does it still hold up? My wife asked me last night, and I don't know, having not revisited it in a couple decades, and I haven't dug it out yet.

Adam

Russ Allbery — 23 Mar 2010, 03:32 · in reply to Adam Thornton

Adam Thornton <adam at io.com> writes:

Stuart Hamm wrote:

My 10 year old is allowing me to re-read her "The Phantom Tollbooth"...sigh...happy days!

Does it still hold up? My wife asked me last night, and I don't know, having not revisited it in a couple decades, and I haven't dug it out yet.

I still love it.

Russ Allbery (rra at stanford.edu) <<http://www.eyrie.org/~eagle/>>

Stuart Hamm — 23 Mar 2010, 03:50 · in reply to Adam Thornton

great...really enjoying it!

???????? ? ?

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? ??

--- On Mon, 3/22/10, Adam Thornton <adam at io.com> wrote:

From: Adam Thornton <adam at io.com>

Subject: Re: (urth) D'Aulaires books

To: "The Urth Mailing List" <urth at lists.urth.net>

Date: Monday, March 22, 2010, 8:26 PM

Stuart Hamm wrote:

My 10 year old is allowing me to re-read her "The Phantom Tollbooth"...sigh...happy days!

? ? ? ? ? ???

Does it still hold up? My wife asked me last night, and I don't know, having not revisited it in a couple decades, and I haven't dug it out yet.

Adam

James Wynn — 23 Mar 2010, 16:33 · in reply to Andrew Bryant

My kid is negative 3 months and I'm already looking forward to reading through this list with him. Is it too early to build up the library?

Andrew,

Some recomendations based on lessons learned:

1) Don't spend a lot of money on the books initially. Kids are absolute terrors to books. If they like them, they will read them to death, literally. You cannot train this out of them. They won't grow out of this until around 14 at best. When I noticed they took an enspecial to one of my books (so that they would read it on their own time), I learned to either buy a new one for myself or buy a cheap readers copy for them.

2) Start reading books with that are mainly pictures.

When your child is almost able to form sentences, start reading Mother Goose (perhaps a sturdy board book with cartoon illustratons of animals). Put a tune to each rhyme. Eventually, you will

be able to point to the rhyme and she will read it to you (sing, actually). Around 3 or four, you can graduate to Shel Silverstein and Eugene Field.

3) Although we want our kids to appreciate the classics. Have lots of books around that they can hope to learn to read on their own. PD Eastman is not Shakespeare, but "Are You My Mother?" is a story a 3 year old can easily follow and learn to read on her own.

Correction:

I said:

Also, the graphic novels by Jim Fitzgerald on the myths of Ireland.

That's Jim FitzPATRICK.