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## **BTBL Staff Picks: Revisiting Books from Childhood**

This article appears in the *BTBL News*, Fall 2015 edition. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

### **The Phantom Tollbooth** by Norton Juster

“This classic fantasy follows a very bored little boy named Milo through a mysterious tollbooth and into the Kingdom of Wisdom from which Rhyme and Reason have been banished. Undoubtedly reading this book in fourth grade has a lot to do with my love of words and wordplay today.” –Robert, Reader Advisor

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### **Island of the Blue Dolphins** by Scott O’Dell

“This book is a special one as my Aunt had it signed by the author and gave it to me as a gift. It’s a children’s novel which won the 1961 Newbery Medal award. The story is about a young girl who learned to survive on an island alone for almost 20 years and all the trials and tribulations she went through.” –Diane, Reader Advisor

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### **Clifford, the Big Red Dog** by Normal Bridwell

“I’ve always liked big dogs but we could only have small dogs growing up. Clifford could walk over houses and the whole neighborhood loved him. The Clifford books got me started on all the other famous dog stories.” –Daniel, Circulation

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### **Alanna the First Adventure** by Tamora Pierce

“This was the first book I had ever read that featured a strong female lead. The main character definitely influenced my developing personality as a young adult. The story is set in a fantasy, medieval world where characters have magical powers.” –Sarah, Reader Advisor

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### **The Old Man and the Sea** by Ernest Hemingway

“Growing up in the city, it was nice to get into a book that takes you into nature and out to sea.” –Valerie, Reader Advisor

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**Paddle-to-the-Sea** by Holling Clancy Holling

“This is one of my favorite books. My father used to read this book to my brother and me. It was written in 1941 and tells the story of a native boy in Canada who carves a canoe with a man in it and sets it in the ice. When the ice melts the canoe sets out on a journey, finally finding its way to the Atlantic Ocean after many adventures. The author wove a spell with his words and we couldn’t wait to turn the page.” -Johanna, Circulation

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**Matilda** by Roald Dahl

“Matilda is one of those books I can reread an infinite number of times. It has a special place in my heart because it was one of the first chapter books I read entirely on my own. It’s quirky, fun, and helped make me the insatiable bookworm that I am today. Because no matter how old I get, the kid in me still thinks maybe I’ll get magic powers if I read enough books!” –Melissa, Reader Advisor

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**Charlotte’s Web** by E.B. White

“My favorite classic children’s book is Charlotte’s Web, a story about a pig and a spider and barn yard animals that help make Wilbur the most famous pig at the County Fair. It’s a great book that teaches friendship.” –Peggy, Reader Advisor

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**The Giver** by Lois Lowry

“This coming of age story about a youth in a supposedly utopian society, which turns out to be much darker under the surface, really struck a chord with me when I was growing up and influenced how I see the world now. To me, the importance of The Giver is the idea that people should be able to live life free and to experience what life has to offer be it good or bad. We shouldn’t be sheltered from experiencing what life happens to bring. I believe the book’s message is that government shouldn’t dictate what it thinks society should be. People should be able to make their own decisions with most things in life.” –Charlie, Machine Repairman

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