

This week's Sweet Surprise dips into the world of storytelling and shares the views of three girls who were thirteen at the time of the interview. Start a similar discussion with your own children or in a fellowship group. You can enhance the latter by discussing the thought provoking questions at the end. For a bible study fellowship, you could ask everyone to share their favourite book of the bible and ask them to give reasons for their choice.

Book Talk



Thirteen year old Alice, Catherine and Lilly all agreed to answer questions and talk about their favourite childhood books. Being asked to specifically name the one book that impacted them the most during childhood, led not only to them sharing their memories, but the task stimulated interesting thoughts and discussion, and finally led to them all laying on one big bed reading some of their favourite childhood stories once again!

Here are their reflections:

Catherine's favourite book comes from the time when she was just three years old. 'Little Red Riding Hood' is a story many are familiar with, but it's special for Catherine because it was the book her grandma would read to her every time she went for a visit. Catherine recalls loving the pictures and bright colours, and despite being a little frightened by the wolf and a little saddened by the ending, she has happy memories of her Little Red Riding Hood story times. She also recalls learning that walking in the woods alone might not be such a good idea!

Alice's favourite book comes from the time when she was five years old. 'The Forgotten Toys' captured her attention, and despite clearing her bookshelves many times, a copy of this book still remains on one of them! For those not familiar with this book, it's a story of a teddy and friends who get into adventures when they have to find their way home after being left on an airport bag carousel. Alice thought the book funny, and it fired her imagination for at one time she believed her own toys could converse! She loved this book which was introduced by her grade 1 teacher, and she would read it over and over again.

Lilly's favourite book comes from the time when she was eight years old. It's a book called 'The Lottie Project' written by Jacqueline Wilson, and Lilly remembers feeling quite proud and grown-up when reading this book because she believed it to be a book written for older students. Lottie is an eleven year old girl who has to do a school project about the Victorian era, and this interested Lilly as she had a P3 Victorian project to complete for school at the very time that she was reading this book!

All the girls agreed that they would like their own children to read their favourite book, which is not particularly surprising. However, it may be enlightening to hear their agreed view that having stories read to them was fun, but after reaching 8 or 9, its appeal diminished.

Thought Provoking Question 1: How important is the reader in any reading experience?

Thought Provoking Question 2: Why do our children like to read the same books over and over again?

Thought Provoking Question 3: How valuable or important is it that a child can relate to the topic of a story?

Thought Provoking Questions 4: How important is it to have an input into the stories your children are reading, and how long have you got left to have any effective influence?

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