

Winnie-the- pooh by A.A. Milne 1926

I consider Winnie-the-Pooh to be a classic for its ability to draw out children's imagination. The book provides beautiful illustrations representing the lovable characters. I think what helps to make this story a classic are the characters, theme and events throughout the book. Children love being able to use their imagination and often consider their stuffed toys to be their best friends. This book portrays toys coming to life through a young boy's imagination and having individual personalities. The characters are loveable and help to teach lessons that children would relate to.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle 1969

I consider this book a classic for providing unique illustrations. The cardboard and paper cut-outs, design of the book and design of the pages give children a different experience when they read the book. Children love things that they can touch and put their hands through in this book; it draws the reader in and makes them a participant of the story, rather than just an onlooker. I think that children also find humor in the story with the different varieties of food that the caterpillar eats. They can relate to the caterpillar that junk food tastes good, but doesn't always make you feel good after eating it. I think that the ending of the book, with the double page spread butterfly also keeps readers coming back to it year after year.

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss 1956

This book (and almost every one of Dr. Seuss' books) is no wonder why it is considered a classic. Children love this story for its silliness, imagination and mischief that is provided. Children can relate to not liking rainy days and having to use your imagination to do something indoors. The book draws in the reader with the simple rhyme and repetition, but also with the story. Children find humor through the mischief that The Cat causes as well as the other silly made up characters in Dr. Seuss' book. I think children can relate to the simple illustrations in the book.

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak 1988

Even though this book isn't quite as old as the others, I still consider it a classic. Children can easily relate to Max, the main character in the story. Children have bad days and get into trouble. Perhaps not so much sent to bed without dinner anymore, but do have things taken away from them. I think what makes this a classic is the fact that children can relate to the character's feelings and escape mechanisms. Max dreams up an imaginary world, where he is King and doesn't need to listen to anyone else. In fact monsters listen to him. Children want and need to be listened to, but also need to know they're still loved, even after they get in trouble, and this book provides that. It also has wonderfully detailed illustrations that capture the reader and immerse them into the setting.

The BFG by Roald Dahl 1982

I think this book has become a classic because of the fantastic writing style of Roald Dahl and his creativity with imagination. The book is humorous, witty and can completely capture the hearts of readers. The book allows the reader to escape to an unknown world within our own. It is pure fantasy which is exactly what draws in its readers. The plot is easy to follow and the main characters, Sophie and the BFG are loveable. I think that the simplistic illustrations used in his books are also what help to make this book (and his others) classics.