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## **Childhood Memories**

Probably the book that most touched my childhood was **Black Beauty**. Anna Sewell has a horse tell the story of its life. Pulling cabs in London was the dark moment of the horse's life.

Published in 1877, millions of copies have been sold. It is a must read for every child and develops a child's mind in regard to the good treatment of animals.

A second memory relates to the book **The Wind in the Willows**. Four animals are the centerpiece of the story, a mole, a rat, a toad (frog) and a badger.

It was written by Kenneth Grahame in 1908. A year later President Teddy Roosevelt wrote to him and said the animals had become his friends.

Third up would be my reading of **Treasure Island**. Robert Louis Stevenson tells his story of pirates etc. Plenty of material to broaden a child's imagination!

On my sister's desk I recall seeing **A little Princess, Anne of Green Gables and The Secret Garden. Alice in Wonderland** also appeared at some point. The **Heidi** books also were a favorite of hers.

During my school days Mark Twain's **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** was on the curriculum.

One of the best things I did as a child was get a membership at the local Library. My mother was known to complain that my head was stuck in a book when I should be doing my chores!

I have no regrets and would want every child to discover the classic stories that help to form a child's mind.

Having grown up with a horse called **Charlie**, I have a special place in my heart for horses. A woman, years ago, said she couldn't imagine heaven without horses. I agree.

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