My Favourite All Time Read

My favourite ever read has to be ‘The Magic Faraway Tree’, which I would say is an adventure/ fairy-tale book, written by Enid Blyton in 1943.I did not get to read it until the 1980s when I was ten years old but I didn’t feel it had been written a long time ago. From the minute I opened the first page, I could not put it down and often stayed up late at night reading it under my duvet with a torch (without my parents knowing). As soon as I had finished reading the very last page, I started to reread it as I couldn’t bear the thought I wouldn’t be able to read about all the characters’ adventures anymore.

The story centres around four children wholive near an enchanted wood in which there is a gigantic tree. This tree grows so high that it reaches special clouds that contain magical lands which visit every now and again and rest on the top-most branches. The children often enter the wood to climb this Faraway Tree right up to where the Fairy-Tale places are but they never quite know if the visiting magical land will be somewhere lovely or somewhere unpleasant. I always remember them visiting Rocking Land which they did not enjoy as the ground kept tipping up so everyone kept falling over! However, the children experienced many wonderful places like Nursery Rhyme Land, the Land of Enchantments and the Land of Treats and they made friends with several fairy people who actually live in little dwellings carved out of the tree itself.

The book contains many magical characters such as Dame Washalot who gets rid of her dirty water by simply emptying it down the tree, Moon-Face who has a slide in the floor of his little home and it goes right down to the bottom of the tree (which provides hours of entertainment for the children) and, my favourite character of all, Saucepan Man who is always wearing saucepans and kettles which constantly bang together- no wonder he is a little deaf with all that noise!

I would recommend this book to young children, aged between eight and eleven, who like adventure stories and magical characters. It is not too scary but, at certain points, the children do encounter some quite scary and dishonest characters; also, sometimes I used to worry that the children would not be able to find their way out of the magical lands to get back to the Faraway Tree so any reader needs to be aware that it does have some parts which keep you hanging on the edge of your seat!

