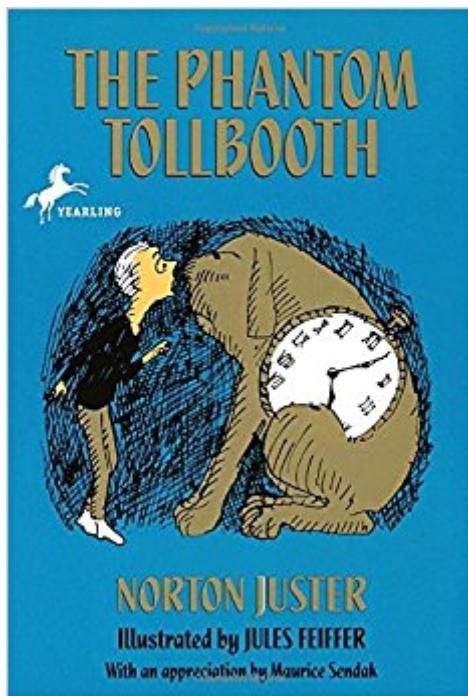


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# The Phantom Tollbooth



## Synopsis

Hailed as "a classic. . . . humorous, full of warmth and real invention" • (The New Yorker), this beloved story--first published more than fifty ago--introduces readers to Milo and his adventures in the Lands Beyond. For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams. . . . Features an appreciation by Maurice Sendak, award-winning author of *Where the Wild Things Are!* I read [The Phantom Tollbooth] first when I was ten. I still have the book report I wrote, which began "This is the best book ever." • "The New York Times" "The Phantom Tollbooth is the closest thing we have to a modern Alice in Wonderland." • "The Guardian" "The book lingers long after turning the final page. . . . A classic indeed." • "Los Angeles Review of Books" "You loved the humor and adventure . . . and [now] you'll marvel at [the book's] wit, complexity, and its understanding of how children perceive the passage of time." • "Entertainment Weekly"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000L (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Bullseye Books; Reprint edition (October 12, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394820371

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 1,636 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #729 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Children's Books > Classics #37 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #46 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," Milo laments. "[T]here's nothing for me to do, nowhere I'd care to go, and hardly anything worth seeing." This bored, bored young protagonist who can't see the point to anything is knocked out of his glum humdrum by the sudden and curious appearance of a tollbooth in his bedroom. Since Milo has absolutely nothing better to do, he dusts off his toy car, pays the toll, and drives through. What ensues is a journey of mythic proportions, during which Milo encounters countless odd characters who are anything but dull. Norton Juster received (and continues to receive) enormous praise for this original, witty, and oftentimes hilarious novel, first published in 1961. In an introductory "Appreciation" written by Maurice Sendak for the 35th anniversary edition, he states, "The Phantom Tollbooth leaps, soars, and abounds in right notes all over the place, as any proper masterpiece must." Indeed. As Milo heads toward Dictionopolis he meets with the Whether Man ("for after all it's more important to know whether there will be weather than what the weather will be"), passes through The Doldrums (populated by Lethargarians), and picks up a watchdog named Tock (who has a giant alarm clock for a body). The brilliant satire and double entendre intensifies in the Word Market, where after a brief scuffle with Officer Short Shrift, Milo and Tock set off toward the Mountains of Ignorance to rescue the twin Princesses, Rhyme and Reason. Anyone with an appreciation for language, irony, or Alice in Wonderland-style adventure will adore this book for years on end. (Ages 8 and up) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

" I read [The Phantom Tollbooth] first when I was 10. I still have the book report I wrote, which began 'This is the best book ever.'"--Anna Quindlen, The New York Times" A classic... Humorous, full of warmth and real invention."--The New Yorker

My favorite book to read to and with my children. If you have a boy, great time reading and spending time with him. As he got older he read to himself and didn't need me. So we went back to this book several times and laughed his way to sleep.

This has been on my list of favorite books for a very long time. Read it to your kids.

I never read this book as a kid but had often heard about it. Hard to believe it's been fifty years since it was first published. I can still remember being Milo's age and thinking what a bore everything is. I now wish I could have lived his adventures. Though an architect by trade, you can tell that Norton Juster loves to play with language. Reading that a carriage "goes without saying" is a

hoot-and-a-half. And to behold Jules Feiffer's iconic pen-and-ink drawings every few pages is a gift. I love this book--next time I want to be the one to rescue Rhyme and Reason!

What a wondrous journey into a whimsical world of puns, idioms, and hyperbole! Though marketed as a children's novel, it is certainly worth a read by any adult who enjoys the intricacies of the English language. I had tremendous fun in teaching this novel, and the children enjoyed it just as much. It goes without saying that this book is a classic, and one that can be read and reread, with various nuances being discovered each time. Norton Juster is brilliant, and I was interested to learn that he is just as colorful a character in real life, as the characters he's created in this primo novel.

The Phantom Tollbooth is the book I wish my parents had read to me when I was a child. This book explores English and mathematics, and connects them together in a world of their own. A world filled with puns and wordplay. Milo is filled with ennui, and can find nothing that interests or excites him. The arrival of a cardboard tollbooth and little electric car send him into a world of adventure and exploration where his expectations are overturned. His traveling companion is Tock, a dog with a clock in its middle. He turns out to be both lovable, and offers often dry comments on the situation at hand. I never warmed up to the Humbug, who seemed to me to be part snake oil salesman. Yet he has his lovable moments. If you have not read this book to your child, or have not given it to him or her to read on their own, then I think they are sadly deprived children.

When I was a kid, this book gave me a love for language which I learned to couple with a sarcastic sense of humor. Now that I'm 34, I appreciate these gifts all the more. I try to read this book 2 or 3 times a year just to remind myself of some fundamental "Life 101" lessons. Thank you, Norton Juster.

You can't beat Norton Juster's The Phantom Tollbooth for brilliance and creativity. The illustrations by Jules Pfeiffer are a wonderful accompaniment.

This book is everything. It is as much a pre-requisite to life as Le Petit Prince and the Giving Tree, perhaps even moreso. Perfect before you go on a long trip. Perfect when you're expecting an important message. Perfect when you're waiting for the bus after work. Perfect when you can't think of a gift to bring. Perfect to break up the classics adorning your study. Perfect to shake the sand out

of from a day at the beach. Perfect when you want to revisit an old friend.

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