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# When I Was Your Age, Volume One: Original Stories About Growing Up



## Synopsis

Perfect for literature classes and beginning writers of all ages!"Tell me a story of when you were little" is something children love to ask. Now ten award-winning writers: Mary Pope Osborne, Laurence Yep, James Howe, Katherine Paterson, Walter Dean Myers, Susan Cooper, Nicholas A. Mohr, Reeve Lindbergh, Avi, and Francesca Lia Block tell young readers stories drawn from their own childhood memories. The authors have also contributed notes about why they chose particular memories to write about and what in their lives led them to be writers. In this way, the extraordinary stories in WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE bear witness to the origins of a writer's art—and honor the courage, tenderness, and fragility of children.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

In a starred review of this anthology of stories about growing up, PW wrote, "Fans of all ages will savor these perceptively chosen, affectingly disclosed episodes from the lives of their favorite writers." The writers include Mary Pope Osborne, Katherine Paterson, Avi, Walter Dean Myers and Francesca Lia Block. Ages 9-14. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5 Up? Ehrlich asked 10 children's book authors to contribute a story based on their childhoods. The result is a fascinating glimpse into a variety of times, places, plots, and people. Some of the selections are funny, some sad, some a mixture, but they all express feelings and describe situations that young people can identify with?whether it is Laurence Yep's discovery that his father really loved him for himself or Walter Dean Myers's friends trying to get even with the adults who spoiled their fun, or Mary Pope Osborne's revelation of how she held on to a deflated rubber ball, a gift from her soldier father, until he returned safely from the war in Korea. Each story is followed by a note from the author that explains to what degree the incidents are true and why the piece was submitted. The writing is of such high caliber that all the stories sound true and readers are sure to believe that the incidences described really happened. It is a disappointment then, to learn that a particular story, or part of it, is fiction. A picture of the author as a child precedes each entry. The selections are so varied and so well written that children will find at least one they would enjoy reading. Librarians will have to encourage their students not to judge this book by its dull cover, but to open it so they can be entertained by 10 master storytellers.?Nancy P. Reeder, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The original tales presented in this book are actual memories of childhood penned by notable children's book authors. Although most of the stories have 8-10 year-olds as their protagonists, they deal with emotions and predicaments more easily understood, I think, by slightly older children. Pre-teenage can be such an awkward time; these tales can be healing/instructive to those in this time of life. The authors all have written beautiful stories which really should not be missed. And, as an extra special "gift" to the reader, each story is followed by a one-page explanation/note written by the tale's author. It's a relief to realize that each author not only survived growing up, but also flourished. And I loved being allowed to share private memories of these marvelous authors. As a great fan of Katherine Paterson, I was especially touched by her story, which involved her older, prettier sister. Perhaps even more revealing, however, is the note she wrote to accompany this story. I am sure that the feelings here expressed were the source of her poignantly beautiful novel "Jacob Have I Loved." (Great for girls age 12 and up.) This book also provided an introduction (at least for me) to several authors with whom I was not familiar; I look forward to reading more by them. I am a 40-something, well-educated mom. I bought this book for my own family, but I will be purchasing more copies to give as gifts. And I look forward to the sequel to this book, already in print!

great condition

Using to teach biographies/autobiographies and personal narrative. The students enjoy hearing from the different authors and seeing the different writing styles.

I'm not sure how receptive my fifth graders will be to this text, but I thought it was boring and lacked a lot of excitement.

I loved this book for my 5th grade memoir unit! Great condition and a quality text to help teach memoir!

The cover was a little worn, but still in good condition. It was well worth the money I paid for it. Thanks!!

When I was Your Age Volume 1, Original Stories about growing up  
By: Mary Pope Osborn ~ Laurence Yep ~ James Howe ~ Kathrine Paterson ~ Walter Dean Myers ~ Susan Cooper ~ Nicholasa Mohr ~ Reeve Lindbergh ~ Avi ~ Francesca Lia Block ~ Edited by Amy Ehrlich  
When I Was Your Age is a big bunch of true, short stories by different authors who write a lot of books. Each story has its own plot, beginning, middle and end, most of which are very exciting or sad in a weird kind of way. In one story, there is little girl in the second World War who is being bullied by a big meanie. Then the girl finds a friend who is an old lady who has a dog. The old lady is very nice and sticks up for her at school but soon there is an air raid and the inexplicable happens. In another story, there is a boy whose father had been a pioneer in the late 20's and 30's and currently owns a plane. The story really starts when the engine stops and the boy and his father plummet to the ground. The father tells the boy to put his head between his legs as they come in for a crash landing. Do they survive? It's up to you to read and find out. The book is for anybody (probably 3rd and up) and is really fun to read. It is historical short stories and I really like it because it tells a lot about the lives people lived a long time ago and has a big variety. I hope you read it because it's a really good book. If you like it, you might like the second book in the series When I Was Your Age Volume 2. by Dylan

I read this book for school. Some of the stories were highly interesting, but some of them were really

sad. In one of them, a boy finds a kitten and in the end, it dies. Overall, it's worth checking out at the library, but not actually buying. The authors are all wonderful. If you can handle sadness and/or strangeness, this is the book for you.

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