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# Marshfield dreams: when I was a kid

Gillian Streeter

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Fletcher, Ralph. *Marshfield dreams: when I was a kid*. Henry Holt, 2005. ISBN 080507242X. \$16.95. 192 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Autobiographies;

Subject: Fletcher, Ralph J.--Childhood and youth--Juvenile literature; Authors, American--20th century--Biography--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

The author reflects on his childhood in Marshfield, Massachusetts, in this wonderfully nostalgic book. The small but significant events and patterns that build a childhood are reviewed and treasured in this book's short chapters. *Marshfield Dreams* feels a bit like Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine*, only the style is simpler. The author reflects on experiences from his childhood, varying from spending a church meeting outside the chapel because of his large family to a daring rescue of the family's two pet roosters. More serious topics, such as the family's move from Massachusetts to Illinois, will connect young readers to the author's experiences. Adults will remember some of the magic in their childhoods through Fletcher's own reminiscences.