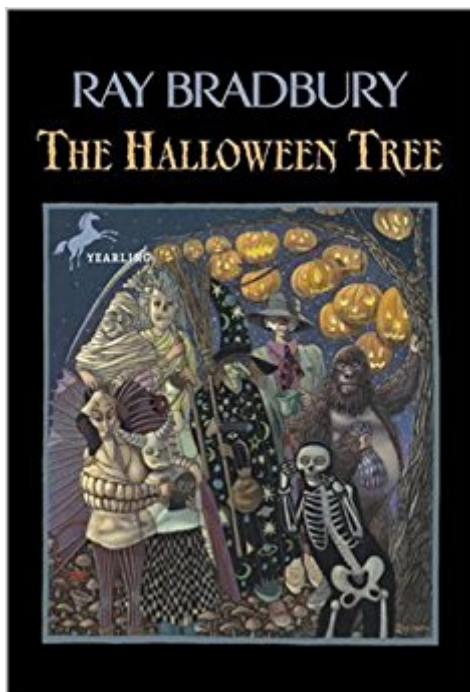


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# The Halloween Tree



## Synopsis

"A fast-moving, eerie...tale set on Halloween night. Eight costumed boys running to meet their friend Pipkin at the haunted house outside town encounter instead the huge and cadaverous Mr. Moundshroud. As Pipkin scrambles to join them, he is swept away by a dark Something, and Moundshroud leads the boys on the tail of a kite through time and space to search the past for their friend and the meaning of Halloween. After witnessing a funeral procession in ancient Egypt, cavemen discovering fire, Druid rites, the persecution of witches in the Dark Ages, and the gargoyles of Notre Dame, they catch up with the elusive Pipkin in the catacombs of Mexico, where each boy gives one year from the end of his life to save Pipkin's. Enhanced by appropriately haunting black-and-white drawings."--Booklist

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Yearling; 1st edition (2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375803017

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 227 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,503 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men](#) #57 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Horror](#) #476 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

Special indeed are holiday stories with the right mix of high spirits and subtle mystery to please both adults and children--Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," for example. Or Ray Bradbury's classic *The Halloween Tree*. Eight boys set out on a Halloween night and are led into the depths of the past by a tall, mysterious character named Moundshroud. They ride on a black wind to autumn scenes in distant lands and times, where they witness other ways of celebrating this holiday about the dark time of year. Bradbury's lyrical prose whooshes along with the pell-mell rhythms of children running at night, screaming and laughing, and the reader is carried along by its sheer exuberance. Bradbury's stories about children are always attended by dread--of change, adulthood, death. *The Halloween Tree*, while sweeter than his adult literature, is also touched at moments by the cold

specter of loss--which is only fitting, of course, for a holiday in honor of the waning of the sun. This is a superb book for adults to read to children, a way to teach them, quite painlessly, about customs and imagery related to Halloween from ancient Egypt, Mediterranean cultures, Celtic Druidism, Mexico, and even a cathedral in Paris. (One caveat, though: Bradbury unfortunately perpetuates a couple of misconceptions about Samhain, or summer's end, the Halloween of ancient Celts and contemporary pagans.) This beautiful reprint edition has the original black-and-white illustrations and a new color painting on the dust jacket. --Fiona Webster --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"If you want to know what Halloween is, or if you simply want an eerie adventure, take this mystery-history trip. You couldn't have a better guide than Ray Bradbury."--Boston Globe  
From the Trade Paperback edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

So glad I remembered this book for Halloween this year. I originally read this when I was in 6th grade. My memories of it were sketchy at best - mostly images and names. It didn't take long to see why the images were so vivid given that the chapters were adorned with some of the most vivid pen and ink pictures, 3 of which have been etched in my brain at Halloween memories all my life. While Bradbury is known for his work in "science fiction" *The Halloween Tree* shows he is just a storyteller regardless of the genre you put him in. Bradbury fans will feel themselves transported back to Green Town, Illinois, though it is not ever called out. The wind, the ravine, the small town atmosphere. And on this night, a much deeper magical power comes out. It is a vivid and amazing story worthy of reading to get you in the mood for October.

I read this in one sitting, which I haven't done in some time, even with children's books. So, quick history: there's an animated movie of this, which I watched as a child and could only vaguely recall some details. Halloween themed and a group of kids is trying to save the soul of a dead friend? Surely my mother didn't make me watch this? It was only a few years ago that I figured out what that movie was, and posted about it on Facebook, and, like, three of my friends replied along the lines of "IT DOES EXIST? I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM!" The book is a bit less traumatic. Though our memories of the messed-up premise are rather accurate. A group of young boys accompany a strange but fun man on a tour of the inspirations for their Halloween costumes and of the holiday itself. Along the way, they follow the disembodied spirit of the greatest of their gang, and must find a way to save him. I totally plan to read this to my kids in the week before Halloween, once I have said

kids. It's a little scary, but not so much that I think they'd be kept up at night. More fantasy than horror, certainly. The price is great, the story is fast, get it, go ahead!

I've long enjoyed the video adaptation every Halloween, so I thought that I would read the book. And I like it, though I don't think I will be rereading it often. The story's purpose is to tell the reader some aspects of the long and convoluted history that forms our modern understanding of Halloween traditions. And it does a good job of that, having a group of 8 boys dressed up in classic Halloween monster costumes being whisked to different time periods to examine how the people of those times viewed Halloween and how they connect to the costumes. Their guide on this Journey is a Mr. Moundshroud who is rather entertaining in his speech and manner, and much more pleasant than his movie counterpart, with the book not really telling his true nature until the end. The driving force of the book, the reason the boys are doing this, is to find their friend Pipkin who has been taken by death. And this is one of the book's weaknesses. Though the boys are traveling through time, Moundshroud makes it understood early on that they can't save Pipkin until they reach their final destination, so from that narrative point the adventure is incidental with only the end goal having any importance. The other weak point of this story is the boys themselves. It takes the entire book to learn all of their names and they have virtually no personality. The majority of the time they lack individual dialogue and are written as just chanting a word someone else says or "Yes, Yes." So to sum up, a pretty good book to explain to young readers where Halloween comes from. But not for readers who are looking for real character driven stories where the journey is as important as the end goal. If that is what you are after I would actually recommend the movie.

I loved this book! The characters and story were well developed. I especially liked how Ray Bradbury took us through time in order to experience how Halloween came about, although some parts were a reach. The story is very creative, the drawings (at least in the book I ordered) were very well done, and provided assistance to my imagination as to the costumes and locations the boys traveled. The book can be a little "scary" in places, so you may want to read it yourself before sharing it with young children. You be the judge. Nevertheless, I would recommend this book.

This is a story I read many years ago; however, the book was lost and when I attempted to repurchase, was out of print. I was very happy to have the chance to own this fantastic story again. It is a good read for tweens and teens as well as adults. If you are a Bradbury fan, there is no way you can go wrong purchasing this tale.

I can't say how much I love The Halloween Tree! No other book fills me with such nostalgic warmth as it does. I was first introduced to the story when the cartoon came out. My mother purchased the VHS tape which came with a copy of the book. Every since, I have read the and watched the cartoon every October. I plan on carrying on the tradition with my niece and, one day, my own children. I bought the hardcover a few years ago and love it! I have to say though I am very disappointed by the Kindle version since the original illustrations are not present. Instead, we have illustrations by Gris Grimly that are just not as impactful as the original.

Great book, especially around Halloween Ray Bradbury best known for sci-fi - this thriller must have been fun for him. Nostalgic since the characters are all young boys set in 60s I started tradition of reading to my kids when they were ~10, and then sent them copies from AMZN every halloween when they were in College they love it, great book...

An adventure on Halloween Night to save the life of a friend. Ray Bradbury at his finest, twisting words and combining them. Leading the reader further into the story. A great book to have added to my collection.

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