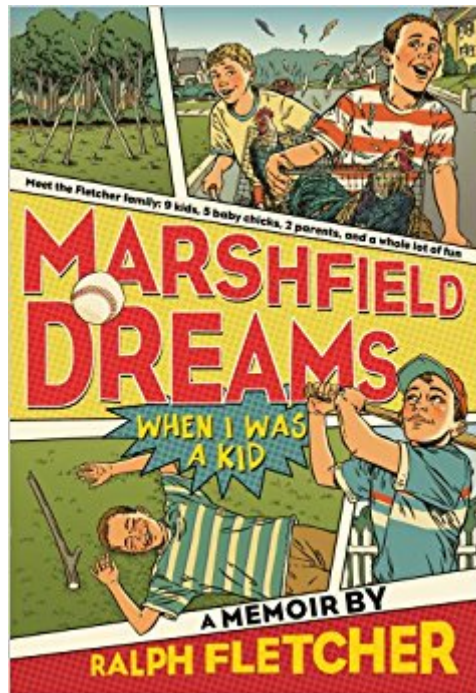


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# Marshfield Dreams: When I Was A Kid



## Synopsis

The colorful boyhood of a popular author comes to life in this personal account. Imagine learning from a nosy classmate that your mother is having yet another baby. To Ralph's classmates, news of one more Fletcher baby is just "scuttlebutt." But for Ralph, the oldest of nine, being part of a large family means more kids to join in the fun— from making tripods in the woods and "snicking" up the rug to raising chicks and even discovering a meteor (well, maybe). It doesn't feel like there's life beyond Marshfield, Massachusetts. Then one day Dad's new job moves the family to Chicago, and there's so much Ralph has to leave behind. In this humorous and captivating memoir, Ralph Fletcher traces the roots of his storytelling.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,056 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary](#) #71 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#) #774 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 10 - 15 years

Grade Level: 5 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8— Fletcher reminisces about growing up in Marshfield, VT, recalling boyhood friendships, sibling attachments, and romps through the woods. We found all kinds of mushrooms. Some were edible, others were poisonous toadstools. Mom said to think of them as strangers— some are good, some are bad, and since you couldn't tell the difference it was best to leave them alone. Fletcher grew up in a Catholic family that grew larger each year, and when another baby was on the way, he'd learn the news from a girl in his class. Family and friendships were fulfilling, enriching, and perplexing. The author thinks about the loss of Dad's

goodnight kisses as he grew up, and the adolescent predicament of being pressed between a girl's body and a wall that housed a giant beehive. Fletcher's connection to nature and the environment infuse every aspect of his life. Written with sagacious eloquence and gentle humor, this work stands strong in the ranks of authors' memoirs and autobiographies. --Alison Follos, North Country School, Lake Placid, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 3-5. Fletcher, author of numerous books, including some on the writing process, pens a dreamy reminiscence of growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in a Massachusetts coastal town. The oldest of his nine siblings, he notes that his "Mom had a baby every year." Embarrassingly enough, a know-it-all classmate usually informed him a new addition was on the way because Mom tended to tell her friends first. This bumper crop of siblings made for some boisterously good times, marked by escapades with backyard roosters and games in the woods. Readers may be particularly intrigued by Fletcher's memories of his great-grandmother, who buried the kids' old teeth in the garden. Many of the vignettes have a choppy style and a heavy nostalgic tone, but for readers who enjoy imagining what it was like to be a kid in days of yore, this has a certain charm. Anne O'Malley Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Really sweet. I love books like this -- where we can remember the sweetness of our childhood, or wish we had such sweetness in our childhood to remember -- and had the ability to write about it as honestly as Ralph Fletcher does in this all-too-brief book. I noticed that the author has written several other books, so I checked them out at , hoping that he continues his story, but apparently he hasn't done that -- yet. I grew up in the 1940s and '50s and it's true: we pretty much had freedom from morning till dusk and we were allowed to go here, there, and everywhere but for the most part we found our fun in our own neighborhoods and with our friends who lived right there. Hard to believe the United States has changed so much and so fast! I love the family photos included in the book, and of course every kid, or the kid in every adult, loves the hand-drawn map here, similar to one of the old Treasure maps included in so many old-time books for children. The author makes it all sound so good that I went to Google Maps and looked up Acorn Street in Marshfield, MA and there it is, and it still looks great!

Such great memories that kids of all ages can Connect with! Reminds me of the great brain series

from j d Fitzgerald.

Our fifth grader loves this memoir! Great read for a girl or boy! Catholic children will especially appreciate some of Ralph's stories from his childhood. Very funny read for the more mature student.

Best book for teachers to use for writing

My daughter's 3rd grade teacher read this to her class. My eight year old just hung on every word! She loved the book so much that she asked her teacher if she could bring the book home and read it to me. It is not a "children's" book, but very appropriate for kids. I loved the book just as much as she did. It's full of heartwarming and funny stories about a young boy's pivotal growing up years. Highly recommend for ages 8 - 108!

It has been a long time since I read a book in one day. I loved it and couldn't put it down. It was as if I was in Marshfield. Ralph is about 7 years younger than me and my siblings, but his stories in the woods could have been written by me. Marshfield was a wonderful place to grow up. Thanks, Ralph!

This is an AMAZING book to read aloud to boys ages 8-12. The chapters are short and really pack a punch. Fletcher is both a poet and a novelist, and every chapter gives my boys and I something to think about and discuss.

written for both kids and adults alike. Would recommend for a mother / dad who has a son.

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