

SUBJECT INDEX:

CHILDHOOD PHOBIAS

See also: Bullying, Death / Dying Children

The fears of childhood should be a rich vein for psychological dramas, leaving the deep imprint that they do on the adult mind. This list will confine itself to those titles in which a childhood terror of the dark, of water, or death, or heights, plays a significant role in the drama. A phobia is more than a spontaneous fear reaction, needless to say, but a state of almost perpetual anxiety which exits beyond its immediate trigger. As such I make a distinction between, say, the fear of bullying at school (though this may also result in a state of perpetual anxiety) which has a more direct and immediate causal link, and a fear of what may lie under the bed, in the closet, or down in the cellar.

Blindness	Afraid of the Dark	
Dark	The Dark at the Top of the Stairs	US 1960 : From an autobiographical Pulitzer Prize-winning play on the memoirs of a boyhood in 1920s Oklahoma. One of the plot strands concerns the boy's (Robert Eyer) fear of the title. Another concerns a boy (Lee Kinsolving) driven to suicide by anti-semitism.
Cellar	Home Alone	One of the hurdles for young Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) - when inadvertently left behind from his family's Christmas vacation - is the nemesis of the old boiler in the cellar/laundry, which knows his name.
	It	
Death	The Rebellion of Young David	

Non-fiction

~ 5 titles ~