

KEY STAGE 2

LOOK BEYOND
YOUR
WORLD

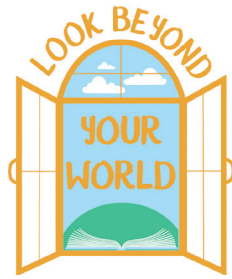


POWERFUL STORIES FOR INSPIRING MINDS

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FOR 2020

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

2020



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Introduction

Welcome to the 2020 Edition of **Look Beyond Your World**.

Books can open up new worlds to children, enabling them to see and experience the lives of others, which may be very different from our own – or surprisingly similar. It's more important than ever in 2020 to nurture empathy and encourage understanding among children.

This Look Beyond Our World booklet has been updated for 2020 and contains information on twelve titles for Key Stage 2, each of which has a story to tell that is particularly relevant to our world today. Books pick children up and transport them somewhere different, and they may return from those journeys changed, having learnt about refugee families displaced in Syria, about having a disability, about war times, about different types of families, about sustainability, and about the many lives represented within these pages.

We are proud to share such important stories with our readers.

To help you open discussions around the experiences in these books, we have provided discussion notes for each book which we hope you will find useful.

Thank you reading and sharing them.

Samantha Smith

MCB Publisher for Fiction, Non Fiction, and Picture books



9781509835492 • 10.08.17 • £7.99 • PAPERBACK

Coming to England by FLOELLA BENJAMIN

ABOUT THE BOOK

Floella Benjamin was just a young girl when she, her sister and two brothers arrived in England in 1960 to join their parents, whom they had not seen for fifteen months. They had left the island paradise of Trinidad to make a new home in London – part of a whole generation of West Indians who were encouraged to move to Britain and help rebuild the country after the Second World War.

Reunited with her mother, Floella was too overwhelmed at first to care about the cold weather and the noise and dirt from the traffic. But, as her new life began, she was shocked and distressed by the rejection she experienced. She soon realized that the only way to survive was to work twice as hard and be twice as good as anyone else.

This inspirational story is a powerful reminder that courage and determination can overcome adversity.

© Keith Taylor



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Floella Benjamin was born in Trinidad in 1949 and came to England in 1960. She is an actress, presenter, writer, producer, working peer and an active advocate for the welfare and education of children. She is best known as a presenter of the iconic BBC children's television programmes *Play School* and *Play Away*, and she continues to make children's programmes.

Her broadcasting work has been recognized with a Special Lifetime Achievement BAFTA and OBE. She was appointed a Baroness in the House of Lords in 2010 and a Dame in the 2020 New Year Honours list, and is the Chair of the Windrush Commemoration Committee. In 2012 she was presented with the prestigious J. M. Barrie Award by Action for Children's Arts, for her lasting contribution to children's lives through her art. Floella has written thirty books, including *Coming to England*, which is used as a resource in schools in social and cross-curricular areas. The book was adapted into an award-winning film for BBC Education.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Michael Frith is an artist and illustrator whose work has appeared in many national newspapers worldwide, including *Newsweek*, *Time* magazine, *The Times* and the *Sunday Times*. He has held twenty-five solo exhibitions, including fourteen in London, the most notable at Smith's Gallery.

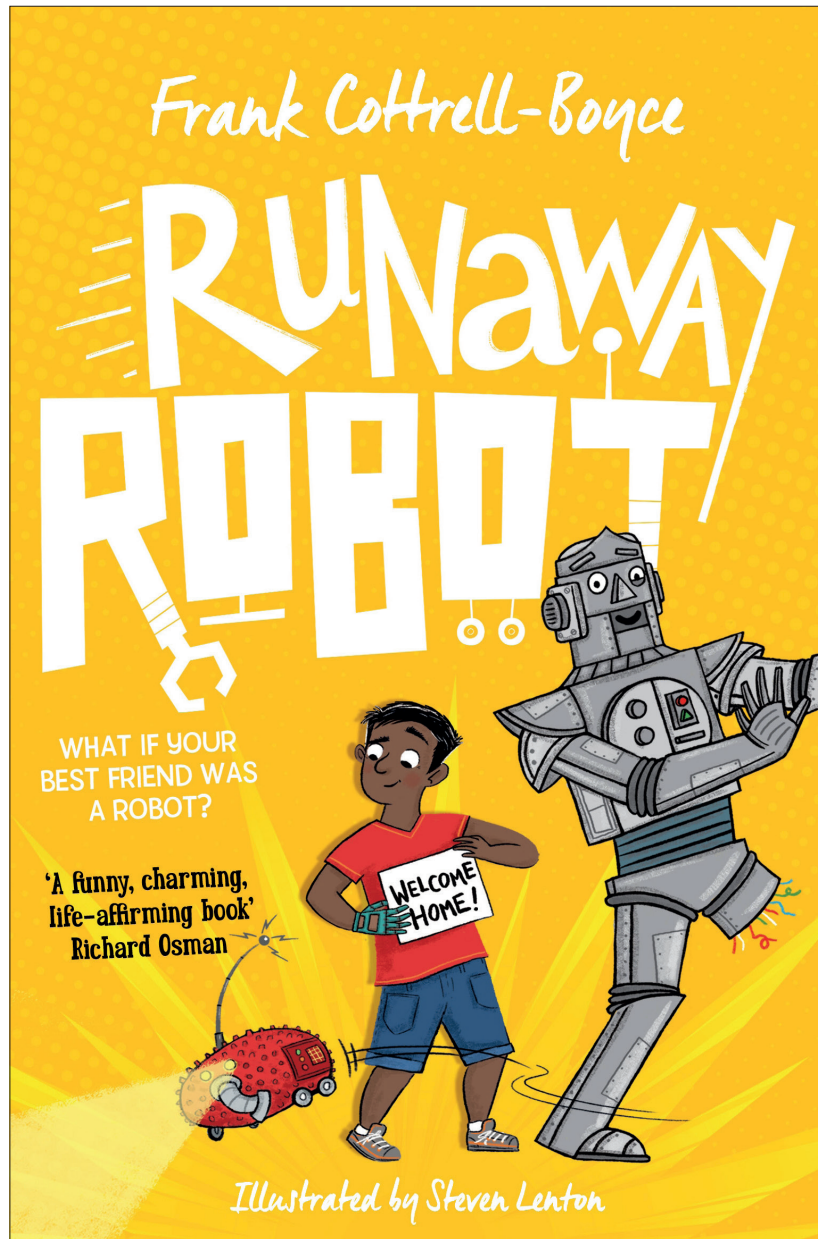
www.floellabbenjamin.com | [@FloellaBenjamin](https://twitter.com/FloellaBenjamin)

Discussion Notes



1. Did you know much about the lives of people who moved to Britain from other countries before you read *Coming to England*? Why do you think the author chose to write this book?
2. What aspects of life in Trinidad are described in the book? Do you think one is more important to Floella than the others? Does the move to England change what Floella finds important?
3. How did Floella feel when her father decided to move the family to England? How difficult would it be to arrange moving to another country? What reasons do you think Floella's father had for making this decision and why did her mother agree?
4. The journey for Floella and her family on the ship to England is eventful – what are the highlights of the journey? How does it prepare the family for their move? Why do you think they dressed up so smartly for their arrival in Southampton?
5. Why do you think the British people were so hostile to immigrants from Trinidad? Do you think this attitude is still present in England for people moving here now?
6. How does England compare to Trinidad? Do Floella's experiences match her expectations?
7. What upsetting experiences does Floella go through in England? How would you feel if you were treated this way after moving to a new country?
8. Can you name some of the positive experiences Floella had in Britain? How do the descriptions of these experiences compare to the descriptions of the negative experiences?





9781509887910 • 06.02.20 • £6.99 • PAPERBACK • MY 4.3

Runaway Robot by FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Alfie goes to Airport Lost Property, he finds more than he bargained for. A lot more. Because there's a giant robot called Eric hidden away on the shelves. Eric has lost one leg and half his memory. He's super strong, but super clumsy. He's convinced that he's the latest technology, when he's actually nearly one hundred years old and ready for the scrap heap. Can Alfie find a way to save Eric from destruction - before Eric destroys everything around him?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frank Cottrell-Boyce is an award-winning author and screenwriter. *Millions*, his debut children's novel, won the CILIP Carnegie Medal. He is also the author of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again*, *Cosmic*, *Framed* and *The Astounding Broccoli Boy*. His books have been shortlisted for a multitude of prizes, including the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize, the Whitbread Children's Fiction Award (now the Costa Book Award) and the Roald Dahl Funny Prize. *Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth* was shortlisted for the 2017 CILIP Carnegie Medal and selected for the inaugural WHSmith Tom Fletcher Book Club.

Frank is a judge for the BBC Radio 2 500 Words competition and, along with Danny Boyle, devised the Opening Ceremony for the London 2012 Olympics. He has written for the hit TV series *Dr Who* and was the screenwriter for the hit film *Goodbye Christopher Robin*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Steven Lenton hails from Cheshire where he spent many a school holiday working in the family Pom-pom Factory. Along with illustrating books, including *Runaway Robot*, Steven also designs greeting cards and prints. Steven lives with his partner and his dog in Crouch End where he dunks endless amounts of biscuits in big red spotty cups of tea whilst listening to Radio 2.

ALSO AVAILABLE



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www.stevenlenton.com | @StevenLenton | @steven_lenton

Discussion Notes



1. Discuss the friendship between Alfie and Eric.
2. Which elements of the story make it humorous and why is that important?
3. **They worry people will laugh at you or start hating on you for being part mechanical, so they teach you a load of jokes and putdowns.** Discuss how *Runaway Robot* normalizes having a disability.
4. How do Eric and their adventures help Alfie to accept his robotic hand?
5. Why does Alfie block out the accident which caused him to lose a hand? Why is this crucial to the plot of the book?
6. Discuss the relationship Alfie has with his mum and his brother.
7. **The future is wheels and blades, not legs.** What is your favourite piece of futuristic technology in the book?
8. What do you think happens at the end of the book? Write a short paragraph on the next adventure Eric, Alfie and Arthur have.





9781529018943 • 05.09.19 • £5.99 • PAPERBACK

Be the Change by LIZ BROWNLEE, ROGER STEVENS, MATT GOODFELLOW

ABOUT THE BOOK

From National Poetry Day Ambassadors Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow and Roger Stevens comes an incredible anthology of poetry identifying ways we can *Be the Change*.

These positive and upbeat poems will explore sustainability and the positive efforts being made to protect the planet and are perfect for starting conversations about looking after each other and our environment.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Liz Brownlee has poems on all subjects in over seventy anthologies, including *Reaching the Stars - Poems about Extraordinary Women and Girls*, written with Jan Dean and Michaela Morgan.

Matt Goodfellow is a poet and primary school teacher from Manchester. He has had poems published in magazines and anthologies worldwide and released his acclaimed debut collection, *Carry Me Away*.

Roger Stevens has been writing for children for twenty-five years. In that time he has had thirty books published. He is a founding member of the Able Writers scheme and runs the award-winning poetry website Poetry Zone, for children and teachers.

ALSO AVAILABLE



poetlizbrownlee.co.uk | [@Lizpoet](https://twitter.com/Lizpoet) | [@EarlyTrain](https://twitter.com/EarlyTrain)
[@PoetryZone](https://twitter.com/PoetryZone)

Discussion Notes



1. *Be the Change* is a call to action. What are some changes you think we need to make in the world?
2. What societal issues does the book tackle? Did you learn more about the problems in the world from this book?
3. Discuss some changes you can make every day to help the environment. Do you think small changes can make a difference?
4. *Be the Change* talks about homelessness which is increasing in England year-on-year. How can you help someone who is homeless? What factors do you think are causing homelessness to increase?
5. How are animals being affected by human behaviour?
6. The poem 'Getting to the Truth' talks about how people think almond milk is better than cow's milk but most of the world's almonds are grown in drought-stricken California and almonds need lots of water to grow. Do you think misinformation can circulate easily? Where are some good places to get your information from?
7. Cut up your favourite poem and ask your friend to reassemble it – word by word, line by line or verse by verse.
8. Create a blackout poem – choose a page from your favourite book and then black out most of the words, leaving a poem behind.





9781509880034 • 12.07.18 • £6.99 • PAPERBACK

Everything All at Once by STEVE CAMDEN

ABOUT THE BOOK

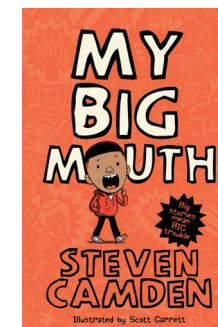
An achingly beautiful collection of poems about one week in a secondary school where everything happens all at once. Zooming in across our cast of characters, we share moments that span everything from hoping to make it to the end of the week, facing it, fitting in, finding friends and falling out, to loving lessons, losing it, and worrying, wearing it well and worshipping from afar.

In *Everything All At Once*, Steven Camden's poems speak to the kaleidoscope of teen experience and life at secondary school.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steven Camden is a leading spoken-word poet, performing as Polarbear. He also writes radio plays, teaches storytelling in schools and was a lead artist for the Ministry of Stories. In 2019, his first poetry collection for children *Everything All at Once* won the CLIPPA award.



www.bearstories.org | [@homeofpolar](https://twitter.com/homeofpolar) | [@homeofpolar](https://www.instagram.com/homeofpolar)

Discussion Notes



1. Does the book remind you of your experience of school?
2. **Just let me blend in / You don't wanna blend in / I know, but I have to / for / now.** Discuss the pressure the narrator feels to fit in and not stand out during school. Do you think a lot of people feel this way?
3. **Everyone's writing / except me / blank page / staring back / like it's laughing.** Do you think there is a lot of pressure on people in secondary schools to do well in exams? Have you ever felt frozen during an exam?
4. **Exams don't suit me. / I don't suit exams. / I understand the system / But, I'm drawing other plans.** Do you think school is overly focused on university? What are some other things can you do when you finish school?
5. What are some things you can do to alleviate stress during exams?
6. **That's who I am / I've always been / the character they made me / but something in this new girl's eyes / is saying it can save me.** Discuss how a person's background can impact their actions. Do you think people are more influenced by nature or nurture?
7. **Hand is shaking / nerves at ten / feel their eyes / burn my back / write the letters / glossy black / deep breath / turn around / 'You can call me, Mr Brown.'** Do you think teachers get nervous sometimes? Are you nervous when you start a new class or school?
8. **He didn't seem to mind when I told him I don't read. / He said he never read himself until he found the need.** What is your favourite book and why?
9. **People are talking. / I know. Are you okay? / I think so.** Discuss how gossip can impact students in school. Do you think gossip can be isolating?





9781509803200 • 08.03.18 • PAPERBACK • £6.99 • MY 5.7

The Lottery Plus One by EMMA DONOGHUE

ABOUT THE BOOK

Meet the Lotterys: a unique and diverse family featuring four parents, seven kids and five pets – all living happily together in their big old house, Camelottery. Nine-year-old Sumac is the organizer of the family and is looking forward to a long summer of fun.

But when their grumpy and intolerant grandad comes to stay, everything is turned upside down. How will Sumac and her family manage with another person to add to their hectic lives?

Internationally bestselling author Emma Donoghue's first novel for children, with black-and-white illustrations throughout, is funny, charming and full of heart.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emma Donoghue is an Irish writer living in Canada. Her 2010 novel, *Room*, was an internationally award-winning bestseller and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. Emma's screenplay for *Room*'s multi-award-winning film adaptation has earned her an Oscar nomination.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Caroline Hadilaksono was born in Indonesia and moved to Los Angeles when she was twelve. She now lives and works in New York, where she is a freelance designer and illustrator, working on everything from children's books to murals.

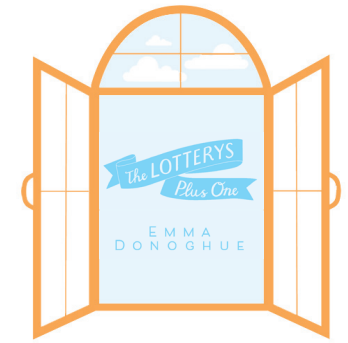
'Offbeat, funny, wise and deliciously different, Emma Donoghue's first book for children is an essential read.' *INIS Magazine*

ALSO AVAILABLE



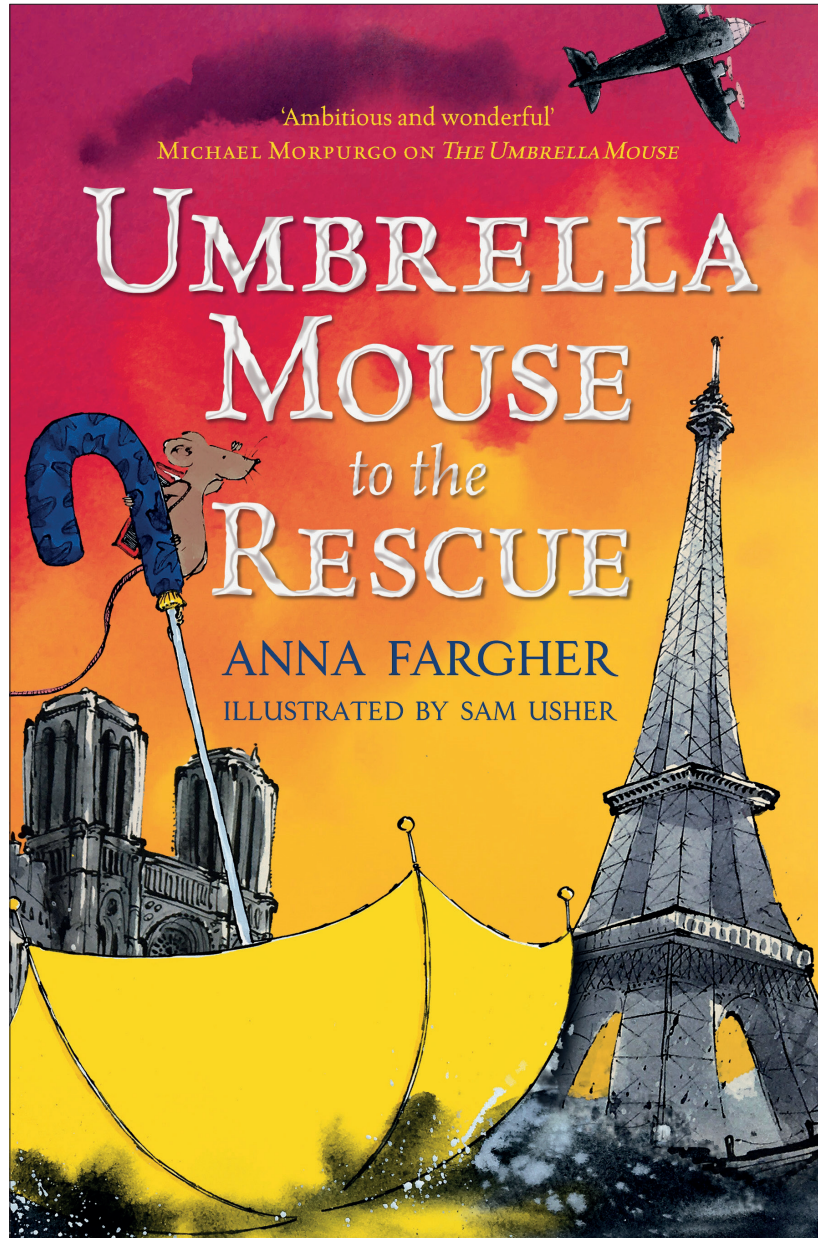
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Discussion Notes



- 1. It's a fact: We're a raggle-taggle, multiculti crew. (Sic)**
Discuss the unusual set-up of this family. What makes the Lotteryys different from a 'normal' family?
- 2. Sumac's the keeper of the family stories, even the ones that happened before she was born. (PopCorn)**
Discuss Sumac's personality, and her role within the family. Why do you think she is chosen by her parents to be Grumps's guide?
- 3. What if Sumac had a tiny family? Maybe two parents, one sibling. Or what if she was an only child, like Isabella.**
Discuss the pros and cons of living in a large family. How does having four parents affect Sumac and her siblings?
- 4. The only routine here is, wake up and decide what you want to learn.** What do you think about the non-traditional teaching methods used by the Lottery parents to educate their children? How effective do you think they are?
- 5. Grumps's drippy eyes shift from face to face, and it's one of those moments when Sumac sees her family as if from outer space.** Can you understand why Grumps struggles to understand the Lotteryys when he first moves in?
- 6. Two days, thinks Sumac; the grandfather's only been here since the evening before last, but he's like a grey thundercloud hovering over the house.** Discuss the ways in which the household is affected by Grumps at different stages of his stay. Is he responsible for any positive changes?
- 7. Brian has never actually claimed to be a boy, but she won't let anyone call her a girl either.** What do you think of the Lotteryys' approach to raising Brian?
- 8. Discuss the author's use of humour to explore sensitive issues.** Several of the characters enjoy telling jokes – do you think this is a result of their lifestyle? And did it help you to look at these issues in a different way?





9781529003994 • 23.07.20 • £6.99 • PAPERBACK

Umbrella Mouse to the Rescue by ANNA FARGHER
illustrated by SAM USHER

ABOUT THE BOOK

Young mouse Pip Hanway is in France as she continues fighting for the French Resistance group Noah's Ark: a secret gang of animals operating beneath the feet of human soldiers, whose aim is to liberate France and secure the victory of the Allies. Determined to reach her ancestral home of the Umbrella Museum in Italy, Pip hopes she can find long-lost family and a home. But as Pip makes the perilous journey through occupied territory, she soon realizes that danger comes from all sides and that the enemy is all around, and she does everything she can to fight for her friends.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

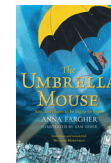
Anna Fargher was raised in a creative hub on the Suffolk coast by an artist and a ballet teacher. She read English Literature at Goldsmiths before working in the British art world and opening her own gallery. She wrote her first book, *The Umbrella Mouse*, on her iPhone notepad during her daily commute on the London Underground, and it was selected as Waterstones Book of the Month

and won the Sainsbury's Book Prize for Fiction 2019. She splits her time between London and Suffolk where she is often found exploring the coastline and marshlands under the huge East Anglian skies.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sam Usher graduated from the University of West England and his debut picture book *Can You See Sassoon?* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Prize and the Red House Children's Book Award. He is particularly admired for his technical drawing skill and prowess with watercolour. Also a talented pianist, when he's not holding a pen and wobbling at paper you'll find him perfecting a fiendishly difficult piece of Chopin.

ALSO AVAILABLE



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www.annafargher.com | @AnnaFargher | @annafargher

Discussion Notes



1. Pip must face a number of enemies in this book – who did you find most scary or sinister? (Think about Lucia, the Butcher Birds, the Goliath Rats).
2. **‘We change forever when we lose the ones we love, but the dead will never die if they are not forgotten.’** What do you think Madame Fourcade means when she says this? Do you agree?
3. **‘Your small size and speed is of much value’ – Gaspard to Pip.** Discuss the ways in which smallness is powerful in the story.
4. **Pie the magpie carried Monique the ermine on his back and led the way out of the Maquis’s cavern with Henry, carrying Pip and Madame Fourcade, following from behind, and the wolves flanking them on either side.** Discuss how the different-sized animals work together in this book. What can they teach us about teamwork?
5. **‘There’s no military value in destroying [the Eiffel Tower]’ – GI Joe.** What do you think Hitler’s reasons were for wanting to blow up the famous landmark, considering that this order was actually given?
6. **As a London mouse in unoccupied Britain, Pip had never known what it meant to be overpowered by another country. Now watching the men and women rejoicing together, she realized how lucky she’d been.** Discuss what it might feel like to live in an occupied country. You could think about the effects on your language, culture and traditions.
7. Bing and Brian were real animals in history who parachuted with soldiers in the Second World War. Had you heard of sky-dogs before reading this story? Why do you think the author chose to include them and use their real names?
8. How did the epilogue make you feel? Did Pip’s story turn out the way you expected?





9781529050509 • 17.09.20 • HARDBACK • £12.99

The Monsters of Rookhaven by PÁDRAIG KENNY

ABOUT THE BOOK

Mirabelle has always known she is a monster. When the glamour protecting her unusual family from the human world is torn and an orphaned brother and sister stumble upon Rookhaven, Mirabelle soon discovers that friendship can be found in the outside world. But as something far more sinister comes to threaten them all, it quickly becomes clear that the true monsters aren't necessarily the ones you can see.

A thought-provoking, chilling and beautifully written novel, Pádraig Kenny's *The Monsters of Rookhaven*, stunningly illustrated by Edward Bettison, explores difference and empathy through the eyes of characters you won't want to let go.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pádraig Kenny is an Irish writer from County Kildare, now living in Limerick. Previously an arts journalist, a teacher and a librarian's assistant, he now writes full-time. His first novel *TIN* was a Waterstones Book of the Month and was nominated for the Carnegie, as well as being shortlisted for the Irish Book Award and several regional awards. He is married with four children. *The Monsters of Rookhaven* is his first novel with Macmillan Children's Books.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Edward Bettison is a graphic designer and illustrator, born in Hull. After studying Graphic Design at Nottingham Trent University, he moved to London to work in the music industry and then on to publishing. He is known for the intricate detail in his original works, authenticity of vision and bold imagery. He lives in Brighton with his partner Susannah and his 12 year old son Kip.

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Discussion Notes



- 1. She was moved, but above all she felt an overwhelming sense of pride. This was her first time welcoming a new member of the Family. She wanted to be dignified and calm for everyone.** Discuss the different relationships in the family.
- 2. They'd moved from town to town, cadging food where they could, with Tom pick-pocketing. Jem always played a little mental trick with herself when it came to Tom's pick-pocketing.** Discuss Tom's pick-pocketing for necessity versus how much he wants expensive items. Do you think one form of stealing is more acceptable than the other? Does Tom do this himself to protect Jem?
- 3. But humans, as is their wont, have a terrible habit of making a mess of everything.** Are the people of the village understanding about the Family? What do they learn by the end of the novel?
- 4. If you could have the features of one of the Family, which would you choose, if any? Why?**
- 5. I'm not who I thought I was. I don't burn in sunlight, and now I know why I can't do anything. It's probably because I'm more human than my Family.** Do you think Uncle Enoch should have told Mirabelle about her mother earlier? Do you understand why he didn't? Discuss this in relation to the sense of loss felt throughout the novel.
- 6. Good was done by the act of resistance, as futile as it might have been. That's all that matters.** Do you agree with this statement by Dr Ellenby? Why do you think he, Freddie and Freddie's mum weren't affected by Mr Pheeps? Do you think crowd mentality played a part in the mob's frenzy?
- 7. Why is Piglet so dangerous?**
- 8. 'Silence was the great suffocating thing that had squeezed itself in between the cracks of his family since his brother had died, and it had grown, like a great fungal mass filled with poison.'** Examine the ways in which the war has affected the village and the families in it.



COULD LOSING HER HOME MEAN FINDING HERSELF?

A HOUSE WITHOUT WALLS



FROM THE PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR
ELIZABETH LAIRD

9781509828241 • 23.01.20 • £6.99 • PAPERBACK

A House Without Walls by ELIZABETH LAIRD

ABOUT THE BOOK

A House Without Walls is a powerful story of family, hope and redemption amidst the refugee crisis in Syria from the award-winning Elizabeth Laird, illustrated by Lucy Eldridge.

Thirteen-year-old Safiya and her family have been driven out of Syria by civil war. Safiya knows how lucky she is – lucky not to be living in a refugee camp, lucky to be alive. But it's hard to feel grateful when she's forced to look after her father and brother rather than go back to school, and now that she's lost her home, she's lonelier than ever. As they struggle to rebuild their lives, Safiya realizes that her family has always been incomplete and with her own future in the balance, it's time to uncover the secrets that war has kept buried.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

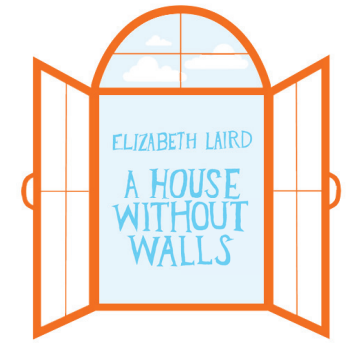
Elizabeth Laird is the multi-award-winning author of several much-loved children's books, including *The Garbage King*, *The Prince Who Walked with Lions* and *The Fastest Boy in the World*. She has been shortlisted for the prestigious CILIP Carnegie Medal six times and her novel based on time spent in refugee camps in Jordan, *Welcome to Nowhere*, was the winner of the UKLA Award. She lives in Britain now, but still likes to travel as much as she can.

ALSO AVAILABLE



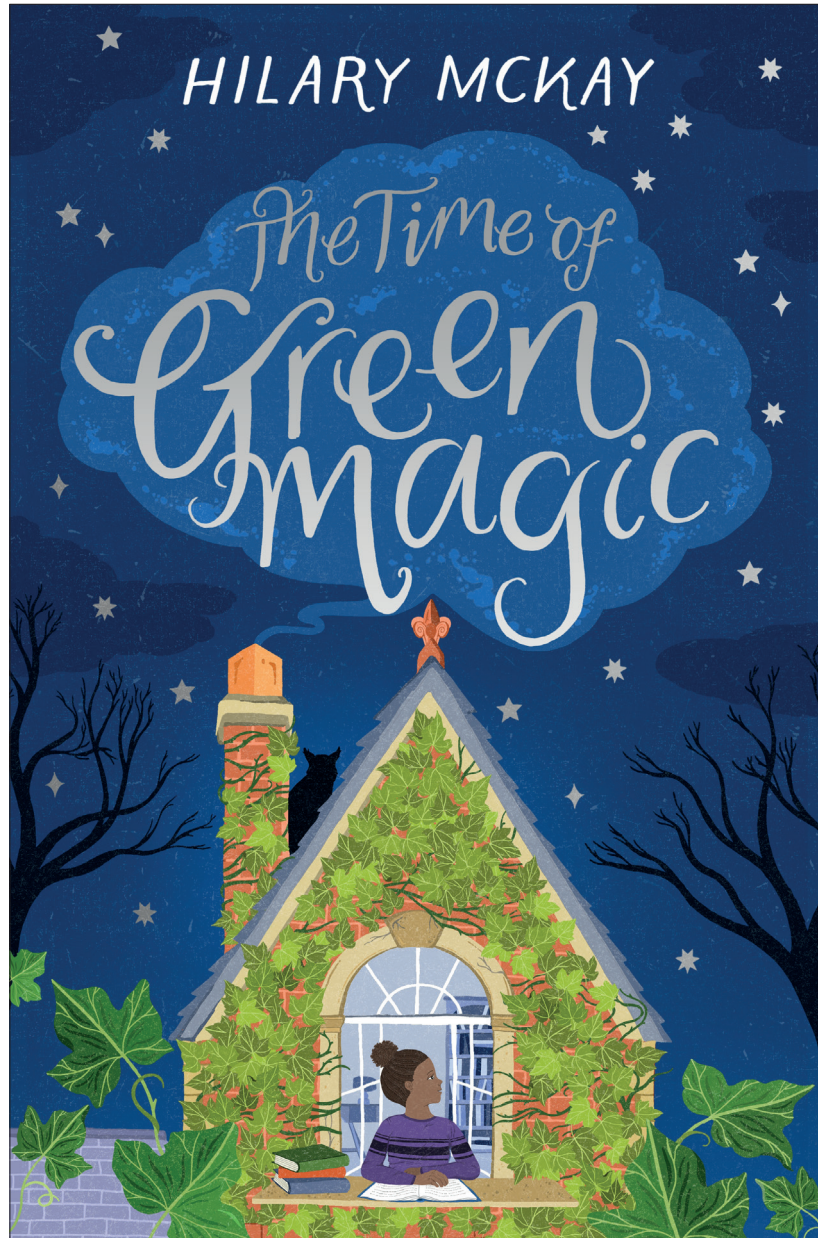
www.elizabethlaird.co.uk | [@EMRLaird](https://twitter.com/EMRLaird)

Discussion Notes



1. Did you know much about Syrian refugees before reading this book? What have you learned about the war and the effect it had on Syrian citizens?
2. **What was I going to do if I couldn't go to school? Didn't my education matter too? What sort of future would I have without it?** Discuss the way Safiya is treated by her family throughout the book. Is it different to the way her brother is treated?
3. **I felt jumpy, though, all the time. I kept worrying that the fighting would come near us. At night I could sometimes hear explosions in the distance and I had to put my head under the blankets.** How does the war affect Safiya and her family both emotionally and physically?
4. Discuss how Safiya grows throughout the book. Do you think she grows up faster because of the war?
5. **'We'll accept with - with gratitude,' he said stiffly, as if the words were burning his mouth.** Why do you think Safiya's father finds it difficult to accept help from his family or others?
6. Safiya comes from a wealthy family and lived in a nice flat in Syria. Do you think this made it harder for her to adapt to life as a refugee? What part of her new life do you think it would be hardest to adapt to?
7. **In Syrian families, everyone's really involved with everyone else's children, and uncles and aunties often adopt nephews and nieces.** How do Safiya's extended family treat her, her brother and her father throughout the book?
8. Has Safiya's story made you think differently about the refugee experience?





9781529019230 • 05.09.19 • £12.99 • HARDBACK

The Time of Green Magic by HILARY MCKAY

ABOUT THE BOOK

Abi and her two step-brothers, Max and Louis, find that strange things happen when they are alone in their eerie, ivy-covered new house.

Abi, reading alone, finds herself tumbling deep into books, while Louis summons a startling guest through his bedroom window. Even Max has started to see shapes in the shadows . . .

Their busy parents see none of it – but Louis' secret visitor is growing too alarming to keep secret, and he finds he cannot manage without Max and Abi's help.

Can they find out where the mysterious creature has come from – and how to get it back there?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hilary McKay won the Costa Children's Book Award for *The Skylarks' War*, the *Guardian* Fiction Prize for *The Exiles*, and the Smarties and the Whitbread Award for *The Exiles in Love* and *Saffy's Angel* respectively. Hilary McKay's *Fairy Tales* was her first book with Macmillan Children's Books and is a critically acclaimed collection of clever retellings.

ALSO AVAILABLE



PAPERBACK
COMING
AUGUST
2020

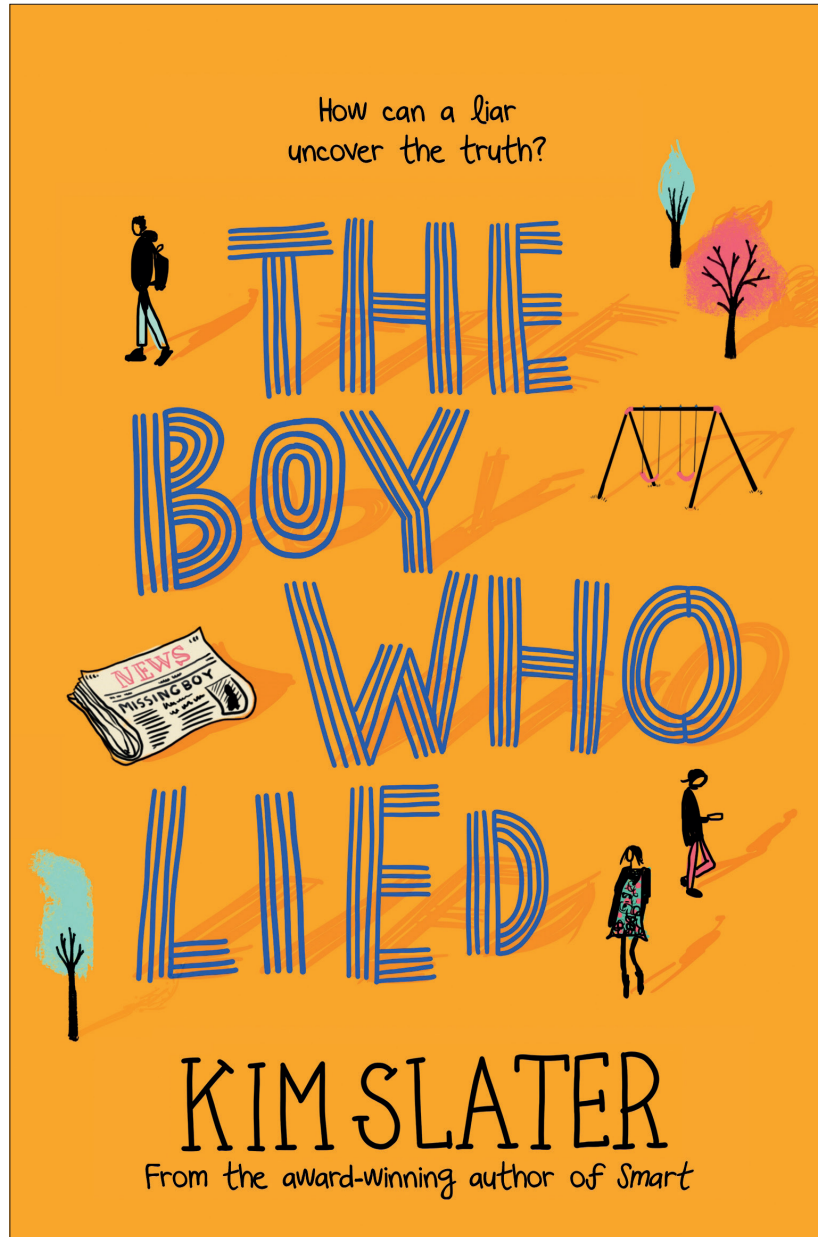
www.hilarymckay.co.uk | [@hilary_mckay](https://twitter.com/hilary_mckay)

Discussion Notes



- 1. Once, long before Abi could remember, there had been her mother and father and herself.** Abi has to adjust to being the middle child of the family. How does Abi deal with these changes? How does she react to Max and Louis?
2. How do Max and Louis respond to the changes in their family? Discuss how Louis' relationship with Tom evolves as well. How does Max respond to Tom and to realizing that his birth father isn't coming home now?
3. Discuss the relationship between the three children throughout the book. What do you think solidifies their friendship?
4. Abi and Max both give money to help pay the deposit on the house. Do you think the family are happy without having very much money? How does it impact the family during the book?
- 5. Iffen visited early that night. Iffen the hungry, the untamed. Iffen the great warmth when the shivers came.** Discuss Iffen's development throughout the book. He initially is a comfort to Louis, why do you think this is?
6. Do you think Max and Danny have a good friendship? Do you understand why they fought?
7. If you were in the story, is there anything you would have done differently?
- 8. However, when she picked it up she found that it would not open; the pages were stuck together. In that cold, empty room, the book had stayed as damp as when she'd left it.** Discuss the magic that Abi encounters when she falls into books. Would you like to experience this? What book would you like to fall into?





9781509842285 • 02.20.19 • PAPERBACK • £6.99 • MY+ 4.7

The Boy Who Lied by AMY WILSON

ABOUT THE BOOK

Fourteen-year-old Ed Clayton is a liar. It started when his dad went to prison and now he can't seem to stop. When Ed's younger brother, Sam, goes missing one day under his supervision, nobody believes him when he says he can't remember what happened.

Things begin to go very wrong for Ed's family when his mum loses her job and they have to start using a food bank. Ditched even by his best friend, Ed is on his own trying find out what's happened to Sam, until he meets Fallon, a new neighbour who's willing to help him unravel the mystery. The two stumble on a secret even Ed could never have imagined. But nobody will ever believe a liar . . .



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim Slater honed her storytelling skills as a child, writing macabre tales specially designed to scare her younger brother! Taking her literary inspiration from everyday life, Kim's debut novel, *Smart*, has won ten regional prizes and been shortlisted for over twenty regional and national awards, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the

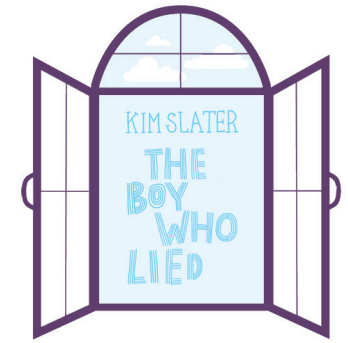
Federation of Children's Book Groups Prize. *Smart* was also longlisted for the 2015 Carnegie Medal. Kim lives in Nottingham with her husband and has one grown-up daughter.

ALSO AVAILABLE



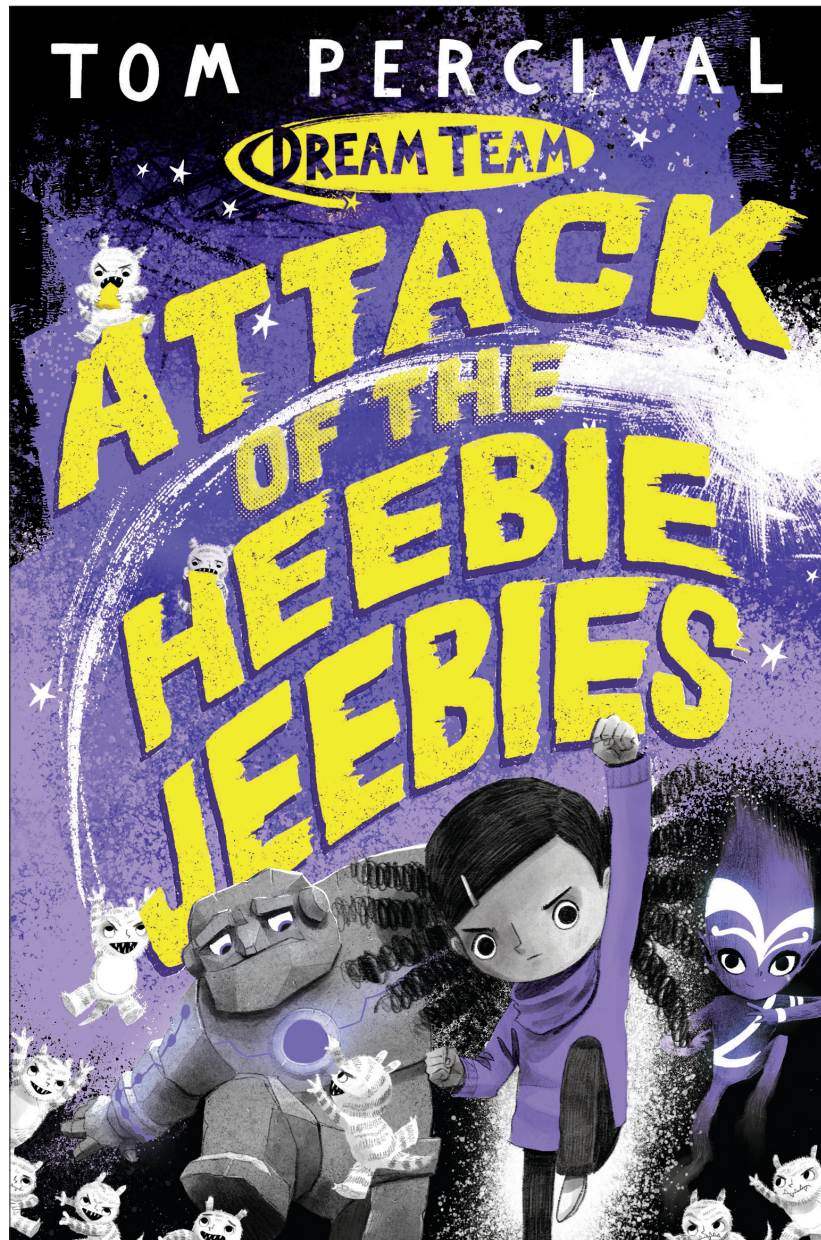
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Discussion Notes



1. Examine the family dynamics in the novel. Do you think Ed acts like a parent to Sam rather than a brother? How do you think the pressures their mum faces impacts Ed and Sam?
2. **Poor sticks to your skin and everyone can see it, even when you try to cover it up. Poor is being afraid to go into certain shops because somehow the assistants just know you can't afford anything on the shelves.** How does not having money affect Ed's day-to-day life? How does he try to distract Sam from their reality?
3. **It saved having to talk about how we had no money and they did. Somehow, it allowed us to stay friends despite the different worlds we lived in when we left school every day.** How does Ed not having money affect his friendships in school?
4. Compare Ed's friendship with Imran to his one with Fallon. Do you think he is more honest with Fallon – why or why not? How does Imran react when he sees where Ed lives?
5. Why do you think Ed lies? Do you think that lying becomes a habit for Ed?
6. **None of them believed me. Not Mum, not Charlie. Nobody believed I really couldn't remember what had happened to my brother.** How does Ed's lying affect his relationships?
7. The epigraph at the start of the book is a quote from Oscar Wilde, **Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.** How do you think this applies to the story and to Ed in particular?
8. Many of the adults in Ed's story lie as well and he describes his father as a wonderful storyteller. Do you think these are factors in Ed learning to lie? How do you think it would affect him?





9781529029154 • 02.04.20 • £6.99 • PAPERBACK

Attack of the Heebie Jeebies by TOM PERCIVAL

ABOUT THE BOOK

Meet the Dream Team! Turning nightmares into incredible adventures!

Erika's had a bad day. But going to sleep upset means bad dreams. She finds herself stranded in the Dreamscape along with a mob of hungry Heebie Jeebies - and to make matters worse, she's being hunted by a terrifying Angermare!

Enter the Dream Team! Can they help Erika overcome her worries and get home, or will she be trapped forever?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Percival writes and illustrates all sorts of children's books. He has produced cover illustrations for the *Skulduggery Pleasant* series, written and illustrated *Little Legends* and the *Dream Team* series, as well as twelve picture books, including the Carnegie-nominated *Ruby's Worry*, *Perfectly Norman* and *Ravi's Roar*. He is also the author of picture books *Goat's Coat* and *Dream Big, Little Mole!* illustrated by Christine Pym. He lives in Gloucestershire with his girlfriend and their two children.

Tom has been drawing since he's been able to hold a pencil, and making up stories for as long as he can remember, in fact, probably longer, especially as his memory is not what it once was. Basically, he's been making things up his whole life and he's not about to stop any time soon.

COMING IN
AUGUST 2020:
A CASE OF
THE JITTERS

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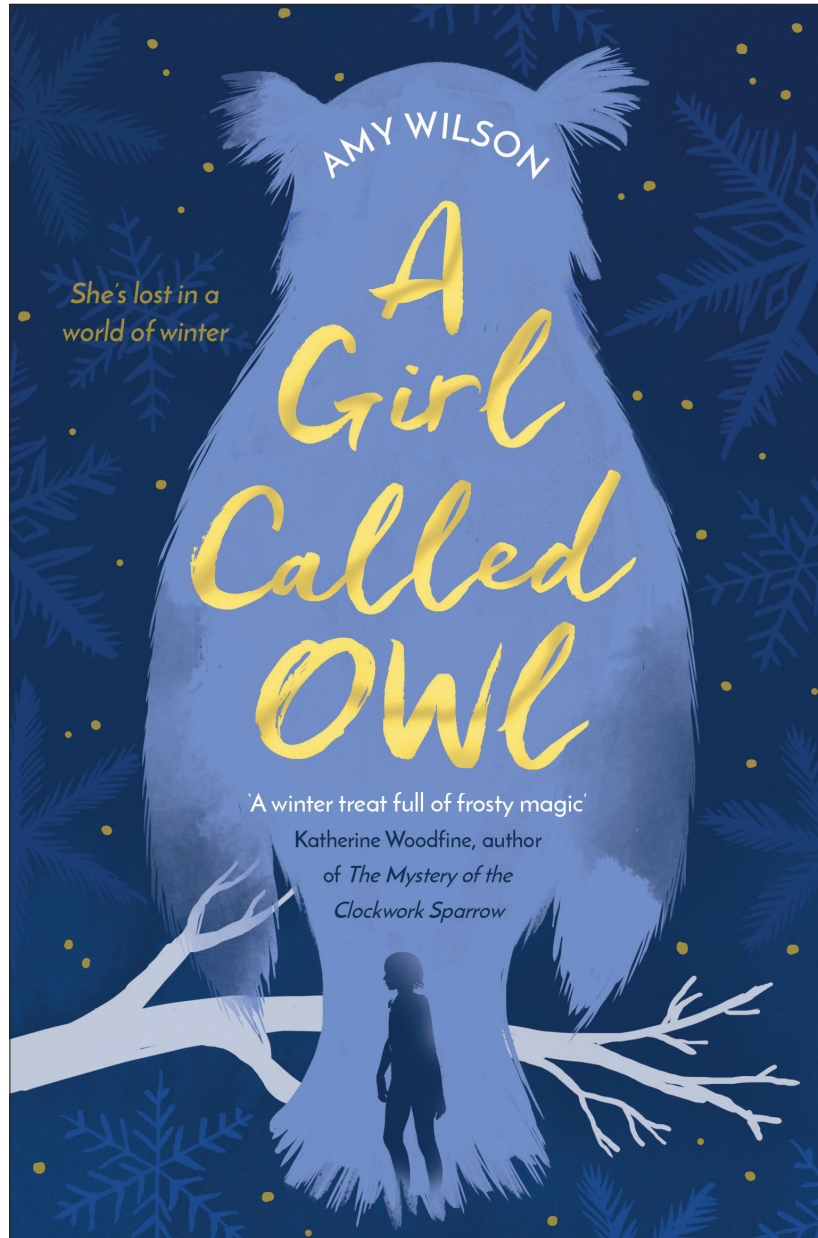
www.tom-percival.com | [@TomPercivalsays](https://twitter.com/TomPercivalsays)

Discussion Notes



1. **'All you ever do is talk about Randall! You never ask about me, you never want to spend time with me! It's all Randall, Randall, Randall.'** What kind of things put Erika in a bad mood? Why do you think they make her angry? What puts you in a bad mood?
2. **'Some anger *might* be useful – it can show you what you feel strongly about. But *your* kind of anger can't fix anything, it can only destroy!'** Do you think anger can sometimes be useful? How can you channel anger into something positive?
3. How does Erika help the Angermare? What do you think is the best way to react if someone is angry?
4. **'They all just slow you down,' hissed a distant voice inside her head. 'Spoiling things and telling you what to do. Forget about them, forget about all of them.'** What do you think the voice in Erika's head is? How does it affect her friendships with the Dream Team and with her family? How does Erika eventually learn to deal with her anger?
5. Beastling ultimately helps Erika. How do you think he does this?
6. How do you think Erika feels when she's near an Angermare? Do you think she has any physical reaction?
7. Design your own Heebie Jeebie! What colour will you make it? How is it feeling? Can you draw its expression? What it is saying? (Remember: Heebie Jeebies don't speak in words!) What name would suit your Heebie Jeebie? Include it on your picture.
8. **'I can move faster than the speed of light, and Wade can transform anything that's made of stone, but, to be able to do those things, we need enough Dream Crystal.'** If you had some Dream Crystal, what would use it for?





9781509832460 • 26.01.17 • £6.99 • PAPERBACK

A Girl Called Owl by AMY WILSON

ABOUT THE BOOK

It's bad enough having a mum dippy enough to name you Owl, but when you've got a dad you've never met, a best friend who needs you more than ever, and a new boy at school giving you weird looks, there's not a lot of room for much else.

So when Owl starts seeing strange frost patterns on her skin, she's tempted to just burrow down under the duvet and forget all about it. Could her strange new powers be linked to her mysterious father? And what will happen when she enters the magical world of winter for the first time?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amy Wilson has a background in journalism and lives in Bristol with her young family. She is a graduate of the Bath Spa MA in Creative Writing. *A Girl Called Owl* was longlisted for the Branford Boase Award, nominated for the Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for a number of regional awards. Her middle-grade novels include *A Girl Called Owl*, *Snowglobe*, *Shadows of Winterspell* and *A Far Away Magic*.

'A story of wild winds and bitter frosts with the warmth of friendship at its heart.' Abi Elphinstone, author of *Sky Song*

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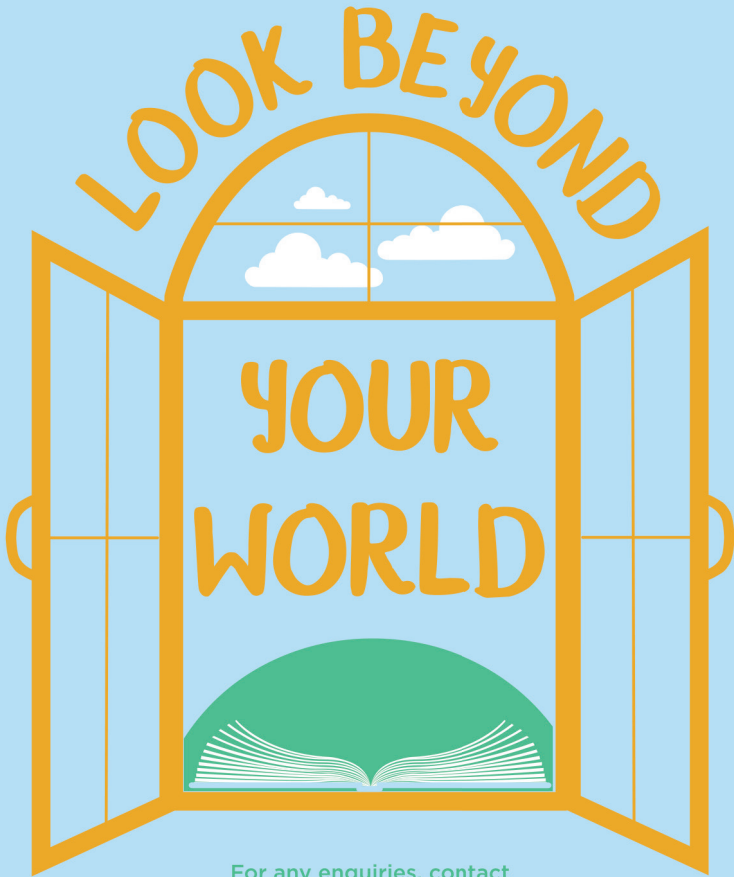
Discussion Notes



1. Discuss the relationship between Owl and her mother. Do you think Owl's mother was right to keep the identity of her father secret from Owl?
2. **This is not a man. This is not a father. This is an elemental creature, who thinks I challenge him. There is nothing in his face of kindness or humanity; nothing I can find there to relate to.** How does Owl's father change over the course of the novel? Why do you think he changes?
3. What aspects of the world of the fae did you like and dislike? If you had the choice to live there or in the real world, which would you choose?
4. Owl, Mallory and Alberic all have very different father figures in the novel. Compare each of their fathers and how the relationship impacts the children.
5. Owl and Mallory both face very different challenges in the book. Discuss how their reactions to these difficulties affects their friendship. Do you think they reacted well?
6. Did you like the magical stories interspersed throughout Owl's story?
7. Which fae character was your favourite and least favourite? Why?
8. If you could have the power of any season – spring, summer, autumn or winter – which would you choose and why?



KEY STAGE 2



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