

# No Shelf Control

Edition 11: March 2022

## Q&A with Jennifer Killick



The brilliant Jennifer Killick and her terrifying new book *Dread Wood* leap into our BOOK of the MONTH spot. We caught up with Jennifer.

I've always said that the dialogue between your characters is so real and genuine. How do you manage this?

I spend a lot of time listening into people's conversations! I think it's really important to spend time around real life people the same age as my characters so that I can see how they speak and interact. Then I make sure I'm really inside my characters' heads when I write so that their dialogue is as natural as possible.

The book is dedicated to Taylor Swift. Which famous person would you like to write a book based on?

There's a simple answer to this one - Taylor Swift! I'm obsessed with her! I think she's one of the greatest storytellers of all-time. Second choice would be Macaulay Culkin from *Home Alone*.

Do you prefer writing books that make children laugh or ones that scare them?

I love writing books that are a combination of gasp moments and laugh-out-loud moments, but if I had to choose one it would be to make children laugh. There's nothing better than laughing for making us feel better about ourselves and the world around us.

Your books are scary, but what are your greatest fears?

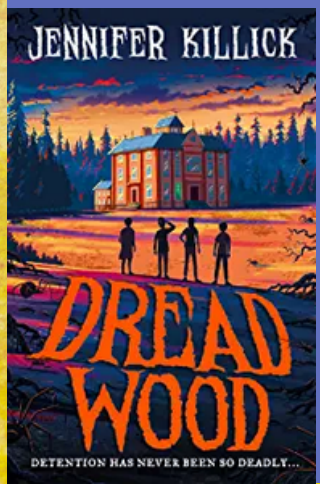
I'm scared of so many things: clowns, creepy dolls, puppets, demons, witches, things hiding under the bed in the dark, and a more unusual one - mouldy fruit.

What are the best books for children that you've read lately?

Some books I have loved recently include the *Accidental Witch* series by Honor and Perdita Cargill, *Little Horror* by Daniel Peak, and *The Tide Singer* by Eloise Williams.

Thanks for your time Jennifer!

*Dread Wood* is a must read and it is out now! £7.99 Farshore







## The Secret Sunshine Project

Benjamin Dean & Sandhya Prabhat

Simon & Schuster 9+

A gorgeous story about finding happiness in your darkest moments. Bea's family are sickeningly happy until her father passes. Bea and her sister Riley have to move to the countryside with Gran. In a bid to cheer up her sister, Bea tries to recreate London Pride in their village. But not everyone is happy about the idea.

## Eyes that Speak to the Stars

Joanna Ho & Dung Ho

Harper Collins 4+

After seeing a hurtful drawing by a child in his class, a boy speaks to his father. His father tells him that he shares the same eyes as the rest of his family and how they speak to the stars. He explains that he should be proud of his differences. Vitally important to share with children as we celebrate what makes us.



## How to Steal the Mona Lisa

Bethany Walker & Jack Noel

Scholastic 7+

A brilliantly bonkers adventure told through emails, texts and notes. Mia loves art but her school is closing down the art department. At the same time Mona Lisa fever sweeps the country as it is reported that a version was stolen 200 years ago. Mia's best friend Jake has some pretty crazy conspiracy theories about it all...

## Max Counts to a Million

Jeremy Williams

Nosy Crow 8+

Set in the first Covid national lockdown, Max decides to count to a million. Usually school and other important things would get in the way... But no school means nothing in the way! One boy's tale of the ups and downs of Lockdown and how he ends up bringing the community together! A story we'll all be able to relate to.



## One To Wait for...

Lightfall - Tim Probert

HCalley - May 22

The first graphic novel is absolutely superb and anyone who has read it will be desperate to read the second in the series. Follow Bea and Cad on their quest!





## The River

Tom Percival

Simon & Schuster 4+

Rowan shares many similarities with the river. They both can change. They can be calm or wild. When winter comes, they both freeze over. A gorgeous look at how our emotions change that will definitely leave you with a lump in your throat!

## The Aquanaut

Dan Santat

Scholastic 8+

When tragedy strikes, Michel Revoy doesn't return home from a research trip. Years later, his daughter meets a strange creature wearing her father's diving suit... Who and what are controlling the outfit? Will they help his brother Paul remember exactly what they were fighting for in the first place rather than just pleasing their investors.



## The Last Firefox

Lee Newbury & Laura Catalan

Puffin 7+

Whilst on a mission to find the ultimate hiding place for a game, Charlie meets Cadno the Firefox and he is entrusted with keeping him safe from harm. Unfortunately, a fox that can set fire to itself brings its own dangers... Can Charlie keep it safe and a secret? The two form an unbreakable bond and change each other more than they could have expected! Charlie realises that he is braver than he thought!

## The Lost Whale

Hannah Gold

Harper Collins 8+

When his mother is in hospital, Rio is sent to live with his grandmother who he barely knows. He is not pleased about this! He finds his mum's old drawings of White Beak the whale and takes up whale watching with a new friend. One day White Beak goes missing, Rio sets off to find White Beak and save his mum!



## One You Might Have Missed

The Perfect Parent Project - Stewart Foster

Simon & Schuster - 9+ Jan 2021

Sam wants his forever family but he just seems to bounce between foster homes. He decides to take things into his own hands and tries to find his own perfect parents. The story is equally funny and heart breaking. If you've missed this, you really need to read it!



# 9 Poetry Books to read aloud

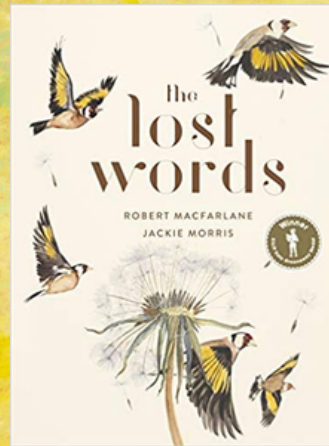


Reading poems is one thing, but performing them and sharing them is where their true beauty lies! Try sharing one of these books with your family or friends.

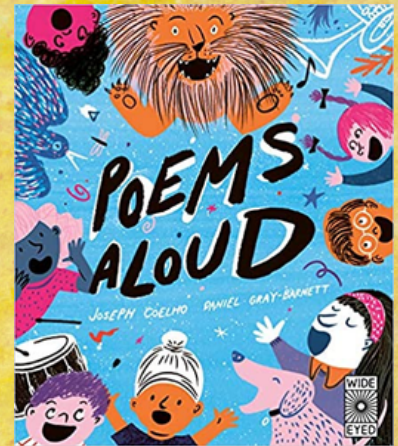
1. Yapping Away  
**Joshua Seigal & Sarah Horne**



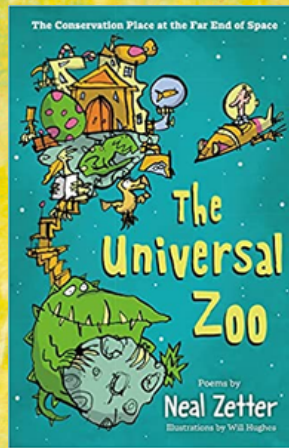
2. The Lost Words  
**Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris**



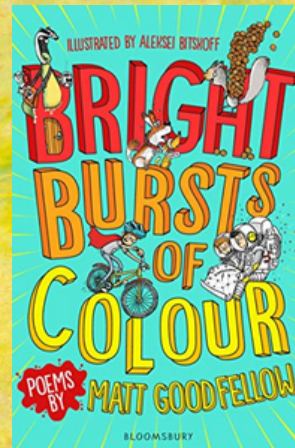
3. Poems Aloud  
**Joseph Coelho & Daniel Gray-Barnett**



4. The Universal Zoo  
**Neal Zetter & Will Hughes**



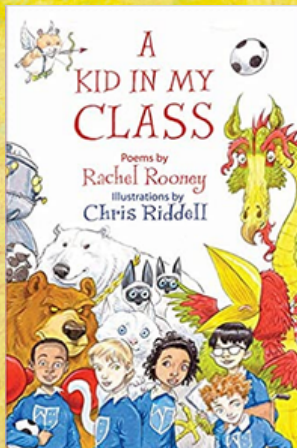
5. Bright Bursts of Colour  
**Matt Goodfellow & Aleksei Bitskoff**



6. The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice  
**A.F. Harrold & Mini Grey**



7. A Kid In My Class  
**Rachel Rooney & Chris Riddell**



8. Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright  
**Fiona Waters & Britta Teckentrup**



9. A Poem for Every Night of the year  
**Allie Esiri**



If you have any questions or have a book released soon that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - [MisterBodd@outlook.com](mailto:MisterBodd@outlook.com)