



Discussion Questions & Resources

Key Stage 2/3

Themes: Family | Grief | New beginning | Friendship | Siblings

[Purchase Skellig](#)



About the book

The bestselling story about love, loss and hope that launched David Almond as one of the best children's writers of today. Winner of the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year Award, this unforgettable book now has captivating illustrations by Tom de Freston to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary.

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain.

One Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the ramshackle garage of his new home and finds something magical. A strange creature - human? beast? bird? angel? - a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health.

But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes for ever ...

Skellig won the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book Award. David Almond is also winner of the Hans Christian Andersen award, the Nonino International Prize, and has received an OBE for services to literature. He is celebrated as - in the words of the Independent - 'a master storyteller'.

'This strange, hugely readable and life-affirming tale exercises every muscle of the imagination'
Guardian

About the author

David Almond is the author of many beloved and prize-winning books for children and teenagers. His best known work, Skellig, won the Whitbread Children's Award and the Carnegie Medal and has been widely adapted for stage and screen. He has also won the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the world's most prestigious prize for children's authors. In 2021, David was awarded an OBE for services to literature.



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Discussion Questions

- Man, bird or angel? What do you think Skellig is?
- Read the description of the garage in Chapter 1. How does the author convey a feeling of magic?
- How would you describe Michael's feelings at the beginning of the book?
- How would you describe Michael's feelings at the end of the book?
- What's the significance of the numbers 27 and 53?
- Why is the old, abandoned house important in the novel?
- Mina and Michael become good friends in the story, how do they help each other?
- How do the illustrations enhance the story?
- What's your favourite description in the book?
- What would you say to Michael when he's worrying about his baby sister?

More Resources

Please find below a list of resources to support your teaching of Skellig in the classroom.

- <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/skellig-11372674>
- <https://www.teachit.co.uk/resources/english/pre-teaching-lesson-plan-and-worksheets>
- <https://www.teachwire.net/news/ks2-book-topic-skellig/>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?q=skellig>



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