

NurtureStore Tween Book Club

Skellig by David Almond



1. Who do you think Skellig is?
2. How would you explain what happened when Michael, Mina and Skellig were all holding hands and walking around in a circle?
3. Mina seems different to Michael's other friends, Coot and Leakey. How are they different? Do you have friends who are very different to one another?
4. Did you like having a home-educated character in the story? Have you read any other books where a character is home-educated?

David Almond often includes ideas about different forms of education in his books. What do you think he thinks about home education?

5. A good word to know when we're talking about books is **motif**. A motif is a significant element that appears many times in an artistic work. It might be a distinctive theme, character, image or an idea that occurs again and again in a story, play, piece of music or art. Can you think of a motif that appears throughout Skellig? Where does the motif appear in the story? Why do you think David Almond used this particular motif in this way?

6. When you are writing a story you can write it as a *first person narrative*. This means the story is told (narrated) by one of the characters, referring to themselves as 'I'. '*I found him in the garage on a Sunday afternoon.*'

A story can also be written as a *third person narrative*. This means the story is told (narrated) by the author, an independent person, not one of the characters in the story. '*Coraline discovered the door a little while after they moved into the house.*'

How is Skellig narrated: in the first person, or the third person? What about the other books we have read in book club?

How does the style of narrator affect the story? What difference does it make?

Do you prefer one type of narrative over another?

7. William Blake, the poet and artist, is mentioned several times in the book, and Mina's mother sings one of his poems. Angels often featured in Blake's work and he claimed he had seen angels, such as when he was ten and he saw "*a tree filled with angels, bright angelic wings bespangling every bough like stars.*"

Do you believe in angels? What do you think they are? Have you ever heard anyone share an experience with them?