



# Skellig

by David Almond

This half term all pupils will be lent a copy of Skellig, which they will be expected to read at home alongside a book of their choice and some non-fiction writing. **Please support us by ensuring your child does this reading each week.**

Please see below for a suggested timetable for reading at home as well as ideas and discussion points for supporting your child with this book. Your child has been given a printed copy of this document too.

## Deadlines for reading Skellig

Please note, pupils may read the book more quickly if they wish. However, we will be holding quizzes and discussions at school based on the table below.

Thursday 26th Feb	p13
Thursday 5th March	p43
Thursday 12th March	p70
Thursday 19thth March	p102
Thursday 26th March	p131
Thursday 16th April (after holidays)	p170

Pupils will need to read roughly 30 pages per week of this book. This could be broken down into 2 lots of 15 pages, which should work well with the 30 minutes per day required reading.

## Suggested reading timetable

Pupils should spend 30 minutes per day reading at home. Please support your child by ensuring they have a quiet place to read and get into a habit of reading at the same time each day. This could be as soon as they get home from school, before they go to bed, or straight after their homework - try to find a routine which works best for your family.

If your child struggles to read independently for 30 minutes, then try the following:

- Split the time up into sections (e.g. fifteen minutes before school and fifteen minutes afterwards)
- Split the time into books (e.g. ten minutes on each text)
- Use a timer
- Take it in turns to read (e.g. your child reads a page, and then you read a page)



## Supporting your child with reading at home

Children are more likely to read and enjoy reading if their parents/carers show them that reading is important.

You can help them do this in the following ways:

- Help your child get into a reading routine (see above)
- Ask your child to read part of the book aloud to you
- Ask your child the discussion questions for each chapter and show interest in their answers
- Encourage your child to complete the competition task at the end of each book
- Read part of the book aloud to your child

Your child will take part in a quiz about these books each week. You can help your child prepare for this by asking them the discussion questions below.

### Questions to go through with your child

#### **Section 1 (p1-13)**

Where have Michael and his family just moved to?  
What is the baby's condition? How does Michael feel about it?  
What does Michael find in the garage?  
Why do you think Michael doesn't tell his family about the man in the garage?

#### **Section 2 (p14-43)**

What kind of person do you think Mina is? How is she different from Michael?  
If you were Michael, would you trust the man in the garage?  
What strange things does the man in the garage do?

#### **Section 3 (p43-p70)**

Do you think Skellig is dangerous, magical or misunderstood?  
What do the details about Skellig's back suggest about who - or what - he might be?

#### **Section 4 (p71-102)**

Why do you think Michael feels so connected to Skellig?  
What do you think Michael and Mina learn from each other?

#### **Section 5 (p103-131)**



Why do you think Michael feels torn between different parts of his life?

How would you describe the changes in Michael since the beginning of the book?

### **Section 6 (p132-end)**

How does the story end for Michael and Mina?

Why do you think Skellig leaves when he does?

What do you think the author wants readers to feel or believe by the end of the story?

### Competition

All pupils are encouraged to enter our Skellig response competition. To enter the competition you need to respond to the book in some way - this could be with a piece of writing (poem, story, song lyrics etc), a piece of art (drawing, collage, painting, photograph), or any other recorded response.

### Recommended reading after Skellig

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow

My Name is Mina by David Almond