

Welcome to English at Whickham.



A POWERFUL STORY, TOLD IN VERSE, ABOUT FINDING YOUR VOICE, YOUR PLACE AND YOUR PEOPLE FROM ONE OF THE UK'S MOST EXCITING WRITERS, MATT GOODFELLOW, AND AWARD-WINNING ILLUSTRATOR JOE TODD-STANTON.

"Well-written, authentic and very moving."
David Almond

"A beautiful story of friendship, family, grief, falling apart and putting yourself back together again."
Manjeet Mann

"Powerful...sensitive and incredibly relevant...Read it and get it into the hands of children who will see themselves and feel understood, recognised and valued."
Through the Bookshelf

After you have read the book, write down some notes on your ideas for each of the questions below. You will use these to discuss the book with your class in your first English lesson:

1. **Character: Who was your favourite character? Why?**
2. **What is your favourite/least favourite part of the book? Explain why?**
3. **Do you like the use of verse Poetry? Give an example and explain why.**
4. **Do you like the writer's use of illustrations/pictures? Give an example and explain why.**

Optional Competition:

When you begin Year 7 in September, there will be an opportunity to enter a creative competition based on *The Final Year*. Each class will have one winner, and prizes will be awarded by your teacher.

To enter, you should respond to the book in a creative way. You only need to complete one creative response, and you may choose one of the ideas below or come up with something completely different of your own!

You could:

- Write a review of the book
- Illustrate your favourite part of the story
- Create a playlist for the book or for Nate, choosing 5–10 songs that match different moments or emotions in the story
- Make a "survival guide" for surviving Y6, inspired by lessons from the book
- Read/ re-read 'Skellig' by David Almond and make a list/ picture collage of things in the book that really inspire Nate
- Do it your own way! Any creative response inspired by the book is encouraged e.g write your own poem, make a model, paint a picture, bake a cake!

1. Character: Who was your favourite character? Why?

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3. Do you like the use of verse poetry? Give an example and explain why.

4. Do you like the writer's use of illustrations/pictures? Give an example and explain

We hope you enjoy reading this fabulous book! Please bring your copy of 'The Final Year' and your ideas from this sheet to your second English lesson in September. Have a fantastic summer!

Whickham English Faculty 😊