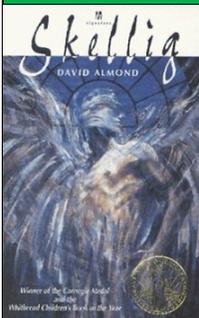


# Knowledge Organiser – SKELLIG – Year 7 - Reading

## About the book



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

Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital.

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 . . .

## About the author



One of the best-loved and finest writers of today, David Almond made an immediate impact with Skellig, his first book. The moving story of a boy's discovery of a strange creature in the shed which can be interpreted in many ways introduced some to the recurrent themes of David Almond's writing. Infused with a touch of magic or the supernatural or 'belief', David Almond writes sensitively about the inner complexities of growing up. Much influenced by the landscape of Tyneside where he was brought up and still lives, David Almond's books have a strong sense of place especially in titles such as Heaven's Eyes, The Fire-Eater and Kit's Wilderness. Although often clearly set in some particular time, there is a timeless quality to David Almond's stories which give them enduring appeal.

## Wider reading

Poetry by William Blake

## Key Vocabulary

archaeopteryx	The oldest fossilised bird
arthritis	A disease causing painful inflammation / stiffness of joints
auxiliaries	People providing additional help and support
calcification	The hardening of tissue or other material by the deposition of calcium carbonate
congealed	Having become semi-solid, especially on cooling
evolution	The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth
ossification	The hardening into a bony substance (as of muscle tissue)
Persephone	Greek Goddess of vegetation – rules the Underworld

## Key Characters

Michael	The boy who finds the creature in the garage
Mina	Michael's new friend
Skellig	Creature / human that Michael finds
Dr Death	The house doctor who visits Michael's sister
Leakey / Coot	Michael's friends
Grace	Old Woman from hospital

## VIPERS style questions



Explain	What effect does the narrator have when he refers to the doctor as 'Doctor Death'? p1
Retrieve	What do Michael's parents do to try to make him feel better about the baby staying in hospital?
Infer	What is Mina thinking just before Michael took her into the garage? How do you know?