

W&A

WITH JENNY NIMMO



Q. What book did you love as a child and why?

A. It is difficult to single out a favourite book from my childhood. Children's taste changes as they grow older. But the books that survived the test of time, for me, and probably influenced me more than any others, were collections of fairytales, myths and legends. If I had to choose just one collection it would be *Grimms' Fairytales*.

Q. Who are your current favourite children's authors/illustrators and why?

A. Margaret Mahy is my current favourite children's author. Her plots, language and characterisation are so wonderfully intriguing and perceptive. As for my favourite illustrators: Shawn Tann, for his amazing ideas and beautiful interpretations, and my own daughter, Gwen Millward, who is a joy to work with.

Q. What tips would you give to encourage children to read?

A. The most reluctant reader can usually be persuaded to read a book about a subject they love. If you search hard enough you can find a book about almost anything. What might seem unlikely to you (eg breeding snails) could be devoured by a child whose special interest is breeding snails.

Q. What do you enjoy best about being an author?

A. As an author I enjoy inventing characters, poking into their lives and watching them develop; settling them into places that I know or new worlds where I can live with them for a few hours every day.

Q. Tell us something about yourself that you think might surprise people.

A. A rabbit was bridesmaid at my wedding (a very attractive rabbit, I might add).



FICTION BY JENNY NIMMO

The Children of the Red King series has sold nearly five million copies worldwide and has built up a huge fan base for its hero, Charlie Bone.

There are plenty of twists and turns with strong male and female characters, so the books appeal to boys and girls. It all starts with *Midnight for Charlie Bone* in which our hero discovers an amazing magical power, leading to battles against dark forces and sinister characters. For fans of Jenny Nimmo's fantasy stories there's also the *Snow Spider* trilogy, which is just as engrossing and likely to open the door to an even greater love of reading.

9+ / £5.99