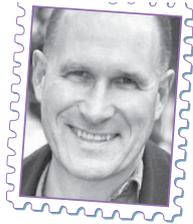




WITH WILLIAM NICHOLSON



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

**A.** I loved *Just William*, and all Richmal Crompton's *William* books. Wonderful characters, superbly plotted, and very funny. What more do you want?

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

**A.** I'm very impressed by Patrick Ness's new trilogy – the first book is *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, the second is *The Ask and the Answer*, the third, *Monsters of Men*, comes out soon. Powerful and clever stuff.

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

**A.** Only ever read for the joy of it. And remember, it's the readers who end up ruling the world.

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

**A.** Not working after lunch. After all, a writer must have something to write about. So I work all morning, and do my living all the rest of the day.

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

**A.** I have a gravestone with my name carved on it, and the year of my death, 2031, and the line: *'It was good but it didn't last.'* I suggested it as a joke, but a stonemason friend took me seriously. It stands in a shed in my garden. I plan to outlive it.

FICTION BY  
**WILLIAM NICHOLSON**

**William Nicholson is a successful Hollywood screenwriter whose credits include the BAFTA award-winning *Shadowlands* and Oscar-winning *Gladiator*.**

As you might expect with someone of that pedigree his children's stories are ambitious, full of imagination and told on a grand scale. *The Wind Singer* trilogy introduces Kestrel Hath, a girl who rebels against a cruel regime in an attempt to save her family from harsh punishment. *The Noble Warriors* trilogy is a coming-of-age tale set against a backdrop of warrior priests and warring states. William Nicholson's books offer a fresh and exciting take on the fantasy novel formulae. There are realistic characters, lots of laughter, great action and plenty of serious issues to think about.

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