

# David Almond

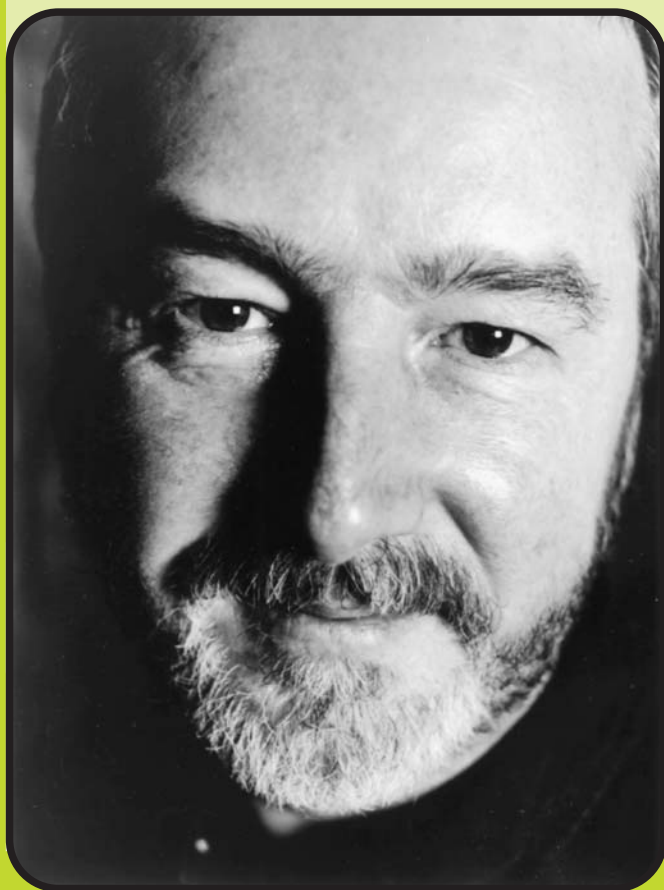


Photo Credit: Alex Telfer Photography

“**W**riting can be difficult, but sometimes it really does feel like a kind of magic. I think that stories are living things—among the most important things in the world.”

—David Almond

David Almond is a Printz Award winner for his novel *Kit's Wilderness* and received a Printz Honor for his first book for young readers, *Skellig*.

# About the Author

**I** grew up in a big extended Catholic family [in the north of England]. I listened to the stories and songs at family parties. I listened to the gossip that filled Dragone's coffee shop. I ran with my friends through the open spaces and the narrow lanes. We scared each other with ghost stories told in fragile tents on dark nights. We promised never-ending friendship and whispered of the amazing journeys we'd take together. I sat with my grandfather in his allotment, held tiny Easter chicks in my hands while he smoked his pipe and the factory sirens wailed and larks yelled high above. I trembled at the images presented to us in church, at the awful threats and glorious promises made by black-clad priests with Irish voices.

I scribbled stories and stitched them into little books. I disliked school and loved the library, a little square building in which I dreamed that books with my name on them would stand one day on the shelves. *Skellig*, my first children's novel, came out of the blue, as if it had been waiting a long time to be told. It seemed to write itself. It took six months, was rapidly taken by Hodder Children's Books [in the U.K.] and has changed my life.

By the time *Skellig* came out, I'd written my next children's novel, *Kit's Wilderness*. These books are suffused with the landscape and spirit of my own childhood. By looking back into the past, by re-imagining it and blending it with what I see around me now, I found a way to move forward and to become something that I am intensely happy to be: a writer for children."

## Praise for:

### CLAY

★ "Rooted in the ordinariness of a community and in one boy's chance to play god, this story will grab readers with its gripping action and its important ideas."

—*Booklist*, Starred

★ "The haunting tone, philosophical depth and beautifully crafted prose are what readers have come to expect of a work by this master."—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

### THE FIRE-EATERS

★ "Breathtakingly and memorably up to Almond's best."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

★ "The novel's metaphors are not subtle but achieve power through their perfect fit."—*The Horn Book*, Starred

### KIT'S WILDERNESS

★ "Almond offers another tantalizing blend of human drama surrealism and allegory."

—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

★ "Almond creates a heartbreakingly real world fused with magical realism . . . a pleasure to read."

—*Booklist*, Starred

### SKELLIG

★ "Almond makes a triumphant debut in the field of children's literature with prose that is at once eerie, magical and poignant."—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

★ "A lovingly done, thought-provoking novel."

—*School Library Journal*, Starred

★ "An amazing work. Some of the writing takes one's breath away."—*Booklist*, Starred

## Book List

### CLAY

Ages 12 up • Delacorte Press

HC: 978-0-385-73171-3

(0-385-73171-X)

GLB: 978-0-385-90208-3

(0-385-90208-5)

### TWO PLAYS

Ages 8–12 • Delacorte Press

PB: 978-0-385-73074-7

(0-385-73074-8)

GLB: 978-0-385-90101-7

(0-385-90101-1)

### KATE, THE CAT, AND THE MOON

Ages 4–8 • Doubleday

HC: 978-0-385-74691-5

(0-385-74691-1)

GLB: 978-0-385-90929-7

(0-385-90929-2)

### THE FIRE-EATERS

Ages 8 up • Delacorte Press

HC: 978-0-385-73170-6

(0-385-73170-1)

PB: 978-0-440-42012-5

(0-440-42012-1)

GLB: 978-0-385-90207-6

(0-385-90207-7)

• An ALA Best Books for Young Adults

• An ALA Notable Children's Book

• A *Boston Globe-Horn Book*

Award Winner

### SECRET HEART

Ages 10 up • Delacorte Press

PB: 978-0-440-41827-6

(0-440-41827-5)

### HEAVEN EYES

Ages 10 up • Delacorte Press

PB: 978-0-440-22910-0

(0-440-22910-3)

• An ALA Notable Children's Book

### COUNTING STARS

Ages 12 up • Delacorte Press

PB: 978-0-440-41826-9

(0-440-41826-7)

GLB: 978-0-385-90034-8

(0-385-90034-1)

### KIT'S WILDERNESS

Ages 12 up • Delacorte Press

PB: 978-0-440-41605-0

(0-440-41605-1)

• A Michael L. Printz Award Winner

• An ALA Best Books for Young Adults

• An ALA Notable Children's Book

• A New York Public Library Books

for the Teen Age

### SKELLIG

Ages 10 up • Delacorte Press

PB: 978-0-440-22908-7

(0-440-22908-1)

• A Michael L. Printz Honor Book

• An ALA Notable Children's Book

• A *School Library Journal* Best

Book of the Year

• A *Publishers Weekly* Best

Children's Book of the Year

• A *New York Times* Best Book of

the Year

• A *Booklist* Children's Editors'

Choice

• A *Horn Book* FanFare

• A New Jersey Garden State  
Teen Book Award