

# Skellig

David Almond

Mid morning. Mina's mother brought cups of tea for us. She sat beside us on the step. She talked about the fledglings, the flowers that were bursting into bloom, the air that every day became warmer, the sun that every day was a little higher and a little warmer. She talked about the way spring made the world burst into life after months of apparent death. She told us about the goddess called Persephone, who was forced to spend half a year in the darkness deep underground. Winter happened when she was trapped inside the earth. The days shrank, they became cold and short and dark. Living things hid themselves away. Spring came when she was released and made her slow way up to the world again. The world became brighter and bolder in order to welcome her back. It began to be filled with warmth and light. The animals dared to wake, they dared to have their young. Plants dared to send out buds and shoots. Life dared to come back.

"An old myth," I said.

"Yes," she said. "But maybe it's a myth that's nearly true. Look around you, Michael. Fledglings and blooms and bright sunshine. Maybe what we see around us is the whole world welcoming Persephone home."

She rested her hand on my arm.

"They can do marvellous things, Michael. Maybe you'll soon be welcoming your own Persephone home."

## Recall: Punctuation Marks

1. Circle all of the speech marks.
2. What is the other name that we use for speech marks?

## Examine and Identify

Speech always starts with a capital letter.

After the speech, there is either: a comma, a full stop, an exclamation mark or a question mark.

This is called a reporting clause - it tells us who said the speech. If it is at the end of that sentence, there needs to be a full stop.

Speech marks (inverted commas) - before and after the speech.

"An old myth," I said.

"Yes," she said. "But maybe it's a myth that's nearly true. Look around you, Michael. Fledglings and blooms and bright sunshine. Maybe what we see around us is the whole world welcoming Persephone home."

Speech can continue over more than one sentence if a person is saying a number of different things. If it does, you put inverted commas at the end of the speech, NOT at the end of each sentence.

# Apply:

1. What punctuation marks are missing?

An old myth, I said

2. Re-write this sentence. What else might Michael have said. For example:

"I don't believe in those silly stories," I said.

3. Add another sentence. This time, Michael asks Mina's mother a question about the myth.

4. If David Almond had written:

"An old myth!" I said.

What is different to the way he wrote it in Skellig?

How would this give the reader more information about the way Michael was speaking/feeling?

## LO: Punctuate speech

-Some will even explain how punctuation help the reader understand the text.

-Some will write different types of sentences.

-Most will write the own speech.

-All will add correct punctuation marks to a sentence.