



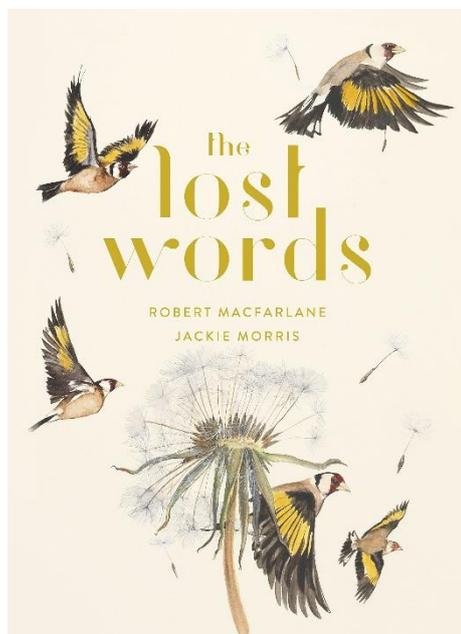
Suntrap Book Review

The Lost Words: A Spell Book

By Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris

Published by Hamish Hamilton £15 hardback

Age range: from 3 year up for adults to read (or sing) with children



Description

The Lost Words is a “book of spells” which seeks to conjure back the magic and strangeness of the natural world which is in danger of being lost. Robert MacFarlane’s “spells” are to be read (or sung) out loud to summon each creature back into our hearts.

Each acrostic “spell” has 3 stunning, artworks by Jackie Morris; firstly a display of the creature or plant’s absence from the world, then the spell itself accompanied by a portrait of the central character surrounded with sumptuous gold leaf, and finally the creature or plant is depicted embedded in its natural habitat.

You can explore the book for free using [The John Muir Trust’s Explorer’s Guide written by Eva John.](#)

Reviews

'The most beautiful and thought-provoking book I've read this year' *Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Observer*

'Gorgeous to look at and to read. Give it to a child to bring back the magic of language - and its scope' *Jeanette Winterson, Guardian*

'Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris have made a thing of astonishing beauty' *Alex Preston, Observer*

'Not since Ted Hughes has there been a collection of such fine and important nature poems for children. And these have the advantage of being rather more accessible to young people, without any less measure of deep awareness, sensitivity, resonance or sonority.....However the words, wonderful as they are, are only part of this book. Jackie Morris’s art spreads through it in lavish fecundity, complementing, extending, enriching the spells. [Together they make] poetry in the best sense and of the highest calibre. They use patterns of the richest and most intense language to evoke awareness of profoundly important thoughts and feelings. They illuminate life.'
<http://magicfictionsincepotter.blogspot.com/>

'in a book of spells rather than poems, exquisitely illustrated by Morris, acorn, blackberry, bluebell, conker and kingfisher are lovingly returned to future generations of children... The spells carry the spirit of their subject in their structure. The Lost Words is a beautiful book and in terms of ideas, an important one.' *Katherine Norbury, Observer*