

REVIEWS

The wonder garden: wander through 5 habitats to discover 80 amazing animals

Jenny Broom and Kristjana S. Williams
(illustrator)

London: Wide Eyed Editions, 2015

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*One of the most carefully
composed and beautifully
illustrated books I have had the
pleasure of reading; ages 8+*

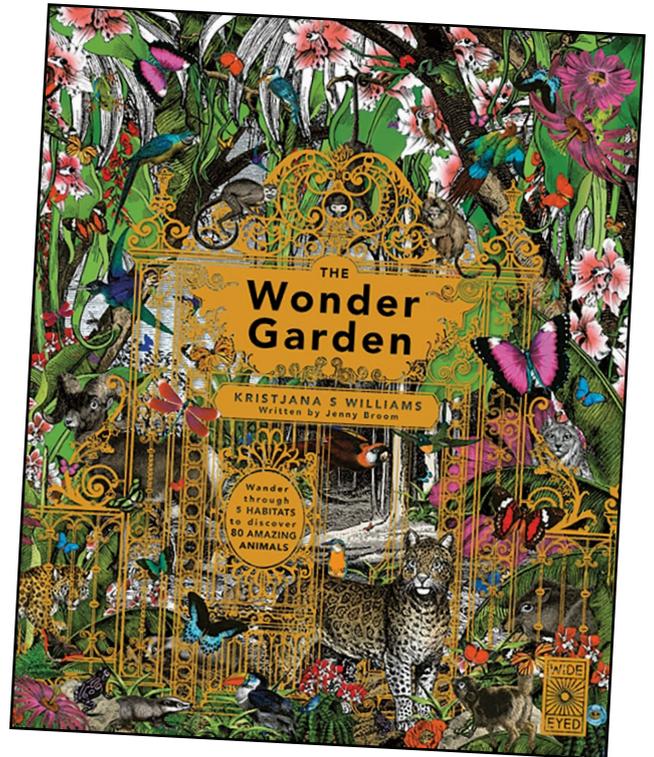
The wonder garden is a mesmeric wander, a picturesque roam through five extraordinary habitats. The illustrator, Kristjana S. Williams, provides us with an unforgettable front cover, an utterly spellbinding piece of artwork. Even the feel and texture of the book is a delight, an experience in itself. Jenny Broom, the author of this beautiful book, first provides us with an insight into where we will be visiting in the subsequent pages. The symbiotic serenity between the author and the illustrator assures the reader that the artistic and scientific credibility of this text are constantly upheld.

We are transported to the Amazon Rainforest, the Chihuahuan Desert, The Black Forest, the Himalayan Mountains and finally the Great Barrier Reef – with a gorgeously

illustrated world map showing their locations. Let's take the 'Amazon Rainforest' section – this section is firstly depicted in a montage of nature carefully constructed across a double-page spread, showing some of the outstanding array of animals in this part of the world. Then, Broom eloquently interweaves fact with unforgettable description, impressing on the reader the awe and wonder of the rainforest. The direct address – 'Ahead of you is a dense, vast forest, shrouded in mist' – makes the reader feel part of the experience.

My favourite section of the book has to be the section on 'The Great Barrier Reef', with the 'World of colour' section outlining the complexities and natural beauty of this unique part of the world. From the tube-dwelling sea anemone to the yellow-banded pipefish, the nature aspect is not too dissimilar to a *National Geographic* article or a David Attenborough commentary on the subject.

I highly recommend this book to any colleague to support their science and geography learning in upper key stage 2. It is one of the most



carefully composed and beautifully illustrated books I have had the pleasure of reading. In addition, this would lend itself to a cross-curricular art project of grand proportions, whereby the outcome could be something as fantastical as the book's front cover!

Michael Good

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