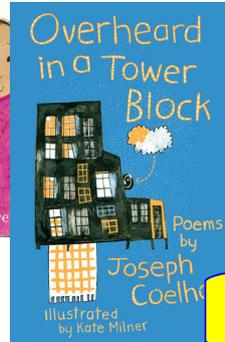
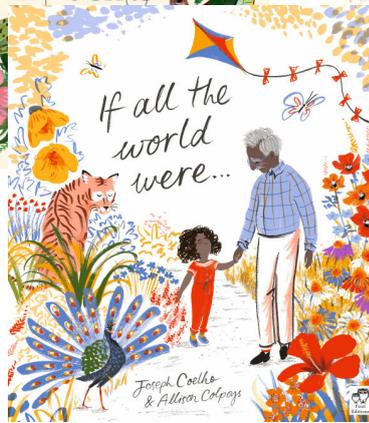
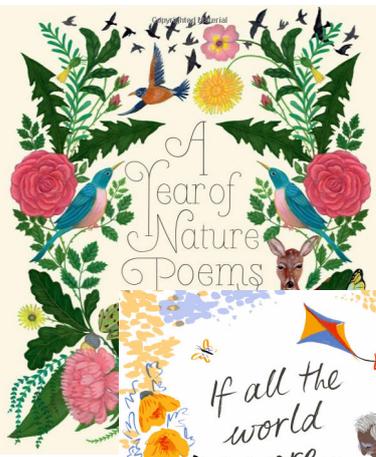


AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Joseph Coelho



Why bother to read?

It is hard to put into words the incredible benefit I have gained in my life from reading for pleasure. Through reading for pleasure I have taught myself how to grow exotic fruits and how to dig ponds, I've found tools to make me a mentally and physically stronger person, I've been whisked away on adventures and found comfort when I have been sad.

Reading has given me so many gifts and those gifts are free as I learnt when I first started taking books out from my local library.

What was your favourite childhood book?

My favourite childhood book was Dr Seuss' *The Cat In the Hat* - I was entranced by this crazy scenario of a cat (in a hat) coming into these children's homes and making a mess and I always found the grumpy fish so funny. The book taught me that no matter how much of a mess you make of something, you can always get things back in order.

Which of your own books is your favourite?

This is such a hard question to answer because I like them all for different reasons. At the moment it's my latest poetry book, *A Year Of Nature Poems* because writing it allowed me an opportunity to write about something I love - nature - and to spread a conservation message. I also got to think back to when I was younger and the fun I had in nature: finding frogs, picking fruit and sitting on the balcony of our flat in my hammock during the summer rains.

Joseph Coelho grew up in a tower block in Roehampton, London and can't recall ever wanting to be a writer when he was young. His earliest memory of writing a poem was for a competition when he was in secondary school. He didn't win, but it was the spark to ignite future poetry.

Joseph studied archaeology at university but continued to write poems. After a variety of jobs (gym instructor, salesman, film extra) and running creative writing workshops in schools, Joseph's first poetry collection, *Werewolf Club Rules*, was published in 2014 and he has never looked back.