



## ***The Grumble Bee* - Kyle Mewburn**

**Published by Scholastic, RRP \$19.50.**

Ari is a strong-minded young character who hates the restrictions placed on girls in the Middle Ages. She longs for the freedom and activities that the village boys enjoy. She also has vivid dreams of dragons that live in Bodenroth Swamp. There's a warm relationship between Ari and her blind grandfather, Poppy Loddo. She helps guide and look after him. He is the last of the dragon summoners but he's not allowed to pass on his knowledge to a girl. He taught his only son, Ari's father, how to call the dragons and he disappeared years ago. Yet, Ari is drawn to the dragons. She persuades her grandfather to let her guide him to the swamp.

Detailed illustrations by the author start each chapter. The dragons come to life through her fine drawings and evocative writing. Their beauty, flight and sad song are exquisitely described. As the dragons' plight deepens, the story gathers pace and the drama intensifies. For centuries, the dragons have been bound to the cruel demands of corrupt kings. Poppy Loddo is powerless to free the dragons from a curse placed on them by an evil sorcerer. Ari determines to free the handsome creatures. At great risk to herself, the courageous girl hatches a plan.

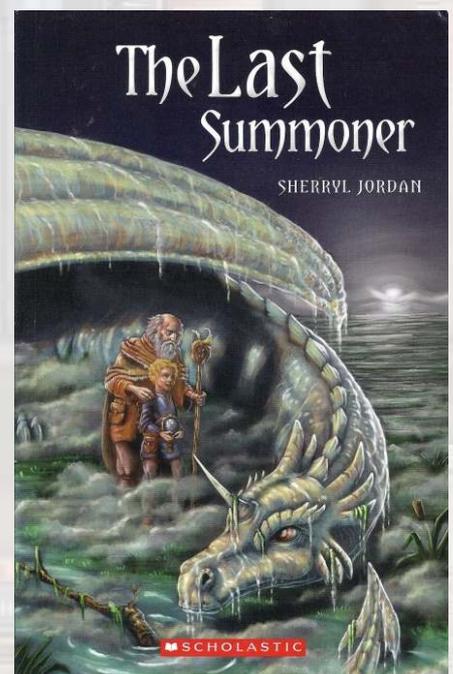
At one point, she chides her grandfather for not telling her the full story about the dragons. "Every storyteller tells only the things that are needful at the time," he replied. "For every word that's spoken, there's another left unsaid."

Ari is not convinced and says, "In a story you should tell everything."

Her grandfather's wisdom wins out. "... If the storyteller told everything, there'd be no room for the listener's own imagination to move. Also... the most important part of a story may lie in the silences between the words."

Sherryl Jordan has honed and polished her story-telling gift with great skill. She knows the value of giving her reader's imagination room to move. *The Last Summoner* is a suspense-filled adventure That holds the reader's interest right to the satisfying end.

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.**



**Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.**