



***A Child of Books* by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$29.99 hardback

This creative collaboration between Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston is a unique partnership of visual and literary minds. Their picture book is an inspired feast of images and language.

Readers enter a world of words as a young girl sails on a raft with a parchment sail:
"I am a child of books. I come from a world of stories and upon my imagination I float."

Typographical landscapes created by Sam Winston feature excerpts from classic stories. The child sails across a rolling sea of words made with passages from books such as *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Swiss Family Robinson*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and other tales. Along the way, the girl invites a reticent boy to join her on her explorations.

Together they climb over mountains of extracts from *Peter Pan and Wendy*, discover treasures in a dark cave of text shaped from *Kidnapped*, and lose themselves in forests of fairy tales. Their wondrous travels take them into clouds of lullabies and to outer space where letters float beyond them into the universe.

Initially, pages are black-and-white with only a few spots of colour until a double-spread reveals a vivid display of storybook images and words that proclaim: *"This is our world."*

Finally, a street of houses highlights their home of invention and morphs into a stack of books, *"Where anyone at all can come"*, and culminates in an illustration reminiscent of *Alice in Wonderland*.

This celebration of storytelling has a deep-red dust jacket with a locked book image suggestive of treasures to be discovered within. It's a work of art to savour, share, and re-read many times.

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Reviewed by Jean Bennett

