



AUTHOR

Jennifer Killick is the author of the Dread Wood series, Crater Lake and the Alex Sparrow series. She regularly visits schools and festivals and her books have been selected three times for the Summer Reading Challenge. She lives in Uxbridge, in a house full of children, animals and Lego. She loves to read, write and run as fast as she can.

WEBSITE

<https://www.jenniferkillick.com/>

LINKS

Charlotte Eyre's interview with Jennifer for The Bookseller.

<https://www.thebookseller.com/author-interviews/author-interviews/jennifer-killick-on-dread-wood>

A 50 mins virtual event with Jennifer. The presentation starts 5 mins in.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_Su1ol08uE

Book review

<https://whatbooknext.com/dread-wood-book-review/>



DREAD WOOD

Older Readers Shortlist 2023

INTRODUCTION

The first in a new **comedy-horror** series from the author of *Crater Lake*, uses many familiar elements of sci-fi horror stories, while drawing inspiration from other scary stories like Hansel and Gretel and Jurassic Park. A cleverly plotted story about four distinctly different Y7 pupils sharing a Saturday morning detention. They find themselves pitting their wits against some **terrifying 'monsters'** (giant spiders and mad scientists) as the link between them is gradually revealed.

When introducing the book, read aloud from pages 37-40. This ends with a great jump moment which hints at the frights that are yet to come.

ACTIVITIES

Read: Based on your child or children's past reading or film-watching, compile a list of some typical features of horror stories.

Write or Illustrate: Write and illustrate a newspaper report of the incident and temporary school closure based on the 'official line' (p305).

Make: Make a pitch for a film of the book which includes suggested locations and cast, plus a playlist for the soundtrack.

NOW READ ON

Fear Ground by Jennifer Killick (Farshore, 2022). The second book in Jennifer's new comedy-horror series.

The Escape Room by Christopher Edge (Nosy Crow, 2022). Spine-tingling, fast-paced thriller, with a 'killer twist'.

The Worlds We Leave Behind by A F Harrold & Levi Penfold (Bloomsbury 2022) A chilling 'what-if' story, 'laced with fairy tale darkness' with breath-taking illustrations. One of CBA's top 50 books of the year.