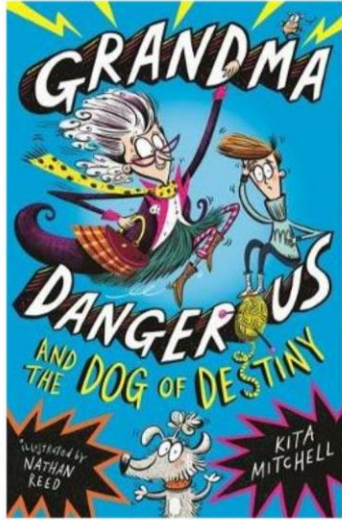


# Awards and Nominations

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## Library Services for Schools - Cumbria's primary schools book award

Grandma Dangerous by Kita Mitchell is the Spellbinding 2019 winner



After months of reading and debating, children in years 5 and 6 from Cumbria's primary schools have chosen their favourite book. Congratulations to this year's winner, Kita Mitchell, for her book *Grandma Dangerous*, a brilliantly fast-paced, funny and utterly bonkers adventure.

"A boy is thrown into a crazy adventure when his danger-loving grandma comes to stay after his dad goes missing somewhere in the Australian Outback. Ollie's dad is missing - but Grandma Dangerous is on the case! She has a hot-air balloon, thirty packets of biscuits and a pooch with magical powers (she says). But as they sail through the skies, Ollie realises they're not just on a rescue mission.... Grandma's on the run!. An hilarious laugh out loud story that will appeal to fans of Walliams and Dahl."

Here are some of the children's comments from the Spellbinding web site:

"Amazing it was soooooo cool I couldn't put it down it was so tense when he was in the shed and found his dad"

"Grandma Dangerous is the best book I have ever read"

"I loved this book it was so funny and I would tell all the people I know to read this book"

## Kita Mitchell author visit

A special treat for some schools in Cumbria

We were delighted to welcome the children's author Kita Mitchell recently, as part of our 2019 Spellbinding Book Awards. Kita is one of the shortlisted authors for her book *Grandma Dangerous* and the *Dog of Destiny*, and six Cumbrian primary schools were lucky enough to have a visit from her, where she entertained them talking about her book and the others she has written in the *Grandma Dangerous* series. She even gave a sneak preview of her upcoming book, the third in the series, *Grandma Dangerous and the Toe of Treachery!*

### More about Kita's visits

As well as talking about the people and incidents in her life that had inspired her books so far, she also told pupils about her desire to be a writer from a very young age (7 years old!) and how she had never given up hope of one day having a book published. She encouraged the children to never give up on their passions and to follow their dreams as far as they could.

Kita also revealed that one of her favourite authors as a child was Raymond Briggs, author of the *Snowman*, *Fungus the Bogeyman*, *Father Christmas* and many more. She told the story of how she wrote to him over several years about all things to do with books and writing, and that he always wrote back often accompanying his letters with drawings and doodles, all of which she has kept. When she finally got published forty years after first writing to him he replied "about blooming time!".

After her talk and some great questions from the children, Kita spent time chatting and signing books and giveaway bookmarks.

A great time was had by all the schools with some great feedback.

### Kita Mitchell picture gallery

### Feedback from schools

"Kita was lovely, she really held the children's attention and was really interested to hear their reading choices. I've had 4 children come to me this morning to say they have read her book over the weekend and it was brilliant, so funny! Luckily I bought some copies of both books for the library so they'll be able to borrow the second one...Thanks again, it was very inspirational" Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Barrow

"just wanted to say a massive thank you for coming to Roose Primary School on Friday... The children gained so much from meeting you and discussing writing. This will be a great memory from their time at Roose and we appreciate you making the long journey". Roose School, Barrow