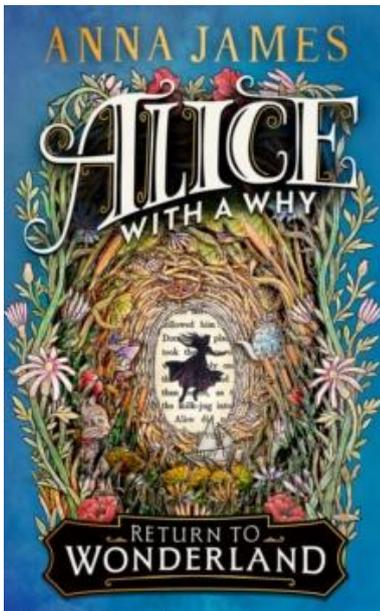
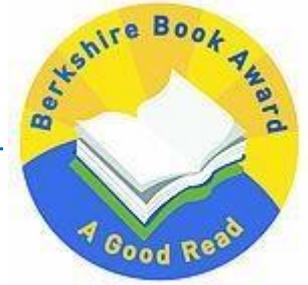


Berkshire Book Award 2026: Longlisted title



***Alice With a Why* by Anna James**

Alyce – with a Y – lives with her grandmother, the original Alice, having lost her father during the Great War.

When a mysterious invitation to a tea party hits her square in the face, Alyce realises her grandmother’s strange stories of a place called Wonderland might have some truth to them after all. But the land Alyce finds herself in feels different from the Wonderland of her grandmother’s stories – for it is trapped in its own war.

The Sun King and the Queen of the Moon are fighting over a stolen hour, and soon Alyce is tasked with setting it right.

Discussion Questions

- *Alice With a Why* starts with her living with her grandmother after World War I. What has happened to her and how does she feel?
- How does the author’s description of Wonderland create a feeling of magic and mystery and contrast this with Alyce’s ordinary life?
- Alyce meets a lot of strange people as she travels. Which is your favourite and why?
- How do Alyce’s interactions with other characters shape her journey and which relationship do you think influences her the most?
- What does the story suggest about the importance of asking “why” and is curiosity portrayed as a strength or a challenge?
- *Alice With a Why* is based on the famous book *Alice in Wonderland*. Have you read this, and if so, what similarities can you see between the two books?