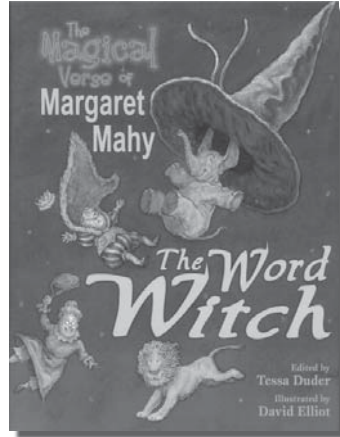




# PICTURE BOOK



## The Word Witch

Margaret Mahy & David Elliot,  
edited by Tessa Duder  
HarperCollins Publishers  
ISBN 978-1-86950-707-7 hb RRP \$44.99  
Target age 6+

The Word Witch can lasso with a limerick, haunt with a haiku and wrap you tight in a rhyme as quick as lightning. Her cauldron is a dictionary, her wand a mighty pen, and she stirs her words at midnight, making tempting treats for children. Her name is Margaret Mahy and these are her spells



**Margaret Mahy** is a renowned word witch who has been enchanting children for over forty years with her novels, stories and poems.

**David Elliot** is an award-winning children's illustrator and author. He has had a varied career, working at different times as a zoo gatekeeper, an Antarctic dishwasher, an interior designer and a teacher, before becoming a fulltime illustrator in 1998.

**Tessa Duder** has published more than 35 books. Her lifelong admiration for and friendship with Margaret Mahy was reflected in her portrait *Margaret Mahy: A Writer's Life*.

## Great Activity and Event Ideas

1. Organise your own poetry writing workshop and/or competition.
2. Choose a selection of poems from *The Word Witch* for recital or dramatic performance.
3. Try singing the poem 'Song' on page 96 to the tune of 'Our Great Mikado, Virtuous Man' from 'The Mikado' by Gilbert and Sullivan, or the poem on page 100, which also has a suggested tune.
4. Find out all you can about Margaret Mahy. What awards has she won for her work?
5. Organise a parade of characters from the collection of poems



New Zealand Post  
**CHILDREN'S  
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## Activity

Read 'Sea Song' on page 118. Now choose one of your special places to write a poem about. Illustrate your poem.