

WHAT IS MAGICAL REALISM?

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There are many different ways to define **magical realism**. Most people think of it as...

A story that takes place in an everyday setting with a touch of magic.

Usually, this magical element highlights or sparks an **emotional change** in the character.

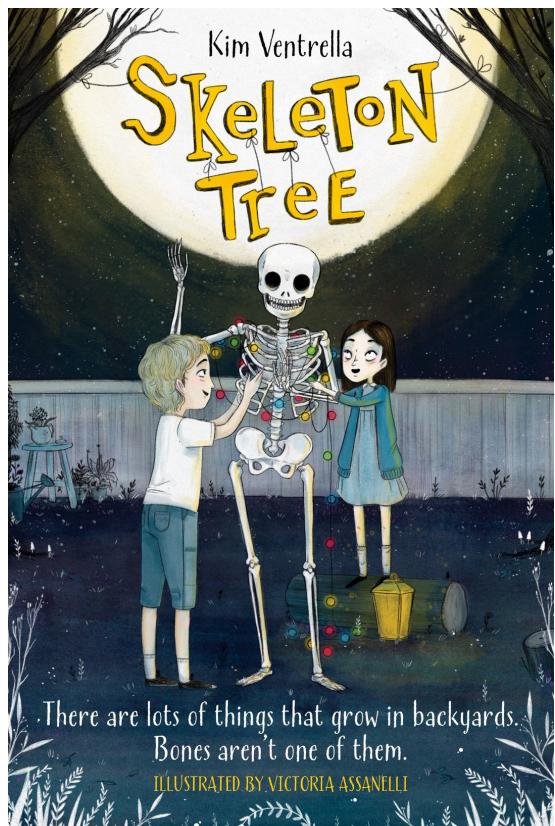
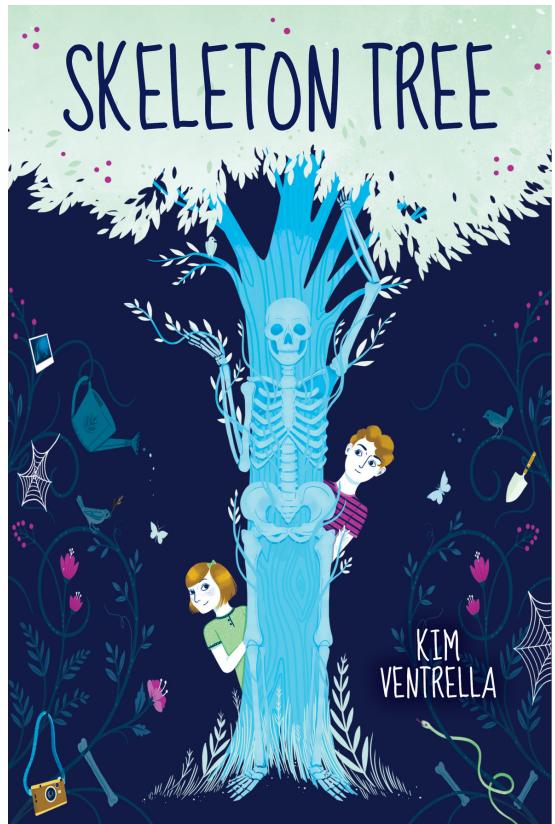
With **magical realism**, the magical element isn't there just because it's cool. It serves a greater purpose in the story.

The magical element is often **symbolic** of a bigger idea. This could be part of the main character's emotional journey, an aspect of society or something else.

Let's look at my book, **Skeleton Tree**, as an example. The story is set in the everyday world with one magical element, i.e. the skeleton growing in Stanly's backyard.

The skeleton isn't just there to be cool, it serves a purpose. As Stanly's relationship with the skeleton changes throughout the story, so does his relationship with death. The skeleton helps him see death in a new way.

One final aspect of magical realism is that the author makes no attempt to explain the magic. It's not about defeating the Big Bad, so much as learning what it has to teach us.



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