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Seen separately or as a pair, award-winning Jenny Nimmo's contribution to the fantasy library is considerable. **The Snow Spider** has recently had a TV screening which will ensure its popularity.

The 'realness' of the child characters, despite their close access to ancient magical powers, is no mean feat, especially Gwyn in the first book, who so unwillingly accepts his brithright of Welsh magicianship and then uses the odd gifts from his eccentric, gaudy grandma to solve the unnatural disappearance of his sister, lured, as he discovered, to a world of ice and silver, where evil is latent.

That same world threatens to snatch his cousin Emlyn in the second book, where family enmity and moon-struck magic conspire to create a devastating conclusion that Gwyn must again avert and for which he needs the powers of Nia Lloyd, Nia-in-the-middle, Nia-can't-do-nothing, who has yet to discover her own unique gift.

Jenny Nimmo gradually piles layer upon fine layer in both stories, weaving gentle, intriguing spells, which should captivate most imaginative youngsters and which I suspect will read aloud well.

Running Order:

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