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Jacqueline Wilson to write contemporary version of E.Nesbit's *Five Children and It*

London, Monday 21st March '11 ... Puffin books announced today plans to publish bestselling author Jacqueline Wilson's modern re-imagining of E.Nesbit's classic children's book *Five Children and It*.

Jacqueline says: 'E. Nesbit is my all-time favourite classic children's author, so I'm delighted to have this chance to write a contemporary version of *Five Children and It*. It will be a very exciting challenge.'

Elv Moody, Editorial Director Classic Puffin, says: 'Jacqueline Wilson is a fantastic advocate for the classic children's books that have always inspired her, and we are thrilled by her idea for the new book. She has an incredible profile and an ability to reach so many contemporary readers, and it has long been a dream to work with her on a Puffin Classics project.'

We always look for ways to breathe new life into Puffin Classics, and Jacqueline's new book will do this perfectly. The magical element in the story will be an exciting new direction for Jacqueline.'

Like *Railway Children*, *Five Children and It* follows a group of children who uncover a rather grumpy sand-fairy, a Psammead, who will only grant one wish per day. But of course, all the wishes go comically wrong and the children's adventures begin... First published in 1902, E.Nesbit's classic title has never been out of print. It has continued to inspire artists throughout its long history including a hit TV series in the 1990s and a film starring Kenneth Branagh and Eddie Izzard in 2004.

With sales of over 30 million copies, Jacqueline Wilson is one of the top three bestselling authors of the century. She is a former Children's Laureate and was awarded a DBE in 2008.

Jacqueline's new novel will be published by Puffin in August 2012.

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