



The Wordsmith

The city of Ark is the last safe place on Earth: the polar ice caps have melted and flooded everything, leaving few survivors. To make sure humans do not make the same mistakes, Ark's leader John Noa decrees everyone in Ark must speak List, a language of only 500 words. Language is to blame for mankind's destruction, John Noa says, as politicians and governments hid the disastrous effects of global warming and environmental damage until it was too late. Everyone must speak List... except Letta. As apprentice to the Wordsmith, Letta can read all the words that have ever existed. Forbidden words like freedom, music, and even pineapple tell her about a world she's never known.



The City of Ark

An eco-friendly city built by a man who foresaw the great flood, which was caused by global warming and the melting of the ice-caps. In this imagined city music and art are prohibited and language is restricted. Meals are handed out three times a day and are always the same. You are not allowed to choose your own partner and 'mated' couples may have two children – a third will be taken away. The idea for the City of Ark was derived from the Biblical Noah's Ark.



Patricia Forde

Patricia Forde lives in Galway, in the West of Ireland with her husband, two teenage children and dog. Before becoming a writer she was a primary school teacher. She has published many children's' books as well as working on plays and playscripts for television. The Wordsmith was published in 2017.

Term	Definiton
Censorship	When an authority limits or prevents the ideas that people are allowed to express. Books, films, works of art and other forms of communication are prevented because they are considered a threat to the stability or security of the society.
List	The name of the language spoken by the people who live in the City of Ark. People who break the rules are arrested and punished by a 'gavvers' as it is believed language is the reason for the destruction of earth.
Wordsmith	The one who stores and receives all of the words humans have created. His job is to create The List – the 500 words allowed to be spoken (all the others are forbidden).
Dystopia	An imagined society that is undesirable or frightening. The opposite of Utopia where everything is perfect. The people who live there are wretched, dehumanised and fearful.
Post-apocalyptic	Relating to a time after a catastrophic event such as nuclear disaster. The event can be climatic such as a flood, tsunami or earthquake; society is destroyed and a new world emerges. The genre is characterised by a grim and desperate battle for survival. In The Wordsmith the flood occurs and a totalitarian state develops. .