



Jess-Cooke, C. (2018) Willow's Leelo & Dave. New Welsh Reader, 117.

There may be differences between this version and the published version. You are advised to consult the publisher's version if you wish to cite from it.

<http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/159437/>

Deposited on: 21 March 2018

Enlighten – Research publications by members of the University of Glasgow_
<http://eprints.gla.ac.uk>

Willow's Leelo & Dave

The fish is blue and invisible.
His – it's a he – name is Leelo.
Leelo has backstory – his parents
are missing and he has to find them.
Until then, Willow is looking after him.
He lives in a bowl filled with water.
The bowl is also invisible
and mostly she carries it around in
cupped hands, and at night she'll set it
beside the bed. We try to trick her
by asking 'where's Leelo?' and she
always remembers exactly where
he left him. When she has to eat
or play she'll give us Leelo for safe-
keeping. Luckily his bowl fits
in a trouser pocket, though she'll check
to make sure the bowl is all the way inside.
At school she's started a craze
for imaginary fish. All her friends suddenly
have imaginary fish. This time last year
the paediatrician said Willow didn't engage
in imaginary play and this was a key reason
for her autism diagnosis. There's a note
in my diary from this time last year
that says: "Willow said 'turn around' for the first time."
She only spoke about twenty words then.
Now Leelo has a friend called Dave, another fish.
He has backstory.
We help her carry them around.