

# No Shelf Control

Edition 46 : February 2025

## Q&A with Jenny McLachlan

This month we have been lucky enough to chat with Jenny McLachlan, the author of "Dragon Riders of Roar" our Book of the Month.

What made you decide to return to Roar? Did you miss it or was it always a planned book?

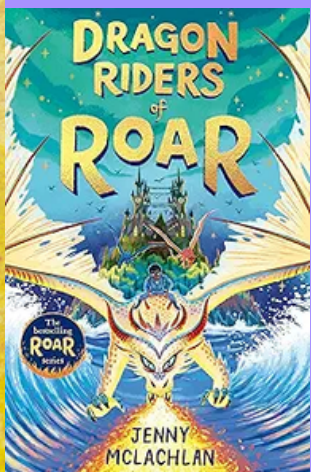
I always planned to write four books, I like Arthur and Rose to always explore a new part of Roar so I knew that they wouldn't be going to one of their old haunts. That's why I created the Dragonlands and Dragon Rider Academy. I wanted Roar to keep getting bigger, better and more exciting for readers (and for Arthur and Rose).

Roar has brought us some terrifyingly brilliant villains! How do you create them? (and do they scare you?)

I like my villains to be properly scary. When I was little I read books with truly terrifying villains like Captain Hook, the White Witch and Mrs Trunchbull so I knew that I wanted to create characters who similarly gave readers the shivers. Crowky definitely scared me because I have a bit of a scarecrow fear!

The Roar books are loved as read alouds in classrooms and bedrooms across the country - how do you ensure that your book becomes something that families and classes will all enjoy together?

It's very important to me that my books hold the attention of children. If adults like them too that's an added bonus. Generally speaking I think that children love action and dialogue and start to turn off when the writer indulges in too much description. So I try to always keep my audience in mind!



I like to end with a celebration of other books, so... What are the best kids books you've read recently?

A book I started to read recently and loved because of the author's amazing depiction of dragons is Dragonborn by Struan Murray.

We're excited for this too and its our book to wait for this month.

Dragon Riders of Roar is out now £7.99 from Farshore



**Books**



**Reviews**



**chats**



## Shadowhall Academy

Phil Hickeys

Usborne 8+

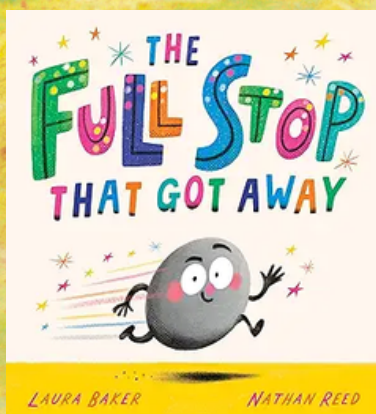
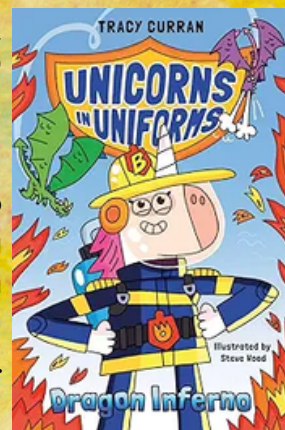
Shadowhall Academy just got even creepier! Lilian and her friends form a Ghost Story Society for fun, but when she discovers a mysterious book, things take a sinister turn. Ignoring warnings, she writes her secrets inside—unleashing a terrifying force. A spine-chilling, atmospheric read perfect for ghost story lovers!

## Unicorns in Uniforms

Tracy Curran & Steve Wood

UCLan 5+

Surely the title and the cover illustration is enough to convince any young reader that this is going to be a blast? When two cheeky dragons set Witchy Wood on fire, firefighter unicorn Blaze and her trusty truck Quench race to help. But when a witch with wonky magic joins in... chaos erupts! Can they stop the flames in time?



## The Full Stop That Got Away

Laura Baker & Nathan Reed

Scholastic 3+

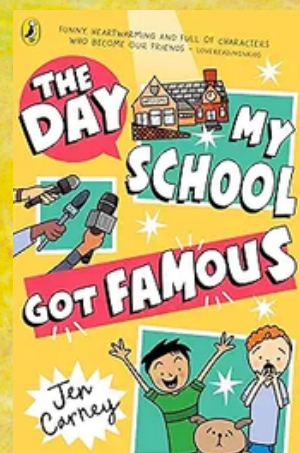
A funny picture book about punctuation? Surely that'll never work? It does and it's brilliant. Super to read aloud to younger and older children as we see what happens when a flamboyant dragon decides to mix up Frank's story with different punctuation.

## The Day My School Got Famous

Jen Carney

Puffin 9+

Another smashing book from Jen Carney, the first in this series was our 'Book of the Month' last February. A funny, heartfelt story about family, friendship, and unexpected chaos—featuring explosive surprises, mischievous antics, and unstoppable creativity. Packed with comic strips, laughter, and big heart!



## One To Wait for...

Dragonborn

Struan Murray - Puffin - May 25

I'm a huge fan of everything that Struan has written. I can't wait to jump into this new book - it is staring at me from my book shelf, tempting me! I'm not sure I'll be able to resist for much longer! That front cover is intriguing!



# Ella Jones vs The Sun Stealer

Lucy Edwards

Scholastic 9+

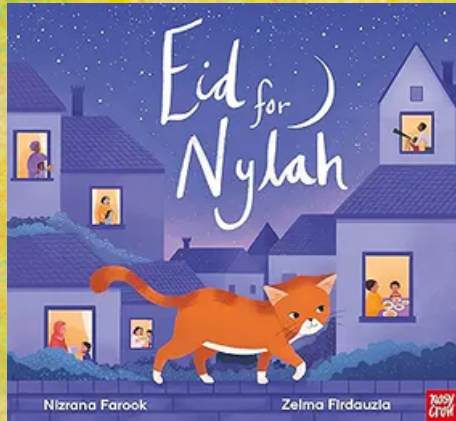
An epic, fast-paced fantasy adventure following blind heroine Ella as she battles a vengeful sun god to restore light. With humour, heart, and mythology, this empowering tale proves bravery comes in all forms. Packed with action, friendship, and adventure, it's perfect for Percy Jackson fans and readers who love courageous heroes.

## The Race Against Crime

Jenny Pearson, Katie Kear & Nick East

Usborne 8+

Jenny Pearson delivers a high-speed adventure packed with laughs, heart, and mystery. Evie Clutterbuck stows away in her dad's racing car –only to find stolen gold in the boot! With cops, robbers, and danger at every turn, this thrilling ride also explores grief, family bonds, and second chances. A fast, funny, and heartfelt read - exactly what we've come to love and expect from Jenny!



## Eid for Nylah

Nizrana Farook & Zelma Firdausia

Nosy Crow 4+

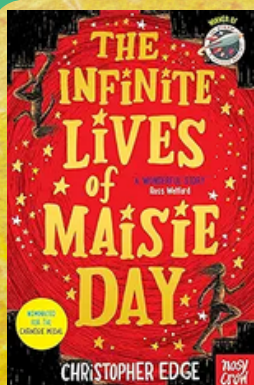
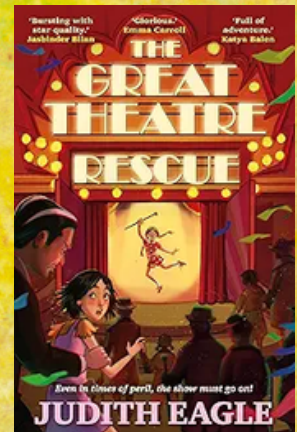
A delightful tale of community, celebration, and Eid preparations—told through the eyes of a curious cat! Nylah explores the festivities, wondering why everyone is so busy, until she discovers the joy of togetherness. A charming, inclusive story full of warmth, that is a perfect to share with younger children.

## The Great Theatre Rescue

Judith Eagle & Jui Talukder

Faber & Faber 9+

A captivating adventure set in 1930s London theatreland! Charley dreams of performing but is sent to a harsh boarding school. When she learns her beloved theatre is in danger, she embarks on a daring escape to save it. Packed with unforgettable characters, thrilling twists, and rich historical detail, this story is perfect for fans of adventure, theatre, and courageous heroines.



## One You Might Have Missed

The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day

Nosy Crow- 9+ April 2018

I was speaking to a child that I knew would love this book and it reminded me what a superb read it is.

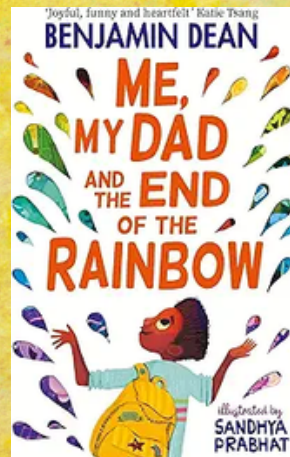
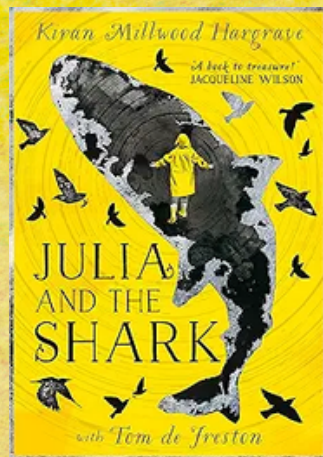
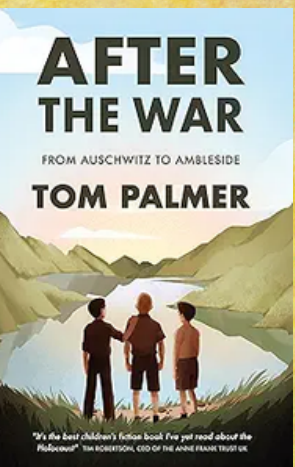
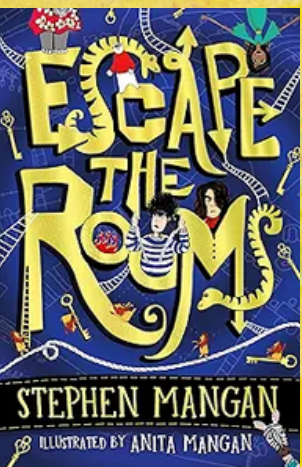
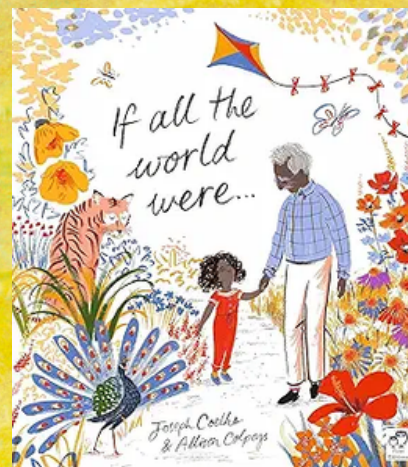
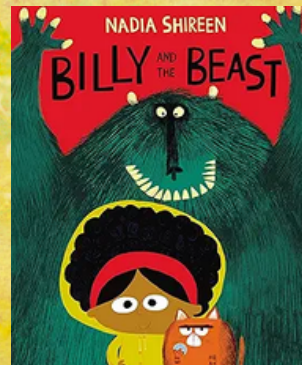
A short read that keeps you on the edge of your seat as Maisie seems to be trapped in a moment from her memory. It is hard to describe without dropping any spoilers - I loved it and so will you!

# 9 Books by World Book Day Authors

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

The World Book Day £1 books are brilliant as always. We wanted to show you what other amazing books some of the authors have already written so that you know where to go next once you've read them!

1. The Scarecrow's Wedding  
**Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler**
2. Billy and the Beast  
**Nadia Shireen**
3. Olga da Polga  
**Michael Bond**
4. If All the World Were...  
**Joseph Coelho & Allison Colpoys**
5. Escape the Rooms  
**Stephen & Anita Mangan**
6. After the War  
**Tom Palmer**
7. Julia and the Shark  
**Kiran Millwood Hargrave**
8. Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow  
**Benjamin Dean & Sandra Prabhat**
9. Timelines  
**DK Lego**



If you have any questions or have a book released soon that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - [MisterBodd@outlook.com](mailto:MisterBodd@outlook.com)