THE REBEL READING SOCIETY Author Spotlight

Sarah Morrell



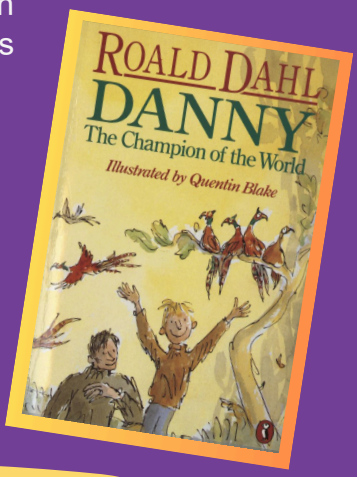
When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I've always enjoyed writing and telling a good tale, but I didn't fully embrace the magic of books or the power of storytelling until I became a Mum.

Reading with my kids and watching their reactions to different stories sparked a whole new level of imagination that made me want to pick up a pen and turn brewing ideas into exciting adventures.

Did you read lots as a child - if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

I would read a few pages, possibly a chapter before bed but I didn't read lots at other times of the day. I was generally too busy at karate, out on my bike or making something. I once built a go-kart out of a four planks of wood, two old pairs of roller skates and a washing line!



What was your favourite book as a child and why?

I remember being fascinated by *Danny the Champion of the World* for two reasons. One, because I thought it would be super cool to live in the woods in the cosiest of caravans and two, because I was amazed that anyone would have the patience to sew up 200 tiny raisins. Fair play to Danny and his cunning sleeping powder plan!

What is the best part about being an author?

School author visits every time! Being able to share my books and my author journey with children is a huge privilege and something I never take for granted. Helping to inspire kids to want to read or develop their own stories is what continues to motivate me to write.





What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

Rejection! Not because I think everything, I write is brilliant or should be published, but because it's hard to walk away from something you love having invested so much of your time in. Resilience is definitely needed as an author and something I'm trying hard to increase.

How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

It feels amazing and surreal in equal measure! I still can't get over the fact that my bonkers ideas made it to print but I'm beyond grateful and very proud that they did. It just goes to show that if you feel a glimmer of possibility in the pit of your stomach you must follow it because you never know where it might take you.

Why do you think it is important for children to read?

I think reading is crucial for empathy and connection. It helps us to understand the world we're living in and offers a chance to learn from each other and grow. I also think it's a great way to escape the screens, take a breath and shut out any noise if only for a few minutes.



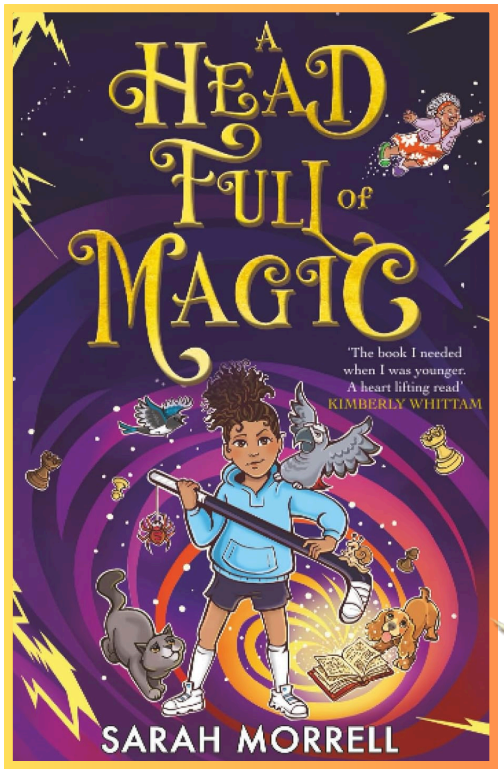
What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

A mixture of people, memories, things that I see and thoughts of what ifs! I find stories everywhere and half the challenge is turning something non-descript into something funny or exciting. I'm currently floating a shape-shifting eco-fish idea alongside a piano-tuning murderous plot...

Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

I'm lucky that I'm well supported on this front. I get feedback from my publisher, my writing group and depending on how brave I'm feeling, selected friends and family members too! I think it's important to get different perspectives on developing drafts to help iron out any creases and ensure all the hidden details have made it out of your head and onto paper! I always read feedback when the house is quiet with a decent brew so I can take it all in and figure out the best way to make improvements.





SCAN ME!

Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

In a deck-chair on a snowy mountain beside a steaming mug of hot chocolate and in a sunbeam. I don't ask for much, do I?!

Join us!

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