



Junkyard Jack and the Talking Horse

Author: Adrian Edmondson

Illustrator: Danny Noble

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Synopsis:

'Can all animals talk?' Jack asked. 'Well, of course they can,' said Boadicea the Shetland Pony. 'We're not idiots, you know.' Jack has to live with his drippy aunt Violet, his smelly uncle Ted, and his evil cousin Kelly. But one day he accidentally runs away, and much to his surprise finds himself on an adventure to free his mum from prison - with the help of rather a lot of talking animals! Filled with excitement, fun and far too much horse poo, this is the hilarious new story from national treasure Ade Edmondson.

Author Bio

Adrian Edmondson is well-known for his roles in *The Young Ones*, and *Bottom*, which he wrote with his long-term comedy partner, the late Rik Mayall. He recently starred in the BBC's adaptation of *War and Peace* and won *Celebrity Masterchef* in 2013. His first adult novel, *The Gobbler*, was published in 1996. He has three daughters with his wife - actress, screenwriter and comedian Jennifer Saunders - and lives in London



Illustrator Bio

Danny Noble is a comic making, storytelling ink-based illustrator who regularly falls off stages with her band *The Meow Meows*. She has recently illustrated two children's book by comedy legend Adrian Edmondson, *Tilly and the Time Machine* (Puffin) and *Junkyard Jack and the Horse that Talked* (Puffin).



As well as making her own books she has featured in a number of comic anthologies including *The Strumpet*, *Dirty Rotten Comics*, *Dead Singer's Society* and *The Broken Frontier Yearbook*. Her illustrations have appeared in various publications, posters and album covers.

Curriculum Links

English Year 3 [ACELT1598](#) [ACELT1791](#)

English Year 4 [ACELY1687](#)

Genre

This book mixes a number of genres.

Discuss what a genre is in regard to fiction. What genres are present in this story?

- **Realistic Fiction** - Mum in prison, Jack living with not so nice relatives, estranged father, Mr Mudge dying
- **Fantasy** - Talking Animals
- **Adventure** - Jack runs away, saving Boadicea, trying to prove his Mum is innocent
- **Humour** - Boadicea, she is hilarious

Writing

Brainstorm with the class a list other genres, may include:

Adventure

Humour

Fantasy

Realistic Fiction

Historical Fiction

Science Fiction

Horror

Write your own short story that uses a mix of genres.

Genres could include any combination of the genres listed on the board.

When writing your story remember the elements that need to go into it (use the planning sheet on the last page of these notes to jot down your ideas)

Use the story of *Junkyard Jack...* to illustrate these elements

- **Exposition** - background info that sets describes the situation and establishes the setting - *Jack lives with his Aunt and Uncle, because his Mum is in prison, he is not happy, wants to help prove his Mum is innocent.*
- **Rising Action** - characters face or try to solve a problem - *Jacks' friend Mr Mudge dies, Jack tries to save the horses from the junkyard, and find a way to prove that his Mum is innocent.*
- **Climax** - the story reaches a crucial moment - *when Jack's newly found Grandad and all of the animals make a plan for Jack to sneak in and get the security footage from the hotel.*
- **Falling action** - explore the consequence of the climax - *Jack, Grandad and Boadicea confront Mrs Scrimshank and find she's the one who's been stealing from her guests.*
- **Resolution** - the story's central problem is solved - *Jack's mum is found innocent, given a reward and a share in the hotel.*

English

This activity could be done throughout the reading the book (as you come across the words) or you could revisit the relevant parts after you have finished reading the book.

Throughout the book Boadicea uses a number of unusual/old fashioned words or phrases.

Examples:

- Page 86 - Skedaddle
- Page 102 - Spot of tiffin
- Page 103 - Heavens to Betsy,
Entre nous
Comprendi
- Page 151 Vinegar Knickers
- Page 178 My Old China

Some of these are explained in the book (Boadicea explains some, other Jack figures out himself)

Go through these words/phrases with the class and see who can remember/or figure out what they mean.

Does reading the words in context help with understanding the meaning?

Think of some other words/phrases that we might use in daily life, and see if the students know the meaning of these. Can the students think of other words phrases that they've read/heard/use.

Examples:

- Fish out of water
- Drop in the ocean
- Tickled Pink

This book is written by an English author, so some of the phrases may be more common there.

We have some uniquely Australian slang that we sometimes use.

Can you think of any uniquely Australia words we use?

- Fair dinkum
- Choc a Block/chockers
- Woop woop

Story Planning Sheet

Exposition - background to the story

Rising Action -
Problem to face/solve

Climax -
Crucial moment in the story

Falling Action-
Consequences of the climax

Resolution-
The central problem is solved