

Getting the most from
Riding a Lion



troika

Riding a Lion



Poems by CORAL RUMBLE

Imagination from the Caterpillar prize-winning author of *Mustafa's Jumper*

“*Riding a Lion* is a showcase of the dexterity and imagination of poet Coral Rumble. While we open with a fairytale theme that incorporates dreams of lions and a cacophony of traditional tales, she extends her themes into subjects such as family, school and animals.

Within each group are changes of mood, tone and a vast range of devices.

Furthermore there are poems that make us feel as though we need to curl up in self comfort, to others that demand us to share and recite aloud.”

—Bookwagon

About the author

Coral Rumble has worked as a poet for many years, and Michael Rosen has commented, “Rumble has a dash and delight about her work”. Her books have been promoted in the Best Books supplement of Junior Education Mag, and The Children’s Poetry Bookshelf.

Coral has written for Cbeebies TV and Radio. Her picture book *The Adventures of the Owl and the Pussycat*, was long-listed for the Oscars First Book Prize award. Coral won the Caterpillar Poetry Prize, 2018, and her winning poem, *Mustafa's Jumper*, was published as a picture book. Her debut verse novel, *Little Light*, will be published in May 2021.

About the illustrator

Emily Ford is a freelance illustrator from Cumbria. From a young age she was inspired her to create her own imaginary worlds populated with characters and magic. After studying for a degree in illustration she began working on children’s books inspired by classic fairy tales and comics. Emily collaborated with her friend Stevie Westgarth to create *Aife and Stray: Seven Style Secrets for a Perilous Party* published by Troika in 2019. This is her third book for children.

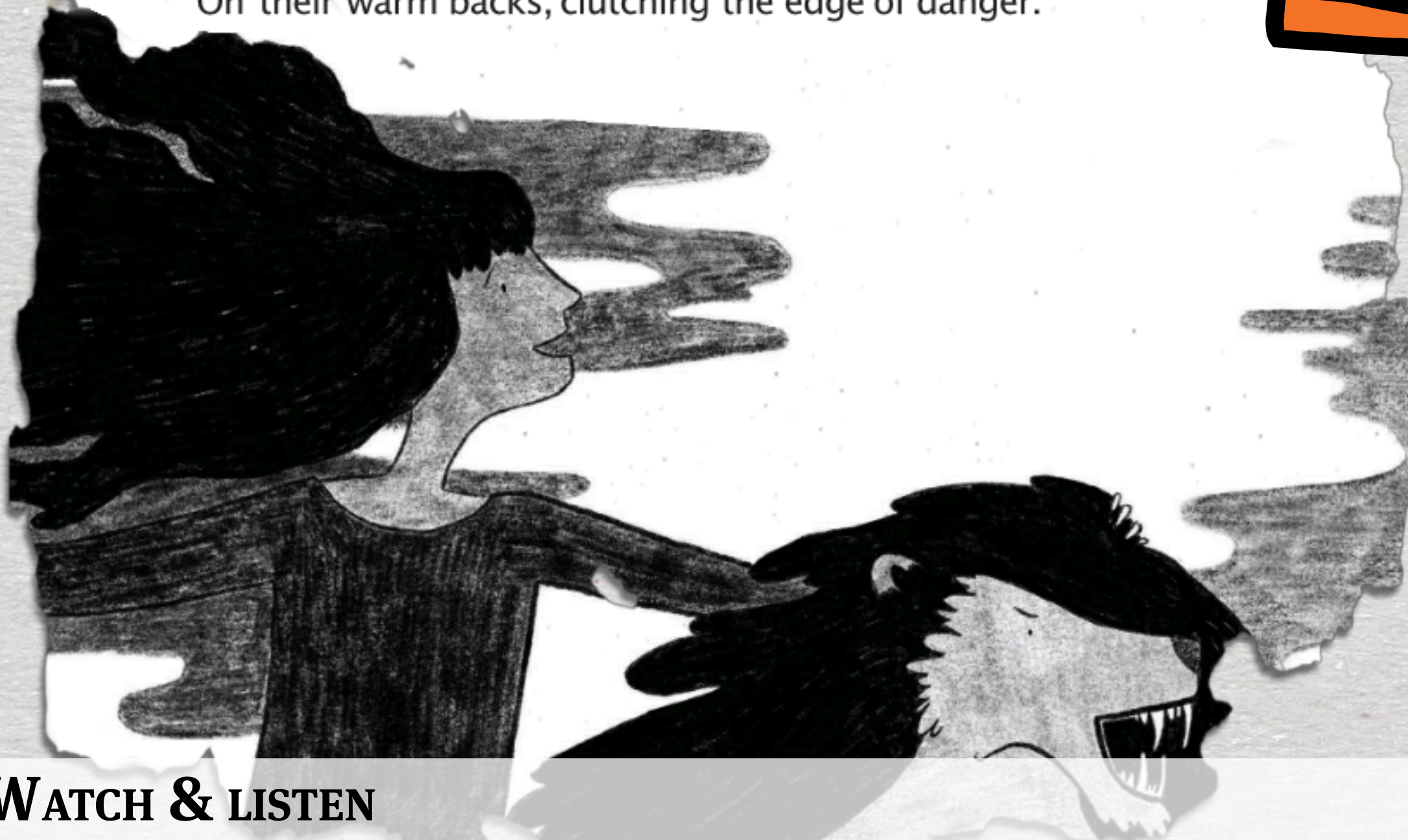
Riding a Lion

I dreamt of riding a lion, a fast one,
A fierce one, with a flash of wildness in his eyes.
I could feel his tented ribs with my clinging knees.

I dreamt he leapt and flew, huge wings spreading,
His deep growl rumbling like a well-oiled engine,
My fingers curled into a tangle around his mane.

I dreamt he swooped a deep dive, a daring dive,
A dizzy dive, against the roaring wind,
And I didn't even close my eyes in fear.

I dreamt he landed on an island, a golden one,
Where all the lions fly, and children ride
On their warm backs, clutching the edge of danger.



Say it

Perform the poem out loud. Read it in breathless awe, as if this really happened to you, but you can't quite believe it! Imagine every line as you say it.

Talk about it

Do you ever have weird dreams? Talk about the best and the worst. This poem is also about being willing to take a risk - doing something for the first time. Have you ever been nervous about doing something for the first time? Did you do it? How did you feel afterwards?

Write it

What creature would you like to ride? It could be real or mythical. Where would it take you?

Write a poem about the ride.

OR

Write a poem about the golden island – give it a name, make it come alive in your imagination.

WATCH & LISTEN

Coral Rumble reads 'Riding a Lion' at www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU7hIEoRU0A

Yak in the Attic

I was searching in the attic
When I found a dusty yak it
Raced around the back it
Was scared and made a racket.
It hid, I couldn't track it,
It must have thought I'd whack it
Or simply try to stack it,
Or find a box and pack it.

Its fear was automatic,
When I found it, it stood static,
So I had a chance to vac it,
Which might seem a bit drastic.
But I never did attack it,
Or push or pull or smack it,
For I was really quite ecstatic -
To find a yak up in the attic!



Say it

Perform the poem aloud. Practise saying it and get faster and faster, until you sound like you're dashing around. Add some actions, as you try to explain what happened through the poem.

Talk about it

Have you ever been in an attic or loft? What was it like? Did you find anything unusual or special? What would you like to find in an attic?

Write it

Write a poem about finding something in an attic. If you've never been in one, perhaps you'd like to write about finding something in a cupboard, wardrobe or drawer.

OR

Write a poem about finding a creature in an unusual place. It doesn't have to be funny, for example, you might want to write about an injured fox in a busy city alleyway.

WATCH & LISTEN

Coral Rumble reads 'Yak in the Attic' at www.youtube.com/watch?v=t574nFIGO34

Island

The boy, over there,
Is as silent as air,
He sits like a castaway
On his red classroom chair.

I'd like to cross over
The line that's been drawn
By Liam and Lucas,
By Aiden and Shaun,

But if I step onto
The island and talk,
They'll watch every move,
Every step that I walk,

Then Liam and Lucas
And Aiden and Shaun,
Will flash angry eyes
To threaten and warn.

So, the boy over there,
Who's as silent as air,
Will still sit marooned
On his red classroom chair,

And the sea of my guilt
Will crash in my ears,
As I drown in the swell
Of my worry and fears.



Say it

Perform the poem aloud. Perhaps you could ask a friend to sit on a chair in the classroom, with his shoulders and head hunched down, isolated from everyone else, then ask the class to gaze at his back while you read the poem. That way you can bring the class into the moment. Don't hurry the poem, give people time to think about the lines.

Talk about it

Perform the poem aloud. Perhaps you could ask a friend to sit on a chair in the classroom, with his shoulders and head hunched down, isolated from everyone else, then ask the class to gaze at his back while you read the poem. That way you can bring the class into the moment. Don't hurry the poem, give people time to think about the lines.

Write it

Write a poem about a moment when you felt isolated, yourself. In that moment, what could you see, hear and touch; you might even have been able to taste or smell something. Go back there in your imagination, and take the reader/listener with you by focusing on details.

OR

Write a positive list poem, called Rules of Inclusion. List the rules and try to make it rhyme, so it's easy to remember, then ask your teacher to display it on the classroom wall.

WATCH & LISTEN

Coral Rumble reads 'Island' at www.youtube.com/watch?v=68GS9ISPjOY

We hope you enjoy exploring this resource

If you use these ideas, we'd love to know how. Why not share your work with us by tagging [@TroikaBooks](https://twitter.com/TroikaBooks) on Twitter

This book can be purchased from www.troikabooks.com/riding-a-lion



Find out more: www.troikabooks.com

Coral Rumble - coralrubble.co.uk - [@RumbleCoral](https://twitter.com/RumbleCoral)

Emily Ford - www.emilyfordillustration.wordpress.com

This resource is based on a model developed by Manchester Children's Book Festival and

Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University. Text: Coral Rumble / Design: Dom Conlon.