



# Jane Clarke

**Q: What did you want to be when you were a child?**

**A: An acrobat. I spent a lot of time hanging upside down dreaming I was whirling through the air on a flying trapeze.**

**Q: What makes you cringe?**

**A: My two dogs greeting someone at the door with jaws full of dirty underwear they've stolen from the washing basket.**

**Q: What do you do as a hobby?**

**A: Scramble over rocks hunting for fossils. Ammonites are my favourite.**

**Q: What has life taught you?**

**A: To make the most of it wherever it may take you.**

**Q: How long have you been a writer?**

**A: I'm a late starter. I loved rhymes and stories when I was at primary school, but my handwriting and spelling were so awful, I hated writing anything down. I've been a full-time writer for 6 years. Before that, I was an archaeologist (in London), a history teacher (in Wales), a full-time Mum (in Holland and the USA) and a library assistant (in Belgium).**

**Q: Was there a specific moment in your life when you decide to become a writer?**

**A: I was working in the library at Antwerp International School, and every week, a little girl called Jasmine asked me if the library had a story about 'a princess, a rabbit and shopping.' She wouldn't take no for an answer, so in the end I cracked, and wrote one for her - and surprised myself by enjoying writing it.**

**Q: What are the best and worst things about being an author?**

**A: The best things are the buzz when a story or poem is going well, and visiting schools. The worst thing is falling asleep over the keyboard. It leaves a patchwork of key marks on the side of your face, and if your own story has bored you to sleep, you know it's not working.**

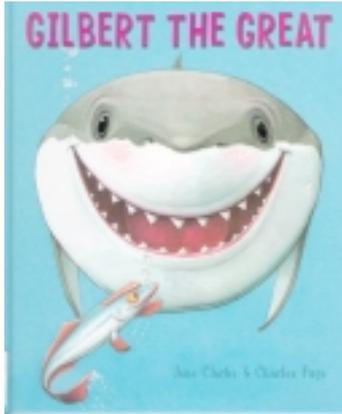
**Q: Where do you get your greatest ideas from?**

**A: My family and friends. Don't tell them, but it helps me if I think of them as animals :-)**

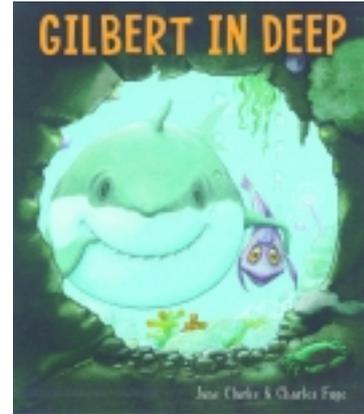
**Q: What advice would you give to aspiring authors?**

**A: Write down your story or poem as it pops into your head. Then take out your writer's toolkit - mine includes strong coffee, a thesaurus and a dictionary - and get to work on it.**

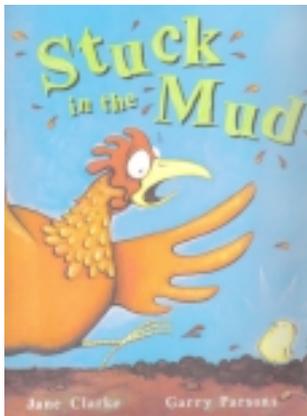
# My Books



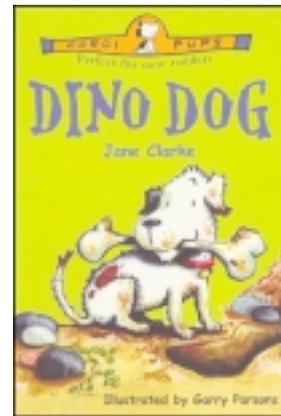
**Gilbert the Great**



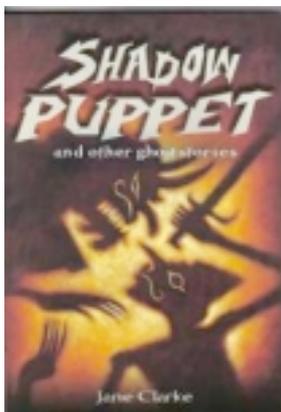
**Gilbert in Deep**



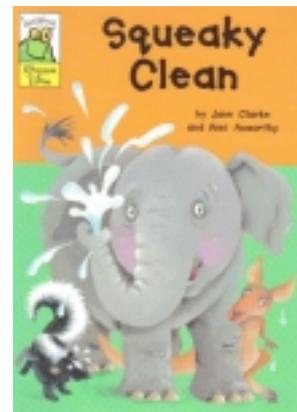
**Stuck in the Mud**



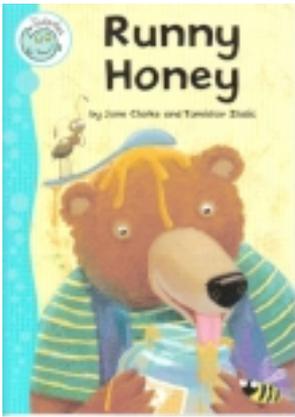
**Dino Dog**



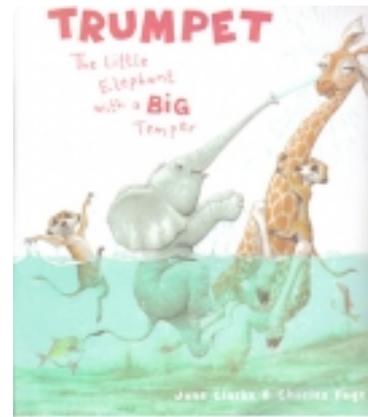
**Shadow Puppet and other ghost stories**



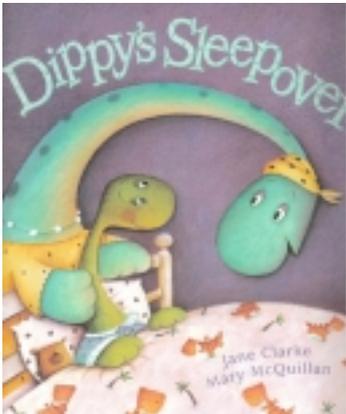
**Squeaky Clean**



**Runny Honey  
big temper**



**Trumpet, the little elephant with a**



**Dippy's Sleepover**



**Knight Time**