



Ronda Armitage

Q: What were you like at school?

A: I loved my very small primary school but most of my reports from my secondary boarding school include the words 'could do better.'

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

A: Bareback rider in a circus, nurse, actor and to live in different countries around the world.

Q: Which three words describe you best?

A: procrastinator, daydreamer, explorer

Q: What is your favourite word?

A: Popocatpetl. Very mysterious

Q: What makes you cringe?

A: Adults patronising children

Q: What are you afraid of?

A: Mice running around in the house

Q: What do you do as a hobby?

A: Read, garden, walk, visit the theatre. Play hide and seek with my grandson , Tomas

Q: What strange habits do you have?

A: Going barefeet through the summer.

Q: What's your favourite food?

**A: Ooh, what a difficult question. Anything with passion fruit.
Salads made by other people with unknown bits and pieces in them.**

Q: What do you day dream about?

A: That's my secret.

Q: What's the most outrageous thing you've done?

**A: Telling my headmistress that I thought she was being extremely unfair and refusing to do what she asked.
She was furious but I was very polite and much to my amazement she apologised.**

Q: What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

A: I'd love to be an architect and design houses, including treehouses.

Q: Do you feel younger or older than your current age?

A: I think most people once they're past 30 years feel younger than their current age. When I'm climbing trees with Tomas or building houses in the woods I feel quite childlike again.

Q: If you could meet one person, dead or alive, who would it be?

A: My grandmother. I was partly raised by her until I was seven years and then we moved far away from her. I only saw her two or three times until she died when I was nineteen. She was a remarkable woman and somewhere deep down I've always missed her.

Q: What is the most interesting place you have ever visited?

A: India, Laos, New Zealand where I was born and the city of Siena in Italy.

Q: What would you most like to change about yourself?

A: I'd like thick, dark auburn hair and be an illustrator as well as a writer.

Q: What has life taught you?

A: Don't be afraid.

Q: How long have you been a writer?

A: The first book was published in 1977 but until 2003 I always had another job as well as the writing.

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

A: Not really. My husband David is a painter and illustrator. He suggested it might be fun to do a book together so we did.

Q: Where do you do your writing?

A: I have a long thin study, once a long thin bedroom.

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

A: I love the intense concentration of the writing, just me and the words but I do get very frustrated when I have an idea for a story but cannot turn it into a story.

Q: Where do you get your greatest ideas from?

A: Everywhere. Look and listen. Some of my early books were based on things our children did. Tomas is now four so I'm keeping a close eye and ear on him! Not that I've told him this.

Q: What do you do to combat "writers' block"?

A: daydream while I walk for miles and I read poetry.

Q: What was your favourite book as a child?

A: Horton the Elephant Hatches an Egg by Dr. Seuss and The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

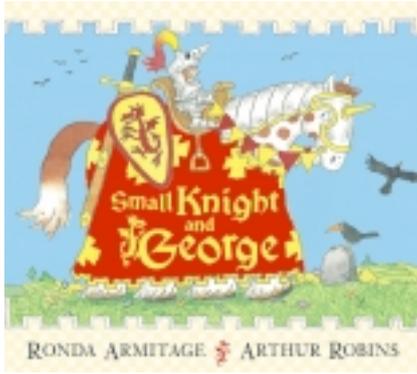
Q: What book do you wish you had written?

A: The Story of Ferdinand by Munroe Leaf.

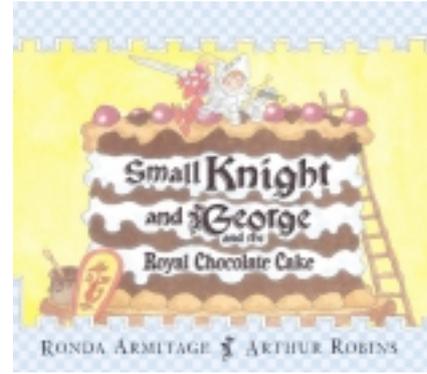
Q: What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

A: Read, read, read and write, write, write. It's like learning anything you have to practice.

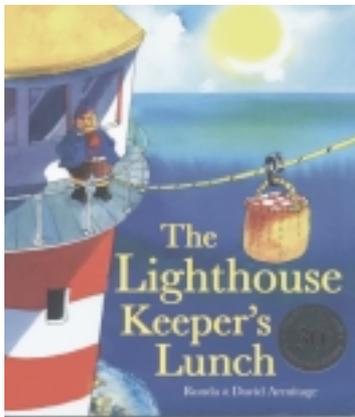
My Books



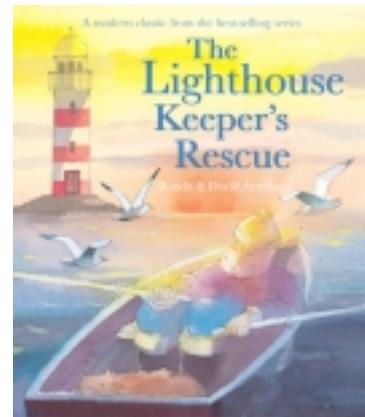
**Small Knight and George
Royal Chocolate Cake**



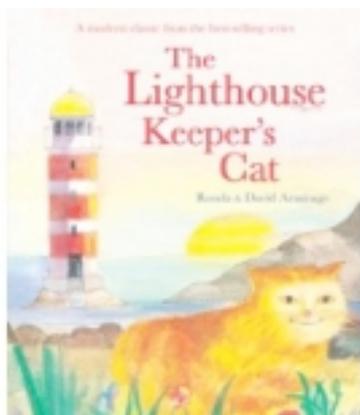
**Small Knight and George and the
Royal Chocolate Cake**



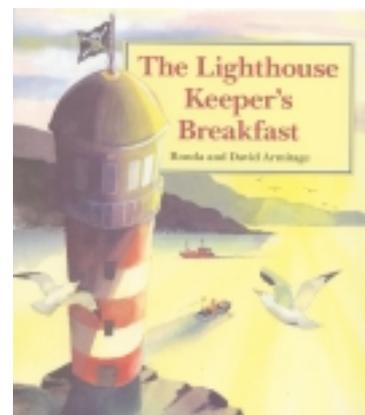
The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch



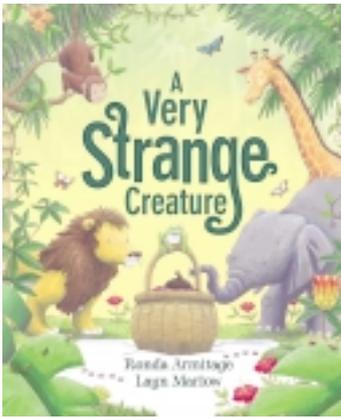
The Lighthouse Keeper's Rescue



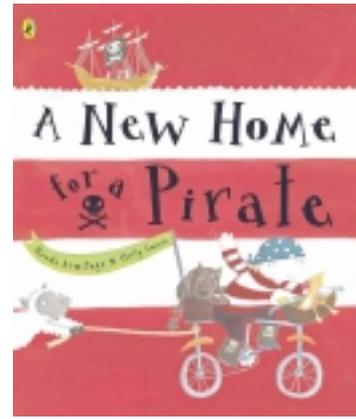
**The Lighthouse Keeper's Cat
Breakfast**



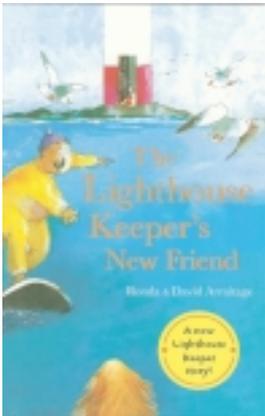
**The Lighthouse Keeper's
Breakfast**



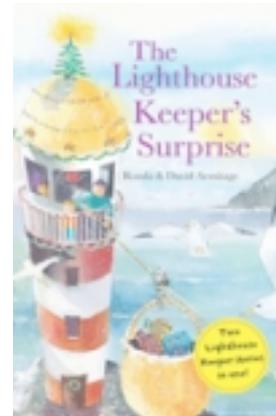
A Very Strange Creature



A New Home for a Pirate



**The Lighthouse Keeper's New Friend
Surprise**



The Lighthouse Keeper's