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Author/Interview subject: Michael Rosen and Tanya Roberts  
Interviewed by: Janice Forsyth  
Other speakers: Audience, Cressida Cowell, Joseph Coelho, Deanna Rodger, Sav Akyuz

JF: Well hello there. My goodness me, what an atmosphere we have today for this very special edition of Authors Life. I'm Janice Forsyth. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate, can you believe it, our 10th birthday? I think that deserves a woo.

Aud: Woo. [Applause].

JF: If you're a regular person watching and tuning into Authors Live, you might have sussed out that it's a bit noisier than usual. We have literally hundreds of people in the studio with us, because that's what you need for a party, isn't it? We've invited lots of young book lovers to join us. So please give a wave, and I'm going to take a deep breath as I tell you the names of all these brilliant primary schools. So give a wave to Bonnybridge Primary in Falkirk, Bankhead, Castleton, Sandwood and St. Roch's Primary in Glasgow and Addiewell, Polkemmet, St. Thomas, Wishaw and Whitdale Primary in West Lothian. Waving. Yeah.

Aud: Yeah! [Applause].

JF: Aren't they a lovely bunch? Absolutely lovely bunch. We're all extremely excited because poet and writer Michael Rosen, you'll be too young to remember this probably, but he actually launched Authors Live ten years ago this very week. So when we were planning how we would mark the tenth birthday, we just knew we had to ask him back. He's terribly busy, of course. He's very popular, very much in demand but happily he was available and he said yes. I think that deserves another woo.

Aud: Woo [applause].

JF: Now here's the thing. Michael is here but he won't be listening. Michael has written so many books that we hear that he's actually forgotten the exact number. Isn't that amazing? But we think it's around 200.

Aud: Wow.

JF: Yeah, it's incredible. You're just going to clap spontaneously now aren't you without me telling you? So Michael is going to treat us to a performance of some of his best loved poems. But that's not all. That is not all because we have someone who is brilliant at art and drawing who is going to illustrate Michael's poems. She is Tanya Roberts. She's got such a cool job. She's so talented. She's a comic book artist from Edinburgh who has worked on big name comics. You will know these, such as Star Wars, The Clone Wars, Toy Story, How to Train Your Dragon as well as her own excellent serious Plagued: The Miranda Chronicles and Abeyance. Now Tanya is going to be showing us her fab comic book talent by live drawing Michael's poetry. Yeah, a sharp intake of breath. A gasp from our Audience.

It's going to be lot of fun and of course we'd love you wherever you are watching to join in. So please tweet us your questions for Michael and Tanya. It can be about poetry, writing, illustrating, anything you blooming well like. The main thing to remember is use the hash tag BBC Authors Live and I'll try my best, I'll try my best to put some of those questions to Tanya and Michael at the end of today's broadcast but let us, shall we get this broadcast started?

Aud: Yeah

JF: Shall we do it? Shall we do it? Fantastic. Please give a very warm welcome to Tanya Roberts and Michael Rosen.

Aud: [Applause]

MR: Thank you, Janice. Thank you very much. Thank you. Well it's lovely to see you and it's wonderful that it's the 10th birthday. Lovely to be here. And I'm looking here behind us. We've got the river, that's the River Clyde, isn't it?

Aud: Yeah.

MR: Well I come from London, you can hear that from the way I speak and we've got a river in London, a big river called the River Thames. And there are bridges over it, just as you've got here and one of the bridges is a railway bridge. And I was with some boys and girls exactly your age and we were there and a train went over the railway bridge and I said, you can see the train, you can hear the train, but can you feel the train? Yes, you can. If you come over here and put

your hands on the bridge and you can feel the rhythm of the train. And the moment I said that, I thought, ooh, I could begin a poem like that. I wonder how it would go. And I made it up in my head. I'm going to do it and then see whether you can do it back with me, for me. Here we go. So it goes - one two, three four.

Hands on bridge, feel the rhythm of the train  
 Hands on the window, feel the rhythm of the rain  
 Hands on your throat, feel the rhythm of your talk  
 Hands on your legs, feel the rhythm of your walk  
 Hands in the sea, feel the rhythm of the tide  
 Hands on your heart, feel the rhythm inside  
 Hands on the rhythm, feel the rhythm of the rhyme  
 Hands on your life, feel the rhythm of time, what?  
 Hands on your life, feel the rhythm of time  
 What? Hands on your life, feel the rhythm of time

Do you think you'd be able to do that?

Aud: Yeah.

MR: Yes, of course you will. And I'll be able to cue you up as we go along. So, remember the first line is, hands, say it with me, hands on your bridge feel the rhythm of the train. So, you know how it begins. Here we go. So, I'll count you in. One, two, three, four.

MR & Hands on the bridge, feel the rhythm of the train

Aud: Window. Hands on the window, feel the rhythm of the train  
 Throat. Hands on your throat, feel the rhythm of your talk  
 Leg, hands on your leg feel the rhythm of your walk  
 Sea. Hands in the sea, feel the rhythm of the tide  
 Heart. Hands on your heart, feel the rhythm inside  
 Rhythm. Hands on the rhythm, feel the rhythm of the rhyme  
 Life. Hands on your life, feel the rhythm of time  
 What? Hands on your life, feel the rhythm of time  
 Again. Hands on your life feel the rhythm of time

Wow, clap yourselves, that's brilliant.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: And even some of your teachers nearly joined in, so clap them as well.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: That's brilliant. Very good. Now here's me and I'm in the shopping mall and I'm walking along and I'm a bit slow because I'm what's called an old geezer dad and my baby is in his buggy and I'm wheeling along. He's a toddler and he doesn't think I'm going fast enough. So, what does he say? He goes, faster. And I say, I am going fast. And he goes, no faster. And then my imagination kicked in. I thought, what if I could go so fast the wind would blow in his hair? Can you do that? Phew. Do that, one two three.

Aud: Phew

MR: Maybe he'd be getting G force like the astronauts. Here we go. G Force. Chung, like that.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And then I thought, wow, what if I could pretend to be my baby in the buggy and he could say a poem. What would he say?

I glide as I ride in my boogy, woogy buggy  
Take the corners wide, just see me drive.  
I'm an easy, speedy baby doing the baby buggy jive  
Yeah, I'm in and out the shops, I'm the one that never stops.  
I'm the one that feels the beat of the wheels  
All that air in my hair  
I streak down the street between the feet that I meet  
Repeat, I streak down the street between the feet that I meet  
No-one can catch my boogy woogy buggy  
No-one's got the pace, I rule this place  
I'm a baby who knows, I'm a baby who goes  
Baby goes [nmmyow].

Can you do that last bit?

Aud: [Nmmyow].

MR: And one more with the hair. One, two three. [Shhhhhww]. Very good, lovely, there we are. You clap that one as well. That's it.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: Now then, sometimes you look at words and you think, that word sounds a bit like another word, or it looks like another word and sometimes you can start a poem just from that. So, take that hand and put in that hand a sticker. There we are, look at your hand it's got a sticker. And then put in that hand a ticket. There you

go, you've got a sticker and you've got a ticket. They sound a bit the same, don't they?

He had a little sticker and he had a little ticket  
And he took the little sticker and he stuck it to the ticket  
Now he hasn't got a sticker, he hasn't got a ticket  
He's got a bit of both which he calls a little sticket

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Do you think you can do that? Here we go, so this hand is the sticker and that hand is the ticket. Are you ready? Here we go.

He had a little...

Aud: Sticker.

MR: ...sticker and he had a little...

Aud: Ticket.

MR: And he took the little...

Aud: Sticker.

MR: And he stuck it to the...

Aud: Ticket.

MR: Now he hasn't got a...

Aud: Sticker.

MR: And he hasn't got a...

Aud: Ticket.

MR: He's got a bit of both which he calls a little...

Aud: Sticket.

MR: It's very good. You did the clap when I didn't. We'll do it one more time, here we go.

MR & He had a little sticker and he had a little ticket

AUD And he took the little sticker and he had a little ticket

Now he hasn't got a sticker and he hasn't got a ticket  
He's got a bit of both which he calls a little...

Aud: Sticket.

MR: Hooray. What's Tanya drawn?

Aud: [Applause].

TR: And you can't afford a bus.

MR: That looks...

TR: You can't afford a bus.

MR: And you can't go on a bus if you've only got a sticket.

TR: Sticket.

MR: The driver won't let you, will he? That's right. Okay. Now then my mum and dad, they could speak another language. They could speak another language called Yiddish that some Jewish people can speak. And I'm going to tell you some of the words that they did and we're going to put them together as a poem. So my mum, if she was complaining saying that you mustn't moan, you mustn't nag. She didn't say don't nag, she said don't fetch. Can you say that? Don't fetch.

Aud: Fetch.

MR: My dad, when he drank soup, he would go like this [slurp]. And my mum said, don't, she didn't say don't slurp she said don't hoop. Can you say that? Don't hoop.

Aud: Hoop.

MR: Very good. And if you burped at the table, she didn't say, don't burp, she said, don't grepz. Can you say that? Don't..

Aud: Grepz.

MR: And you know that other noise that we can make? Yes, very good. She used to say, don't futz. Can you say that? Don't...

Aud: Futz.

MR: And there was another thing. When I went to school when I was your age, we had shorts and long socks. And the socks would go right the way down to your shoes and there was all wrinkles in them. And she said that was like you would put your foot through a bagel.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And there were lots of bagels in your socks. So she said, take the bagels out of your socks.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: So see whether we can put that together. What was the first one? Fetch. The hoop then grepz then futz, take the bagels out of your socks. We'll see whether we can do it. One, two, three.

MR & Don't fetch, don't hoop, don't grepz don't futz

Aud: Take the bagles out of your...

Aud: Socks.

MR: And we'll do it one more time. Here we go. Are you ready? Because you've got it now. So, we'll do it nice and loud. Even the teachers might join in if they're nice. Here we go. One, two, three.

MR & Don't fetch, don't hoop, don't greps, don't fotz

Aud: Take the bagels out of your...

Aud: Socks.

MR: Oh lovely, well done. Clap yourselves. Very good.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: Now sometimes when I do a poem, I get stuck and I need a little bit of help. So, I'm going to do a poem, if I get stuck let's see if you can fill in the word. All right? Do you think you'll be able to do that?

Aud: Yeah.

MR: Of course. Here we go. So, here's one. It goes like this.

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Jim  
He didn't know me and I didn't know...

Aud: Him.

MR: Thank you, that's good. There was a little pause there because I get a bit worried. Because I was in a school last week and I said, down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Jim, he didn't know me, I didn't know him. And this boy shouted out, well how do you know his name was Jim then?

JF: [Laughs].

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And I went, erm, no sorry I can't help you there.

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Sid  
He could smell a bone inside but he couldn't lift the...

Aud: Lid.

MR: Yeah, well he was a dog, wasn't he? Dogs don't lift lids. Why are you telling me this stuff?

Down behind the dustbin I met that dog called Sid  
He said he didn't know me but I'm pretty sure he...

Aud: Did.

MR: That dog wasn't telling the truth.

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Barry  
He tried to lift the bin but it was too heavy to...

Aud: Carry.

MR: Well dogs don't lift bins. Why are you telling me this rubbish?

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Nicola

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: As you do.

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Nicola  
She looked a bit like an onion...

Aud: [Laughs].



MR: ...so I thought that I would...

Aud: Pickle her.

Aud: Tickle her.

MR: Somebody said tickle her.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Well now it could be, couldn't it? You could go to the supermarket and there's rows of onions in, you know, in jars and they're all sitting there like this and then there's one on the end going [hahaha].

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Nicola  
She looked a bit like an onion so I thought that I would...

Aud: Pickler.

MR: Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called, it's a bit London this one.

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Louisa

There was another dog there and she was trying to...

Aud: Squeeze her.

MR: Squeeze her, as we say in London. That's right.

Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Sophie  
She had won the FA cup, still carrying the...

Aud: Trophy.

MR: Down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Felicity

Aud: What?

MR: It's a bit dark down here, cost they cut off my...

Aud: Electricity.

MR: Electricity, yeah that's another one I get nervous with because I sometimes go into schools and I go down behind the dustbin I met a dog called Felicity, it's a bit dark down here because they cut of my, and the children say, especially the little ones go tail.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: It would be dark because you had your tail cut off? I don't think so. Lovely. Clap yourselves for joining in.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: That's lovely, very good. Now I was at school a long, long time ago in the stone-age actually is when...

JF: [Laughs]

MR: ...I was at school. I'm 3073 years old.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And in the stone-age we had a teacher who was so strict, so strict you weren't allowed to breathe in her lessons. It's incredible, isn't it? She used to stand out the front and say, no breathing. And you came in first thing in the morning, you had to get through the morning without breathing, like this [gasp].

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And the weak ones just used to keel over. You'd hear them going down at the back of the class [kerboom, kerboom, kerboom]. And there was always a whiny kid going, Miss, can I go out and do some breathing? And she'd say, no. You've got all play time to do it in. And the kid would go, oh go on, Miss, go on. No. At the beginning of the week, there were 48 children in my class. At the end of the week there was only five of us left.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: At the end of the day you'd be stepping over kids just to get out the room. Oh no, there's Melanie. That's a shame. She was really nice. I used to like Melanie. There's Dave [laughs]. Hard luck, Dave. I always knew you were a bit weak, Dave.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: People say to me, that can't be true. If that was true you wouldn't be alive now to tell the tale. But I say, ah yes, but at the very end of the stone-age they took out the stone desks, brought in wooden desks with lids. Can you do that? With lids, that's it. And some of us figured out you could snatch a quick breath under the desk without Miss noticing. Once more, from the beginning. We know how it

goes. Miss says, what does she say? No breathing. One, two three. No breathing.

Aud: No breathing.

MR: [Gasp]. I was quite good at it. The weak ones, with me, here we go. Kerboom.

Aud: Kerboom.

MR: Kerboom, kerboom. The whiny kid.

MR & Miss, can I go and do some breathing? No, you've got all play time to do it in.

Aud: Extra whiny bit, oh go on, Miss, go on, go on.

MR: No. [Inaudible] with our desk lids. Are you ready? Hold that breath [gasp]. Make sure nobody's looking. [Pant]. Boom. No! Don't slam your desk lid down. If you slammed your desk lid down that meant, out. School prison. There was a school prison underneath the school hall where they used to strings us up from the wall bars like this [whoch].

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Can you do that? [Whoch]. Miss, I've been up here for three weeks.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And there's rats. And they're nibbling my toe nails, Miss.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: So I figured it out. If I wanted to [click] survive. Can you do that? If I wanted to [click]...

Aud: [Click] survive.

MR: ...survive the way to do it was to let the desk lid down really, really quietly. Once more, from the beginning. We know how it goes. Miss says, No breathing.

Aud: No breathing.

MR: Here we go with the breath. [Gasp].

Aud: [Gasp].

MR: The weak ones, with me. Kerboom, kerboom.

Aud: Kerboom, kerboom.

MR: The whiny kid.

MR & Miss, could I get out and do some breathing? No, you've got all playtime to do it

Aud: in. Extra wingy bit. Oh go on, Miss, go on. No. The other lot, hold that breath. Make sure nobody's looking. [Gasp]. Boom. Out. School prison. Wall bars [whooh]. Miss, I've been up here for...

Aud: Three weeks.

MR: And there's...

Aud: Rats

MR: And they're nibbling my...

Aud: Toes

MR: Me, thumbs round the edge of the desk lid. Do that. Okay, hold that breath. [Gasp]. Make sure nobody's looking and here we go [pant]. And then let that desk lid down really, really quietly and no noise at all. And that was the way to [click]...

Aud: Survive.

MR: That was the way to...

Aud: Survive.

MR: That was the way to...

Aud: Survive.

MR: And it's why I'm here today. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: And now we'll finish with something you may have heard of. But when I was a boy, I had a favourite treat. I had a favourite; favourite treat and it was when my mum made...

Boy: Chocolate cake.

Aud: Chocolate cake

MR: Spaghetti bolognaise.

JF: [Laughs].

MR: I had a favourite treat and it was when my mum made...

Aud: Spaghetti bolognaise.

MR: No, it was chocolate cake actually.

JF: [Laughs].

MR: That's all right, yeah. I was just fooling you. That's good. So, we'll do it properly. We'll do a chocolate cake. I had a favourite treat and it was when my mum made...

Aud: Chocolate cake.

MR: ...chocolate cake. I loved chocolate cake. My mum, she says to me, listen Michael, if there's any chocolate cake left over at the end of the day, you can take some to school tomorrow to have at playtime or lunchtime. And I used to go to school with a little box like that and it was right there, and I knew the chocolate cake was inside. So, I'm off to school and I go, I know what's in there, yes. And I think about it all shiny and sticky. I know it's in there.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Then I'd get to school and it's playtime and I'd put it down, open it up and, yes and take it out and it's all curly and you just, just peel it off like that and it's all sticky and it's dribbling out [laughs] whoa. Oh, hang on somebody's... No never mind...

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Aahh. Oh is someone...? Yeah, yum, yum, mm. Mmmm!

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And one time there was some chocolate cake left over in the middle of the night and I was fast asleep, fast asleep, fast asleep in bed and then suddenly I woke up and I thought, chocolate cake.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: [Laughs]. Maybe I can get up and go down stairs and have a little look at it. I'm not going to eat any. No, I'm just going to go downstairs, have a little look. So, I get out of bed really quiet, sshh. Mustn't make any noise. There's my brother. He's asleep on the other side of the bedroom. Don't wake him up. He's bound to tell on me. Really quiet, out the room. Sshh. Out the room, down the passage.

Careful not to tread on the creaky floorboard outside my mum and dad's room because if they hear that, I am in big...

Aud: Trouble.

MR: Exactly. So really carefully. Really carefully. Better not tread on it. [Creak]. Did they hear? No, it's okay. [Creak] it's okay. On down the passage into the kitchen, over to the cupboard and yeah! No, sshh.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Mustn't wake them up. They're upstairs. I'm just going to take it out, have a little look at it. I'm not going to eat any. Mm, I can see it's all shiny and I can see, oh I'm dribbling again. I can see some little crumbs on the plate. I think, I could pick up some of those crumbs and no-one would know anything at all about it. Yeah, here we go [chk chk chk chk chk]. Oh yeah, it's really nice. I love that yeah. Mmm! And then I notice some little crumbly bits on the side of the cake all mixed up with a bit of the sticky icing. So, I think, if I take a knife, I could just tidy it up a little bit.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: No-one would know anything at all about it. No. Here we go. [Kwech]. And then I scoop it all together. Yes! Sssh, quiet. Oh it's in there, yeah, belly, belly, belly, mm, yum. Mmm! And then I'm thinking, if I've tidied it up over here, maybe I could just even it up a bit over here.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: So I take the knife through the crispy icing on the top, through the squashy icing in the middle, here we go, a whole slice [kwech] and I've got a whole slice this time and it's going go in there. I love it! No, sshh.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: [Gulp]. Mm, mm, mm. Mm! Sssh. But now I can't stop myself. I take the knife and I go, bosh, bosh, bosh, bosh, and da da da da da [gulp]. Oh no. It's all gone. Oh no, they're bound to notice now. A whole chocolate cake doesn't just disappear. What am I going to do now? I don't know how to make a cake. I know. I'll wash up. The plate and the knife. I'll put them away and they won't know anything at all about it. Good thinking. Take the plate and the knife [pssshh] onto the drainer and the knife. Careful, health and safety. And then take the cloth. Here we go with the plate [shwoo shwoo shwoo shwoo]. Into the cupboard [zzwp kwech]. And the knife, here we go [chk chk]. Careful, health

and safety. In the drawer [zwoop boof ch] and then upstairs. Here we go, upstairs, along the passage. I know where the creaky floorboard is now. So all I've got to do is tread over it because if I tread on it and mum and dad hear, I am...

Aud: In trouble.

MR: ...dead. Yeah, that's it. Really careful. Don't tread on it. [Creek]. Did they hear? It's okay. [Creek]. Did they hear?

Aud: No.

MR: No. And then down the passage, into the bedroom, into bed, under the covers. Where have I heard that before? Under the covers. Nice, warm feeling. Chocolate cake in my belly. Goody, goody, goody and I go to sleep.

Then when I get up in the morning I go downstairs and I'm having my breakfast. You have your breakfast. Here we go. Have your breakfast. And my mum, she's really busy over here. She's really busy over there. And then she says, Michael, don't forget your book folder. And she hands me my book folder and then I carry on having my breakfast and she's really busy over here. She's really busy over there. And then she says, oh yes, and there's something else nice. There's some chocolate cake left over from yesterday for you to take to school today. And I went, erm, no it's okay. And she says, what's the matter? You usually jump at the idea of having chocolate cake. And I went, no it's okay, it's all right. And she's looking at me really closely just here. And she points at it and she says, what's that? And I says, what's what? She said, what's that there? I says, what's what where? What do you mean? She said, it's not chocolate cake, is it? And I went, mm.

JF: [Laughs].

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: And then she went over to the cupboard. It's gone. The chocolate cake's gone. You haven't eaten the whole of the rest of the chocolate cake, have you? Have you?

Aud: Yeah.

MR: And I said, I don't know.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: She said, you don't know? You don't know. You must know. That's, listen that's the last time you ever have chocolate cake to take to school. Do you hear me? And I said, mm. I was very good at saying, mm. She said, off you go to school. No, before you go to school, go to the bathroom and wash your dirty, sticky face. I went in stores; I went to the bathroom. I looked in the mirror and I saw it just there, the chocolate smudge. The chocolate blob. And I looked at it and I thought, maybe next time we have chocolate cake she'll forget about it. Do you think she will?

Aud: No.

MR: How many of you here have got a mum who will forget about it?

Aud: No.

MR: And how many of you here have got a mum who'll remember and remember and remember amen?

Aud: Yeah.

MR: I can tell you something. My mum was brilliant at forgetting.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: That's why I'm a spoiled brat.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: Thank you.

Aud: [Applause].

MR: Hooray thank you.

Aud: [Applause].

JF: Okay [laughs]. Have a little glass of water and a wee seat there.

MR: Mm.

JF: Wasn't he amazing, Michael Rosen boys and girls?

Aud: Yeah [applause].

MR: Thank you. Thank you.



JF: Incredible, incredible. Meanwhile, some incredible work being done in this corner by Tanya. And it wasn't just, you know, I'm doing some drawing, it's very physical. You were ripping sheets. All sorts of stuff was happening. So, tell us about this one, Tanya.

TR: Well this is the lovely Michael.

JF: Of course, it is.

TR: Obviously. Yeah.

MR: Oh right.

TR: Yeah, yeah. In the stone-age. And it wasn't, there was not time in that poem, so I just wanted to draw a nice kind of picture that sort of encompassed all of the...

JF: Yeah.

TR: ...the aspects of the poem. Her hair is supposed to kind of be a bit watery.

JF: Mm-hmm.

TR: I couldn't fit a train in there at any point [laughs].

JF: Okay.

TR: I thought there might be a broch of something.

JF: Yeah.

TR: But no, it was, but she's just happy.

JF: Cool.

TR: And he just felt the rhythm of her heart, so...

JF: Fab.

TR: Yeah.

JF: What else do we have then?

TR: We have the...

JF: Oh action shot.

TR: ..baby. I was going to do a mum kind of desperately hanging to the thing, but I just, there wasn't time.

JF: Yeah.

TR: I wanted to pimp out the buggy a bit more, you know.

MR: Yeah.

JF: Yeah, that's good.

TR: And all that.

JF: You get a sense of the speed, don't you?

TR: Yeah.

JF: It's brill.

TR: Yeah, exactly.

JF: And next?

TR: So, there wasn't a long time [laughs] and you missed out the last bit about the, you can't board a bus...

MR: Oh yeah, with the sticket.

TR: ...if you don't have a ticket [laughs].

MR: Oh yes.

TR: That is why the bus driver is looking very perturbed. Very annoyed.

JF: Yeah, I like the expression on his face.

TR: He's holding his sticket.

JF: His, yeah.

TR: Mm-hmm.

JF: Fantastic. Oh!

TR: And then the don't moan, don't slurp, you, I think you missed out don't fart.

MR: No, I didn't say it.

Aud: [Laughs].

MR: But I said it in Yiddish which is don't fotz.

TR: Don't fotz. Yeah.

MR: Don't fotz. It was there.

JF: So lots of don'ts.

TR: It was supposed to go there.

JF: Yeah.

TR: And I wasn't aware that you said it, but.

MR: Right. I was very polite and didn't use that word.

TR: [Laughs].

JF: Oh, this is a good one.

TR: So down by the dustbin with the dogs.

JF: Brilliant.

TR: So, I just chose a really sad looking lurcher.

JF: Yeah.

TR: Because I used to have lurchers.

JF: That's excellent.

TR: Mm. Mm-hmm. And then this is my favourite one.

JF: Oh.

TR: The no breathing in class. So, the, he's taking a breath with the, with his...

JF: Oh, very good.

MR: Three thousand years ago, boys and girls.

JF: I like that. Yeah.

TR: A very long time ago. There was still teachers.

JF: Is this the terrifying teacher?

TR: She's terrifying.

JF: Yeah.

- TR: So every time you would go back to that, I'd add a bit more lines and a bit more kind of, she's getting a bit more amped up and...
- JF: Yeah. Does that look like any of your teachers at school?
- Aud: Yeah.
- JF: Yes, immediately. That was a joke.
- Aud: Yeah.
- TR: Didn't have to think about, didn't have to think about it. So, there's a lot of dying and the school prison.
- JF: Yeah, excellent.
- TR: Yeah. And then the chocolate cake. This bit's gone; it's gone [laughs]. Part of that went in my mouth [laughs] because it ended up there.
- JF: Okay, I see.
- TR: That's part of the chocolate cake...
- JF: I like it.
- TR: ...that's on the face.
- JF: Oh, a very happy face there.
- TR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.
- JF: Amazing.
- MR: Chocolate smudge.
- JF: Just blooming brilliant. A round of applause for Tanya, boys and girls.
- Aud: [Applause].
- TR: I'm sure I'll be fine. I'll be fine [laughs].
- JF: Amazing. So yes, Tanya, as I said earlier on has done all kinds of comic books and indeed drawn for How to Train Your Dragon. So, we're about to hear from the creator of How to Train Your Dragon, Cressida Cowell right now in one of our birthday films. Have a look at this.
- CC: Hi. I'm Cressida Cowell, author and illustrator of How to Train Your Dragon and Wizards of Once series. And I'm also the current Waterstone's Children's

Laureate. I just wanted to wish happy birthday, happy 10th birthday to BBC Authors Live from me.

JC: Hello, this is Joseph Coelho, author of *If All the World Were...* And I'd like to wish BBC Authors Live a happy 10th birthday. Amazing.

Aud: Happy birthday Authors Live.

VF Hello, I'm Deanna Rodger and I'm a spoken word poet and author of *I Did It Too* and I'd like to wish BBC Authors Live a very happy 10th birthday. Happy birthday, well done.

SV Hi guys, I'm Sav Akyuz, illustrator of *I Am Bear* and I'm here to wish BBC Authors Live a very happy 10th birthday. This one is for you. So beautiful.

Aud: Happy 10th birthday Authors Live.

JF: Wow, fantastic. Round of applause for yourselves.

Aud: [Applause].

JF: A big cheer for Cressida Cowell as well.

Aud: [Applause].

JF: So Michael, ten years have gone by so fast. Can you believe its ten years since you launched Authors Live?

MR: No, it's difficult to think of that. I can remember coming here.

JF: Yeah.

MR: And we were upstairs, I think.

JF: Mm-hmm.

MR: I did something about breaking my toothbrush. Bendy bendy [phhsy]...

JF: [Laughs].

MR: ..which I did another time when I was naughty, of the many times as a child, yes.

JF: My face is actually sore from watching what you just did earlier on. This must happen to a lot of your... Are your faces sore from laughing?

Aud: No.

JF: No?

TR: No. [Laughs].

JF: You're happy laughing. But it's extraordinary because you bring such joy with poetry and I'm wondering, was there a moment when you were a kid, when you were little, and you discovered poetry and you realised it was fun?

MR: Well when I was at school it was a bit mournful the kind of poetry back in the stone-age. It was quite mournful the way we did it. It's a lovely poem but there's one that goes:

Is there anybody there, said the traveller knocking on the moonlit door?

And there is nobody there. And I just used to feel so sad for this traveller. But my mum and dad were very good at jokes and stories and also doing poems. My dad did a little one that's partly in Yiddish. He'd go Heril Schmeril went to the races, lost his gutkers and his braces and his gutkers is his pants.

JF: [Laughs].

MR: His long pants. So Heril Schmerel, Heril is the little fool. He goes to the races and he loses his pants and I used to think that was quite funny.

JF: And it is quite funny.

MR: It's not bad, is it?

JF: It's not.

MR: And that kind of cheered me up and I would then say that when I went running.

JF: Yeah.

MR: I'd go Heril Schmeril went to the races, lost his gutker and his braces, and I thought, oh poetry can be like that.

JF: Yeah. Has poetry featured in your life at all, Tanya? I mean we know you're a talented artist. But did you learn poetry at all when you were a little one?

TR: No.

JF: No.

MR: No.

JF: Is Michael turning you on to poetry?

TR: Yeah.

JF: Yeah.

MR: Good, oh well.

JF: What was the challenge like for you doing that? Because, you know, you do your comic books and so on and you must be able to spend time and...

TR: Mm-hmm.

JF: ...maybe talk to writers. You do all of that stuff. This is...

TR: Go up and have a cup of tea.

JF: ...totally different.

TR: Yeah, exactly. There was no tea then, you know, in that bit.

JF: Yeah, exactly.

TR: But you just following along with Michael, that was totally different than I normally do. So, I knew you might, I just knew that you were going to be, might be quite fast, so I would just, I was on my extra setting, my... I was dialled up to...

MR: [Laughs].

TR: ...extra fast setting [laughs].

JF: [Laughs].

TR: There's some character designs I did but it really didn't leave too much for that, but...

JF: Yeah, yeah.

TR: ...it's planned [laughs].

JF: Sure. And it is, I mean we enjoyed it so much obviously watching you do it, Michael. Do you have a favourite one of those poems actually to perform?

MR: I like doing the no breathing. It's...

JF: It is...

MR: It does remind me of my teacher who I can tell you, she did let you breathe. That's what's called exaggeration.

JF: [Laughs].

MR: With a posh Greek word, hyperbole.

TR: Hyperbole.

MR: And so, but she was very, very strict. There were 48 children in our class.

JF: Yeah.

MR: Four rows of 12, a little bit of cross curricular work for you there, teachers. Four rows of 12 and in desks with two side by side in these four rows and that's what the classroom was like.

JF: There were 48 in my class in primary too.

MR: Yeah. Well you see...

JF: Very, very old.

MR: Exactly. I was part of what was called the bulge. That meant there was lots and lots of babies born and they just used to pack us into the classrooms. As many as they could get in. There were some classrooms with over 50 children in..

JF: Wow.

MR: ...my school.

JF: Yeah.

MR: Fifty, imagine that.

JF: Amazing.

MR: One teacher, walking up and down the rows. You're breathing.

JF: Exactly.

MR: I'm not, Miss, I'm not. Well you are now.

JF: You see then we feel sorry for that teacher.

MR: Indeed.

JF: Because you painted such a picture. Now would you like to hear from the Audience?

MR: Yes.



JF: Yeah. We've got a couple of questions from our audience here and we have Marcus. Are you Marcus?

Boy: Yeah.

JF: I'm psychic, I know your name.

TR: [Laughs].

Boy: [Laughs].

JF: Who is your question for?

Boy: Tanya.

JF: Your question is for Tanya. On you go, Marcus.

Boy: Can you still live in Scotland and write for comics in America? How does that work?

TR: The internet. The internet. It's great because they don't even ask you, they don't even ask you anything apart from like, they can see you can draw, so you can work anywhere in the world and work. I rarely ever work with British people [laughs], apart from Michael.

MR: [Laughs].

TR: But yeah, no you can work anywhere in the world and just be in your pyjamas. It's pretty good. They made me dress up today in not pyjamas.

JF: [Laughs].

TR: A close thing [laughs].

Boy: I told you.

JF: Marcus.

Boy: Go on the internet.

JF: Would you, do you read comic books?

Boy: Well I don't have any, but...

TR: You should. You should have loads now.

Boy: My brother has some.

TR: Yeah.

Boy: And sometimes I like read some of his ones. He has like Marvel ones and...

TR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Boy: ...DC ones.

JF: Comic books are a great way to read, they really are.

TR: Yeah, and they're very good for freelance stuff so you just can work all over the world.

JF: Yeah.

TR: And then we just meet up and go to conventions and I have a great time, so yeah.

JF: Sounds like a great life.

TR: It is a great life.

JF: And now we have a question from Michael. Who do we have? Who is going to ask the question? Hello. And your name is?

Boy: Abeda.

JF: Abeda. Here is a question for you, Michael.

Girl: Did your mum and dad help you to become an author and what sort of ways?

MR: Yes, my mum and dad were teachers, both of them.

TR: Oh man.

MR: Think about that for a moment.

JF: [Laughs].

MR: Both your parents are teachers. So, when you get back from school and your mum and dad asks you about what kind of day you had at school, when my mum and dad asked me, they really meant it.

JF: [Laughs].

MR: What kind of day did you have? Yeah, it was all right. It was okay. Yeah. Well no, what kind of day was it? I don't know, we just did stuff. What stuff?

JF: [Laughs].

MR: I don't know. History stuff. That's interesting. Well actually it was. Well what were you doing? I don't know. It was sort of history, a lot of it, Victorians or stone-age or something. And it used to go on like that, but they were very, very keen on helping me. And when I first said that I wanted to write they were very excited and they said, show us what you're writing. And then they showed their friends and so I soon learned that when you write, one of the most important things is to hear what other people say about it. And they would tell me what they thought and they would share it. Both my mum and dad were quite good at sort of acting, like performing. So, I kind of learned from them the way that my dad could say a poem or say a story and I learned from them a lot, yes. And as I say, they were both teachers.

JF: And I'm wondering, Tanya, did you get encouragement at home with art and drawing?

TR: Yeah, no I was really lucky because my parents are, they're very, very supportive and even though they're not artists at all and there wasn't really a lot of art in my family, they would say, yeah, go ahead and do that and see how that works out [laughs].

JF: Yeah. And I know it's hard work and it's a job, but like Michael there with the sheer joy of what he's doing and spreading the joy, I presume you really enjoy what you do.

TR: Yeah, no I mean it's quite...

JF: Putting those marks on paper.

TR: It's, you don't realise it until you go to conventions and until you go out and you're just doing it for yourself and then you find that other people are really liking your work and it's really nice.

JF: Yeah.

TR: But if you do it for you first and if you like it...

JF: It'll work.

TR: ...surely other people will like it as well. So...

JF: Well guess what? Lots of people are liking this. We've got thousands and thousands of folk.

TR: Are we getting likes?

JF: Incidentally over 29 thousand people watching.

TR: Woohoo.

JF: Thank you so much wherever you are watching.

MR: Where are you? 29 thousand.

JF: That is incredible people.

MR: Hello camera three.

JF: Yeah. Over here.

TR: Can I just...

MR: Hello.

JF: Hello.

MR: Hi, 29 thousand.

JF: This one in the corner. Michael.

MR: I can see. 29 thousand and two.

TR: Can I just say, can I just say hello to...

JF: Yeah, that's fine.

TR: Dominican College, I've wrote it on my hands, yes and Sacred Heart College in Northern Ireland that I met last week.

JF: Oh fantastic.

TR: They are so lovely. Keep on drawing [laughs].

JF: We want to do shout outs to lots of schools. So maybe you can give a cheer. I'll do a lot in a oner and then we can cheer. So big shout out to Crombie School, Knightsridge Primary, St Thomas Primary, Lowport, Pittercrieff, Deanburn, St Brendan's and Greenhill.

Aud: [Applause].

JF: Thank you very much. And there are more. Hello to Bilston, St Peter and St Paul, Burravoe, Parkview, Cookin, Airth Primary and St. Ninian's. Hi.

Aud: [Applause].

JF: I've got more. Bonnybridge, St. Monica's, Mid Calder, Fairview International, oh that sounds interesting, Logan's, Langbank and Golfhill Primary. Hello.

Aud: [Audience].

JF: Quick question.

MR: Twenty nine thousand names. Really. I know people's quite busy.

JF: I've got a quick question from St Ninian Primary, Jay wants to know, can Michael make his funny pop noise.

MR: [Hch pt] nice.

JF: There you go.

MR: Which camera shall I do it to?

JF: [Laughs].

MR: I'll do it one more time. Two? Here we go [hch pt] nice.

Aud: [Laughs].

JF: Blooming love it. And Crombie School, Tanya, how do you decide which part of the text to illustrate? Well I suppose there you're just...

TR: Which start of the what, sorry?

JF: Which part of the text to illustrate.

TR: Well it's, because it's basically comics. Because you're reading a script or you're, as you had gave me the script, thank you for kind fully giving me the poems ahead of time and not just doing it right just now for the first time, but when you look at the script you look at what would make the most interesting part of time. And what's the most important pose and reaction to have the characters give in that particular passage.

MR: And can I just say? When you're doing, when you're reading a story in school, maybe sometimes you do this with your teachers, you can do it but you make the freeze frame.

TR: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

MR: You do it yourself.

TR: You might, yeah.

MR: So if you've got a story like Matilda and you think of the moment when Bruce Bogtrotter is eating the cake, you could act that out. You put yourself into a freeze frame and you, one of you could take a picture of it and you are like the cartoon from the book, but you acting it out. And you could do that with any story, any poem if you think maybe, you know, put your hands on the bridge or that one, you just make a little...tableaux is the other word for it.

TR: Homework. This is homework [laughs].

MR: You make a freeze frame and then the people inside the freeze frame you can say what you're thinking.

JF: A-ha.

MR: And somebody can come round, put their hand over your head and they say, what are you thinking? And that's called hot seating. And it's a fantastic way to explore books. Freezer frame, hot seat, freeze frame, hot seat.

JF: Freeze frame, hot seat. Top tip. Thank you very much indeed. What a brilliant way to, sadly, come to the end of today's show. Happily, but sadly the end of the show. Do you know what I'm saying?

MR: I do.

JF: Yeah, it's almost it for 10th birthday Authors Live Special but I do hope that, well they must have done, Tanya and Michael inspire you to do your own thing, wherever you are watching, whether it's writing or drawing or indeed the freeze framing thing. That is such an excellent tip. Right now, wherever you are, there and here, please give a massive round of applause to Tanya Roberts and Michael Rosen.

Aud: [Applause].

JF: And to all of you who, over the past ten years, have been joining us with Authors Live, thank you so much. And if this is your first time, do it again. We'd love to have you along. It would be really good. We're busy planning another year of brilliant broadcasts for you so we hope you can join us. This event, if you want to share it with pals who have not watched it live, it will soon be available to watch On Demand along with previous Authors Lives. There are hundreds of them [laughs]. [scottishbooktrust.com/authorslive](http://scottishbooktrust.com/authorslive) so look out for that. So keep an eye on the Scottish Book Trust website for event announcements, but from all of us,

from Tanya, Michael and everyone here, a massive goodbye and thank you.  
Happy birthday Authors Live

Aud: Happy birthday Authors Live [applause].