



# Philip Ardagh Q&A

## What's the best thing about having a World Book Day £1 book?

The free house they give you with it. . . Hang on. . . What? The free house part was a joke? You were *JOKING*? Oh. . . Okay. Then the best part of having a World Book Day £1 book is having the opportunity to get even MORE people to share in the loveliness of my writing. What lucky people!

## Who is your favourite character from Grubtown Tales and why?

That's none of your business. Anyway, if I say one particular Grubtown, it will upset all the others and, before you know it, I'll have a bunch of weirdoes banging on my door demanding, "Why didn't you pick me?" Of course I like Jilly Cheeter and her friend Mango Claptrap in his ridiculously short shorts. . .

## How do you think up the silly names of the characters? (What comes first the name or the character traits?)

They sort of come to me. (I look them up in the Grubtown telephone directory). Some characters' names seem to match their appearance or personality -- such as the mayor Flabby Gomez, who is flabby, or Informative Booth who knows lots of stuff and is willing to share it -- and then there are those who, like most of us, have names which don't describe them at all -- Purple Outing, Garlic Hamper, Emily Blotch, and so on. Was there another part to this question? If so, I've forgotten it. In case it was, "What's your favourite colour?" my answer is "Eleven."

## You recently won the Roald Dahl Funny Prize for Grubtown Tales: *Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky*. Do you feel under pressure now to be funny all the time?

In public, I am the award-winningly funny Philip Ardagh, humorously tall and humorously bearded. In private, I am a very serious elderly lady with slippers shaped like pasties.

## How long is your beard?

About one-hour-and-twenty-minutes, if you take the long way round.

## Any top tips for writing a funny story?

ANSWER A:

1. Write a story
2. Make it funny

ANSWER B:

I'm not telling. I want to keep winning the funny prizes for myself. Now go away.

Find out more about Philip Ardagh and Grubtown at [www.philipardagh.com](http://www.philipardagh.com)

