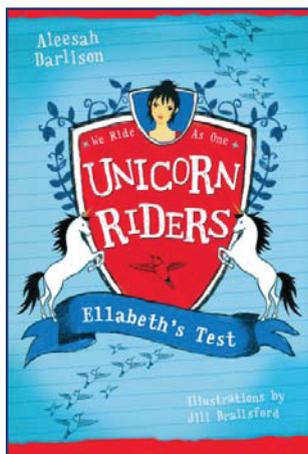
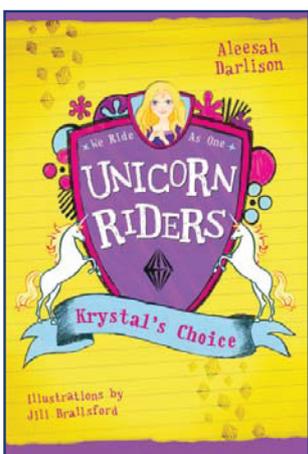
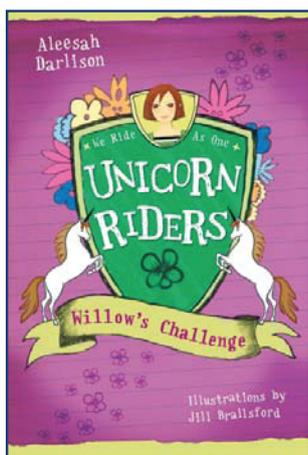
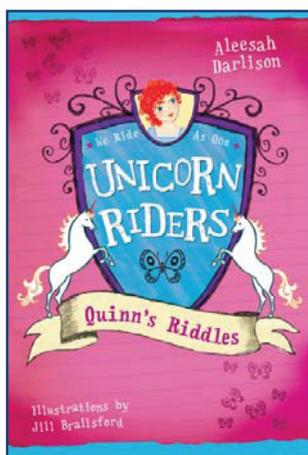


UNICORN RIDERS

By Aleesah Darlison
Illustrated by Jill Brailsford

“We ride as one!”



Unicorn Riders Book 1: Quinn's Riddles (9781921529979)

Quinn, Willow, Krystal and Ellabeth are Unicorn Riders – empowered to protect the land of Avamay. In this first adventure, the Riders must rescue Queen Heart's young son from his kidnappers. The abductors have left a trail of taunting riddles for the girls to follow – will Quinn be able to solve the riddles and lead the other Riders to the prince in time?

Unicorn Riders Book 2: Willow's Challenge (9781921529986)

Head Rider, Willow, must confront her past when the Unicorn Riders are summoned to the town of Arlen. Her uncle, Lord Gildenfair, who Willow hasn't spoken to for many years, is ill and needs a healing elixir that only the Riders can provide. When Arlen is besieged by a neighbouring Lord's army, the Riders and their unicorns must help the townspeople defend the city. Can Willow find the courage to forgive her uncle for past wrongs and help him save Arlen?

Unicorn Riders Book 3: Krystal's Choice (9781921529993)

Children have been disappearing in the town of Miramar. Queen Heart sends Krystal and the other Unicorn Riders to investigate. But Krystal is struggling with her role as a Rider – is this what she really wants to be for the rest of her life? When she is approached by the leader of a group of entertainers who offers her a life of glamour, fun and adoration, Krystal must make a choice – will she give up being a Rider? And will her decision put the other Riders and their mission to save the missing children in jeopardy?

Unicorn Riders Book 4: Ellabeth's Test (9781921720000)

When Willow is injured, Ellabeth must step into the role of Head Rider and lead the Unicorn Riders on their next adventure. The girls must race to the home of the mysterious Dakkar Serpent in order to collect some of its diamond scales. But the mission proves to be more perilous than they thought it would be. Will Ellabeth be able to put her pride aside in order to complete the mission?

The Unicorn Riders series

Author: Aleesah Darlison
Illustrator: Jill Brailsford
ARRP: \$12.95 each
NZRRP: \$14.99 each
Paperback
Released: Oct 2011

Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

Text Type:

- Illustrated fiction
- Junior fiction

Age range: 8+

Genre:

Fantasy

Themes:

- Friendship
- Loyalty
- Teamwork
- Individuality
- Family

Values:

- Care & compassion
- Doing your best
- Honesty & trustworthiness
- Integrity
- Understanding, tolerance & inclusion



About the Author

Aleesah Darlison writes picture books and novels for children and reviews books for *The Sun Herald*. Aleesah has always loved unicorns and as a child she collected unicorn figurines. Writing the Unicorn Riders series has been a dream of Aleesah's for a long time and she is excited for modern readers to fall in love with unicorns too. When Aleesah isn't chasing her writing rainbow, she's usually looking after her three very energetic children and her two dogs, Buck and Floyd.



About the Illustrator

Jill Brailsford was born in England and moved to Australia as a young girl. She studied art and design after leaving school and has been illustrating on and off in-between lots of part-time jobs including café cook, flower picker and stained glass window painter.

Classroom Activities

- Look at the profiles of the four main characters at the start of each book. Then, imagine that you were a Unicorn Rider and design your own profile.
 - What would your symbol be?
 - What colour would your uniform be?
 - What would you call your unicorn? What would it look like? What special gift would it have?
 - Draw a picture of yourself on your unicorn.
- Write a new Unicorn Riders story featuring the profile you created in the activity above, or a new Unicorn Rider. Edit and illustrate your story.
- Make your own Unicorn Riders uniform by painting the symbol of your favourite Unicorn Rider onto a long, plain sleeveless T-shirt. Wear your T-shirt over leggings and boots with a belt or sash around the waist.
- The slogan of the Unicorn Riders is, "We ride as one". What do you think this means? In what ways do we see the Unicorn Riders riding "as one" in the books? Think about your own friends or family. When have you had to "ride as one", or show loyalty to each other? Make up a slogan for your own friendship group or family and design a banner featuring this slogan. (You may like to do this on the computer and then use it as your email signature!)
- Quinn's unicorn, Ula, has the ability to communicate with her telepathically, or by using mind messages. Imagine that you had a pet which was able to communicate with you in this way. Write a dialogue between you and your pet and perform it to the class.
- The Unicorn Riders books are set in a fantasy world. How is this world similar and different to where you live? Would you like to live there? Why or why not?
- Look at the map of the Unicorn Riders' world located towards the front of each book. Using this as inspiration, draw and label your own map of a fantasy land. What sort of geographical features would it have (mountains, forests, seas, etc.)? Would there be towns or cities? What buildings would be in them and what would they be named? Would there be any magical creatures or mythical beasts anywhere in your land? You may like to draw these on your map as well. Make sure you also include a key to give the viewer an idea of the size of your land.
- Research unicorns on the internet. What are some of the beliefs people have about them? Use this information, and any information from the books, to create a brochure for new Unicorn Riders entitled "Caring For Your Unicorn".

- Each unicorn has its own special gift, mentioned in the character profiles. However, each of the Riders also has a special strength which they use to help others in the books. What unique talents or qualities do you think each girl has? If you were a Rider, what would your special strength be? You may like to do the activity below for inspiration.

The Affirmations Game

An affirmation is a positive statement about someone, which helps them feel good about themselves.

- Sit in a circle with a group of friends or classmates.
- Have each person write their name on the top of a piece of blank paper then pass it to the person next to them.
- Write down a positive comment about the person whose name is on the piece of paper. It could be something they are good at, such as solving problems or making people laugh, or a personality trait they exhibit such as kindness, generosity or friendliness.
- Fold the paper over so that the comment can't be read and then pass it on to the next person to write their own comment.
- Pass the papers around the circle until everyone has written something for each person.
- Once you have your paper back, read through all the affirmations from your friends and classmates.

- In the first Unicorn Riders book, Quinn helps the other Riders rescue a kidnapped prince by solving a series of riddles. Look up some other riddles on the internet or in the library and try to solve them. (You may like to work in pairs for this activity.)

Some useful websites to look at for inspiration are:

- www.raymondhuber.co.nz/wings/tricky-puzzles/
- <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/braint.htm>
- <http://www.godecookery.com/mtales/mtales04.htm>
- <http://thinks.com/riddles/a1-riddles-ans.htm>

After you have become an experienced riddle-solver, try writing your own riddles. Copy them neatly onto the scroll worksheet provided, then exchange them with a classmate and see if they can guess the answers!



For information about new releases, the latest awards news and links to a range of teacher resources, sign up to our education newsletter at www.walkerbooks.com.au/Teachers

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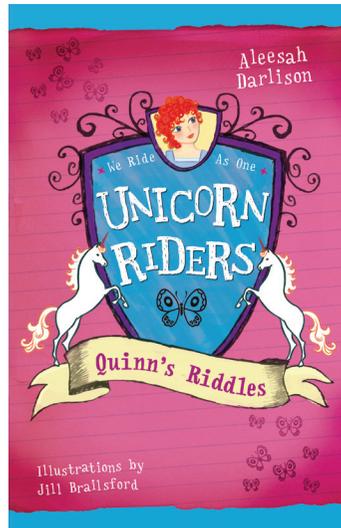


WRITE YOUR OWN RIDDLE

In the first Unicorn Riders book, *Quinn's Riddles*, Quinn helps rescue a kidnapped prince by solving a series of riddles.

Make up your own riddle then copy it neatly onto the scroll below. You may also like to give your scroll an old-fashioned appearance by lightly dragging a used teabag across it.

(Make sure you squeeze the excess water from the teabag first so that the page doesn't get soggy!)



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