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## Mared Lewis: Creu Fi a Mr Huws a llyfrau eraill i ddysgwyr / Creating Fi a Mr Huws and other books for learners

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Un o awduron mwya' poblogaidd Cymru yw Mared. Yn 2017 rhyddhaodd hi nofel ar gyfer dysgwyr hyderus, Fi a Mr Huws. Yn gynnar yn 2018 bydd yn rhyddhau addasiad ar gyfer dysgwyr newydd, Y Stryd. Yma, mae hi'n dweud rhagor am y llyfrau hyn wrthon ni, ac yn trafod ei hun a'i 'sgrifennu hi.

Mared is one of Wales' most popular authors, and in 2017 released a novel for confident learners, Fi a Mr Huws. In early 2018 she is releasing an adaption for new learners, Y Stryd. Here she tells us more about these books and herself as a writer.

**Mared, rwy'ti wedi ysgrifennu sawl llyfr o'r blaen, ond Fi a Mr Huws yw dy lyfr cyntaf i ddysgwyr. Pam gwnest ti benderfynu ei ysgrifennu?**

Wel, rydw i'n diwtor Cymraeg i Oedolion ym Mhrifysgol Bangor, ac ro'n i'n teimlo bod angen mwy o lyfrau Cymraeg i Ddysgwyr. Mae yna nifer o lyfrau arbennig o dda yn barod, ond mae angen mwy! Yna daeth cais gan wasg Y Lolfa am syniad ar gyfer nofel i Ddysgwyr, a dyna hi wedyn!

**Mared, you have written a lot of books before, but Fi a Mr Huws (Me and Mr Huws) was the first book for learners. What made you decide to write it?**

Well, I'm a Welsh tutor for adults at Bangor University, and I was feeling the need for more Welsh-language books for learners. There are a number of very good books already, but there is a need for more! Then came a request from the publisher Y Lolfa for an idea for a novel for learners, and there you are!

**Mae sawl dysgwyr wedi dweud wrtha i fod nhw'n hoffi'r nofel achos mae'n teimlo fel 'llyfr go iawn', nid rhywbeth sydd wedi cael ei greu yn benodol i ddysgwyr. Dweud wrthon ni mwy am sut gwnest ti ysgrifennu fe - rydw i'n deall dy fod wedi**

**Many learners have told me that they like the novel because they feel it is 'proper book', not something created specifically for learners. Tell us more about how you wrote it – I understand that you wrote the book in the usual way, and then went through it line**

### ysgrifennu llyfr fel arfer, ac wedyn mynd drwyddo linell wrth linell, i addasu fe i ddysgwyr- ydy hyn yn gywir?

Mae hyn bron iawn yn gywir, Neil. Dwi'n falch iawn o glywed bod pobol yn meddwl fod y nofel yn darllen fel 'llyfr go iawn' achos dyna oedd fy mwriad. Do'n i ddim isio i'r llyfr ddarllen fel ymarferiad iaith, felly es i ati i ddechrau i sgwennu'r llyfr i gyd o'r dechrau i'r diwedd, gan ganolbwyntio ar ysgrifennu stori reit afaelgar efo mwy nag un llinyn plot, a chymeriadau amrywiol yr oedd pobol yn medru uniaethu efo nhw. Wnes i ddim poeni yn ormodol am yr iaith yn y drafft cyntaf. Yn ystod ail ddrafftio wedyn, pan o'n i'n hapus efo'r plot ac ati, dyna fynd drwy'r llyfr yn fwy manwl, a newid unrhyw frawddeg oedd yn or-gymhleth, a newid un gair am y llall os oedd o'n fwy cyfarwydd i'r darlennydd. Ro'n i eisiau cadw'r elfennau tafodieithiol a chadw ysbryd y gwaith os yn bosib, ond heb orfod defnyddio gormod o eiriau newydd.

### Dweud wrthon ni tipyn bach mwy am dy hunan- sut wnest ti ddechrau fel awdures?

Tydw i erioed yn cofio amser pan o'n i ddim yn sgwennu deud y gwir. Ro'n i'n un o'r plant bach diflas hynny oedd yn cyffroi pan oedd yr athrawes yn rhoi gwaith sgwennu yn y dosbarth! Ro'n i'n arfer sgwennu stori i'n ffrindiau hefyd ac yn eu holi pa fath o bethau oeddau nhw isio i mi ei gynnwys yn y stori. Roedd y teimlad o ddarlennydd, o gynulleidfa i'r gwaith, yn bwysig o'r dechrau. Roedd o'n wefr ac mae o dal yn wefr o hyd, y rhan fwyaf o'r amser! (Ond ddim pob tro, os oes yna broblem efo'r stori neu'r cymeriadau!) Wnes i ddim dychmygu y baswn i'n medru ennill bywoliaeth o sgwennu, ond dyna dwi wedi wneud ers bron i ugain mlynedd, er mod i'n mynd allan i weithio i'r 'byd go iawn' pob hyn a hyn hefyd, i gael awyr iach! Ac i ennill ychydig bach mwy o bres!

### Mae llyfr newydd gyda ti yn dod mas y mis hwn: Y Stryd. Mae'n addasiad o lyfr Saesneg i ddysgwyr iaith newydd. Wyt ti'n gallu dweud wrthon ni tipyn bach mwy am hwn?

Addasiad o lyfr Saesneg o'r enw *One Day* gan yr awdures Helen Naylor yw **Y Stryd**. Mae'r stori yn galw i mewn ac allan o fywydau'r bobol sy'n byw drws nesa' i'w gilydd ar un stryd arbennig mewn tref yng Ngogledd Cymru. Mae pawb yn byw drws nesa, ond mae ganddyn nhw fywydau diddorol, ac mae gen pawb ei broblem ei hun. Mae'n llyfr difyr, a dyma'r tro cyntaf i mi addasu llyfr gan rhywun arall. Roedd hi'n anodd i ddechrau peidio rhedeg i fwrdd efo'r stori fy hun, ond fe ddaeth pethau'n haws. Mae'n addas ar gyfer lefel Sylfaen.

Rydw i hefyd ar ganol sgwennu nofel wreiddiol i Ddysgwyr lefel Uwch hefyd, o'r enw *Llwybrau Cul*. Mae Y Stryd a Llwybrau Cul yn rhan o'r gyfres Amdani. Darllenwch fwy isod!

### Bydd y gyfres Amdani dechrau ton newydd o lyfrau i Ddysgwyr ysgrifenedig i ddysgwyr.

Mae hwn yn ddatblygiad cyffrous iawn. Mae'r **Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Genedlaethol** wedi cydweithio efo pump gwasg a nifer o awduron gwahanol. Bydd yna llyfr ar gyfer pob lefel o'r dysgu, o'r lefel Mynediad, pan mae pobol newydd ddechrau dysgu, i lefel Sylfaen, Canolradd ac yna Uwch. Mae cymysgedd o addasiadau a llyfrau gwreiddiol sydd wedi cael eu sgwennu'n arbennig ar gyfer y cynllun. Mae'r pedwar teitl cyntaf yn boeth o'r wasg! Edrychwch allan am Cyfres Amdani ar y we, neu ar **Facebook**. Mae hi mor bwysig bod dysgwyr yn cael y cyfle i weld y patrymau a'r geiriau maen nhw'n nabod wrth fynd ati i ddarllen yn eu hamser hamdden, a mwynhau a dysgu mwy wrth wneud.

### by line, adapting it for learners – is that true?

That's more or less true, Neil. I am very glad to hear that people think the novel reads like a 'proper book', because that is what I was aiming at. I did not want the book to read like a language exercise, so I began by writing the book in its entirety from beginning to end, concentrating on making the story really gripping with more than one plotline, and with a variety of characters that people would be able to identify with. I did not worry overmuch about the language in the first draft. It was only in the second draft, when I was happy with plot and so on, that I went through the book in more detail, changing any sentence that was over-complicated, and changing one word for another if that was likely to be more familiar to the reader. I wanted to keep the dialect elements and keep the spirit of the work if that was possible, but without having to use too many new words.

### Tell us a bit about yourself – how did you get started as an author?

Actually I never remember a time when I wasn't writing. I was one of those tiresome small children who got excited when the teacher gave us writing work in class. I used to write stories for friends too and ask them what sort of things they wanted me to put in the story. The feelings of readers, of the audience for the work, were important to me from the start. It was a thrill to write and it is still a thrill now, most of the time! (But not every time, if there is a problem with the story or characters!) . I never imagined I would be able to make a living from writing, but there you go, I've been doing it for nearly twenty years, despite going out to work in 'the real world' too every so often, to get a breath of fresh air! And to earn a bit more money!

### You have a new book coming out this month: Y Stryd. It is an adaptation of an English-language book for new language learners. Can you tell us a little bit about it?

**Y Stryd** is an adaptation of an English book called *One Day*, by Helen Naylor. The story pops in and out of the lives of people living next door to one another in a particular street in a town in North Wales. Everyone lives next door, but they lead interesting lives, and all of them have their own problems. It is an entertaining book, and that's the first time I have adapted a book by someone else. At first it was difficult to stop myself running away with the story myself, but then things became easier. It is suitable for learners at Foundation level.

I am also in the middle of writing an original novel for learners at Higher level, called *Llwybrau Cul (Narrow Paths)*. Y Stryd and Llwybrau Cul are part of the new series 'Amdani'. Read more below!

### The Amdani series begins a new wave of books written for learners.

This is a very exciting development. The **National Centre for Learning Welsh** has worked together with five publishers and a number of different authors. There will be a book for each level of learning, from Entrance level, when people have just begun learning, to Foundation, Intermediate and then Higher levels. It is a mixture of adaptations and original works written specially for the scheme. The first four titles are hot off the press! Look up Cyfres Amdani on the web, or on **Facebook**. It is so important for learners to have the opportunity to see the patterns and words that they know as they set about reading in their leisure time, and to enjoy it and learn more as they do so.

