



AUTHOR

Scott Reintgen is a best-selling author of several science fiction and fantasy series for children. He lives in North Coralina with his wife and three children. A former teacher, he strongly believes that every student who steps into the classroom deserves to see themselves vibrant and victorious on the page.

WEBSITE

<https://www.itsprouncedrankin.com/>

LINKS

<https://www.simonandschuster.net/m/prek12-teachers-librarians/Featured-Author-Scott-Reintgen> Includes an introductory video with a great reading of the Prologue (Unfortunately the offers are now closed).

<https://www.learningresources.co.uk/blog/10-facts-about-mars-for-kids/> 10 planet Mars facts for kids, plus how to make a straw rocket – a fun activity for a book group or at home.



THE LAST DRAGON ON MARS

Older Readers Shortlist 2026

INTRODUCTION

This is the first book of the Dragonships series which is a blend of **science-fiction** and **fantasy**. One of the key themes is **survival** – of individuals (whether on an everyday basis or as part of a life-threatening mission), **friends** and alliances (dependent on trust or threatened by betrayal), or whole populations struggling to live on inhospitable planets like **Mars**. Lunar is a former scavenger, who finds himself inadvertently chosen as the leader of a group of (trained but inexperienced) teenage warriors and destined to save the planet. The **adrenalin-fuelled adventure** takes place in a world where there is 'one dragon for every moon, every planet, every star'. Lunar was named after the moon dragon, but it is Dread, a half-grown **dragon** hidden in a secret bunker, who chooses him as his **dragon**. This **fast-paced, action-packed** story contains some surprises and an unexpected twist.

ACTIVITIES

Read the first chapter aloud by way of an introduction (pp5-9).

Write and illustrate profiles for one or more of the main characters. Include appearance, personality traits, strengths and weaknesses.

Create a map (to use as a frontispiece for the book) including some of the key places mentioned (eg Bounty, Gather and Harvest) and features of the landscape (eg waste land, mountains, forests and the bunker entrances).

NOW READ ON

The Rise of Neptune by Scott Reintgen (Rock the Boat, 2025) The second thrilling installment to The Dragonships series.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini (Corgi, 2005) First book in the epic fantasy series about dragons - The Inheritance Cycle.

The Fifth Wave by Rick Yancey ((Penguin, 2013) Winner of the Older Readers category and overall winner of the Children's Book Award in 2014 and the first book of a thrilling sci-fi trilogy.