

Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, Cardiff, on the 13th of September, 1916. His parents were Norwegian. They named him after the famous Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen.

In February 1920 Dahl's older sister Astri died. A few weeks later, his father died too. In his book "Boy" Dahl said that his father was "overwhelmed with grief" for Astri. When his father died, Dahl's mother was pregnant. His sister Asta was born later in the year.

In 1925, when he was 9, Dahl was sent to a boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. When he was 13, he moved to Repton, a famous public school near Derby. Dahl did not enjoy it there. He was beaten and treated badly by some of the other boys. When he left school in 1934 he went to work for Shell Oil. Dahl wanted to travel, so he was pleased when the company sent him to East Africa in 1938. He worked there until the Second World War started.

In November 1939, Dahl joined the Royal Air Force and learnt to fly. He was sent to Libya and in September 1940 his plane crashed. He was badly hurt and it took him six months to recover. He went back to flying but he got terrible headaches because of the crash. In the summer of 1941 he had to go home to his mother.

Although he couldn't fly any more, Dahl was still able to help the war effort. In 1942 he was sent to Washington D.C. to work. He began to write stories and he soon began to get his work published.

In 1951 he met his future wife, an American actress called Patricia Neal. They married in 1953 and had five children together. In 1954 they moved to Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

In 1961 James and the Giant Peach was published. Roald went on to publish many children's books: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1964), Fantastic Mr Fox (1970), and the Twits (1980) to name but a few.

Dahl wrote his stories in a writing hut in the garden of his house, which children were not allowed to enter! He invented over 500 words such as "biffsquiggled" (confused or puzzled) and "gobblefunk" (to play around with words, just like he did).

In 1962 his daughter Olivia died. She was seven years old, the same age his sister had been when she died. Dahl kept a picture of Olivia in his writing hut and both James and the Giant Peach and the BFG are dedicated to her.

In 1981 he separated from Patricia Neal and in 1983 he married his second wife, Felicity Crosland. Roald Dahl died in Oxford on the 23rd of November 1990 and is buried in the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in Great Missenden.

Roald Dahl - Biography Questions

- 1) Where was Roald Dahl born?
- 2) Why was he called 'Roald'?
- 3) Dahl said that his father was 'overwhelmed with grief'. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'grief'?
comfort heartache joy peace
- 4) Why didn't Roald Dahl enjoy his time at boarding school?
- 5) Why was Dahl pleased with his new job at Shell Oil?
- 6) Where did Dahl write his stories?
- 7) How many children did Dahl have with Patricia Neal?
- 8) When was James and the Giant Peach first published?
- 9) Which two books are dedicated to Dahl's daughter Olivia?
- 10) Where is Roald Dahl buried?
- 11) How would you describe Roald Dahl? Give reasons for your answer.
- 12) Which is your favourite Roald Dahl book and why?

Roald Dahl - Biography Questions

- 1) Where was Roald Dahl born?
Llandaff in Cardiff.
- 2) Why was he called 'Roald'?
He was named after the famous Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen.
- 3) Dahl said that his father was 'overwhelmed with grief'. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'grief'?

comfort heartache joy peace
- 4) Why didn't Roald Dahl enjoy his time at boarding school?
He was beaten and treated badly by some of the other boys.
- 5) Why was Dahl pleased with his new job at Shell Oil?
Because he wanted to travel and they sent him to East Africa.
- 6) Where did Dahl write his stories?
In a writing hut in the garden of his house.
- 7) How many children did Dahl have with Patricia Neal?
Five
- 8) When was James and the Giant Peach first published?
1961
- 9) Which two books are dedicated to Dahl's daughter Olivia?
James and the Giant Peach and the BFG.
- 10) Where is Roald Dahl buried?
In the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in Great Missenden.
- 11) How would you describe Roald Dahl? Give reasons for your answer.
Answers may include clever, talented, funny (with reasons to justify opinions).
- 12) Which is your favourite Roald Dahl book and why?
Answers may vary.

Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, Cardiff, on the 13th of September, 1916. Both of his parents were Norwegian. As a boy Dahl spoke both Norwegian and English. He was named after Roald Amundsen, the famous Norwegian who was the first explorer to reach the South Pole. His father was a shipbroker, which means he sold all of the items that ships needed to take with them on voyages. Dahl had three older sisters and an older brother.

In February 1920, Dahl's older sister Astri died from a burst appendix. A few weeks later, his father also died (of pneumonia). In his autobiography "Boy" Dahl said that his father was "overwhelmed with grief" for Astri. When his father died, Dahl's mother was pregnant. His sister Asta was born later in the year.

This was a difficult time for Dahl's mother, Sofie. She had a large family to look after on her own. When he was 9 years old, Dahl was sent to a boarding school; St Peter's in Weston-Super-Mare. When he was 13, he moved to Repton, a famous public school near Derby. Dahl did not enjoy his time there. He was beaten and treated badly by some of the other boys. When he left school in 1934 he went on an expedition to Newfoundland and then went to work for Shell Oil. Dahl wanted to travel, so he was pleased when the company sent him to East Africa in 1938. He worked there until the outbreak of the Second World War.

In November 1939, Dahl joined the Royal Air Force and learnt to fly. He was posted to Libya and in September 1940 his plane crashed. He was badly hurt and it took him six months to recover from his injuries in Egypt. He returned to his squadron in 1941 and began flying again. He began to suffer terrible headaches because of his injuries from the plane crash and in the summer had to go home to his mother.

Although he couldn't fly any more, Dahl was still able to help the war effort. In 1942 he was sent to Washington D.C. to work at the British Embassy. He began to write, encouraged by the novelist C.S. Forester. At that time he wrote for adult readers. He soon began to get work published.

In 1951 he met his future wife, an American actress called Patricia Neal. They married in 1953 and had five children together. In 1954 they moved to Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. The town is now home to the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre.

Dahl wrote books, stage plays and television scripts throughout the 1950s. In 1961 James and the Giant Peach was published. He went on to publish many children's books: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1964), Fantastic Mr Fox (1970), and the Twits (1980) to name but a few. Dahl wrote his stories in a writing hut in the garden of his house, which children were forbidden to enter! In the hut, he invented over 500 words such as "biffsquiggled" (confused or puzzled) and "gobblefunk" (to play around with words, just like he did).

In 1962 his daughter Olivia died. She was seven years old, the same age his sister had been when she died. Dahl kept a picture of Olivia in his writing hut and both James and the Giant Peach and the BFG are dedicated to her.

In 1981 he separated from Patricia Neal and in 1983 he married his second wife, Felicity Crosland. Roald Dahl died in Oxford on the 23rd of November 1990 and is buried in the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in Great Missenden.

Roald Dahl - Biography Questions

- 1) When was Roald Dahl's birthday?
- 2) How many children did Roald Dahl's parents have altogether?
- 3) Dahl said that his father was 'overwhelmed with grief'. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'grief'?
 comfort heartache joy peace
- 4) Why was life difficult for Sofie Dahl?
- 5) How long did it take Dahl to recover from his injuries after the plane crash?
- 6) Who encouraged Roald Dahl to write?
- 7) Children were forbidden from entering the writing hut. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'forbidden'?
 approved banned permitted welcomed
- 8) Why do you think that children were not allowed in Dahl's writing hut?
- 9) Why do you think that Roald Dahl invented new words?
- 10) How might Roald Dahl have felt when his daughter died?
- 11) How would you describe Roald Dahl? Give reasons for your answer.
- 12) Which is your favourite Roald Dahl book and why?

Roald Dahl - Biography Questions

- 1) When was Roald Dahl's birthday?
13th September 1916
- 2) How many children did Roald Dahl's parents have altogether?
Five
- 3) Dahl said that his father was 'overwhelmed with grief'. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'grief'?

comfort **heartache** joy peace
- 4) Why was life difficult for Sofie Dahl?
She had a large family to look after on her own.
- 5) How long did it take Dahl to recover from his injuries after the plane crash?
Six months.
- 6) Who encouraged Roald Dahl to write?
C.S. Forester.
- 7) Children were forbidden from entering the writing hut. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'forbidden'?

approved **banned** permitted welcomed
- 8) Why do you think that children were not allowed in Dahl's writing hut?
Answers may vary.
- 9) Why do you think that Roald Dahl invented new words?
Answers may vary.
- 10) How might Roald Dahl have felt when his daughter died?
Answers may include heartbroken, devastated, miserable (and other synonyms)
- 11) How would you describe Roald Dahl? Give reasons for your answer.
Answers may include clever, talented, funny (with reasons to justify opinions).
- 12) Which is your favourite Roald Dahl book and why?
Answers may vary.

Roald Dahl



The famous children's author Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, Cardiff, on the 13th of September, 1916. Both of his parents were Norwegian and as a boy Dahl was bilingual, speaking both Norwegian and English. He was named in honour of Roald Amundsen, the famous Norwegian who was the first explorer to reach the South Pole. His father was a shipbroker, which means he supplied all of the items that ships needed to take with them on voyages. It was a large family; Dahl had four older siblings, his two sisters and an older brother and sister from his father's first marriage.

In February 1920 Dahl's older sister Astri died. She was suffering from an infection caused by a burst appendix. Within weeks, his father had also died, of pneumonia. In his autobiography "Boy" Dahl described his father as "overwhelmed with grief" for his daughter. At the time of his father's death, Dahl's mother was expecting a baby girl, Asta, who was born later in the year.

Dahl's mother, Sofie, found herself in a very difficult situation, solely responsible for five young children and very far away from her home in Norway. However the family remained in Wales. At first Dahl went to local schools but in 1925, aged 9, he was sent to a boarding school; St Peter's in Weston-Super-Mare. When he was 13, he moved to Repton, a famous public school near Derby. Dahl did not enjoy his time there, and later wrote about how he was beaten and treated badly by some of the other boys. When he left in 1934 he took part in an expedition to Newfoundland and then went to work for Shell Oil. Although his mother wanted him to study at Oxford or Cambridge University, Dahl wanted to work for a company that would send him to "wonderful faraway places." He got his wish as he worked in Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) from 1938 until the outbreak of the Second World War.

In November 1939, Dahl enlisted in the Royal Air Force and learnt to fly. In 1940 he was posted to Libya, where he flew a biplane. In September of 1940 his plane crashed and he was badly injured, taking six months to recover from his injuries in Egypt. He returned to his squadron in 1941 and began flying fighter planes. While he was there he began to suffer terrible headaches as a result of the injuries he sustained in the crash and in the summer had to return home to his mother, who by this time was living in Buckinghamshire.

Although he couldn't fly any more, Dahl was still able to help the war effort and in 1942 he was sent to Washington D.C to work at the British Embassy. It was in Washington that he began to write, encouraged by the novelist C.S. Forester. At that time his writing was aimed at an adult audience and he soon began to get work published.

In 1951 he met his future wife, an American actress called Patricia Neal. They married in 1953 and went on to have five children together. In 1954 they made their home in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. The town is now home to the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre.

Dahl wrote successful books, stage plays and television scripts throughout the 1950s. In 1961 his first well known children's book, James and the Giant Peach, was published. He went on to publish many well-loved children's books such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1964), Fantastic Mr Fox (1970) and the Twits (1980), to name but a few. Dahl wrote his stories in a writing hut in the garden of his house, which children were forbidden to enter! In the hut, he invented over 500 words such as "biffsquiggled" (confused or puzzled) and "gobblefunk" (to play around with words, just like he did).

In 1962 his daughter Olivia died from measles encephalitis. She was seven years old, the same age his sister had been when she died. Dahl kept a picture of Olivia in his writing hut and both James and the Giant Peach and the BFG are dedicated to her.

In 1981 he separated from Patricia Neal and in 1983 he married his second wife, Felicity Crossland. Roald Dahl died in Oxford on the 23rd of November 1990 and is buried in the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in Great Missenden.

Roald Dahl - Biography Questions

- 1) Where did Roald Dahl's parents come from?
- 2) Why was he called 'Roald'?
- 3) What was the cause of Astri's death?
- 4) Why was Dahl pleased with his new job at Shell Oil?
- 5) How might Roald Dahl have felt when he wasn't able to fly any more? Give reasons for your answer.
- 6) Why is the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden?
- 7) Children were forbidden from entering the writing hut. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'forbidden'?
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- 8) Why do you think that Roald Dahl invented new words?
- 9) Can you invent a new word and write a definition for it?
- 10) Where is Roald Dahl buried?
- 11) How would you describe Roald Dahl? Give reasons for your answer.
- 12) Which is your favourite Roald Dahl book and why?

Roald Dahl - Biography Questions

- 1) Where did Roald Dahl's parents come from?
Norway.
- 2) Why was he called 'Roald'?
He was named in honour of Roald Amundsen, the famous Norwegian who was the first explorer to reach the South Pole.
- 3) What was the cause of Astri's death?
She suffered from an infection caused by a burst appendix.
- 4) Why was Dahl pleased with his new job at Shell Oil?
He wanted to work for a company that sent him to 'wonderful faraway places' and they sent him to work in Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania.
- 5) How might Roald Dahl have felt when he wasn't able to fly any more? Give reasons for your answer.
Answers may include... Angry because he wanted to support the RAF or frustrated because he wanted to travel.
- 6) Why is the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden?
It is where Roald made a home with Patricia Neal.
- 7) Children were forbidden from entering the writing hut. Which of these words has a similar meaning to 'forbidden'?

approved **banned** permitted welcomed
- 8) Why do you think that Roald Dahl invented new words?
Answers may vary.
- 9) Can you invent a new word and write a definition for it?
Answers may vary.
- 10) Where is Roald Dahl buried?
In the parish church of St Peter and St Paul in Great Missenden.
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