



The Life of

ROALD DAHL

1916 – 1990

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Early Life

Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales.

His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but she died from meningitis in 1920 when she was only 7. Roald's father was so sad that he fell ill from pneumonia and also died a few weeks later.

At this time, Roald's mother was pregnant with her third child, who was born in the autumn. She was called Asta.



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Education

Roald went to school in Wales, but after he had got into trouble too many times, his mother sent him to a boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare.

He later attended Repton Public School in South Derbyshire.

Repton Village



The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company. This experience later inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.



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A Young Man

After school, Roald's mother offered to pay for him to attend Cambridge University, but he wanted adventure.

He went on an expedition to Newfoundland, and then joined an oil company so that he could work abroad.

He was sent to Africa for 3 years, but after only one year, the Second World War broke out, so he enlisted with the Royal Air Force and became a pilot.

Roald Dahl

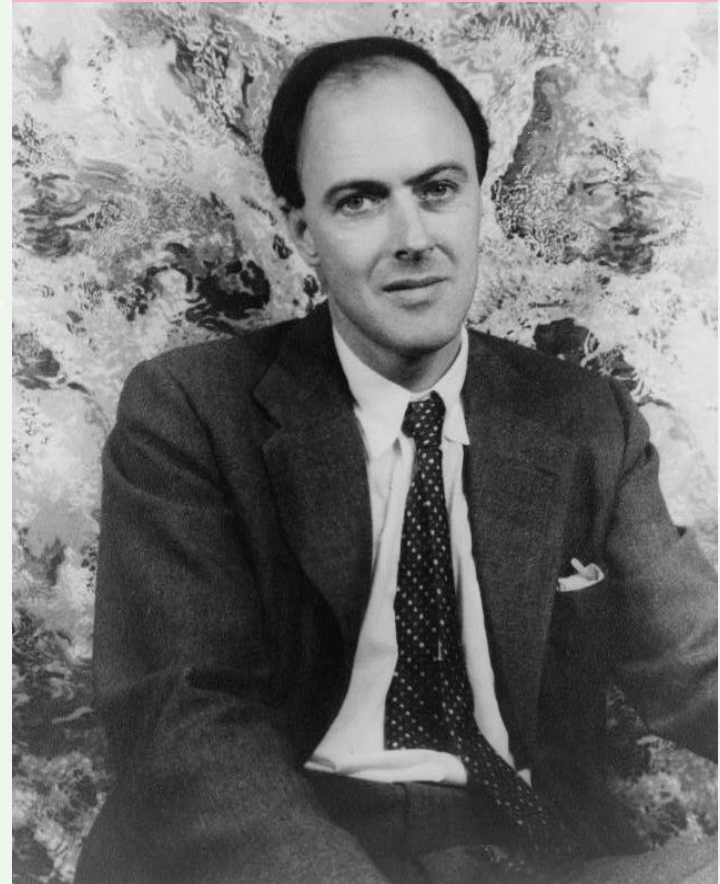


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RAF

Roald Dahl was posted to Libya where he flew a Gloster Gladiator plane. He crashed in the Western desert in North Africa and suffered such severe injuries to his head and back that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for 6 months.

He returned to the RAF but after a while, he began suffering such terrible headaches from his accident. Therefore, he had to return to the UK and could not fly planes anymore.

Gloster Gladiator



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Writing About Experiences

In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the US to work as an assistant air attaché. He met the author C.S. Forester who suggested Roald should write about his experiences in the desert flying planes.

This led to Roald being paid for the first time for writing, which was published in the Sunday Evening Post newspaper.



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Someone Like You

In 1951, Roald had a collection of stories published, in a book called Someone Like You.

Patricia Neal



During this year, he also married actress Patricia Neal.

They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there.



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Family Life

Roald Dahl and Patricia Neal had five children: Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy.

Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from measles encephalitis. A year before that, Theo was involved in an accident. His pram was hit by a New York cab, and he suffered a brain injury. Roald became very involved with the care Theo now needed, and he even helped invent a piece of equipment that people with Theo's injury would need.

During this time, *James and the Giant Peach* was published.



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Roald Dahl's Inspiration

Roald Dahl started telling his fantastical stories to his children at bedtime. He realised how much his own children enjoyed his stories and decided to write them down for all children to enjoy.



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Films

Roald Dahl was a good friend of Ian Fleming, who wrote the James Bond films. Dahl wrote the screenplay for *You Only Live Twice*, and later went on to work on the script for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, which was released in cinemas in 1968.

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DATE	TIME	PLACE
FEB. 1	10 A.M. (SHARP)	FRONT GATES

THIS GOLDEN TICKET ENSURES ADMITTANCE

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang



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Two years later, the film of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* was released, which Dahl had also written the screenplay for. Apparently, he was unhappy that neither Spike Milligan nor Peter Sellers played the part of Willy Wonka.

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Children's Books

The 1980s was a time when most of Roald Dahl's children's books were written and published.

The Twits

The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

George's Marvellous Medicine

Matilda

Revolting Rhymes

The BFG

The Witches

Dirty Beasts

Ghost Stories

Boy

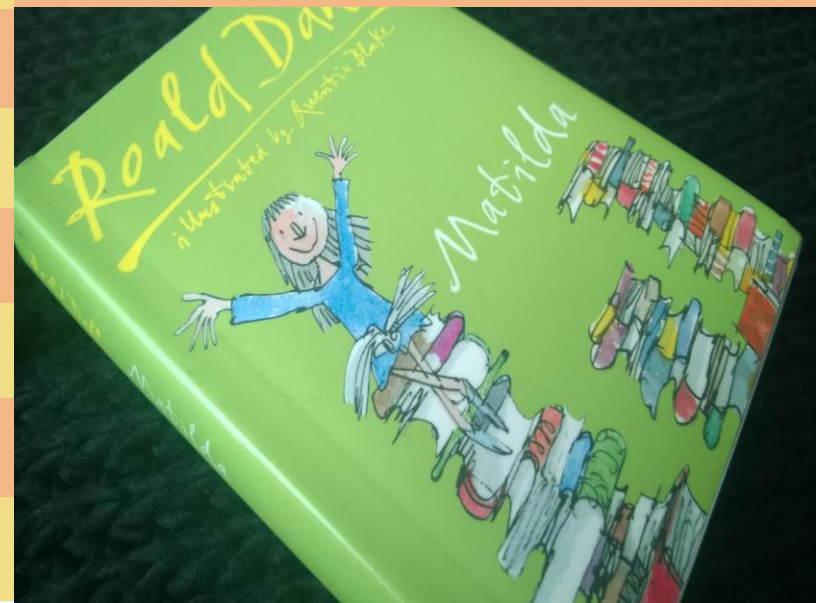


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'We have tears in our eyes As we wave our goodbyes'

Roald Dahl's Grave Stone



Roald Dahl died from an infection on the 23rd November 1990 at the age of 74.

That same year, *Esio Trot* was published and the film of *The Witches* was released.

Dahl was buried at St Peter and St Paul Church in Great Missenden.

His Legacy

Each year, Roald Dahl is celebrated all around the world on the 13th September – his birthday.

Many of his books have been turned into films, and both *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* are now West End musicals.

There is also a museum all about the great man, in Buckinghamshire. This year sees the celebration of 100 years of Roald Dahl.

The author Michael Rosen launched The Roald Dahl Funny Prize to reward authors and illustrators who write and illustrate books using humour.

How will you celebrate this fabulous author who has brought so many exciting, zany and incredible characters to our imaginations?

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