

Roald Dahl

- 1961 - James and the Giant Peach
- 1964 - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- 1966 - The Magic Finger
- 1970 - Fantastic Mr Fox
- 1972 - Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator
- 1975 - Danny the Champion of the World
- 1978 - The Enormous Crocodile
- 1980 - The Twits
- 1981 - George's Marvellous Medicine
- 1982 - Revolting Rhymes
- 1982 - The BFG
- 1983 - The Witches
- 1983 - Dirty Beasts
- 1984 - Boy: Tales of Childhood
- 1985 - The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me
- 1986 - Going Solo
- 1988 - Matilda
- 1990 - Esio Trot

Early Life

Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff in South Wales on 13th September 1916. His parents were Norwegian and named him after the famous Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen. In his autobiography called 'Boy: Tales of Childhood', Roald tells many tales of his early mischief, including hiding a mouse in a jar of sweets at the local shop!



"I have a passion

for teaching kids to become readers,

to become comfortable with a book, not daunted.

Books shouldn't be daunting,

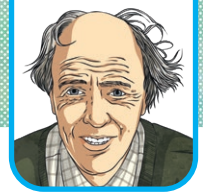
they should be funny,

exciting

and wonderful;

and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."

- Roald Dahl



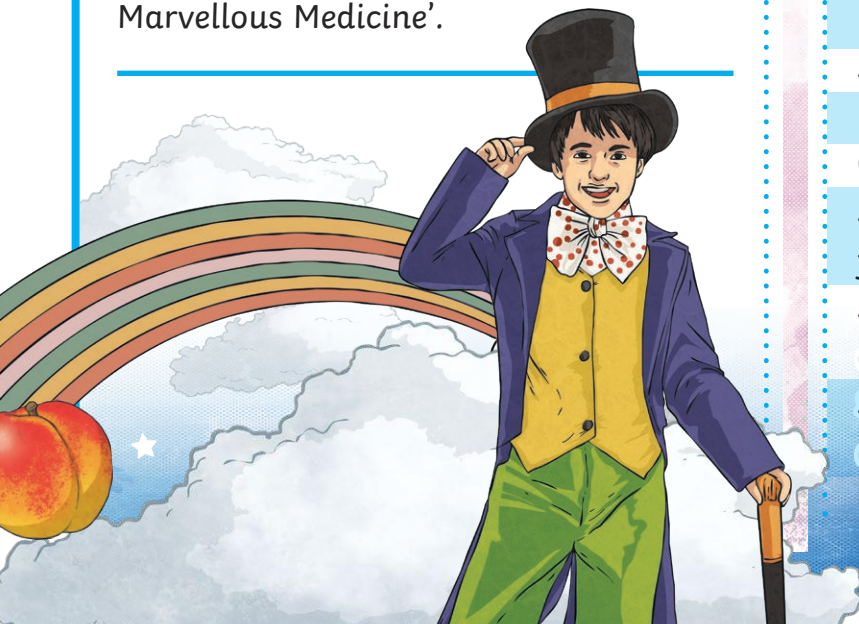
Education and Family

Roald went to Repton School for Boys in Derbyshire from the age of 13. The best thing about this school was that the pupils were regularly asked to test new chocolate bars for the Cadbury factory! Many people think this may have given Roald the idea of writing about the world of Willy Wonka.

In 1939, Roald became a pilot in the Royal Air Force, which is also known as the RAF. Unfortunately, he had a bad accident which made it too dangerous for him to fly. He left the RAF and took a position as a British Intelligence Officer, which is a spy!

Famous Works

Roald Dahl's first novel for children was 'James and the Giant Peach'. It was almost a very different book as Roald's original idea was about a giant cherry that floated down a stream, rather than a flying peach! Roald went on to write many other well-loved titles, including 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'The Twits' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.



Legacy

Roald lived to age 74 and spent the last 30 years of his life in Great Missenden. Today, it is the home of the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, which opened in 2005. The popular stage version of Matilda has been running for many years and new film adaptations of his books are always very successful. His books are enjoyed by millions of people; they have been translated into 68 different languages and are loved across the globe.

Dictionary of Dahlisms

Gobblefunk: The name given to words invented by Roald Dahl.

Frobscottle: A green fizzy drink

Gunzleswiped: To be caught red-handed in the act of doing something.

Svollop: To destroy something.

Phizz-whizzing: Another word for excellent.

Oompa Loompa: A small person.

Snozzcumber: An unpleasant vegetable found only in Giant Country.

Scrumdiddlyumptious: Something delicious to eat.

Splatch-winkling: To be rushing or dashing around.

Questions

1. Where was Roald Dahl born? Tick one.

- Norway
 Llandaff
 Derbyshire
 Great Missenden

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Roald goes to the Repton School for Boys.
 'James and the Giant Peach' is released.
 Roald joins the Royal Air Force.
 The Roald Dahl Museum opens.

3. Draw **four** lines and match the corresponding information.

Boy: Tales of Childhood	Royal Air Force
British Intelligence Officer	Roald's first children's novel
RAF	Roald's autobiography
James and the Giant Peach	a spy

4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that Roald's books were popular.

Roald went on to write many other well-loved titles, including 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'The Twits' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

5. Look at the section called **Legacy**.

Find and copy one word which means 'something has been changed for a different use'.

6. Name **two** books written by Roald Dahl.

1. _____

2. _____

7. Why do you think Roald Dahl's books are so popular?

Answers

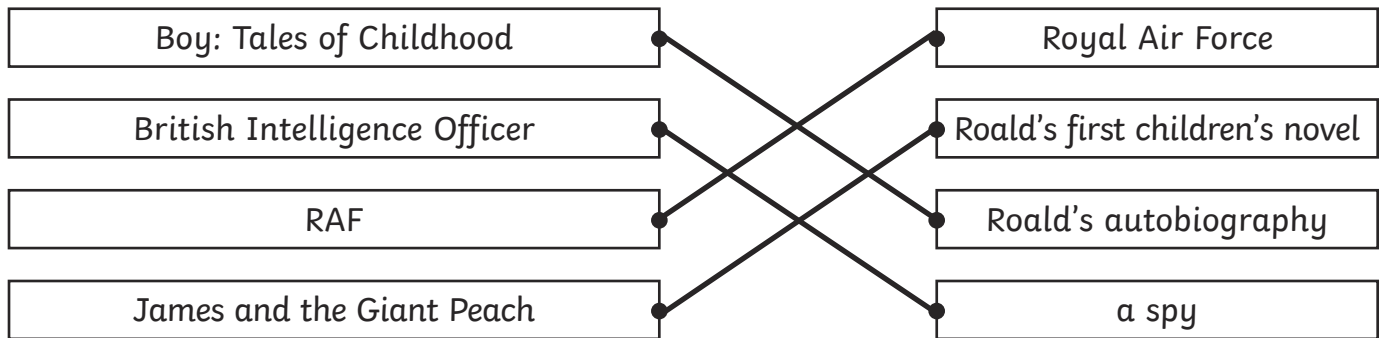
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*Roald went on to write many other **well-loved** titles, including 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'The Twits' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.*

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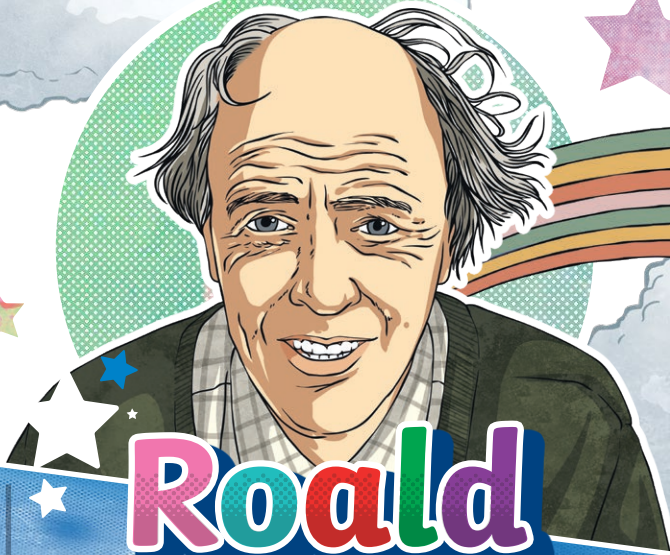
adaptations

6. Name **two** books written by Roald Dahl.

Accept any two of the following: James and the Giant Peach; Matilda; Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; The Twits; George's Marvellous Medicine or any other of Roald Dahl's titles.

7. Why do you think Roald Dahl's books are so popular?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Roald Dahl's books are popular because they really connect with the imagination of the children who read them. They are full of creativity, magic and inspiration.



Roald Dahl

Early Life

Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff in South Wales on 13th September 1916. His parents were Norwegian and named him after the famous Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen. In his autobiography called 'Boy: Tales of Childhood', Roald tells many tales of his early mischief, including a cheeky trick he played on Mrs Pratchett, the owner of the local sweet shop in Llandaff. Roald and some of his classmates gave her quite a shock by hiding a mouse in a jar of sweets!

"I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."

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Education and Family

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In 1939, Roald became a pilot in the Royal Air Force, which is known as the RAF. Unfortunately, he was involved in a bad accident and his injuries made it too dangerous for him to fly. He left the RAF and took a position as a British Intelligence Officer, which is a spy!

Gunzleswiped: To be caught red-handed in the act of doing something.

Svollop:
To destroy something.

Roald Dahl



Phizz-whizzing:
Another word for excellent.

Famous Works

Roald Dahl's first novel for children was 'James and the Giant Peach', which was published in 1961. It was almost a very different book as Roald's original idea was about a giant cherry that floated down a stream, rather than a flying peach! Many beloved titles followed, including 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'The Twits' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

Scrumdiddlyumptious:
Something delicious to eat.

Snozzcumber:
An unpleasant vegetable found only in Giant Country.

Splatch-winkling:
To be rushing or dashing around.

Oompa Loompa:
A small person.

Legacy

Roald lived to age 74 and spent the last 30 years of his life in Great Missenden. Today, it is the home of the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, which opened in 2005. Inside, are many of Roald's personal items, even his garden shed where he did most of his writing!

The popular stage version of Matilda has been running for many years and new film adaptations of his books are always very successful. His works are enjoyed by millions of people; they have been translated into 68 different languages and are loved across the globe.



'So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install, a lovely bookshelf on the wall.'

- Roald Dahl, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Roald becomes a spy.
- Roald attends Repton School for Boys.
- 'James and the Giant Peach' is published.
- Roald Dahl Museum opens in Great Missenden.

2. Where were Roald Dahl's parents from? Tick one.

- Wales
- Llandaff
- Repton
- Norway

3. Draw **four** lines and match the corresponding information.

Llandaff, South Wales	Royal Air Force
RAF	where Roald was born
Great Missenden	Roald's autobiography
Boy: Tales of Childhood	where Roald Dahl lived

4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the boys were expected to give their opinions about the chocolate bars.

The best thing about this school was that the pupils were regularly asked to sample and rate new chocolate bars for the Cadbury factory!

5. Which other fruit did Roald Dahl nearly write about instead of a peach?

6. Look at the section called **Famous Works**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'treasured'.

7. Why do you think Roald Dahl chose to do most of his writing in his garden shed?

8. Summarise the most important facts you have learned about Roald from this text.

Answers

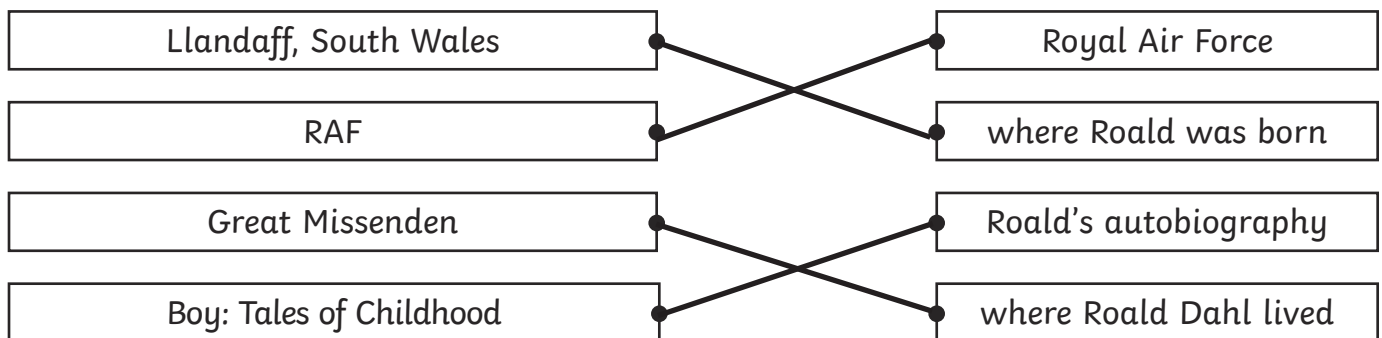
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1 Roald attends Repton School for Boys.
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2. Where were Roald Dahl's parents from? Tick one.

- Wales
 Llandaff
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 Norway

3. Draw **four** lines and match the corresponding information.



4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that the boys were expected to give their opinions about the chocolate bars.

*The best thing about this school was that the pupils were regularly asked to sample and **rate** new chocolate bars for the Cadbury factory!*

5. Which other fruit did Roald Dahl nearly write about instead of a peach?

Roald Dahl nearly wrote about a cherry instead of a peach.

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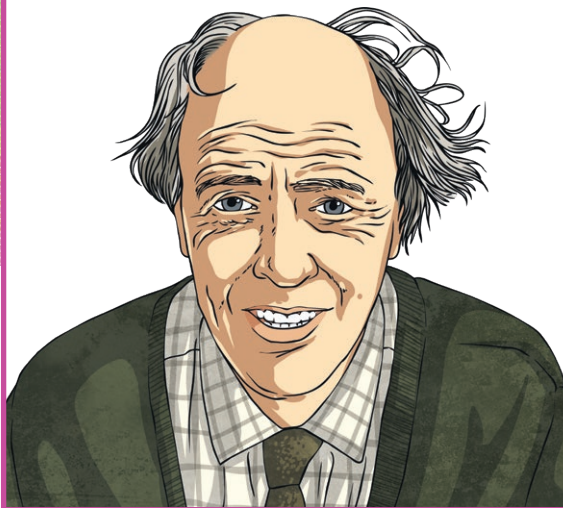
beloved

7. Why do you think Roald Dahl chose to do most of his writing in his garden shed?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Roald Dahl chose to do his writing in his garden shed because he liked to have a separate space where he could create a calm, peaceful environment to write in.

8. Summarise the most important facts you have learned about Roald from this text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Roald Dahl is a writer from Wales who has written lots of very popular children's books. His parents were from Norway. He was in the RAF and even became a spy.



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Education and Family

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More Dahlisms

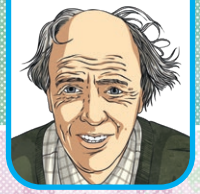
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Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the year it happened.

Roald joins the RAF.	1916
The Roald Dahl Museum opens.	1939
Roald Dahl is born	1961
'James and the Giant Peach' is published.	2005

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that Roald sometimes got into trouble.

Today, there is a blue sign on the building to commemorate the young author's mischief.

3. What was Roald lucky enough to sample while attending Repton School?

4. Look at the paragraph which begins **Roald began attending Repton School...**

Find and copy one phrase which means 'gave Roald the idea' or 'inspired'.

5. What did Roald hide in a jar of sweets?

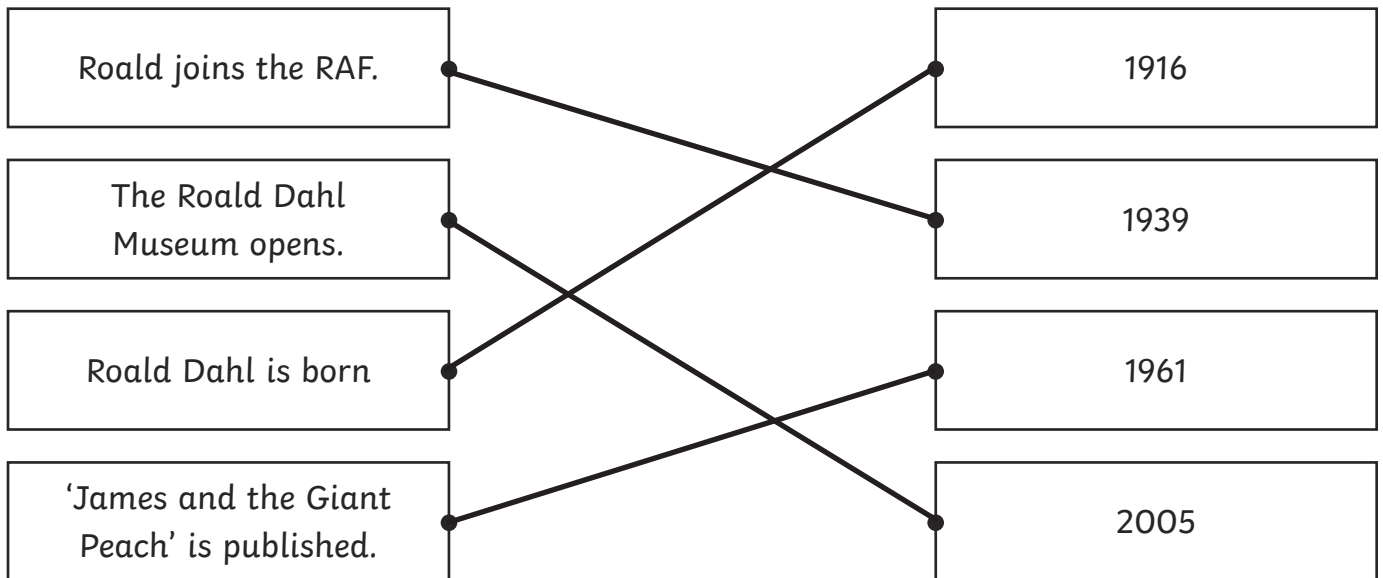
6. What impression do you get about Roald Dahl's personality from this text?

7. How do you think Roald's stories compare to other children's authors?

8. Summarise the most important facts you have learnt about Roald from this text.

Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the year it happened.



2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below that suggests that Roald sometimes got into trouble.
*Today, there is a blue sign on the building to commemorate the young author's **mischief**.*
3. What was Roald lucky enough to sample while attending Repton School?
Roald was lucky enough to sample Cadbury chocolate while attending Repton School.
4. Look at the paragraph which begins **Roald began attending Repton School...**
Find and copy one phrase which means 'gave Roald the idea' or 'inspired'.
sewn the creative seeds
5. What did Roald hide in a jar of sweets?
Roald hid a mouse in a jar of sweets.
6. What impression do you get about Roald Dahl's personality from this text?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I get the impression that Roald Dahl was a playful adventurer. He travelled with the RAF, worked as a spy and then used the rest of his life to create beautiful stories for children to enjoy.
7. How do you think Roald's stories compare to other children's authors?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Roald's stories are different to other children's authors because his narrator is almost always a child that the reader can easily identify with. His books are filled with magic and fun. He uses made-up words in his stories.
8. Summarise the most important facts you have learnt about Roald from this text.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Roald Dahl is an author from Wales and his parents were from Norway. He was a pilot during the Second World War before becoming a spy! He has written lots of very popular books that have been turned into films, television and stage productions.