ROALD DAHL



Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but in 1920, she died when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so sad that he fell ill from pneumonia. A few weeks later, he also died.

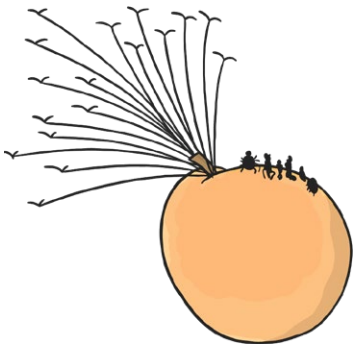
His mother was a great story teller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters.

Although Roald had a happy home life, he had an unhappy time at his school in Wales, and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. His mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the all-powerful Matron who "disliked small boys very much indeed" and the cane-wielding Headmaster.



At the age of 13, Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was happier here. He was brilliant at sports and was very good at boxing. The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company and this experience later inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Over the next few years, Roald Dahl worked in Africa for an oil company and then enlisted in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.



In 1940, 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 six months. He returned to the RAF but,



after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant he had to leave because he could not fly planes anymore.

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



He met and married actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there. Roald Dahl and Patricia Neal had five children; Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. However, Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from an illness.

Roald Dahl started telling his amazing 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. 'James and the Giant Peach' was his first published children's book.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."

He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "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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Questions About Roald Dahl

1. In which country was Roald Dahl born? Tick one.

   ☐ Scotland

   ☐ Norway

   ☐ England

   ☐ Wales

2. Join the boxes to show the year in which these events took place.

Roald Dahl was born.	1940
Roald Dahl's sister, Astri died.	1916
Roald was posted to Libya.	1920

3. Roald's mother told stories about **mythical Norwegian characters.** Explain what is meant by the word **mythical.**

_____

4. Which sport was Roald very good at when he attended Repton Public School?

_____

5. What was the name of the author who suggested that Roald should start writing articles about his flying experiences?

_____

6. What impression do we get of St. Peters' School that Roald attended from the age of 9 years?

_____

_____

_____

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7. How do you think the boys at Repton Public School felt about being chocolate tasters for a famous chocolate company?

8. Suggest two reasons why do you think Roald Dahl started to write children stories?

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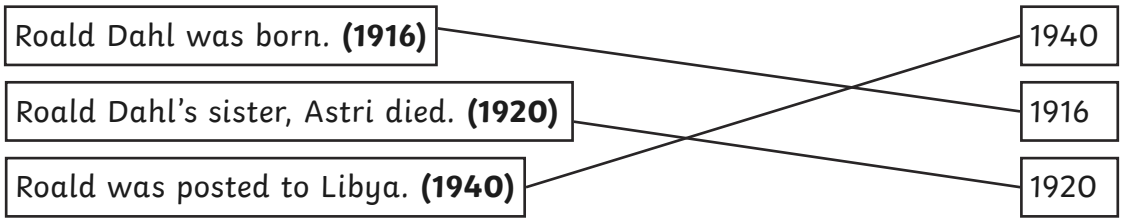
Questions About Roald Dahl

Answers

1. In which country was Roald Dahl born? Tick one.

- [ ] Scotland
- [ ] Norway
- [ ] England
- [x] **Wales**

2. Join the boxes to show the year in which these events took place.



3. Roald's mother told stories about **mythical Norwegian characters.** Explain what is meant by the word **mythical.**

Made-up / imaginary

4. Which sport was Roald very good at when he attended Repton Public School?

Boxing

5. What was the name of the author who suggested that Roald should start writing articles about his flying experiences?

C.S. Forester

6. What impression do we get of St. Peters' School that Roald attended from the age of 9 years?

Pupil's own responses such as: Roald did not like the headmaster as he used a cane to punish the boys.

7. How do you think the boys at Repton Public School felt about being chocolate tasters for a famous chocolate company?

Pupils own responses such as: The boys would have enjoyed being chocolate tasters because most children like chocolate and they may have felt quite important helping the famous chocolate company. Roald was inspired to write the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' based on this experience so it must have been very memorable.

8. Suggest two reasons why do you think Roald Dahl started to write children stories?

Pupils own responses such as: His mother was a great story teller and told him tales of trolls and mythical Norwegian characters. He told stories to his children at bedtime and realised how much his children enjoyed the stories. He had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He had a passion for encouraging children to read.

ROALD DAHL



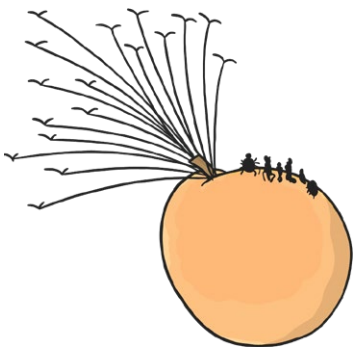
Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but she sadly died in 1920 when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so sad that he fell ill from pneumonia and a few weeks later he also died. His mother was a great story teller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters.

Although Roald had a happy home life, he had an unhappy time at his school in Wales, and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. His mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the 'twitching' Latin teacher Captain Hardcastle, the all-powerful Matron who "disliked small boys very much indeed" and the cane-wielding Headmaster.



At the age of 13, Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was happier here. He was brilliant at sports and was very good at boxing. The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company, and this experience later inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

After he left school, he wanted adventure so he worked for Shell Oil Company. 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 (RAF) and became a pilot.



In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to Libya where he flew a Gloster Gladiator plane. He crashed in the Western

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Desert in North Africa and suffered such severe injuries to his head and back that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for six months. He returned to the RAF but after a while he began suffering such terrible headaches from his accident, he had to return to the UK and could not fly planes anymore.

In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the USA 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 in the Sunday Evening Post newspaper.



During this time, he met and married actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there. 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. 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. 'James and the Giant Peach' was the first children's book that he had published.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."

He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "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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Questions About Roald Dahl

1. Who started Roald's love of stories? Tick one.

- [ ] his father
- [ ] his sister
- [ ] his mother
- [ ] his aunt

2. What job did Roald Dahl's wife Patricia Neal have?

- [ ] writer
- [ ] actress
- [ ] teacher
- [ ] nurse

3. Find and copy one word that shows that Roald's mother told him stories that were made-up.

_____

4. Fill in the missing words.

In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to _____ where he flew a _____ _____ plane. He crashed in the _____ Desert.

5. Why did Roald join the Royal Air Force (RAF) to become a pilot?

_____

6. Why did Roald start writing for the Sunday Evening Post newspaper?

_____

_____

_____

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7. Explain what family tragedies Roald experienced during his life.

8. Explain what Roald Dahl meant by saying "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week."

9. Do you think that Roald Dahl's books have encouraged children to read? Explain your answer.

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Questions About Roald Dahl

Answers

1. Who started Roald's love of stories? Tick one.

- [ ] his father
- [ ] his sister
- [x] **his mother**
- [ ] his aunt

2. What job did Roald Dahl's wife Patricia Neal have?

- [ ] writer
- [x] **actress**
- [ ] teacher
- [ ] nurse

3. Find and copy one word that shows that Roald's mother told him stories that were made-up.

   Mythical

4. Fill in the missing words.

   In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to **Libya** where he flew a **Gloster Gladiator** plane. He crashed in the **Western** Desert.

5. Why did Roald join the Royal Air Force (RAF) to become a pilot?

   The Second World War broke out.

6. Why did Roald start writing for the Sunday Evening Post newspaper?

   Pupils own responses such as: 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 in the Sunday Evening Post newspaper.

7. Explain what family tragedies Roald experienced during his life.

   Pupils own responses such as: Roald's sister Astri died when she was 7. His father died a few weeks later from pneumonia. Roald's daughter Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from measles encephalitis.

Questions About Roald Dahl

Answers

8. Explain what Roald Dahl meant by saying "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week."

   Pupils own responses such as: Roald knew that to understand what it was like for children you had to see everything in the same way that they did. You would see people as giants who were always telling you what to do.

9. Do you think that Roald Dahl's books have encouraged children to read? Explain your answer.

   Pupils own responses such as: Yes I think that Roald's books have encouraged children to read. His stories are funny, exciting and easy to read. I think that they make children want to read them.

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ROALD DAHL

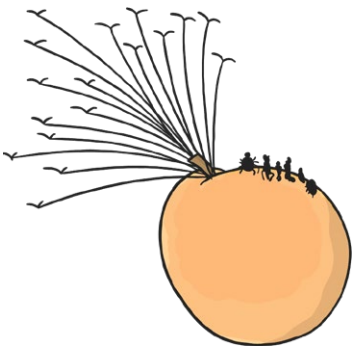


Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but in 1920, she sadly died when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so distraught that he fell ill from pneumonia and a few weeks later, he also died. At this time, Roald's mother was pregnant with her third child, who was born in the autumn. She was called Asta. His mother was a great story teller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales that she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters. His father had been a wonderful woodcarver despite only having one arm. He had an interest in "lovely paintings and fine furniture". He was very intelligent and knew a lot about many different things.



Despite having a happy home life, Roald had an unhappy time at his school in Wales and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. As a result, his mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the 'twitching' Latin teacher Captain Hardcastle, the all-powerful Matron – certainly inspiration for Miss Trunchball in 'Matilda', who "disliked small boys very much indeed" - and the cane-wielding Headmaster.

At the age of 13, Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was happier here. He was brilliant at sports. However, his English master said Roald was "quite incapable of marshalling his thoughts on paper". The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company, and this experience later inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.



After he left school, he wanted adventure so he got a job with Shell Oil Company. He was sent to Africa for

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three years, but after only one year, the Second World War broke out, so he enlisted with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and became a pilot. In 1940, 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 six months. He returned to the RAF, but after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant that he had to return to the UK and could not fly planes anymore.



In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the USA to work as an assistant air attaché. He met the author C.S.Forester, who suggested that Roald should write about his experiences flying planes in the desert. This led to Roald being paid for the first time for writing, which was in the Sunday Evening Post newspaper.

In 1951, Roald had a collection of stories published in a book called Someone Like You. During this year, he also married the actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there.

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 that 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, which was Dahl's first book for children. 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.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."

He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "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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Questions About Roald Dahl

1. What was the name of Roald's younger sister? Tick one.
   - ☐ Astri
   - ☐ Asta
   - ☐ Olivia
   - ☐ Ophelia

2. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story.
   - ☐ Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire.
   - ☐ Roald married Patricia Neal.
   - ☐ James and the Giant peach was published.
   - ☐ Roald worked in Africa for three years.
   - ☐ Roald's sister Astri sadly died.

3. What disability did Roald's father have?

_____

4. His mother was a great story teller. Roald remembered many tales that she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters. What does **mythical** mean?

_____

5. What inspired Roald to write the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?

_____

_____

6. What does 'all-powerful Matron' mean? What characteristics might she have had?

_____

_____

Questions About Roald Dahl

7. Explain the effect that the plane crash in North Africa had on Roald's career with the RAF.

8. In your own words, explain what Roald thought a writer should do if they were going to write books for children.

9. Suggest as many reasons as you can to explain why Roald Dahl started to write children stories?

10. Do you think that Roald Dahl's book have encouraged you to read? Explain your answer.

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Questions About Roald Dahl

Answers

1. What was the name of Roald's younger sister? Tick one.

- [ ] Astri
- [x] **Asta**
- [ ] Olivia
- [ ] Ophelia

2. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story.

- [2] Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire.
- [4] Roald married Patricia Neal.
- [5] James and the Giant peach was published.
- [3] Roald worked in Africa for three years.
- [1] Roald's sister Astri sadly died.

3. What disability did Roald's father have?

He only had one arm.

4. His mother was a great story teller. Roald remembered many tales that she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters. What does **mythical** mean?

Mythical means made up or make-believe.

5. What inspired Roald to write the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?

The boys at Repton Public School were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company.

6. What does 'all-powerful Matron' mean? What characteristics might she have had?

Pupils own response such as: It means she had all the power and was not very nice. She might have been bossy, domineering, unkind, nasty and cruel.

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Questions About Roald Dahl

Answers

7. Explain the effect that the plane crash in North Africa had on Roald's career with the RAF.

   Pupils own responses such as: Roald suffered such severe injuries to his head and back after the plane crash that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for six months. He returned to the RAF, but after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant that he had to return to the UK and could not fly planes anymore.

8. In your own words, explain what Roald thought a writer should do if they were going to write books for children.

   Pupils own response such as: Roald thought that a writer would need to be able to see the world through children's eyes.

9. Suggest as many reasons as you can to explain why Roald Dahl started to write children stories?

   Pupils own responses such as: His mother was a great story teller and told him tales of trolls and mythical Norwegian characters. He told stories to his children at bedtime and realised how much his children enjoyed the stories. He had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He had a passion for encouraging children to read.

10. Do you think that Roald Dahl's book have encouraged you to read? Explain your answer.

    Pupils own responses such as: Yes, I think that Roald Dahl's books have encouraged me to read. I enjoy his stories as they are funny and exciting which amazing characters. Pupils may discuss the books that they have read and what they enjoyed about them.