

Name: _____

Biographies: Roald Dahl

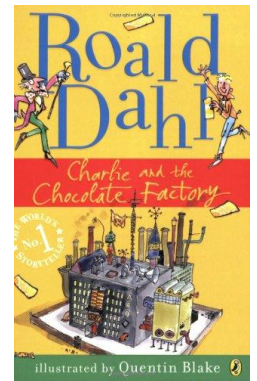


The novelist, Roald Dahl, is one of the most famous authors of children and adult literature of the twentieth century.

Roald was born in Llandaff, Wales, on September 13, 1916. His parents, Harald Dahl and Sofie Magdalene Hesselberg, were Norwegian. His works reflect his origins with a mix of culture and traditions of Norway and life in Britain.

Roald's sister and father both died when he was very young. This was a blow to the whole family, especially his mother, who now had to take care of the family.

In his youth, he lived at a school in Repton near a chocolate factory that would send chocolates to the school for the boys to taste test. It was here that Dahl discovered the magic of rich, sweet chocolate and dreamed of creating a new chocolate bar. This was the inspiration behind his later novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



In 1934, he worked at an oil company that transferred him to Tanzania, Africa to work on supplying fuel in that area. He had great adventures and unforgettable experiences in Africa, which are reflected in some of his works.

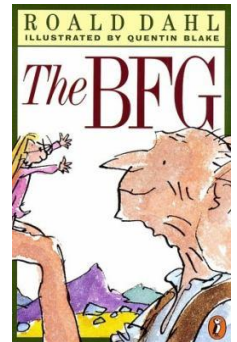
Five years later, he joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot. Some of the countries where he flew were Nairobi, Kenya, Egypt, Libya, and Iraq.

On one of those flights he had to make a forced landing in the desert, crashing the plane hard. Dahl fractured his skull and nose and lost his sight. He was rescued and taken to a hospital in Alexandria, where after much rest and care, he regained his vision.

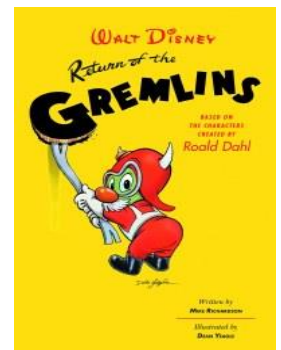
Even though they thought there was little chance of him returning to be a pilot, he recovered and returned to his flying duties. All these experiences were embodied in his autobiography, *Going Solo*.

Roald Dahl began writing in 1942. A year later his first children's book, *The Gremlins*, was published. The characters were naughty creatures with big hearts.

Some of Dahl's more famous books for children of all ages were *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches*, *The BFG*, *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Twits*, and *Boy*, a book that tells about his childhood and enjoyable summers in Norway. In the 60s, he wrote scripts for screenplays. His wife, American actress Patricia Neal, and their 5 children encouraged him to write new stories and were inspirations for many of his books.



Roald Dahl died on November 23, 1990 in Buckinghamshire from leukemia. He was 74. His spirit remains with us through his works, and donations to charities for sick children, and Marvelous Children's Charity, the Roald Dahl Foundation, founded after his death. More information can be found at www.roalddahl.com.



In 2005, the Roald Dahl Museum was opened in Great Missenden, which is about 20 miles northwest of London, for both young and old to enjoy the life and works of this literary genius.

If you have not been lucky enough to enjoy any of his books yet, I encourage you to do so. I guarantee you'll have moments of enjoyment and fun.

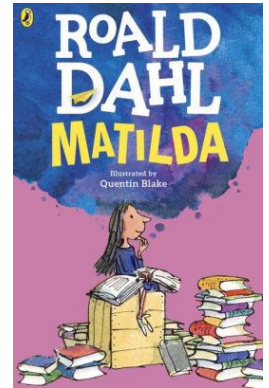


Name: _____

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Who was Roald Dahl?

- a. a famous writer of the 19th century
- b. a Belgian chocolate master
- c. a racing driver
- d. All answers are false.



2. Norway's influence is seen in some of Dahl's works.

- a. True
- b. False

3. It can be said that Roald Dahl worked in different sectors, such as in the one of _____, but the one that gave him the most fame was as a writer.

- a. taste testing chocolates from the chocolate factory
- b. working for an oil company
- c. being a pilot
- d. All the answers are correct.

4. Why do you think his father's death was a blow to the family?

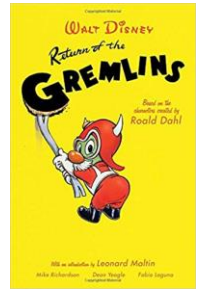
- a. Because her mother was single
- b. Because his brothers wanted to have more little brothers
- c. Because his mother had to take care of the family
- d. Because their grandparents decided not to help them financially

5. Roald Dahl's experiences throughout his lifetime often became themes in works he wrote. Point out where this can be seen for each of the following.

- a. When he worked as an airplane pilot _____
- b. When he worked as a teacher in his parents' town _____
- c. When he worked in the chocolate factory _____
- d. When he worked planting giant peaches _____

6. The Gremlins was _____

- a. the 1950s work which made Dahl the most famous.
- b. a successful book but that sold very few copies.
- c. a work where the good and bad values of some fantasy beings are appreciated.
- d. written by Dahl's children under their father's supervision.



7. Although it is likely that you have not read all of Roald Dahl's works, connect the correct columns with arrows. To do this read the information given carefully to determine the correct answer.

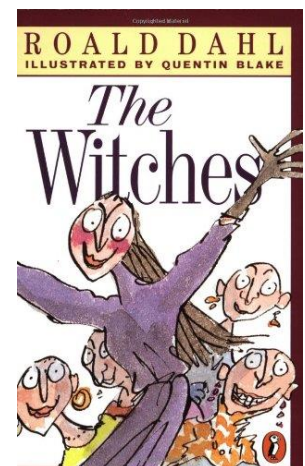
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| a. Matilda | 1. About a group of sorceresses who meet at a convention to talk about various matters. |
| b. The Witches | 2. About an old wicked couple who play mean jokes on each other. |
| c. The Twits | 3. About a very smart girl who discovers she has special powers after reading many books. |
| d. Boy | 4. About the life of a boy and his family and their happy moments and also sad moments. |

8. At what age did Roald Dahl die.

- a. 64
- b. 84
- c. 74
- d. 94

9. In 2005, the Roald Dahl Museum was opened in Great Missenden, about 20 miles south of London.

- a. True
- b. False



10. In the text it says that the Roald Dahl Foundation was created after his death in 1990. Some of the goals pursued by the Foundation are:

- Help the neediest families.
- Help children with medical problems.
- Raise funds to pay nurses for sick children.

If you could donate money to the foundation, how would you want your donation to be used?

a. _____

b. _____

