

Roald Dahl Fact File

Roald Dahl was born in Wales to Norwegian parents. He had an older sister called Asti who sadly died when she was 7 years old. Roald's father was so upset, he fell ill with pneumonia and died a few weeks after Asti. Roald's mother was pregnant, and gave birth to Roald's younger sister, Asta.

Roald did not like school, and after getting into trouble in his Welsh primary school, his mother sent him to boarding school - first in Weston-Super-Mare and then Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was very homesick at first, but then began to enjoy the experience. Whilst at the Repton School, Roald and his friends were often asked to be chocolate testers for a large company, and this later gave him the inspiration to write *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

After school, Roald wanted to travel and have adventures, so he worked for the Shell oil company. He was sent to Africa to work, but after a year, the Second World War broke out and Roald signed up to join the Royal Air Force. He became a pilot.

Dahl flew a Tiger Moth plane in Nairobi and then was posted to Libya, where he flew a Gloster Gladiator. In the September of 1940, his plane crashed in the Western Desert. He suffered terrible injuries to his head and back, so had to be flown to a hospital in Egypt. It took him 6 months to recover. He eventually returned to the RAF, but after a while, he began having violent headaches. As a result, he returned to England to live with his mother and sister.

He began writing in an old cottage, where he wrote his first novel 'Some Time Never: A Fable for Supermen' – a book for adults. It was not a cheerful book and writing it exhausted Roald so much that he had to go back to hospital.

In 1951, he met the actress Patricia Neal and they were soon married. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire. They had five children: Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. Sadly, Olivia died when she was 7 years old.

Roald told his children stories at bedtime, and decided to start writing them down

Birth:

13th September 1916,
Llandaff Wales

Death:

23rd November 1990,
Oxford, UK

Occupation:

Writer/ author

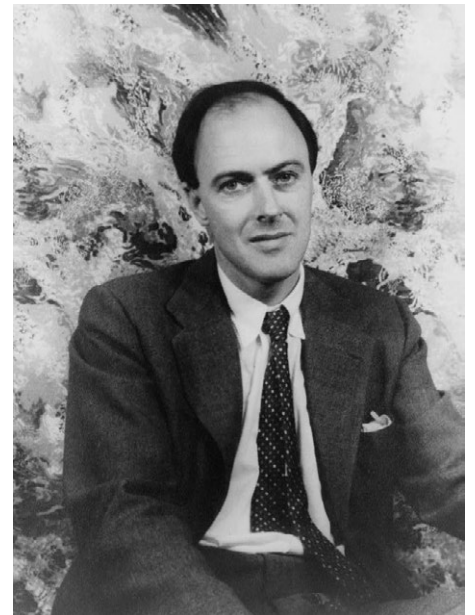


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for all children to enjoy. During the 1980s, Dahl had 11 children's books published and *The BFG* was turned into an animated film.

During his lifetime, Roald Dahl wrote 20 books for children and had 48 books published altogether. He has had 6 books turned into films, and both *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* are now theatre shows.

He died on 23rd November 1990, aged 74, from a disease of the blood. He is buried in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. A short distance away, there is now a Roald Dahl Museum. 2016 sees the 100 year celebration of Roald Dahl's life.



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