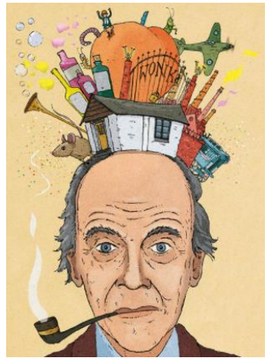
Roald Dahl



Early life

Roald Dahl's was born on 13th September 1916. His father died when Roald was only three in 1919 and Roald was brought up by his mother Sofie in a village called Llandaff near Cardiff. He had one older sister and two younger sisters.

Education

At the age of six, Roald began at his first school Elm Tree House. The next year, he moved to Llandafff Cathedral School. When Roald was nine, in 1925, he was sent to a boarding school called St Peter's in Weston-super-Mare, England. He described his experience of being too frightened at first and becoming deeply homesick.

Before long, in 1929, he moved on to yet another boarding school called Repton in Derbyshire. He found the experience even less enjoyable than his previous school. Often, he found teachers were dreadfully strict or older boys frequently bullied the younger boys.

Early Career



Roald Dahl in his military uniform

After Roald left school in 1934, he began a job with Shell Oil Company in London, and he hoped he would be able to travel abroad. Soon after, he was sent to Tanzania in Africa to sell oil. Unfortunately, the Second World War broke out in 1939. Therefore, Roald joined the Royal Air Force to learn to fly. He ventured to Kenya to train as a pilot so in 1940 he was ordered to join the fighting around Egypt.

Roald was sent to fight in Syria but due to his injuries he was told he was no longer fit to fly, and he returned home.

Career as a writer

He was not at home for long because in 1942 he was ordered to go to the USA to work in Washington. Here, he started writing and in 1943 his first story was published in the USA, called Gremlins.

In the 1964, Dahl released his book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' in the United States to tremendous success! Two years later, another of Roald's famous books 'James and the Giant Peach' was published. This was an instant success and practically flew off the shelves! Over the next few decades, his other books including 'Fantastic Mr. Fox' and 'Danny, Champion of the World' were published and entertained children in their millions



However, it was in 1978, Dahl's met one of his closest collegues. Roald discovered the work of illustrator Quentin Blake. As a result, from then on, Quentin drew the illustrations for Roald's books. He brought a unique style to his drawings. Without question, Roald's most famous book is considered 'The BFG', which was published in 1982. Eventually, Roald won an award called the Whitebread Prize for his book 'The Witches'.

Blake has also worked with other authors including David Walliams

Family

After the World War Two had ended, he stayed in the USA and it was here that he met a Hollywood Movie star called Patricia Neal. They married in 1953, although divorced in 1983.

Roald Dahl had five children. Roald's first daughter was born in 1955 and she was called Olivia. In 1957 another daughter was born called Tessa, followed by a son called Theo in 1960. In 1964 Roald's third daughter Ophelia was born and 1965 his final daughter Lucy was born.

Death

Roald Dahl died in 1990 at the age of 74.