

# **Roald Dahl Biography**

Roald Dahl's was born on 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

In 1922, Roald began at his first school Elm Tree House. In 1923, he moved to Llandaff 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 was very frightened at first and was very homesick.

In 1929, at the age of thirteen, he moved to another boarding school called Repton in Derbyshire. He liked this even less than his previous school, as the teachers were very strict and the older boys bullied the younger boys.

When Roald left school in 1934 he began a job with Shell Oil Company in London and he hoped he would get to travel abroad. In 1938 he was sent to Tanzania in Africa to sell oil. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Roald joined the Royal Air Force so he could learn to fly. He went to Kenya to train as a pilot and in 1940 he was ordered to join the fighting around Egypt.

In 1941 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. 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. After the war finished he stayed in the USA and here he met a Hollywood Movie star called Patricia Neal. They married in 1953.

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 his book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' was published in the USA to great success! In 1965 his final daughter Lucy was born.

In 1966 another of Roald's famous books 'James and the Giant Peach' was published. This was an instant success and practically flew off the shelves! Later, his other books including 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and 'Danny, Champion of the World' were published.

In 1978 Roald met the illustrator Quentin Blake and from then on, Quentin drew the illustrations for Roald's books. Roald's most famous book, 'The BFG' was published in 1982 but sadly he and his wife got divorced in 1983. Later that year, Roald won an important award called the Whitebread Prize for his book 'The Witches'. Roald Dahl died in 1990 at the age of 74.