



Roald Dahl



Roald Dahl, (born September 13, 1916, Llandaff, Wales—died November 23, 1990, Oxford, England), was a British writer and a popular author of ingenious, irreverent children's books.

Following his graduation from Repton, a renowned British public school, in 1932, Dahl avoided a university education and joined an expedition to Newfoundland. He worked from 1937 to 1939 in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika (now in Tanzania), but he enlisted in the Royal Air Force (RAF) World War II broke . Flying as a fighter pilot, he was seriously injured in a crash landing in Libya. He served with his squadron in Greece and then in Syria before doing a stint (1942–43) as assistant air attaché in Washington, D.C. (during time he also served as a spy for the British government). There the novelist C.S. Forester encouraged him

 write about his most exciting RAF adventures, were published by the Saturday Evening Post.

Dahl's first book, *The Gremlins* (1943), was written for Walt Disney but was largely unsuccessful. His service in the RAF influenced his first story collection, *Over to You: Ten Stories of Flyers and Flying* (1946), a series of military tales that was warmly received critics but did not sell well. He achieved best-seller status with *Someone like You* (1953; rev. ed. 1961), a collection of macabre stories for adults, which followed by *Kiss, Kiss* (1959), focused on stormy romantic relationships.

Dahl then turned primarily to writing the children's books that would give him lasting fame. Unlike most other books aimed at a young audience, Dahl's works had a darkly comic nature, frequently including gruesome violence and death. His villains were often malevolent adults who imperiled precocious and noble child protagonists. *James and the Giant Peach* (1961; film 1996), written for his own children, was a popular success, as was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964), which was made into the films *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005). His other works for young readers include *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (1970; film 2009), *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* (1972), *The Enormous Crocodile* (1978), *The BFG* (1982; films 1989 and 2016), and *The Witches* (1983; film 1990). One of his last such books, *Matilda* (1988), was adapted as a film (1996) and as a stage musical (2010).

Dahl also wrote several scripts for movies, among them *You Only Live Twice* (1967) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (1968). His autobiography, *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, was published in 1984.

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