



Roald Dahl is one of the greatest storytellers the world has ever known. He's sold well over 200 million books, and you might also know stories like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The BFG*, and *Matilda* from the film versions. Roald Dahl had a way of telling stories that made them fun and easy to read.



This, according to Roald himself, is because he found it very easy to remember what it was like to be a child. Roald was born in Llandaff, Wales, on 13th September 1916. His parents were both from Norway, but they moved to the UK before he was born. He went to several different boarding schools, living away from his parents for most of the year. Once, to play a trick on the owner of a sweet shop, he put a dead mouse in one of the jars of sweets! As punishment for that, he was caned (hit with a stick) at school. In fact, Roald hated violence and cruel behavior, and in many of his stories, the main characters are treated cruelly by their family, carers, or teachers. However, they always come out on top.

Roald's dream was to go to exciting foreign places, and he got the chance when he got a job with the Shell Company supplying oil in East Africa. When the Second World War broke out, he became a fighter pilot, and he almost died when he crashed his plane in the desert. Although he flew again after that, he soon became too ill to continue. He was sent home and given a new job in the British Embassy in Washington, DC. There, he started writing speeches and war stories, and his first pieces of writing were published.

Check your understanding. Gap fill.



A. Complete these sentences with the best answer.



1. Roald Dahl is a well-known _____ from the UK.
2. Roald was born in _____ on 13 September 1916.
3. In many of his stories, the characters are treated _____ by other people, but they win in the end.
4. During the Second World War, Roald _____.
5. If you want to know more about Roald's amazing life, you should visit _____.