4.5 Reading



Ransom Riggs

Ransom Riggs is an American author. He was born in 1979 and he grew up first on a farm in Maryland, USA, and then in Florida. He started writing stories when he was young. He also loved making silly films with his friends. Ransom went to a special school for clever children. At college he studied English Literature. After that, he studied film at the University of Southern California.

After he graduated, Ransom got a job as a writer for an online magazine. Then he wrote his first book, *The Sherlock Holmes Handbook*, about the famous detective from Arthur Conan Doyle's stories.



Ransom doesn't only write books. He loves scuba diving and making films. He also enjoys finding old and unusual photos. In fact, he got the idea for his most famous book, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, from a collection of photographs. This book is about a boy called Jacob. Jacob's grandfather tells him stories about his past life, about monsters and a home for peculiar children with no parents, but Jacob doesn't believe him. When Jacob's grandfather dies, Jacob discovers that the monsters and strange children are real. Teenagers loved this book, which was also a huge success as a fantasy film.

In 2012, Ransom fell in love with the author Tahereh Mafi and they got married in 2013. They have a daughter and they live in California.

1 Read the article quickly. Answer the questions.

1 What is the title of Ransom Riggs' first book?

_____

2 Which book is also a film?

_____

2 Read the article again and circle T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

1 Ransom Riggs grew up in two different parts of the USA. (T) / F / DS
2 When he was young, he made short films about books. T / F / DS
3 He studied film in California. T / F / DS
4 His first book was about a detective. T / F / DS
5 Miss Peregrine was a woman in a photo. T / F / DS
6 At first, Jacob believes his grandfather. T / F / DS
7 Ransom got married to in 2012. T / F / DS

3 Vocabulary Complete the article about Ransom's wife, Tahereh Mafi. Use the verbs in the box.

~~born~~ fell got graduated grew had went

Tahereh Mafi was [1]*born* in Connecticut in 1988. Her parents are from Iran, but she [2]_____ up in the USA. She [3]_____ to school in California. After school, she went to college and [4]_____ from Soka University of America. She is an author and her first book was *Shatter Me*. Tahereh met Ransom Riggs and they [5]_____ in love. In 2013 Tahereh and Ransom [6]_____ married. In 2017 they [7]_____ a daughter. They live in Santa Monica, California.

4 Answer the questions.

1 Are Ransom Riggs's books popular in your country?

_____

2 Have you read any of Ransom Riggs's books? If yes, which books have you read?

_____

3 Which of his books would you like to read?

_____

5 Vocabulary Complete the text about Alec's life. Use one word in each gap.

Alec was [1]*born* in 1946. He grew [2]_____ in Scotland. In 1964 he went to the University of Edinburgh and studied medicine. After he [3]_____ from university, he went to New Zealand and worked there as a doctor in a big hospital. In 1976, he met Barbara and fell [4]_____ love with her. Barbara was also from Scotland. They got [5]_____ in 1977 and two years later, they [6]_____ a daughter, Julie. When Alec was sixty-five, he [7]_____ and then they both returned to Scotland. They now live in Edinburgh, but they visit New Zealand once a year to see their daughter and grandchildren.

LIVEWORKSHEETS