

THE LIFE OF A TOP CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

David Walliams is a top children's author. He loves writing fiction for kids, but he also does many other things!

1 Before, most people knew him as one of the two main actors in the British comedy series *Little Britain*. But now, especially with children, he is probably more famous as a bestselling author. In fact, some now say that he is the UK's most successful children's writer, having sold 2.8 million copies of his first six books in five years.

2 He started acting at school. Then he went to university and after that he joined the National Youth Theatre. That was where he met Matt Lucas who became his partner in creating the *Little Britain* series in 2003.

3 He showed that he could act in serious plays and films, not just comedies. He also worked as a judge on the popular reality show, *Britain's Got Talent*.

4 The second of these two books, *Mr Stink*, was for teenagers. It won the Children's Award in the People's Book Prize in 2010. The books were so popular that he continued writing.

5 It is about a boy who is the richest 12-year-old in the world. He has a Formula One racing car, a thousand pairs of trainers, a billion pounds, but there's just one thing he needs: a friend. The book came with a billion pound note that readers could use to enter a competition to win a day as a billionaire in London!

6 His sixth book, *Demon Dentist*, sold more than 220,000 copies in just the first two months of being on sale. Walliams said: 'Demon Dentist is my very first horror story ... I hope children of all ages will love the new book's combination of chills, action and of course comedy.'

7 He swims. But not just in his local swimming pool. In 2006, he swam from England to France. He made about one million pounds for charity. Since then he's also swum about 225 kilometres of the River Thames, this time raising two million pounds. When he finished, he told reporters: 'I think I've just swum the length of the Thames! I feel quite tired. I think a bath is the only water I want to see for quite a while.'

8 A boat was carrying copies of one of his books from China to the UK. A storm hit the boat and 30,000 copies of the book fell into the sea! His publisher said that they were making an extra 30,000 copies of the book in Europe to substitute the copies that the sea had destroyed.

2 Read the article again and put sentences a–h into gaps 1–8 in the text.

- a But it was in 2008 that he signed a contract to write two children's books.
- b Walliams was born in 1971.
- c His books have continued to sell well.
- d When he isn't acting or writing, Walliams has an interesting hobby.
- e He continued appearing on TV in different types of programmes.
- f David Walliams is a man of many talents.
- g However, he wasn't very lucky with water in 2013.
- h His third book was called *Billionaire Boy*.