

# Roald Dahl

## Dictionary of Dahlisms

**Gobblefunk:** The name given to words invented by Roald Dahl.

**Frobscottle:** A green fizzy drink.

**Gunzleswiped:** To be caught red-handed in the act of doing something.

**Svollop:** To destroy something.

'So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.'

- Roald Dahl

## Early Life

Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff in South Wales on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1916. His parents were Norwegian and named him after the famous Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen. In his autobiography called 'Boy: Tales of Childhood', Roald tells many tales of his early mischief, including a cheeky trick he played on Mrs Pratchett, the owner of the local sweet shop in Llandaff. Roald and some of his classmates gave her quite a shock by hiding a mouse in a jar of sweets!

## Education and Family

Roald went to Repton School for Boys in Derbyshire from the age of 13. The best thing about this school was that the pupils were regularly asked to sample and rate new chocolate bars for the Cadbury factory! Many people think this may have sewn the creative seeds for the story of Willy Wonka.

## More Dahlisms

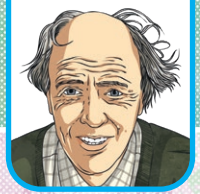
**Phizz-whizzing:** Another word for excellent.

**Oompa Loompa:** A small person.

**Snozzcumber:** An unpleasant vegetable found only in Giant Country.

**Scrumdiddlyumptious:** Something delicious to eat.

**Splatch-winkling:** To be rushing or dashing around.



## Famous Works

Roald Dahl's first novel for children was 'James and the Giant Peach', which was published in 1961. It was almost a very different book as Roald's original idea was about a giant cherry that floated down a stream, rather than a flying peach! Many beloved titles followed, including 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', 'The Twits' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

In 1939, Roald became a pilot in the Royal Air Force, which is known as the RAF. Unfortunately, he was involved in a bad accident and his injuries made it too dangerous for him to fly. He left the RAF and took a position as a British Intelligence Officer, which is a spy!

**"I have a passion for teaching kids to become readers, to become comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."**

- Roald Dahl

## Legacy

Roald lived to age 74 and spent the last 30 years of his life in Great Missenden. Today, it is the home of the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, which opened in 2005. Inside, are many of Roald's personal items, even his garden shed where he did most of his writing!



The popular stage version of Matilda, called 'Matilda The Musical', has been running for many years and new film adaptations of his books are always very successful. His works are enjoyed by millions of people; they have been translated into 68 different languages and are loved across the globe.

# Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the year it happened.

Roald joins the RAF.

1916

The Roald Dahl  
Museum opens.

1939

Roald Dahl is born

1961

'James and the Giant  
Peach' is published.

2005

2. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that Roald sometimes got into trouble.

*Today, there is a blue sign on the building to commemorate the young author's mischief.*

3. What was Roald lucky enough to sample while attending Repton School?

---

4. Look at the paragraph which begins **Roald began attending Repton School...**  
Find and copy one phrase which means 'gave Roald the idea' or 'inspired'.

---

5. What did Roald hide in a jar of sweets?

---

6. What impression do you get about Roald Dahl's personality from this text?

---



---



---

7. How do you think Roald's stories compare to other children's authors?

---

---

---

8. Summarise the most important facts you have learnt about Roald from this text.

---

---

---