

Roald Dahl

Many of you may have read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *Matilda*. However, what do you know about their author, Roald Dahl?

Well, Roald Dahl was born on 13 September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. He is known as the author of short stories and children's books and has also written autobiographies, novels and poetry. Probably his most famous collection of short stories are *Kiss, Kiss (Küsschen, Küsschen* in German) and *Someone Like You (Noch ein Küsschen)*, and among his children's books *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Gremlins, James and the Giant Peach* or *Danny, the Champion of the World* have to be mentioned.



Patricia Neal and Roald Dahl, photographed by Carl Van Vechten, April 20, 1954 From the collection of the Library of Congress

If you want to learn more about Roald Dahl's life and work, come and join us on our visit to one of the Roald Dahl websites. The letters behind the right answer will give the name of a famous character in one of Dahl's books, when they are put in the right order.

Let's start! First open the website http://www.RoaldDahlFans.com, and then click on "My Dahl Biography" consisting of 7 pages.

On page 1 of "My Dahl Biography" you will find the information for the numbers 1-3 below.

- 1 Roald Dahl's father, Harald Dahl, was from
 - Norway (L)
 - Wales (M)
- 2 Elmtree House was the name of the
 - local school in Llandaff (Y)
 - home of the Dahl family in Llandaff (B)
- 3 When Roald was seven years old, his mother sent him to
 - St Peter's, an English boarding school (C)
 - Llandaff Cathedral School (W)

Let's continue with page 2 of "My Dahl Biography".

- 4 After the Dahl family had moved to Kent, Roald was sent off to Repton Public School. He was thirteen by that time. Now and again each pupil at Repton was given a grey cardboard box as a present by the Cadbury company. These boxes contained
 - chocolate bars (A)
 - Cadbury toy cars (D)

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Now to page 3 of "My Dahl Biography".

- 5 After leaving school Roald got a job in East Africa
 - for the Shell Company (W)
 - as a snake-catcher and lion-tamer (E)
- 6 In 1939, when World War II began in Europe, Roald joined the Royal Air Force. However, his first mission as a warplane pilot in 1940 was a disaster when he crashed with his airplane
 - in the Libyan desert (L)
 - in the Western desert (D)

On page 4 of "My Dahl Biography" you read that in 1941 Dahl returned to England. A short time later, he went to the United States. There he met influential people, among them newspaper owners who were interested in his life as a warplane pilot.

- 7 One man interested in wartime stories was Walt Disney. Disney wanted to turn one of Roald stories into an animated movie. The title of this movie was
 - Shot Down Over Libya (I)
 - The Gremlins (O)

Unfortunately, the movie project had to be given up, but the story was published as a book, Roald Dahl's first one.

The information you need next is on page 5 of "My Dahl Biography".

- 8 In 1945, Roald went back to England, because
 - he wanted to be near his mother Sofie (I)
 - he wanted to write about the English country life (C)
- 9 When Roald began missing the life in New York, he went back to America. He took up residence with the family of Charles Marsh.
 - the grandfather of Patricia Neal, his future wife (A)
 - his old American friend and newspaper owner (N)
- 10 Patricia Neal, whom he married on 2 July 1953 at Trinity Church in New York, was
 - an actress (K)
 - the manager of a coal and coke company (B)

The name of a famous character in one of Dahl's books:

Roald Dahl died in Oxford, England, on 23 November 1990 and is buried in Great Missenden.

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