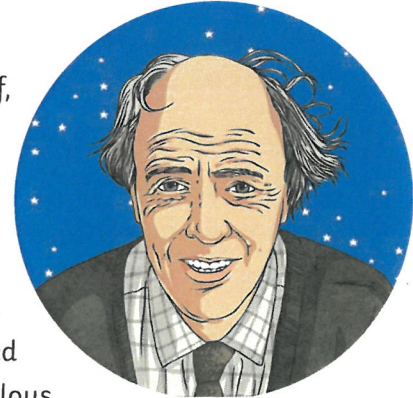


ROALD DAHL

Early Life

Roald Dahl was born on 13th September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but in 1920, she sadly died when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so distraught that he fell ill from pneumonia and a few weeks later, he also died. At this time, Roald's mother was pregnant with her third child, who was born in the autumn. She was called Asta. His mother was a great storyteller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales that she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters. His father had been a wonderful woodcarver despite only having one arm. He had an interest in "lovely paintings and fine furniture". He was very intelligent and knew a lot about many different things.



School Life

Despite having a happy home life, Roald had an unhappy time at his school in Wales and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. As a result, his mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the 'twitching' Latin teacher Captain Hardcastle, the all-powerful Matron – certainly inspiration for Miss Trunchbull in 'Matilda', who "disliked small boys very much indeed" - and the cane-wielding Headmaster.

At the age of 13, Roald attended Repton Public School in Derbyshire. He was happier here. He was brilliant at sports. However, his English master said Roald was "quite incapable of marshalling his thoughts on paper". The boys at the school were sometimes asked to be chocolate testers for a famous chocolate company, and this experience later inspired the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Early Work Life

After he left school, he wanted adventure so he got a job with Shell Oil Company. He was sent to Africa for three years, but after only one year, the Second World War broke out, so he enlisted with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and became a pilot. In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to Libya where he flew a Gloster Gladiator plane.



He crashed in the Western Desert in North Africa and suffered such severe injuries to his head and back that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for six months. He returned to the RAF, but after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant that he had to return to the UK and could not fly planes anymore.

In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the USA to work as an assistant air attaché. He met the author C.S. Forester, who suggested that Roald should write about his experiences flying planes in the desert. This led to Roald being paid for the first time for writing, which was in the Sunday Evening Post newspaper.

In 1951, Roald had a collection of stories published in a book called *Someone Like You*. During this year, he also married the actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there.

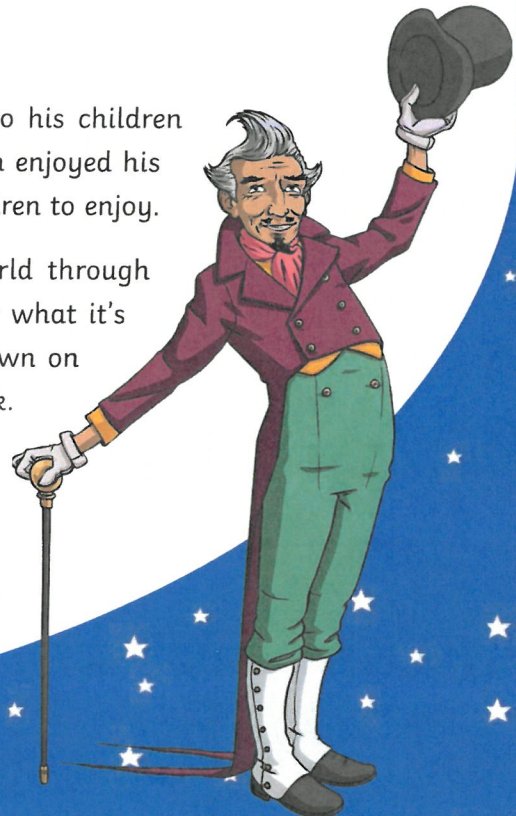
Family

Roald Dahl and Patricia Neal had five children: Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from measles encephalitis. A year before that, Theo was involved in an accident. His pram was hit by a New York cab and he suffered a brain injury. Roald became very involved with the care that Theo now needed, and he even helped invent a piece of equipment that people with Theo's injury would need. During this time, 'James and the Giant Peach' was published, which was Dahl's first book for children.

Roald Dahl's Amazing Stories

Roald Dahl started telling his fantastical stories to his children at bedtime. He realised how much his own children enjoyed his stories and decided to write them down for all children to enjoy.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."



He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "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."

Later Successes

In the early 1980s he published *The Twits*, *Revolting Rhymes*, *The BFG* and *The Witches*. *Matilda* was published in 1988, *Esio Trot* in 1990, and his final children's book, *The Minpins* in 1991.

Sadly, before *The Minpins* was published, Roald Dahl died on 23rd November 1990, aged 74.



Usain Bolt Biography



So, how do you become the best sprinter of all time?

Birth and Childhood

Usain St. Leo Bolt once said, 'When I was young, I didn't really think about anything other than sports.' Whilst at secondary school, Usain focused on sprinting, which led him to win his first High School Championships medal. Since then he has set new world records, overcome injuries, won many medals and become a hero in his home country of Jamaica!

Usain was born on 21st August 1986 in Jamaica. As a child, he really enjoyed playing football and cricket.

Other Interests

Bolt took part in his first race whilst at primary school, however at that time he preferred playing cricket. In an interview, he once said that if he hadn't become a sprinter, he would have loved to be a fast bowler like his cricketing hero, Waqar Younis.

At high school, Usain focused on sprinting and won his first silver medal in the 2001 High School Championships. His talent caught the eye of former Jamaican Olympic sprinter Pablo McNeil, who went on to become his coach. Pablo would sometimes get frustrated with Bolt as he didn't always take his training seriously and liked playing practical jokes.

Achievements

The World Junior Championships came next and it was here that Bolt became the youngest World Junior gold medallist.

Did You Know...?

The 2001 World Youth Championships was Usain's first appearance on the world stage. He didn't win any medals but he did set a new personal best in the 200m race.

Achievements

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2008 Beijing	100m, 200m, relay	gold
2012 London	100m, 200m, relay	gold
2016 Rio De Janeiro	100m, 200m, relay	gold

Olympic Games

In 2004, Usain became the first junior sprinter to run 200m in under 20 seconds. It was then that he turned professional and was given a place on the Jamaican Olympic team. He went to the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004 but a leg injury stopped him from winning any medals.

As the years passed by, Usain took his sport more seriously and began to train harder to win events. At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, he broke more world records and won gold in the 100m, 200m and relay events. This was followed by the World Championships in Berlin where he improved his times even more.

Bolt competed in the 100m, 200m and relay at the London 2012 Olympic Games and won golds in all three events again. After the races, a fellow runner said, 'There's no doubt he's the greatest sprinter of all time.'

During the 2016 Rio Olympics, Bolt yet again won gold in all three races (100m, 200m and relay) and was also awarded the 'triple-triple' meaning he had won gold in 3 events in 3 Olympic Games. However this amazing achievement didn't last long as in 2017, Bolt and his team mates were stripped of the gold medals from the 100m relay in the Beijing Games due to one of his teammates being disqualified for taking a banned substance.

Retirement

In 2017, at the World Athletics Championships, Bolt's success didn't continue. He won a bronze medal in one event and in another, he collapsed on the track with a hamstring injury and had to be helped across the finish line by his teammates. This was Bolt's final ever race.