

Class 11 Reading

Your reading text this week is all about Roald Dahl. I don't know about you but I'm missing reading the BFG! Here is some reading you can do about the author of the BFG. Read the text below and then answer the questions carefully.

ROALD DAHL

Roald Dahl was born on September 13th 1916, in Llandaff, Cardiff. Though he was born in Wales, his name is not Welsh. Both of his parents were from Norway. Roald Dahl used to go on holidays to visit his family in Oslo when he was a child. Unfortunately, his father died when he was only four years old.



Did you know?

Roald Dahl was writing a third story which included Charlie Bucket after Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, called Charlie Bucket and the White House, but he died before the book could be completed.

Roald initially attended his local school but was often in trouble. He disliked being told what to do and often received a beating with the cane for pranks and bad behaviour. Once he had used up all his chances, he was sent away to boarding school, the Repton School in Derbyshire. His teachers didn't believe that he had any potential when it came to writing when he was at school, but Roald Dahl excelled at sport. He was a very good

Did you know?

Roald Dahl wrote every day from 10am to 12 noon and then from 4pm to 6pm.



Did you know?

Roald Dahl has sold over 200 million copies of his books.

footballer and he enjoyed playing squash. He never wanted an academic future, going against his mother's wishes by not attending university and choosing instead to travel and begin work.

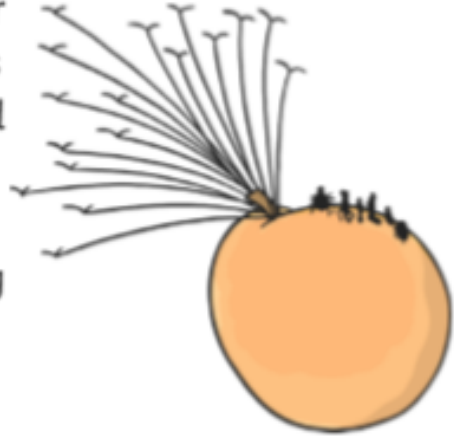
In 1939, he joined the RAF (Royal Air Force) to be a fighter pilot during the Second World War. During a mission, he was shot down over Egypt and was badly injured, needing a number of operations on his hips and spine. The after-effects of these surgeries meant that he was no longer fit enough to be a pilot.

It was never clear that Roald Dahl would become a writer, especially a writer of children's stories. He learned his trade writing for newspapers and magazines in America such as the New Yorker. As his writing developed, editors and other writers guided him towards writing children's books. They thought his style and imagination was perfect for that style.

**Did you know?**

The tree in Fantastic Mr Fox is based on one that grew outside his home.

Roald Dahl sadly died on the 12th of November in 1990. He was 74 years old when he died. In his lifetime, he wrote 19 children's books. He had five children and was married twice. His granddaughter, Sophie, became a famous model and food writer, and had the main character in the BFG named after her. He is buried in the cemetery of St Peter and St Paul's Church in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. He was buried with some of his favourite things, including HB pencils and his snooker cues.



Now that you have finished reading the text, think about what type of text it is (fiction, non-fiction, diary, biography) and then answer the questions on the next page.

Answer the following questions using full sentences and including as much detail as possible. Remember to think about the type of question it is, use the strategies and go back to the text.

- 1) Where and when was Roald Dahl born?
- 2) Was Roald Dahl a good student at school? Give two reasons for your answer.
- 3) Why did he stop writing for newspapers and magazines?
- 4) What does the word *initially* mean in paragraph 2?
 - a) the letters in his name
 - b) at first
 - c) happily
 - d) conveniently
- 5) When he was shot down, what parts of his body were badly injured?
- 6) Why do you think Roald Dahl was sent to boarding school? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- 7) Can you summarise how and why Roald Dahl started writing stories for children in one sentence?
- 8) What is the main idea of paragraph 2 '***Roald initially attended his local school***'?
- 9) In what book does Charlie Bucket appear?
- 10) What did Roald Dahl do after writing for newspapers and magazines?
- 11) "...editors and other writers guided him towards writing children's books..." What is the meaning of the word guided in this sentence?
 - a) walked
 - b) helped
 - c) advised
 - d) lead
- 12) Why did he join the RAF and what does the RAF stand for?
- 13) Where did Roald Dahl get his ideas for his stories from? Give two pieces of evidence from the text.
- 14) Order the following events in Roald Dahl's life:
 - a) He joined the RAF
 - b) His father died
 - c) He decided not to go to university
 - d) He attended school
 - e) He wrote for newspapers
 - f) He wrote children's books
- 15) What is your favourite Roald Dahl book and why?