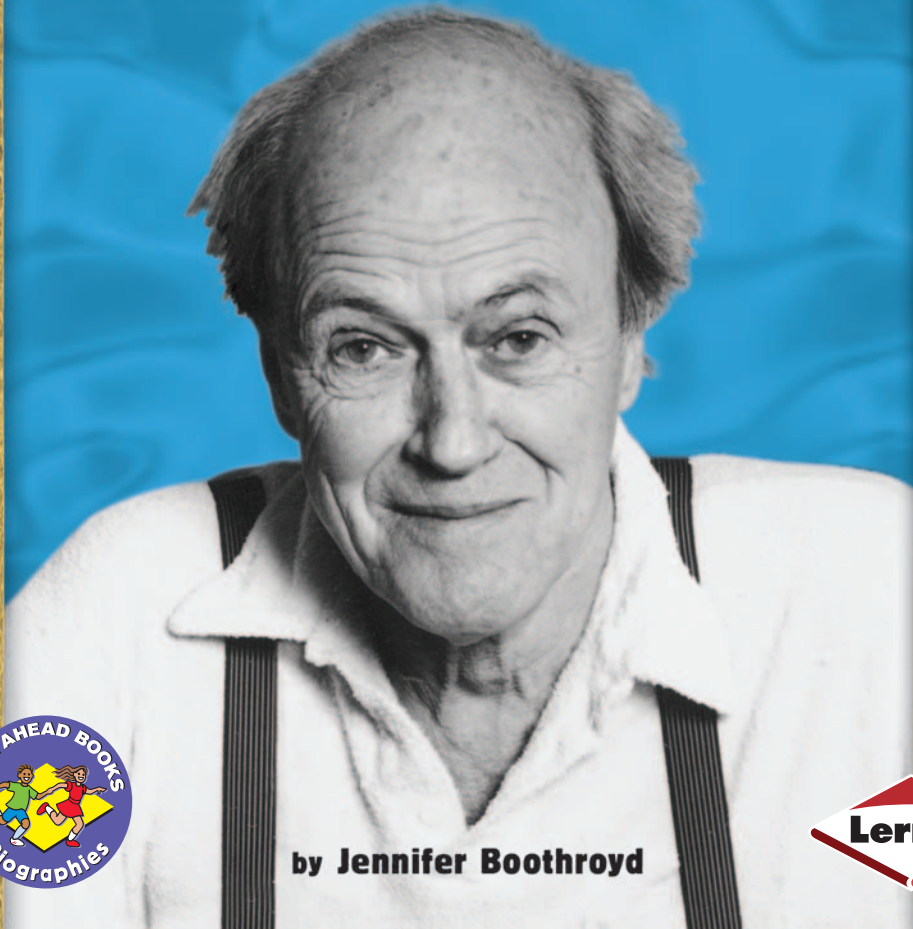


Roald Dahl

A LIFE OF IMAGINATION



by Jennifer Boothroyd

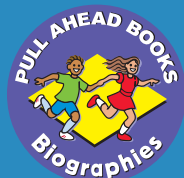


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Words in **bold type** are explained in a glossary on page 31.

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Table of Contents

Have You Ever?	5
Growing Up	7
Becoming a Writer	13
A Children's Writer	19
Roald the Inventor	23
A Popular Imagination	27
Roald Dahl Timeline	28
More about Roald Dahl	30
Websites	30
Glossary	31
Index	32



Kids play inside a giant peach at the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery in Great Britain.

Have You Ever?

Have you ever lived inside a peach?
Or flown through the air in a glass
elevator? Roald Dahl did these things
and more inside his head. He used his
imagination to think of exciting ideas
for stories. His imagination helped him
become a famous author.



Three-year-old Roald with his mother, Sofie

Growing Up

Roald Dahl was born in Great Britain on September 13, 1916. Roald's mother liked to tell him bedtime stories. The stories were old fairy tales. Roald would imagine what the characters looked like.

When Roald was nine years old, he went to a **boarding school**. He did not like living away from home.



Roald lived at Saint Peter's School.



Roald and his three sisters

Roald missed his family. He wrote a letter home every week. Writing made him feel better.



Roald in his Royal Air Force uniform

After Roald finished school, he joined the Royal Air Force. His country was at war.

Roald became a **pilot**. Flying fighter planes was dangerous. Roald crashed twice.



Roald flew planes like these in the Royal Air Force.

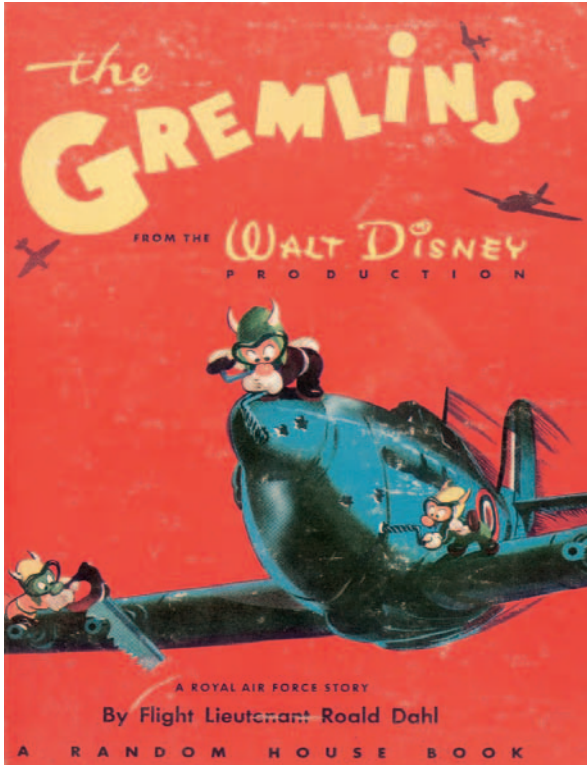
Becoming a Writer

Roald wrote about one of his plane crashes. A magazine printed his story. Roald also wrote a **fantasy** story. It was about little monsters that make planes crash.

Walt Disney liked Roald's monster story.
He wanted to make it into a movie.



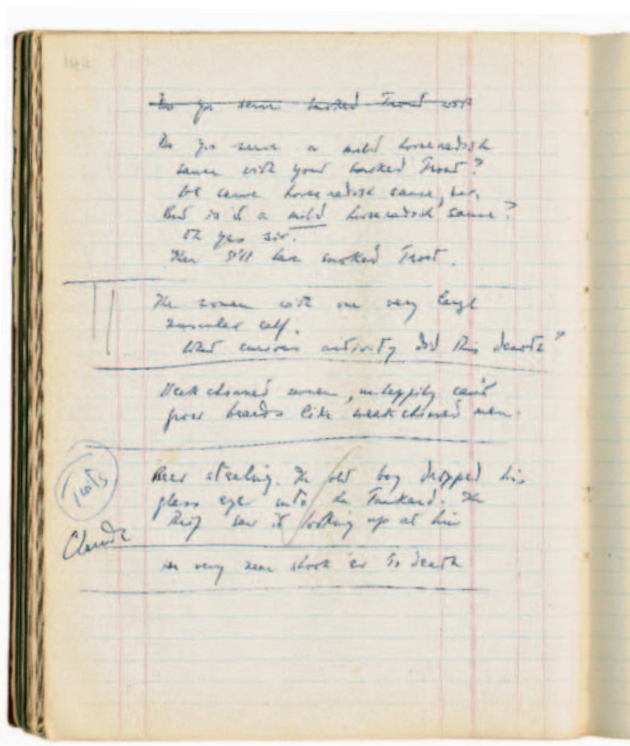
Walt Disney, on the left, with Roald and toy monsters



Roald's monster story was called *The Gremlins*.

Walt changed his mind. He turned the story into a picture book instead.

Roald was always thinking of new story ideas. He wrote his thoughts in a notebook.



A page from Roald's notebook



Roald's writing hut

Roald built a small hut in his yard.
This is where he wrote his stories.
He filled the hut with things to help
his imagination.



Roald with his wife and children in 1970

A Children's Writer

Roald got married and became a father. He used his imagination to make up stories for his children.

Roald decided to make these stories into books. The first story became the book *James and the Giant Peach*.

For his next book, Roald imagined a fantastic candy factory.



The factory in Roald's book made all kinds of sweets.



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in Bulgarian

This book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, became very **popular**.
Children all over the world read it.

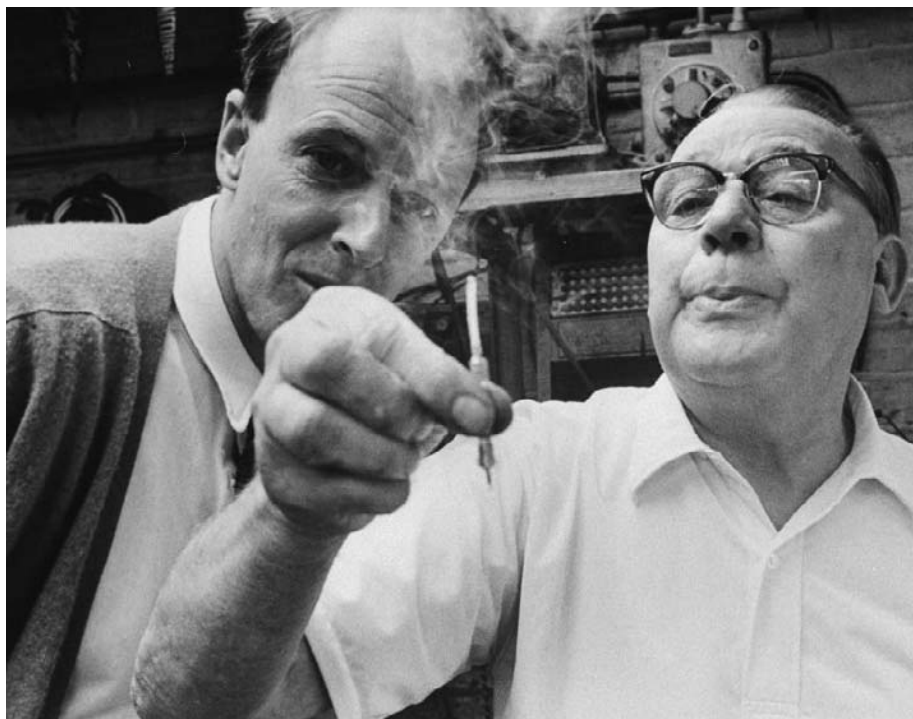


Roald and his son, Theo

Roald the Inventor

Roald used his imagination for more than writing stories. He also invented things. Roald's son hurt his head in an accident. Roald imagined a tool that could help heal the **injury**.

Roald worked with a doctor and a friend to create the tool. It helped thousands of children get better.

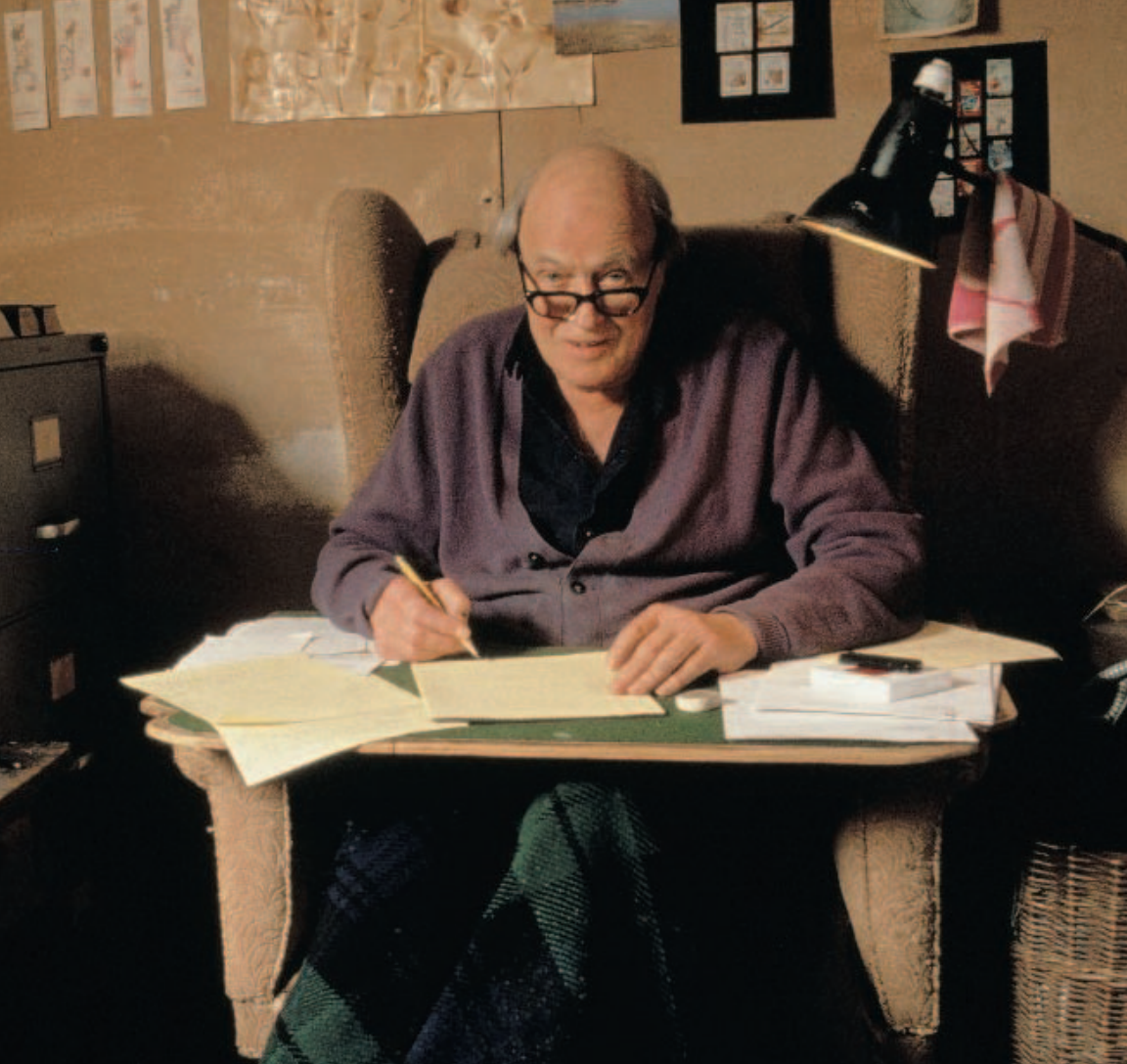


Stanley Wade, Roald's friend, holds the tool they invented.



Roald enjoyed gardening both indoors and outside.

Roald also invented kites, puzzle games,
and garden tools.



Roldal works in his writing hut.

A Popular Imagination

Roald Dahl died in 1990. He had written more than twenty children's books. Roald's imagination helped him become one of the most popular authors in the world.

ROALD DAHL

TIMELINE

1916

Roald Dahl is
born on
September 13.

1943

Roald's first book, *The
Gremlins*, is published.

1939

Roald joins the
Royal Air Force.

1962

Doctors start using the Wade-Dahl-Till valve, the tool that Roald helped invent.

1996

The Roald Dahl Children's Gallery opens in Great Britain.

1961

James and the Giant Peach is published.

1990

Roald dies on November 23.

More about Roald Dahl

- Roald's daughter Olivia became sick and died when she was seven years old. Roald dedicated his book *The BFG* to her.
- One of the schools Roald went to was close to a large candy company. When a new candy was invented, the company let the students try it to see if they liked it or not.
- After Roald finished writing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, he let his nephew, Nicholas, read it. Nicholas told Uncle Roald that it was boring. So Roald rewrote the story to make it more interesting.

Websites

Roald Dahl
<http://www.roalddahl.com>

Roald Dahl Children's Gallery
<http://www.buckscs.gov.uk/bcc/content/index.jsp?contentid=-1191581755>

Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre
<http://www.roalddahlmuseum.org>

Glossary

boarding school: a school where students live and go to school

fantasy: make-believe

imagination: ability to think about things creatively or in a new way

injury: harm or damage to a body part

pilot: a person who flies an airplane

popular: well liked

Index

bedtime stories, 7

birth, 7, 28

*Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory*,
21, 30

death, 27, 29

Disney, Walt, 14

flying, 11

Great Britain, 4, 7, 29

Gremlins, The, 28

inventions, 23, 24, 25, 29

*James and the Giant
Peach*, 19, 28

Roald Dahl Children's
Gallery, 4, 29

Royal Air Force, 11, 28

school, 8, 30

Wade, Stanley, 24

Wade-Dahl-Till valve, 23,
24, 29

writing, 9, 13, 16, 17

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Do you know . . .

- what Roald did at school every week?
- what story Roald first made up to tell his children?
- what tool Roald helped invent?

Read this book to discover the answers!



PULL AHEAD—BIOGRAPHIES:

Abraham Lincoln

**Alexander Graham
Bell**

The Dalai Lama

Elizabeth Blackwell

Galileo Galilei

George Washington

**George Washington
Carver**

Jane Addams

Jane Goodall

Jimmy Carter

Lou Gehrig

**Martin Luther
King Jr.**

**Mary McLeod
Bethune**

Mohandas Gandhi

Mother Teresa

Nelson Mandela

Rachel Carson

Roald Dahl

Robert Fulton

Roberto Clemente

Rosa Parks

Susan B. Anthony

Thomas Jefferson

William Penn