

ROALD DAHL

NOAM OSTER

September 13, 1916, in Llandaff, Wales Roald Dahl is born. Roald's parents do not know the child they are holding will become a famed author.



Roald grew up in a small house with seven brothers and sisters. When Roald was small, just three, his father and sister died, leaving his mother to care for him and his siblings. As he was growing up, his mother would tell Roald Norwegian folk tales of witches, trolls, and other mystical creatures that later inspired his writing.

Later, in 1932, Roald graduated from collage. Almost immediately after, he embarked on an expedition to Newfoundland. After returning, he accepted a job at the Shell Oil Company, in Tanzania, Africa. When World War II raged, still, lusting for adventure, Roald

enlisted in the RAF, the British air force in 1939 and served as a pilot. His plane crashed, leaving him with major injuries in his skull, spine, and hip.



After recovering from a hip replacement and two spinal surgeries, he was transferred to Washington D.C. There he met author C.S. Forrester, who urged him to start writing. Roald published his first story in 1942, on The Saturday Evening Post, and continued to compose articles for magazines, such as, The New Yorker, and many others. “ As I went on, the stories became less and less realistic and more fantastic.” He told the New York Times in his early writing career. Roald wrote his first children’s book, called “the Gremlins“ for Walt Disney in 1942. Not many people enjoyed it, so he returned to writing books specifically for adults. He continued to write these types of books throughout the 50s

and 60s. The same year his best selling novel, “*Someone Like You*” was published, he married actress Patricia Neil. He and Patricia had 5 children.

One of his children, a girl, truly enjoyed his bedtime stories. These, later inspired him to go on and write children’s books. Many stories would form the foundation for books he would later write. “Children are highly critical. They lose interest so quickly. You have to keep things ticking along. And if you think a child is getting bored, you must think up something that jolts it back. Something that tickles. You have to know what children are like.”

Roald first became a children’s writer in 1963, when he published “*James and the Giant Peach*” and three years later he wrote “*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*”,



which both would become later into hit movies. Roald wrote a total of 19 children's books.

Roald Dahl died of an unknown infection on November 23 1990. His life, his books, and everything about it, was amazing.