

# ROALD DAHL

## Early Life

Roald Dahl was born on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. His parents were from Norway. He had an older sister called Astri, but in 1920, she died when she was only 7 years old. Roald's father was so sad that he fell ill from pneumonia. A few weeks later, he also died.



His mother was a great storyteller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters.

## School Life

Although Roald had a happy home life, he had an unhappy time at his school in Wales, and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. 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 all-powerful Matron 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 and was very good at boxing. 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'.



1. In which country was Roald Dahl born? Tick one.

☐ Scotland

☐ Norway

☐ England

☐ Wales

2. Join the boxes to show the year in which these events took place.

Roald Dahl was born.

1940

Roald Dahl's sister, Astri died.

1916

Roald was posted to Libya.

1920

3. Roald's mother told stories about **mythical Norwegian characters**. Explain what is meant by the word **mythical**.

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4. Which sport was Roald very good at when he attended Repton Public School?

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5. What was the name of the author who suggested that Roald should start writing articles about his flying experiences?

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6. What impression do we get of St. Peters' School that Roald attended from the age of 9 years?

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