

Roald Dahl



DIRECTIONS: Read the article. Select the correction definition for each underlined word, and write its letter on the line.

Roald Dahl was born in 1916 in South Wales to Norwegian parents. Imaginative, restless, and have a voracious _____ appetite for adventure, he was not a great student. His mother offered to pay for him to attend Oxford or Cambridge University when he graduated. But Dahl declined. “No thank you,” he told her. “I want to go straight from school to work for a company that will send me to wonderful faraway places like Africa or China.”

After graduation in 1932, Dahl joined an expedition _____ to Newfoundland. After that he worked for the Shell Oil Company in Tanzania, Africa until 1939 at which point, still bent on adventure, he joined the Royal Air Force. He trained in Nairobi, Kenya to become a pilot, and flew fighters during World War II. While serving, his plane crash-landed in Alexandria, Egypt. Lucky to be alive, Dahl suffered serious injuries to his skull, spine and hip. After hip replacement and two spinal surgeries, Dahl was transferred to Washington D.C. and became an assistant air attaché _____.

It was in Washington, D.C. that Dahl met the author C.S. Forrester, who encouraged Dahl to start writing. Dahl was first published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, and afterwards in many magazines, including the prestigious _____ *The New Yorker*. Having started out writing realistic fiction, he describes his stories as becoming increasingly “fantastic” _____. He credited C.S. Forrester with the fact that he had a writing career at all, telling *New York Times* book reviewer Willa Petschek that if he’d never been asked to write, “I doubt if I’d ever have thought to do it.”

His first story for children was called *The Gremlins*, and he wrote it for Walt Disney in 1942. As it was unsuccessful, Dahl resumed writing his macabre _____ stories for adult readers. His book of short stories *Someone Like You* was a best-seller in 1953, and was followed by *Kiss, Kiss* in 1959.

Dahl had five children, and it was telling them bedtime stories that inspired him to become a children’s writer. His own children were his first audience. “Children are ... highly critical. And they lose interest so quickly,” he said in his *New York Times* book review interview. “You have to keep things ticking along. And if you think a

Name _____ **Advanced Context Clues**

child is getting bored, you must think up something that jolts it back. Something that tickles _____. You have to know what children like.”

Dahl’s reputation as a children’s writer was established in 1961 with the critically and commercially acclaimed _____ *James and the Giant Peach*. Three years later he published *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He is also well known for the popular *Fantastic Fox* (1970), *The Witches* (1983) and *Matilda* (1988).

Though they have always been popular, Dahl’s children’s books have also been controversial _____, as not all critics or parents think that it’s healthy to portray children wreaking _____ harsh revenge on adults who mistreat them. But Dahl defended himself by saying that his stories appealed to a child’s natural, crude sense of humor.

Roald Dahl died in 1990 at the age of 74.

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| A. on the staff of an ambassador | F. imaginative and unreal |
| B. a journey undertaken by a group of people for a particular purpose | G. disturbing |
| C. inspiring respect and admiration | H. well thought of |
| D. unable to be satisfied | I. amuses |
| E. giving rise to public disagreement | J. causing (a large amount of damage or harm) |