

Year 3 Reading Activities

ROALD DAHL

Roald Dahl was born on 13th 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 story teller and had a fabulous memory. Roald remembered many tales she told about trolls and other mythical Norwegian characters.

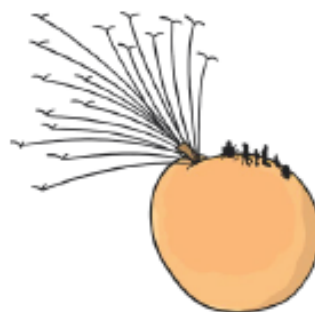
Although Roald had a happy home life, he had an unhappy time at his school in Wales, and was often 'caned' for bad behaviour. His mother sent him to boarding school in Weston-Super-Mare. He was just nine years old when he arrived at St. Peters School and met the all-powerful Matron who "disliked small 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'.

Over the next few years, Roald Dahl worked in Africa for an oil company and then enlisted in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

In 1940, Roald Dahl was posted to Libya where he flew a Gloster Gladiator plane. He crashed in the Western Desert in North Africa, and suffered such severe injuries to his head and back that he had to stay in hospital in Egypt for six months. He returned to the RAF but, after a while, he began suffering terrible headaches from his accident. This meant he had to leave because he could not fly planes anymore.



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In 1942, Roald was posted to Washington in the USA to work as an assistant air attaché. He met the author C.S. Forester, who suggested that Roald should write about his experiences flying planes in the desert. Roald started writing articles for newspapers.

He met and married actress Patricia Neal. They lived in Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, England. He wrote many of his famous stories there. Roald Dahl and Patricia Neal had five children; Olivia, Tessa, Theo, Ophelia and Lucy. However, Olivia tragically died at the age of 7 from an illness.

Roald Dahl started telling his amazing stories to his children at bedtime. He realised how much his own children enjoyed his stories and decided to write them down for all children to enjoy. 'James and the Giant Peach' was his first published children's book.

Roald Dahl had a great talent for seeing the world through children's eyes. He said, "If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your hands and knees and live like that for a week. You'll find you have to look up at all these giants around you who are always telling you what to do and what not to do."

He had a passion for encouraging children to read. He believed that children should be "comfortable with a book, not daunted. Books shouldn't be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."



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Questions About Roald Dahl

1. How old was Roald's sister when she died?

2. What made Roald's mother a good storyteller?

3. Do you think Roald would have liked the Headmaster? Explain your reasons.

4. What sport was he good at?

5. What do you think the boys thought about being chocolate testers?

6. Explain why he had to leave the RAF.

7. How did Roald start writing children's stories?

8. What word did Roald Dahl use to describe how children saw adults around them?

Year 3 Reading Activities

Usain Bolt

Biography

So, how do you become the best sprinter of all time?

Usain St. Leo Bolt once said, 'When I was young, I didn't really think about anything other than sports.' Whilst at secondary school, Usain focused on sprinting, which led him to win his first High School Championships medal. Since then he has set new world records, overcome injuries, won many medals, become a hero in his home country of Jamaica and he hasn't even finished yet!



Usain was born on 21st August 1986, in Jamaica. As a child, he really enjoyed playing football and cricket.

Bolt took part in his first race whilst at primary school, however, at that time he preferred playing cricket. In an interview, he once said that if he hadn't become a sprinter, he would have loved to be a fast bowler like his cricketing hero, Waqar Younis.

At high school, Usain focused on sprinting and won his first silver medal in the 2001 High School Championships. His talent caught the eye of former Jamaican Olympic sprinter Pablo McNeil, who went on to become his coach. Pablo would sometimes get frustrated with Bolt as he didn't always take his training seriously and liked playing practical jokes.

The 2001 World Youth Championships was Usain's first appearance on the world stage. He didn't win any medals but he did set a new personal best in the 200m race. The World Junior Championships came next and it was here that Bolt became the youngest World Junior gold medallist.

Olympic Games	Event	Medals
2008 Beijing	100m, 200m, relay	Gold
2012 London	100m, 200m, relay	Gold

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Usain Bolt

In 2004, Usain became the first junior sprinter to run 200m in under 20 seconds. It was then that he turned professional and was given a place on the Jamaican Olympic team. He went to the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004 but a leg injury stopped him from winning any medals.

As the years passed by, Usain took his sport more seriously and began to train harder to win events. At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, he broke more world records and won gold in the 100m, 200m and relay events. This was followed by the World Championships in Berlin, where he improved his times even more.

Bolt competed in the 100m, 200m and relay at the London 2012 Olympic Games and won gold in all three events again. After the races, a fellow runner said, 'There's no doubt he's the greatest sprinter of all time.'

Usain continues to be a successful sprinter but plans to retire in 2017. He is nicknamed 'Lightning Bolt'.



Year 3 Reading Activities

Usain Bolt Comprehension

Try to answer the questions using full sentences.

1. When and where was Usain born?

2. True or False – Usain didn't win any medals at the 2001 World Youth Championships but he did set a personal best time in the 200m race.

True	False

3. What did Usain become the first junior sprinter to do in 2004?

4. How do you think Bolt felt when he was chosen to represent his country in the Olympic Games?

5. What is his nickname?

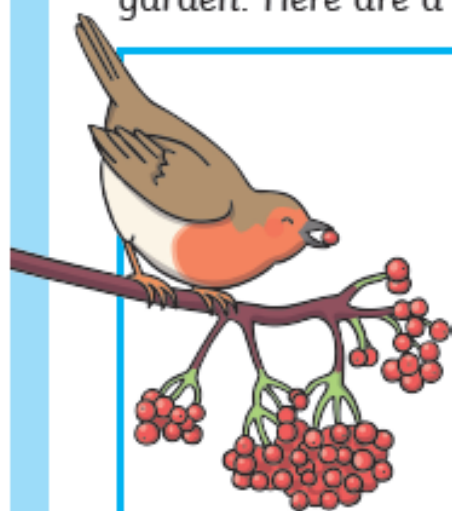
6. How many gold medals did Usain win in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games?

7. How do you think Usain feels about competing in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio?

Year 3 Reading Activities

Birds in Your Garden

There are many different types of bird that you might see in your garden. Here are a few of them:

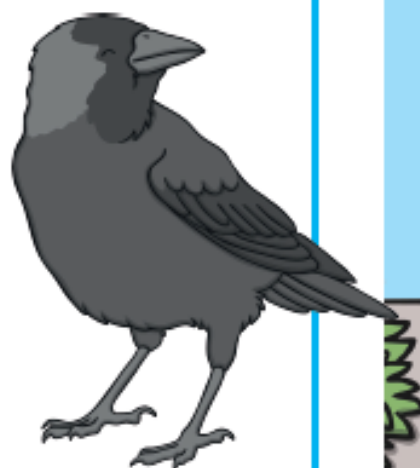


Robin

Robins are very easy to spot in your garden. They have a red breast and a brown head and back. They have long legs and a short tail. They are very territorial. This means they live in one area and will stop other robins from living there too. They eat insects, fruit, seeds and worms.

Jackdaw

The jackdaw is a noisy bird. You would definitely notice this bird in your garden. They are quite large, and have a grey neck, a stubby beak and white eyes. They eat insects, dead animals, eggs, young birds and seeds. Jackdaws are known for stealing things; not just food but objects too!



Blue tit

The blue tit is a very small bird with bright blue and yellow feathers. The male and female look the same. They eat insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts. They often eat from bird tables and live in garden nesting boxes. In winter, they meet with other blue tits to make it easier to search for food.



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Birds in Your Garden

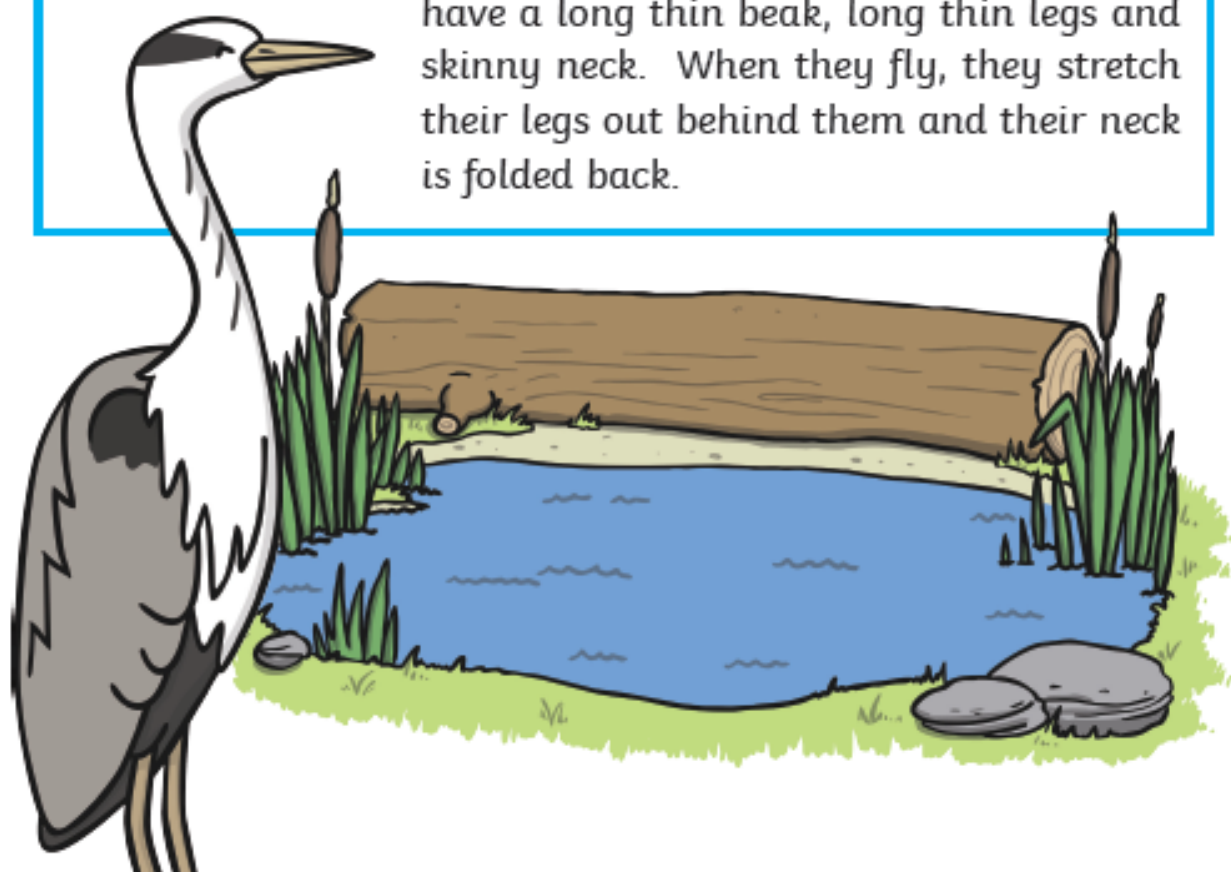
Blackbird

Blackbirds are very common garden birds. They also live in farmland, woodland and near streets and coasts. They eat insects, worms, seeds and fruit. Blackbirds tend to live on their own. The male is glossy black with an orange beak and an orange ring around his eye. The female is dark brown with a brown beak.



Heron

Hérons like to stand next to garden ponds. This is because they love to eat fish, and sometimes steal very expensive fish from people's ponds! They are quite large and have a long thin beak, long thin legs and skinny neck. When they fly, they stretch their legs out behind them and their neck is folded back.



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Questions

1. What does a robin eat? Tick **one**.

- ☐ insects, fruit, worms and seeds
- ☐ fruit, insects and eggs
- ☐ worms, eggs and insects

2. In which season do blue tits work together to find food? Tick **one**

- ☐ summer
- ☐ spring
- ☐ winter

3. Write 2 adjectives from the text that describe a jackdaw.

4. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are true and which sentences are false.

Sentence	True	False
A male blackbird has a brown beak.		
Heron have long thin legs.		
Blackbirds usually live on their own.		
When herons fly, they stretch their legs out in front of them.		

5. Why do herons like to stand near garden ponds?
