

Reading Activities:

Read each extract carefully then answer the questions. The first one is by one of your favourite authors:

David Walliams



Who Is David Walliams?

David Walliams is a comedian, actor and author. He is also a judge on a TV talent show and writes for TV. David raises money for the charity, Sport Relief, which helps people all over the world.

David's Childhood

David was born on 20th August 1971 in Merton, London. He was the child of Peter and Kathleen Williams. From a young age, he loved dressing up and his older sister Julie would often dress him up in girls' clothes for fun.

David went to school in Surrey, where his love of dressing up grew and his love of acting began. He was also on the school swimming team. At age 11, he acted in his first school play wearing a dress and made everyone laugh. This was the moment he knew that what he wanted to do with his life was make people laugh.

David the Author

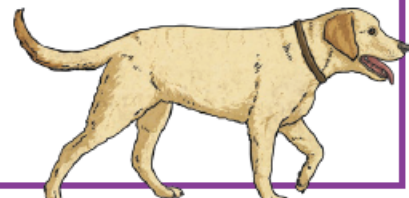
David had a successful TV career and his own TV show. But he wanted to write a book about how it's OK to be different. In 2008, he published 'The Boy in the Dress' about a boy who loves football and wearing dresses. The book sold over half a million copies.

David has now written twelve chapter books for children and six picture books for younger readers. Some of his most famous books are 'Mr Stink', 'Billionaire Boy' and 'Gangsta Granny'. His books are often illustrated by Tony Ross, who also illustrates the 'Horrid Henry' books.



Did You Know...?

- David changed his name from Williams to Walliams because there was already an actor called David Williams!
- When swimming in the river Thames, David rescued a Labrador dog that had fallen in the river!
- David has sold over eight million books all over the world.





Many of David's books have now been filmed for TV and you can sometimes spot him acting in them too!

Charity Work

David has raised a lot of money for charity. In 2006, David swam the English Channel (from England to France) to raise money for Sport Relief. He swam 22 miles and raised over one million pounds. In 2011, David swam the length of the river Thames (140 miles) and raised more than two million pounds for Sport Relief. David was awarded an OBE by The Queen in 2017 for his charity work.

David Walliams

Questions

1. What did David like doing as a child? Tick two.
 - ☐ running
 - ☐ dressing up
 - ☐ writing
 - ☐ acting
2. When was 'The Boy in the Dress' published? Tick one.
 - ☐ 2004
 - ☐ 2006
 - ☐ 2008
 - ☐ 2011
3. Draw lines to complete the sentences about David.

David has raised a lot of money for charity through

David wanted to write a book about

David knew early on that he wanted to

being different.

make people laugh.

swimming.

4. Number the events below to show the order in which they happened in David's life.

- ☐ David had a successful TV career.
- ☐ David was born the son of Peter and Kathleen Williams.
- ☐ David published 'The Boy in the Dress'.
- ☐ David acted in his first play.
- ☐ David enjoyed dressing up with his sister.

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

David raised _____ million pounds for charity in 2011 and _____ million pounds for charity in 2006.

6. What did David rescue when swimming the river Thames?

7. Who often illustrates David's books? Why do you think he chose this illustrator?

The second one is about Stonehenge, which we studied in Autumn Term:

Stonehenge



Stonehenge is one of the most famous sights in England. Its history is also very interesting.

Stonehenge is a circle of stones in the south of England. It was started in the Stone Age and continued to be built into the Bronze Age.

First Stage

The stone circle was built in several stages. They started by digging a circular ditch using picks made from antlers. There were two entrances to the circle. There were 56 pits dug around it that were one metre deep with flat bottoms.

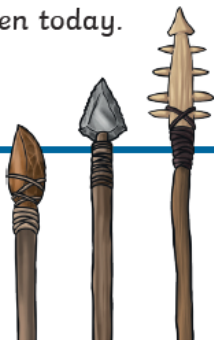
Second Stage

In the second stage, 82 stones were added in a double circle pattern. These stones came all the way from south Wales, 240 miles away. They were called bluestones because they looked blue when they were broken or wet. The bluestones were around two metres tall and over one metre wide.



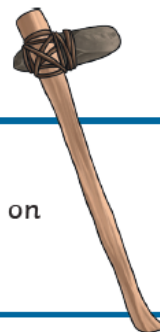
Third Stage

More stones were added about 500 years later. These were called Sarsen Stones. They were over four metres high and two metres wide and weighed up to 30 tonnes. An outer circle was created by laying stones horizontally across the top. In the middle of the circle, more stones were arranged in a horseshoe shape. At the centre, there was a stone called the Altar Stone. In the final stage of building, the original bluestones were rearranged in the horseshoe and circle shape that can be seen today.



Did You Know...?

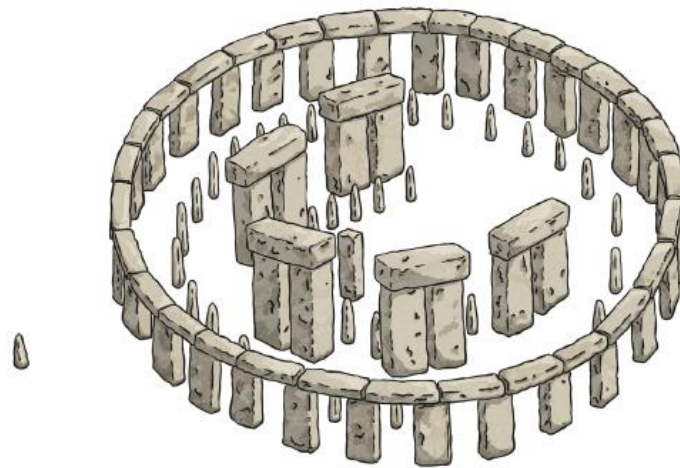
Pictures of axe-heads and daggers were carved on some of the Sarsen stones.



The stones had bumps and holes carved into them so that they fit together. They were carefully lined up so that the sunrise can be seen at midsummer, and sunset can be seen at midwinter at opposite ends of the circle. The stones were incredibly heavy, and it probably took around 600 men to move each massive stone by pulling them on ropes over a line of logs. The stones were lifted by sliding them into holes and using large wooden frames and ropes to pull them up in the right direction.

The Slaughter Stone

One of the stones in Stonehenge looks red when it is wet. This is called the Slaughter Stone. The iron in the rock gives it a red appearance.



Stonehenge Questions

1. What shape is Stonehenge? Tick **one**.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a square | <input type="checkbox"/> a circle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a triangle | <input type="checkbox"/> a rectangle |

2. What was used to dig the circular ditch?

3. How many stones were added in the second stage of building? Tick **one**.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 56 | <input type="checkbox"/> 240 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 |

4. Why do you think the bluestones from south Wales were used?
Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

5. How much did Sarsen Stones weigh? Tick **one**.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> up to 30 tonnes | <input type="checkbox"/> up to 100 tonnes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> up to 500 tonnes | <input type="checkbox"/> up to 82 tonnes |

6. What pictures can be found on the Sarsen stones?

7. How many men did it take to move each Sarsen stone? Tick **one**.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> 200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 600 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1000 |