

Roald Dahl

- Born in Wales, September 13, 1916. When he was four years old his seven year old sister died from appendicitis. About a month later, his father died of pneumonia at the age of 57. At the age of 8, Dahl and four of his friends were suspended from school after putting a dead mouse in a jar of sweets.
- After finishing his schooling, he spent three weeks hiking through Newfoundland with a group called the Public Schools Exploring Society. In November 1939, he joined the Air Force. He was accepted for flight training with 16 other men, 14 of whom would later die in air combat. He continued to advanced flying training and in six months was made a pilot officer.
- On September 19, 1940, his plane crashed, fracturing his skull, smashing his nose in, and blinding him. He was rescued and taken to a First Aid Post where he regained consciousness but not his sight, and was then taken to the Royal Navy Hospital in Alexandria. There he fell in love with a nurse, Mary Wellend, who was the first person he saw after he regained his sight 8 weeks later. (He only fell in love with her voice when he was blind). When he regained his sight, he no longer loved her.
- He began writing in 1942 and his first published work, *Shot down over Libya*, came out August 1, 1942. He was married for 30 years to Academy Award winning actress, Patricia Neal. They had 5 children. They divorced in 1983 following a very turbulent marriage and he subsequently married Felicity Crosland to whom he was married to until his death.
- Dahl died of leukemia at the age of 74, (1990), but his books are still widely read today. His works include *The Gremlins* (1943), *James and the Giant Peach* (1961), and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964).

Vocabulary:

1. Translucent
 2. Placid
 3. Luxuriate
 4. Precinct
 5. Spanner
 6. Trifle
 7. Exasperated
 8. Belched
- Define the words above and find the sentence where the word is used in the story.