

Roald Dahl Unit Study

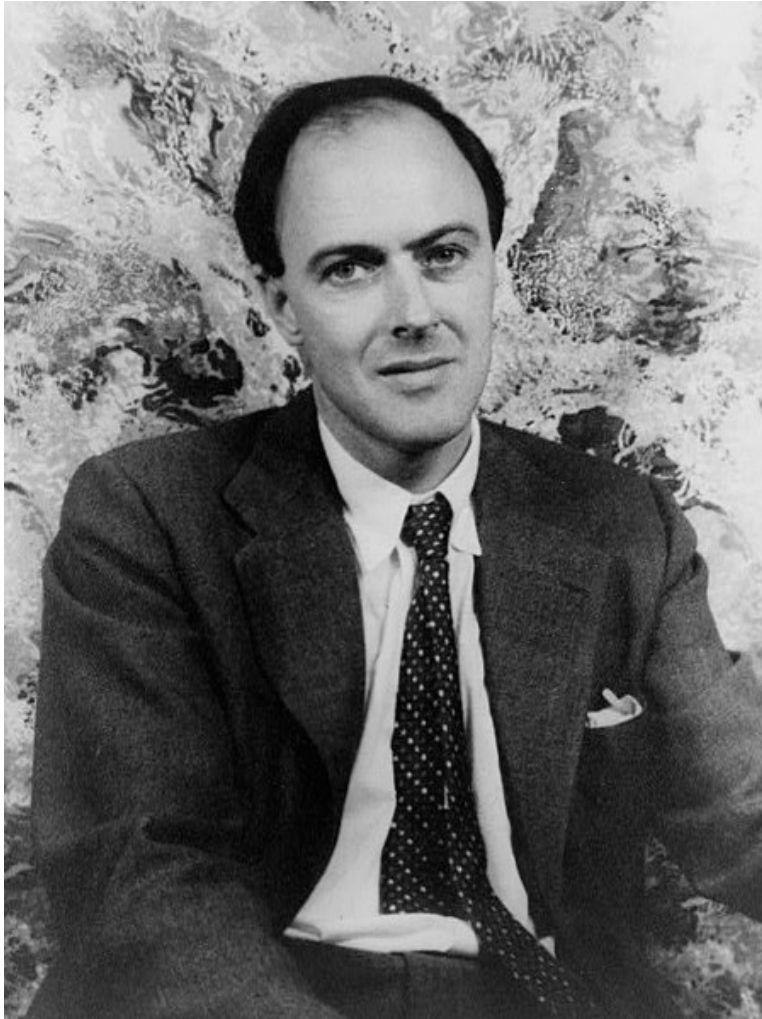


Photo Credit: Carl Van Vechten

Subjects:
Reading, History, Following
Directions, Geography, Writing,
Drawing



Teacher Instructions

Thank you for downloading our Roald Dahl Unit Study! It was created to be used with the book: *Who Was Roald Dahl?*. You may incorporate other books about Roald Dahl, as well. Here is what is included in the study:

- Pages 3-9:** **Facts about Roald Dahl:** Notetaking sheets with answer key.
- Page 10:** **Finish Roald Dah's last story:** This writing prompt encourages you to finish the story Roald Dahl never did.
- Pages 11-14:** **Timeline of Roald Dahl's Life:** Students may write on timeline or cut and glue events provided.
- Page 15-16:** **Roald Dahl's Travels:** Practice following directions while learning more about Roald Dahl's travels and world geography.
- Page 17:** **Compare and Contrast:** Read one of Dahl's books and then watch the movie. Compare and contrast the details of the book with the movie.

Also refer to our post: [Roald Dahl FREE Unit Study](#) for:

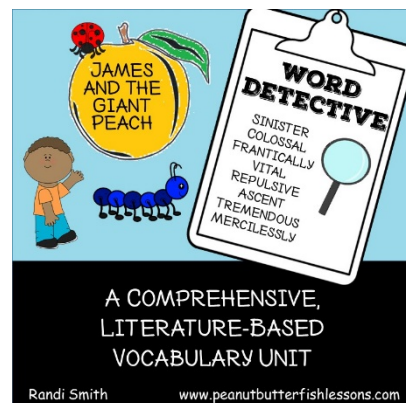
1. A list of some of his popular books and movies.
2. A video to draw a fighter plane and links to other World War II books for children.
3. Videos to learn about Dahl's illustrator, Quentin Blake, and draw with him.
4. Links to other resources to use with Dahl's books.

Credits

Frames and map by:



You May Also Be Interested In:



Facts about Roald Dahl

Birth (date and place): _____

Known For: _____

Family: _____

Activities and events that inspired him as a child:

What was school like for him?

Name: _____

Facts about Roald Dahl (cont.)

First Job: _____

Experience serving during World War II:

What job did he take after his war experience?

What led him to writing for magazines?

Name: _____

Facts about Roald Dahl (cont.)

First Children's Book: _____

Some of Dahl's struggles while writing:

Marriage and children:

Projects Roald worked on:

Name: _____

Facts about Roald Dahl (cont.)

Draw part of Roald's Writing Hut from the description given:

Dahl's Death:

The Roald Dahl Foundation:

Name: _____

Facts about Roald Dahl

(Answer Key)

Birth (date and place): **September 13, 1916 in Wales**

Known For: **Writing children's books such as James and the Giant Peach and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.**

Family: **He had three older sisters, one of which died from appendicitis when she was 7. His father died shortly after that and his mother had another baby girl shortly after that. He had two step siblings as well.**

Activities and events that inspired him as a child: **He kept a secret diary. He went to school where Cadbury chocolates were made and often helped rate the different chocolates. (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) He was also a pilot and liked to go on adventures. (James and the Giant Peach)**

What was school like for him?

Roald did not like school and was not a very good student. He tended to get into trouble and was sent to boarding school. First, St. Peter's Preparatory School and then Repton School. He was good at sports and graduated in 1933.

First Job: **Worked for Shell Oil Company. He worked in London the first three years and then was sent to work in Africa.**

Name: _____

Facts about Roald Dahl

(Answer Key)

Experience serving during World War II: *Roald served in the British Royal Air Force in Africa during World War II. He trained to be a fighter pilot, but was not given much training and crashed his plane. It took several months for him to recover. He then returned to flying fighter planes and took part in some battles. He had to return home, though, due to serious headaches from his plane crash.*

What job did he take after his war experience?
He worked in the British Embassy in the United States.

What led him to writing for magazines?

A magazine reporter was to write an article about Dahl's days as a fighter pilot, but instead, Dahl wrote the article himself. His article appeared in the magazine and he was paid for it.

First Children's Book: *The Gremlins (A Royal Air Force Story by Flight Lieutenant Roald Dahl)* It was about gremlins in airplanes.

Some of Dahl's struggles while writing: *He was in pain. Writing never came easy for him. Editors thought his stories were too creepy.*

Marriage and children:

He married an American actress named Patricia Neal. They had two daughters and a son and Roald was a stay at home dad for a time. Their son Theo was in a serious accident as a baby, but eventually recovered after several surgeries. Then one of their daughters died of the measles. Roald and Patricia had two more children after that.

Name: _____

Facts about Roald Dahl

(Answer Key)

Projects Roald worked on:

Helped invent a drain used to stop fluid from building up in children's brains.

He wrote *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and several other children's books.

He helped his wife recover from a stroke.

He wrote several screenplays, including *You Only Live Twice*, a James Bond movie. He also wrote for TV shows.

He also ran antique shops, refinished old furniture, raised dogs, practiced photography and kept gardens.

Dahl's Death:

He died in 1990 of a rare blood disease.

The Roald Dahl Foundation:

Gives money for medical researchers to help study the brain, to help sick children and to promote literacy.

Name: _____

Events for the Timeline

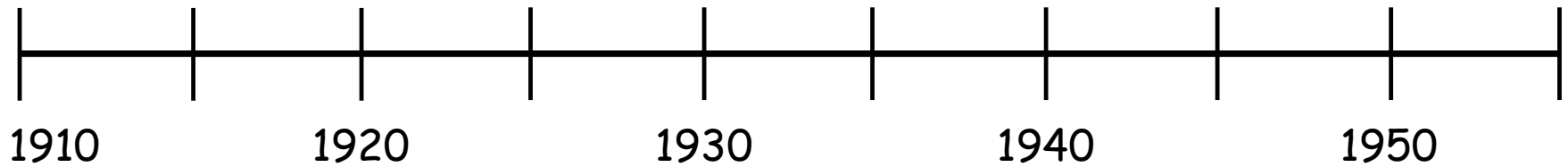
1913 Roald Dahl is born.	Roald Dahl is born.
1916 Sister and father die.	Sister and father die.
1929 Attends Repton Boarding School	Attends Repton Boarding School
1934 Hikes in Newfoundland	Hikes in Newfoundland
1934 Joins Shell Oil Company	Joins Shell Oil Company
1939 World War II begins.	World War II begins.
1939 Dahl joins the British Royal Airforce.	Dahl joins the British Royal Airforce.
1940 Crashes his plane and takes several months to recover.	Crashes his plane and takes several months to recover.
1941 Participates in several battles.	Participates in several battles.
1941 Sent home due to severe headaches.	Sent home due to severe headaches.
1942 Goes to work at the British Embassy in the US.	Goes to work at British Embassy in the US.
1943 Publishes first children's book, <i>The Gremlins</i> .	Publishes first children's book, <i>The Gremlins</i> .
1948 Publishes first adult book, <i>Sometime Never</i> .	Publishes first adult book, <i>Sometime Never</i> .
1953 Marries Patricia Neal.	Marries Patricia Neal.
1955 First child, Olivia is born.	First child, Olivia is born.
1961 Publishes James and the Giant Peach.	Publishes James and the Giant Peach.
1962 Daughter, Olivia dies.	Daughter, Olivia dies.
1964 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.
1964 Pat wins an Academy Award.	Pat wins an Academy Award.
1965 Pat suffers a stroke.	Pat suffers a stroke.
1967 Dahl's mother dies.	Dahl's mother dies.

Events for the Timeline

1975 Begins working with illustrator, Quentin Blake.	Begins working with illustrator, Quentin Blake.
1983 Divorces Pat and marries Liccy	Divorces Pat and marries Liccy
1990 Roald Dahl dies.	Roald Dahl dies.

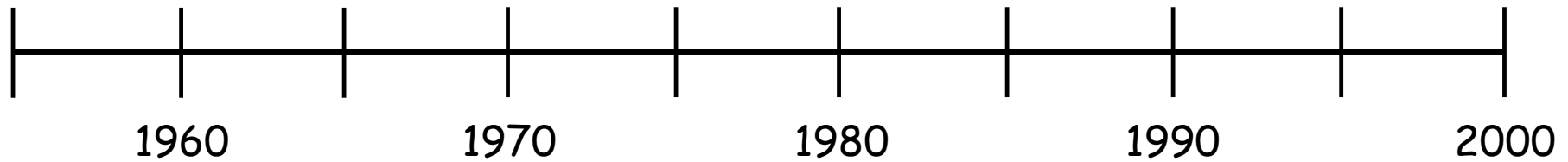
Timeline of Roald Dahl's Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



Timeline of Roald Dahl's Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



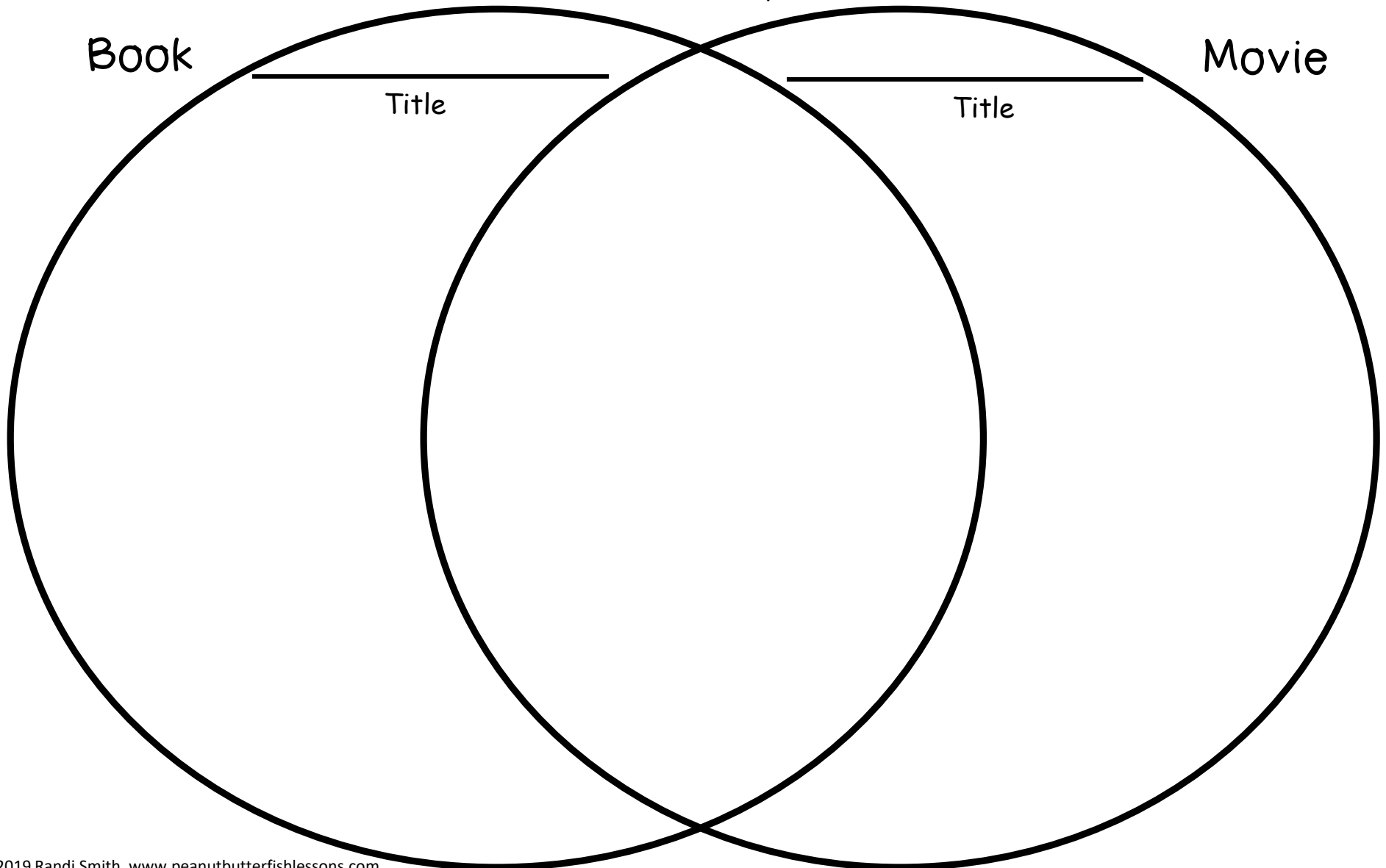
Roald Dahl's Travels: Directions

1. First, draw a yellow star where you live.
2. Roald Dahl was born in Wales, which is in Europe near England. Circle the word Wales in green.
3. His parents were from Norway. Color Norway purple.
4. His mother used to take the children to Norway each summer. The North Sea lay between England and Norway. Write 'North Sea' there and color it blue.
5. After Dahl finished school, he went backpacking in Newfoundland with an exploring group. Newfoundland is part of Canada. Draw an arrow from Wales to Newfoundland
6. While working for Shell Oil Company, Roald was sent to work in Kenya and Tanzania in Africa. Circle both of these countries' names in orange.
7. Dahl flew fighter planes in World War II in Northern Africa and Greece. The Mediterranean Sea lies between these two areas. Draw a plane over the Mediterranean Sea.
8. Due to headaches, Dahl finished his World War II service at the British Embassy in Washington DC. Put a blue star on top of 'Washington DC'.
9. After the war, he returned to his mother's house near London. Draw a red star to the right of the word 'Wales' to show where London is.
10. Dahl later moved to New York City to see if he could be published in America. Write NYC above Washington DC.
11. Eventually, the Dahls moved to Hollywood, CA. Circle Hollywood in yellow.



Compare and Contrast a Book with a Movie

Read one of Dahl's books and then watch a movie based upon the book. What was the same? What was different? Put characters and events that were only in the book on the left side and characters and events that were only in the movie on the right side. Put details that were included in the book and the movie in the middle where the circles overlap.



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