


Guiding Reading: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Prediction

This week's text is about an author. Can you guess who from the introduction?

's life reads like one of his stories: fabulous tales of the unexpected that somehow end with him as a giant of the publishing world, one of the most-loved authors of all time who has sold more than 250 million books.

Look at the language and formality of these extracts from the text. Is this text non-fiction?

It started inauspiciously enough, in Wales. On the other hand, his Norwegian heritage meant that there was always something a little otherworldly

detailed in the autobiographical account of his childhood, *Boy*. Sorry, not autobiographical, 'an autobiography is a book a person writes about his own life and it is usually full of all sorts of boring details', whereas *Boy* is a curious selection of memories which, despite his vivid imagination, its author insists are entirely true. Indeed, the

Meanwhile, Hollywood had come calling for

four, from a rare cancer of the blood. Hopefully the numerous stage and screen adaptations that continue to bring his memorable creations to new generations would have met with the great man's approval.

Do these help you to guess who the author might be?

Read the text to find out, then answer this question, ensuring you use evidence from the text to support your opinion:

What genre of writing would you say this text is?

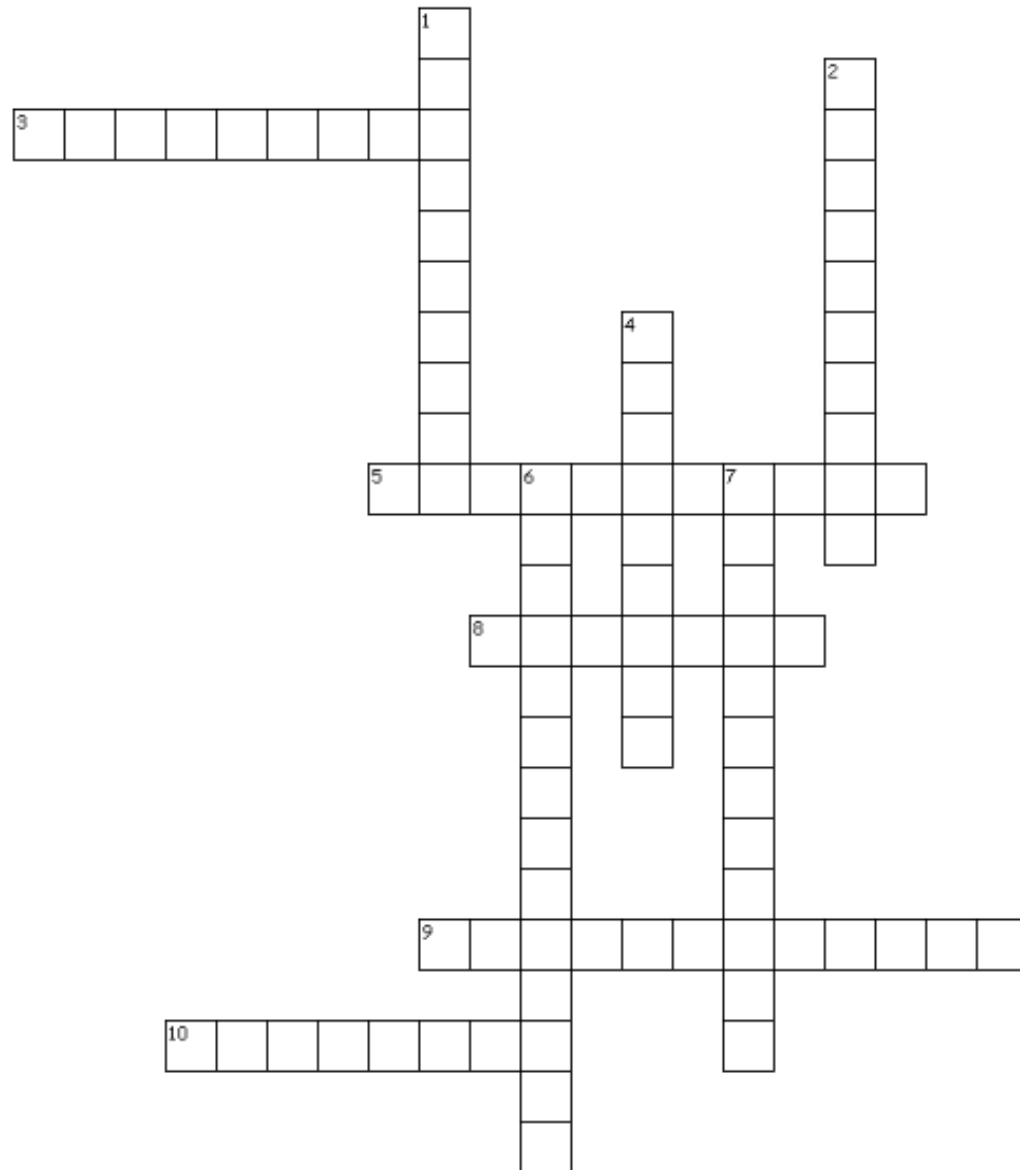
Guiding Reading: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Vocabulary

Scan the text for the following words

<b>exploits</b>	<b>escapades</b>	<b>misfortune</b>	<b>inauspiciously</b>	<b>curious</b>
<b>debilitated</b>	<b>depiction</b>	<b>accumulation</b>	<b>chronicled</b>	<b>prolifically</b>

# Complete the crossword



## Across

- 3. Reckless adventures or wild pranks
- 5. To be made weak or feeble
- 8. Eager to learn or know; inquisitive
- 9. Producing large quantities with great frequency; productive
- 10. Striking or notable deeds; feats

## Down

- 1. Bad luck
- 2. Recorded
- 4. Representation or characterisation in words or via image
- 6. Not very promising
- 7. Grown by continuous additions

Across

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Down

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<b>Exploits</b> <b>10 across</b>	<b>Escapades</b> <b>3 across</b>	<b>Misfortune</b> <b>1 down</b>	<b>Inauspiciously</b> <b>6 down</b>	<b>Curious</b> <b>8 across</b>
<b>Debilitated</b> <b>5 across</b>	<b>Depiction</b> <b>4 down</b>	<b>Accumulation</b> <b>7 down</b>	<b>Chronicled</b> <b>2 down</b>	<b>Prolifically</b> <b>9 across</b>

Guiding Reading: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Vocabulary questions



1. *'Indeed, the Great Mouse Plot of 1924 is substantiated by a commemorative blue plaque on the otherwise unassuming building in Llandaff, Cardiff.'* What does the word *unassuming* suggest about the building?
2. What phrase is used by the author to explain that Britain was about to go to war?
3. What are *'Dahl's yarns'*?
4. Dahl's first wife, Patricia Neal, is described as a *'celebrated actress and fledging writer'*. What does the word *fledging* mean?  
A – She was a celebrated writer  
B - She was just beginning to become successful at writing  
C – She was an inexperienced writer
5. Which single word tells us that Dahl did not like the film version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?
6. How many words can you find which suggest Dahl was successful and that he wrote a lot of books?

## Answers

1. That it is nothing special – not very noticeable
2. Just over the horizon
3. Dahl's war stories
4. B - She was just beginning to become successful at writing
5. Disowning
6. giant, most-loved, otherworldly, ace, prolifically, streak, classics, numerous, memorable (just to name a few!)

Guiding Reading: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July  
Retrieval

1. Where was Roald Dahl born?
2. Name three of Dahl's children.
3. What was the Great Mouse Plot of 1924?
4. How was Dahl adventurous?
5. Name 3 films which Dahl was involved in.
6. Why is the description of Boy as 'autobiographical' corrected?
7. Create 3 retrieval questions of your own.

1. Wales
2. Any three from Chantel Sophie 'Tessa', Ophelia, Theo and Lucy.
3. A chapter of Boy which recounts the trick that young Dahl and friends supposedly played by putting a mouse in a jar of gobstoppers in a sweet shop.
4. Joining the RAF, flying fighter planes and conducting espionage missions. Also, implicitly, his childhood tricks and his willingness to try new experiences.
5. Any three from You Only Live Twice, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and The Patricia Neal Story.
6. Because Roald Dahl himself dismisses the description of autobiographical within the book. We know this as this text quotes the words from Boy, which Dahl wrote, saying that autobiographies are 'full of boring details', whereas his memories are far from boring.

Guiding Reading: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July  
Inference

# More than a 3 mark question

- Remember to P.E.E.
- Write a comprehensive answer to the following question. At high school, such questions are worth far more than 3 marks and sometimes can be the basis for a whole essay of explanation and debate.
- Write an answer which weighs up both possible answers, supporting each with evidence from the text and detailed explanation.

Did Dahl lead a happy life?

# Possible evidence for answer

- Yes: Any quotations from the text which explain that his professional life was successful, and therefore would have brought him a degree of happiness.
- No: Referencing the many tragedies he faced in his family life, including his divorce; going to war; and his disappointment at the film adaptations of his books. You could even argue that he was not able to enjoy the full success and legacy of his books as this has grown since his death.