

# Famous British Children's Authors



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# Roald Dahl

13<sup>th</sup> September 1916 – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1990

Hometown: Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales, UK

## Famous Books:

- James and the Giant Peach
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- Matilda
- The Witches
- Fantastic Mr. Fox
- The BFG



## Interesting Facts:

- Roald Dahl served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, where he became a Flying Ace.
- During one of his flights, he was in a horrible crash after his airplane hit a boulder. He fractured his skull and was temporarily blinded.
- All six of the above mentioned books were turned into major motion pictures.
- Dahl helped to invent the “Wade-Dahl-Till” valve, a valve used to drain excess fluid from the brain. He saw the need to create the valve after his infant son was struck by a taxi and suffered from a traumatic brain injury.

# C. S. Lewis

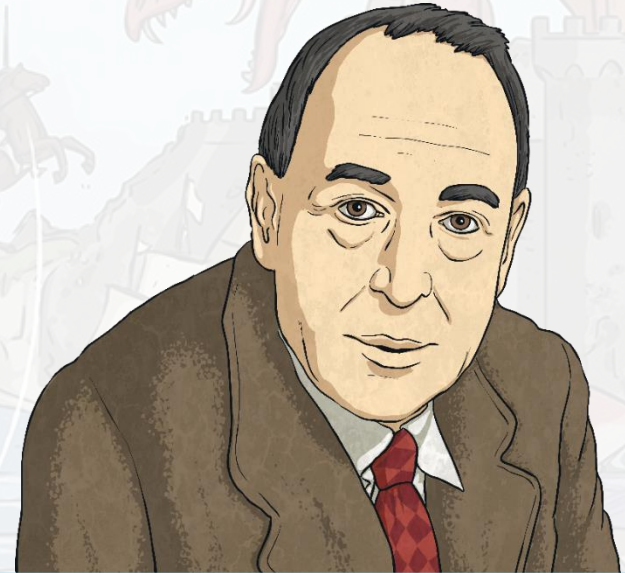
29<sup>th</sup> November 1898 – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1963

Real Name: Clive Staples Lewis

Hometown: Belfast, Ireland

Famous Books:

- 'The Chronicles of Narnia' series
- Space Trilogy
- The Screwtape Letters
- Mere Christianity



## Interesting Facts:

- When C. S. Lewis was four years old, his dog, Jacksie, was hit by a car and killed. From that point on, C. S. Lewis only wanted to be called Jacksie. Eventually the name was shortened to Jack, and he was called Jack for the rest of his life by his family and friends.
- Lewis gave up his Christian faith at the age of 15 and became an atheist. He lived as an atheist for many years until he found his faith again as an adult. He then became an outspoken Christian.
- Lewis fought for the British Army in the First World War.
- Lewis always used a pen and paper. He never learned to type.

# Lewis Carroll

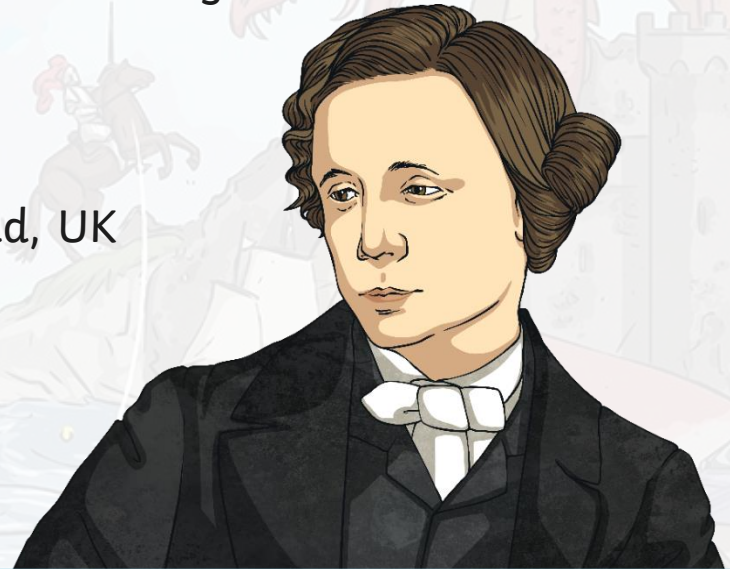
27<sup>th</sup> January 1832 – 14<sup>th</sup> January 1898

Real Name: Charles Lutwidge Dodgson

Hometown: Daresbury, Cheshire, England, UK

Famous Books:

- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
- Through the Looking-Glass



## Interesting Facts:

- Lewis Carroll had a stammer. He also was deaf in one ear as a result of a fever as a child.
- Carroll was the oldest of ten children.
- Alice Liddell, the daughter of Henry George Liddell, was the inspiration for "*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*."
- Aside from a wonderful author, Carroll was also a talented photographer.

# Malorie Blackman

8<sup>th</sup> February 1962– Present

Hometown: London, UK

Famous Books:

- 'Noughts and Crosses' series
- 'Girl Wonder' series
- Pig Heart Boy
- Chasing the Stars



## Interesting Facts:

- Malorie Blackman has always loved books. By the age of 11, she had read all the books in the children's section of her local library.
- She trained in computer sciences and worked as a computer programmer.
- She was Children's Laureate from 2013 to 2015. This is a prestigious award given to a writer or illustrator to celebrate their outstanding contribution to children's literature.
- She is praised for the way she addresses grown-up issues in her writing. Her 'Noughts and Crosses' series explores the themes of racism, violence, and love.
- She was awarded an OBE (an honour awarded by the Queen) in 2008.

# David Walliams

20<sup>th</sup> August 1971 – Present

Real name: David Edward Williams

Hometown: Merton, London, UK

Famous Books:

- Mr Stink
- Gangsta Granny
- Demon Dentist
- Billionaire Boy
- The Boy in the Dress

**Interesting Facts:**

- David Walliams has been a judge on the ITV talent show, Britain's Got Talent, since 2012.
- He is the biggest selling children's author to have started writing since the year 2000.



# Emma Carroll

26<sup>th</sup> March 1970 – Present

Hometown: Somerset, UK

Famous Books:

- The Girl Who Walked On Air
- Secrets of a Sun King
- Letters from the Lighthouse

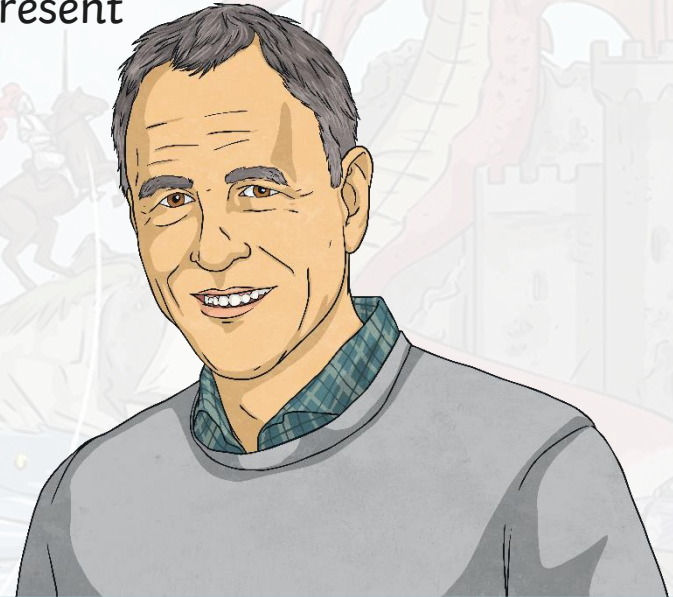


**Interesting Facts:**

- Emma Carroll was a secondary school English teacher in Devon before becoming a full-time author.
- She had previously worked as a news reporter.
- When she was little, she wrote stories about ponies and popstars.
- She lives with her husband and two Jack Russell terriers.
- Her most recent book is called 'The Somerset Tsunami' and is based on true events from January 1607, when a huge tsunami flooded the Somerset coast.

# Anthony Horowitz

5<sup>th</sup> April 1955 – Present



Hometown: Middlesex, UK

Famous Books:

- The 'Alex Rider' series

## Interesting Facts:

- As well as having written over 40 books, Anthony Horowitz also writes TV series, films and plays.
- The teen spy series, 'Alex Rider', is estimated to have sold 19 million copies worldwide.
- He was asked to write two new Sherlock Holmes novels ('The House of Silk' and 'Moriarty') by the Conan Doyle Estate. Conan Doyle originally wrote Sherlock Holmes in 1887.

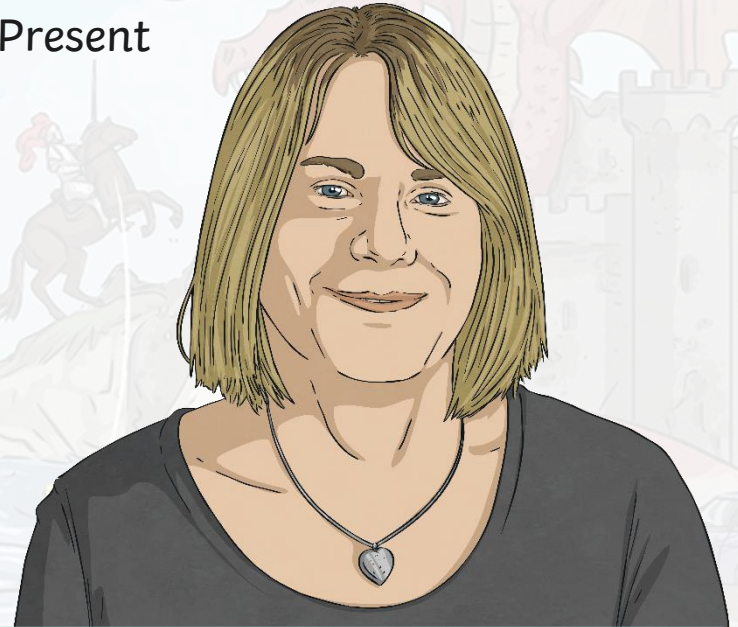
# Kate Saunders

4<sup>th</sup> May 1960 – Present

Hometown: London, UK

Famous Books:

- Magicalamity
- Beswitched
- The Whizz Pop Chocolate Shop



**Interesting Facts:**

- Kate Saunders is also an actress and a journalist.
- She appeared on one episode of the classic comedy series, *Only Fools and Horses*, playing a police officer who visits the family home which is full of stolen goods.

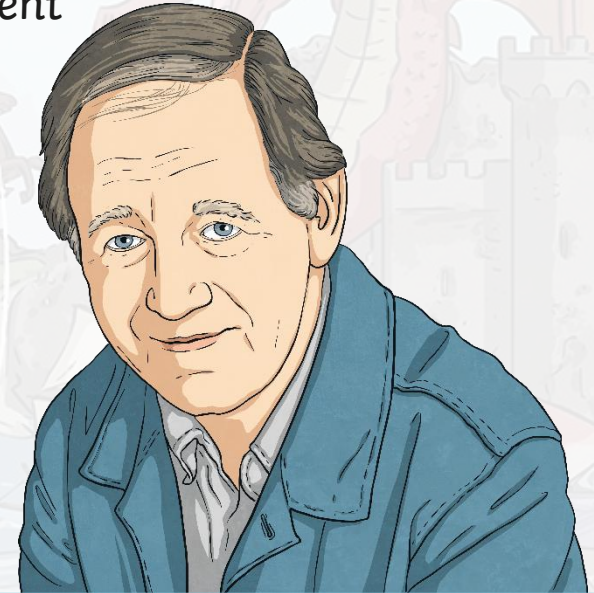
# Michael Morpurgo

5<sup>th</sup> October 1943 – Present

Hometown: St Alban's, Hertfordshire, UK

## Famous Books:

- War Horse
- Why the Whales Came
- The Butterfly Lion
- Kensuke's Kingdom



## Interesting Facts:

- Michael Morpurgo's parents divorced and his mother married Jack Morpurgo shortly after the war. He didn't see his father again until he was grown up.
- Michael Morpurgo and his wife set up a charity that gives inner city children a chance to experience life in the countryside. About 85,000 children have taken part in the scheme.
- War Horse was adapted as a stage play and performed in London's West End from 2007 to 2016. The horses were played by life-sized horse puppets.
- He was Children's Laureate from 2003 to 2005.

# Tom Fletcher

17<sup>th</sup> July 1985 – Present

Hometown: Harrow, London, UK

Famous Books:

- The Dinosaur that Pooped Christmas
- The Dinosaur that Pooped a Planet
- The Christmasaurus



**Interesting Facts:**

- As well as writing stories, Tom Fletcher is also a musician and YouTube vlogger.
- Tom Fletcher has written or co-written ten UK number-one singles for Busted and McFly.
- He also wrote the official song of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.
- His first children's book (The Dinosaur that Pooped Christmas) was co-written with band-mate Dougie Poynter and sold over 72,000 copies.

# Philip Pullman

19<sup>th</sup> October 1946 – Present

Hometown: Norwich, UK

Famous Books:

- 'His Dark Materials' trilogy (Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass)
- The Firework-Maker's Daughter
- I Was a Rat!



**Interesting Facts:**

- Philip Pullman was born in England but educated in Zimbabwe, Australia and England before his family settled in North Wales.
- His father was a Royal Air Force officer but died in a plane crash when Pullman was young.
- He started teaching in Oxford when he was 25.
- A TV series based on the 'His Dark Materials' trilogy debuted in 2019.

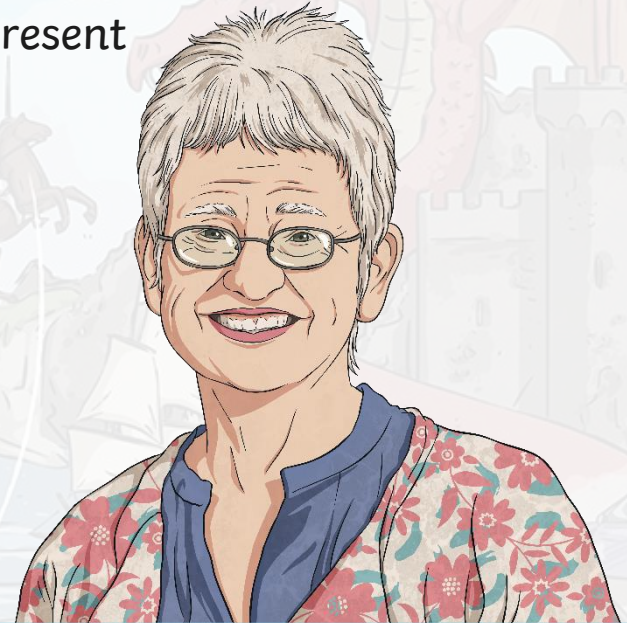
# Jacqueline Wilson

17<sup>th</sup> December 1945 – Present

Hometown: Bath, UK

Famous Books:

- The Story of Tracy Beaker
- The Dinosaur's Packed Lunch
- Four Children and It



## Interesting Facts:

- Jacqueline Wilson wrote her first 'novel' when she was just nine years old.
- Her stories involve issues such as divorce, mental illness and adoption.
- When she was at school, she got the nickname 'Jackie Daydream' which she later used as a title for her autobiography.
- She was Children's Laureate from 2005 to 2007.



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