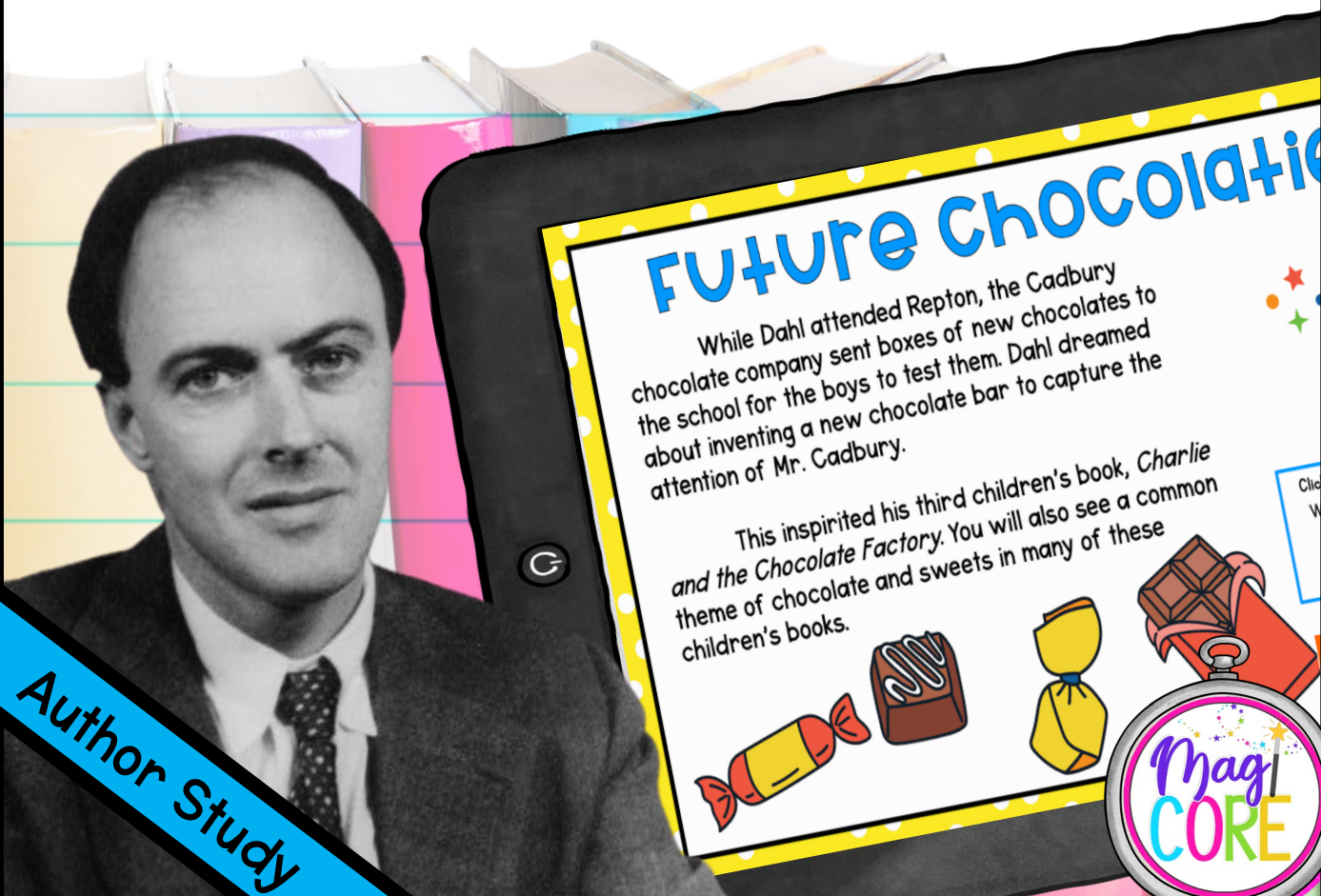


VIRTUAL BIOGRAPHY:

Roald Dahl



Future Chocolate

While Dahl attended Repton, the Cadbury chocolate company sent boxes of new chocolates to the school for the boys to test them. Dahl dreamed about inventing a new chocolate bar to capture the attention of Mr. Cadbury.

This inspired his third children's book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. You will also see a common theme of chocolate and sweets in many of these children's books.



Author Study

Integrates Reading Skills

Schooling

Dahl was sent to St. Peter's boarding school in England. Dahl attended a boarding school. He was homesick and regularly wrote letters to his mother about how unhappy he was.



Repton School in
Derbyshire, England.

When Dahl was 13, he went to Repton School. He was subjected to cruel treatment from the older boys and was often beaten. This led him to feel strongly about cruel punishment.

Dahl wrote in his autobiography, "All through my school days I was appalled by the fact that masters and senior boys were allowed literally to wound other boys, and some of the boys were killed. I couldn't get over it. I never have got over it."

Dahl's school experiences likely led to some of the cruel characters in Dahl's children's books. On the next slide, read about some of these characters from *Matilda*.

Read a letter Dahl wrote to his mother about his boarding school. What word did Dahl sign the letter with?

Social Studies

Influences

There is no doubt that Dahl's stories are influenced by his life experiences. One of Dahl's biggest influences is his mother.

In one interview, he mentioned, "She was a great teller of tales. Her memory was prodigious and nothing that ever happened to her in her life was forgotten."

When Dahl started writing and publishing his famous books for children, he included a grandmother character in *The Witches* and later said that she was based directly on his own mother as a tribute.



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To the timeline!



Interactive Timeline

ROALD DAHL'S LIFE

Collect the stickers for each part of Roald Dahl's life. Cut them from each page and paste them here (Ctrl + V) on the timeline

Born September 13, 1916	The Great Mouse Plot of 1924	1934: Joined Shell Petroleum	Married Patricia Neal in 1953	1943: Dahl published his first children's book	
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Birth



School



Early
Career



Family
Life



Writing
Career



Critical Thinking

Criticism

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, one of Dahl's most famous books, was also critiqued for racist depictions. The Oompa-Loompas were enslaved Africans. Eleanor Cameron pointed out, "the situation of the Oompa-Loompas is real; it could not be more so, and it is anything but funny." In 1991, Michael Irda stated, "the Oompa-Loompas... reveal virtually every stereotype about blacks."

In 1982, Dahl revised the book to address the concerns. In the new edition and the sequel, the Oompa-Loompas were drawn as white characters, and references to enslaved Africans were taken out. This also came at a time when a film based on the movie was announced.

How do you think the criticism of D impacted his legacy?

To the timeline!



Character Study

Character Study

Dahl's book *Matilda* takes place in a school that is likely inspired by Dahl's childhood school experiences. Read about three of the main characters from this story. Jot notes about each character in the boxes in the chart.

Character	Read About Them	Notes About Character
Matilda Wormwood	https://www.roalddahl.com/roald-dahl/characters/children/matilda-wormwood	
Miss Trunchbull	https://www.roalddahl.com/roald-dahl/characters/grown-ups/the-trunchbull	
Miss Honey	https://www.roalddahl.com/roald-dahl/characters/grown-ups/miss-honey	



Engaging & Educational Media

Flying Solo

As World War II began in Europe, Roald Dahl was assigned the position of lieutenant to lead a group of local African soldiers. Soon after, he joined the Royal Air Force as an aircraftman. During this time, he flew solo in a biplane. After more training, he was assigned "pilot officer" and joined a squadron. You can read more about this time in Dahl's life in his second autobiography, *Going Solo*.

Dahl's leather flying helmet.



How did Roald Dahl's experience in the Air Force impact him and his future books?



To the timeline!

