



EYFS JULIA DONALDSON



Julia Donaldson is an author and a playwright. Julia Donaldson was born in Hampstead in London. She was born 16th September 1948. Julia Donaldson is 72 years old. She is best known for her popular children's stories. She often works with an illustrator called Axel Scheffler.

EARLY LIFE & EDUCATION

Julia Donaldson had a younger sister called Mary. They would often create imaginary characters and perform short plays or dances to their family members.

Julia lived in a three storey house with her family. She lived on the ground floor with her parents, sister Mary and their pet cat Geoffrey. Her aunt and uncle lived above them on the second floor. On the top floor of the house was where her grandma lived.

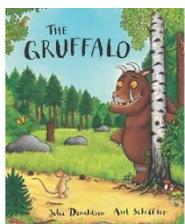
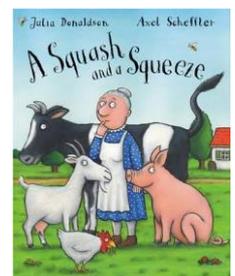
Julia Donaldson attended New End Primary School. After this, she attended Camden School for Girls. She became intrigued by languages and studied French, German and Italian.

Julia Donaldson went to Bristol University from 1967-1970 to study Drama and French. Whilst at university, she acted in a number of plays and learnt to play the guitar. This is where she met her now husband, Malcom Donaldson. The couple would busk together and write special songs.



SUCCESSES

Julia Donaldson originally wrote songs for children's TV. In 1993, she decided to turn one of her songs into a picture book. She worked with German Illustrator Alex Scheffler to create 'A Squash & A Squeeze'. The book was released in 1993 and her focus turned to story writing.



In 1995, *The Gruffalo* was born. Julia Donaldson was based on a Chinese tale and wanted the rhyming words to end in an 'O'. She found it difficult to write, but her son Alistair encouraged her to keep going. The book was published in 1999.

The book was a huge success. It has sold over 10 million copies, been translated into 40 languages and was made into a feature film in 2009.



Julia Donaldson continued to work with Axel Scheffler to create a number of works including Room on the Broom, Stick Man and Zog.

From 2011 – 2013 she was appointed Children's Laureate.

She was appointed MBE in 2011 for her contribution to literature. This was then promoted to CBE in 2019.

FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk/>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS: USE HEADING 3 FOR THIS

1. What year was Julia Donaldson born?
2. Which university did Julia Donaldson attend?
3. What year was her first book 'A Squash & A Squeeze' released?
4. How many languages has 'The Gruffalo' been translated into?
5. Where did Julia Donaldson grow up?
6. What is the name of Julia Donaldson's husband?
7. What is the name of her partnered illustrator?
8. When was Julia Donaldson appointed Children's Laureate?